



*Conference of Committee Chairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs*

24.4.2024

MISSION REPORT

following the multi-committee ad hoc delegation to Kyiv, Ukraine, from 25 to 26 March 2024

Members of the mission:

Bernd Lange	(S&D/Co-Chair of the delegation)
David McAllister	(EPP/Co-Chair of the delegation)
Johan Van Overtveldt	(ECR)
Pascal Canfin	(Renew)
Nathalie Loiseau	(Renew)
Michael Gahler	(EPP)
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel	(Greens/EFA)

Introduction

Members from several Committees and as well as one sub-Committee of the European Parliament, including the AFET, INTA, ENVI, BUDG and SEDE Chairs visited Kyiv, Ukraine from 25 to 26 March 2024. The high-level delegation met with representatives of the government, parliament and civil society to reiterate the EU's unwavering support to Ukraine in the ongoing Russian war of aggression and to discuss the military situation as well as the state of play of Ukraine's path towards EU accession.

The mission took place against the backdrop of the recent adoption by EU co-legislators of the regulation establishing the Ukraine Facility and in the aftermath of the March 2024 European Council.

Summary account of meetings

Parliament's delegation was warmly welcomed by the authorities including Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal; Andriy Yermak, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine; Defence Minister Rustem Umerov; General Oleksandr Syrsky, Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces; Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine; Oleksiy Danilov, Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council; Verkhovna Rada Speaker Ruslan Stefanchuk; the chairs of various Verkhovna Rada committees as well as representatives of all political factions.

In all meetings, MEPs expressed their firm belief that the EU and the international community must urgently do more and provide Ukraine with all the necessary political, military and economic support to repulse Russia's aggression and reinstate Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. This objective, MEPs said, can only be met through the quick, sustained and coordinated delivery of the weapons and ammunition needed by Ukraine for as long as it takes in order to win against Russia.

In addition to providing defence capabilities, the delegation also discussed how investing in Ukraine's defence industry and preparing for its integration in the European Defence Technological Base is an important longer-term pillar of the EU's security guarantees for Ukraine.

The Ukrainian counterparts highlighted the enormous importance of EU's military, financial and humanitarian assistance. They stressed the difficult situation on the battlefield and the increasing mismatch between Russian and Ukrainian military capabilities, especially due to the scarcity of artillery rounds and air defence systems and ammunition. Ukrainian counterparts also gave details on the progress made towards ensuring the full accountability of the perpetrators of the war crimes committed in the context of the ongoing Russian war of aggression and emphasised the need to use Russian assets frozen by the EU and its like-minded partners and allies to finance the military and reconstruction needs of Ukraine.

Work towards establishing a legal basis for the seizure and use of Russian assets must be advanced in a timely manner, MEPs added.

MEPs underlined that Russia must be held fully accountable for its crimes and pay for the

massive damage caused by its war of aggression, including through the confiscation of Russian assets for the purpose of financing Ukraine's reconstruction and compensating victims. The delegation and their Ukrainian interlocutors also addressed the outcome of the latest EU summit in Brussels, where EU heads of state and government "reviewed progress on the next concrete steps towards directing extraordinary revenues stemming from Russia's immobilised assets for the benefit of Ukraine, including the possibility of funding military support".

MEPs also discussed the implementation of the EU's recently adopted EUR 50 billion Ukraine Facility, which aims to support Ukraine's resilience against Russia's aggression and help with reforms related to the country's potential EU accession.

Finally, MEPs assessed the progress made and the outstanding issues faced by Ukraine on its path towards EU accession with representatives of the civil society, who emphasised the need for EU institutions to continue following closely the progress made by Ukraine on its fight against corruption as well as on issues linked to the environmental protection of the Ukrainian territory.

Conclusions

The ad hoc delegation was of great value for the Parliament's work on Ukraine and its findings will be used to urge increased support to the country in the current, very challenging times.

The mission was highly appreciated by Ukrainian interlocutors as it once again showed EU's resolve and determination to continue backing Ukraine.

All meetings with Ukrainian counterparts made clear how crucial it is that the EU speeds up the provision of necessary support for Ukraine to win the war. Hence, it is important that the provision of a faster, more streamlined and substantial support to Ukraine stays high on the agenda of the Parliament in the months to come and is included among Parliament's key priorities for the next legislative term.

Annex:**Programme for the visit of European Parliament's ad hoc mission to Kyiv (25-26 March 2024)**

Monday, 25 March 2024	
Local time (BXL+1h)	Activity
7.40	Arrival in Kyiv
9.30-10.15	Meeting with Mr Remi Duflot, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, and Mr Rolf Holmboe, Head of Mission at the EU Advisory Mission to Ukraine
10.20-11.40	Meeting with representatives of top Ukrainian civil society organisations
11.45-12.30	lunch
13.00-13.45	Meeting with Mr Oleksii Danilov, Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council
14.00-15.15	Meeting with Mr Rustem Umerov, Minister of Defence of Ukraine and General Oleksandr Syrsky, Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces
15.30-17.00	Plenary meeting with HE Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and Chairs of selected Committees of the Verkhovna Rada
17.10-18.10	Meeting with leaders and members of all parliamentary factions represented in the Verkhovna Rada
18.30-19.30	Debriefing and discussion with Heads of Missions of EU Member States

Tuesday, 26 March 2024	
Local time (BXL+1)	Activity
9.35-10.40	Official commemorative activity <u>Venue:</u> The Wall of Remembrance of the Fallen for Ukraine (Mykhailivska Square) <u>Participants – UA side:</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Yevhen Perebyinis, Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine <p>Followed by: Meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine for EU and European integration affairs, Mr Yevhen Perebyinis</p>
11.00-12.00	Meeting with Mr Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine
12.30-13.30	Meeting with Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mr Denys Shmyhal
14.00-15.15	Meeting with Mr Andrii Yermak, Head of Office of the President of Ukraine and Mr Ihor Zhovkva, Deputy Head of Office of the President of Ukraine, followed by a briefing on the security situation in the light of recent air attacks
16.00-17.30	Press Conference
18.19	Departure

Delegation
Mr Bernd Lange (S&D / Germany), Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs and Chair of the Committee on International Trade (INTA)
Mr David McAllister (EPP / Germany), Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)
Mr Johan Van Overtveldt (ECR / Belgium), Chair of the Committee on Budgets (BUDG)
Mr Pascal Canfin (Renew Europe / France), Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)
Ms Nathalie Loiseau (Renew Europe / France), Chair of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE)
Mr Michael Gahler (EPP / Germany), Standing AFET Committee rapporteur on Ukraine
Ms Viola Von Cramon-Taubadel (Greens/EFA / Germany), Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee (D-UA)