



EU2022.CZ
Parliamentary Dimension



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We, the co-chairs of the 21st IPC:

1. Welcome the ambition and initiatives of the European Union and its Member States in taking the lead to promote global partnerships and in strengthening **the rules- and value-based multilateral order** through a reform of key institutions and organisations. Note that these initiatives make it possible for the international community, governed by international law, to effectively deal with global challenges such as climate change, pandemics, the energy crisis and terrorist threats, as well as to fight against the influence of malign authoritarian actors. Highlight the need for the EU to **defend and promote democracy** globally by leading by example.
2. Underline the **crucial role of parliaments** in the scrutiny, oversight and steering of EU external action and instruments, and call for an increased involvement of national parliaments and of the European Parliament in order to make full and effective use of the EU's hard and soft power in the world. Note the need for a stronger and more effective EU foreign and security policy including by using existing more efficient decision-making procedures.
3. Underline, with a view to the forthcoming **European Defence Industry Reinforcement through common Procurement Act**, that the EU is addressing a major shortfall in European defence, and strives to improve the effectiveness of public spending in defence and to increase the solidarity and cohesion in the protection and defence of the Union and its citizens. Acknowledge the effective implementation of the **European Defence Fund** by the European Commission. Recall that the **parliamentary scrutiny of defence matters** at EU level falls far behind other policy areas and what democratic standards suggest.
4. Stress the need to make the **EU's strategic sovereignty an overarching aim in all areas**, developing it into a holistic approach towards foreign, security and defence policy as well as external action in general, giving the EU the ability to act alone when needed and with like-minded partners when possible. Call for creating tools to counteract economic coercion and to achieve, as soon as possible, food sovereignty and full security of energy supplies to reduce energy dependencies, as well as to further ensure that supply chains are diversified to counter strategic dependencies on raw materials.
5. Welcome the **Strategic Compass as a tool to strengthen the Union's capacity to act** as an increasingly credible strategic partner and a global actor for peace. Call for swift work on the implementation of the most urgent aspects of the Strategic Compass, taking into account the specific constitutional framework and security arrangements of all Member States. Stress the importance of joint efforts to address capability shortfalls, especially in the area of strategic enablers, joint training and military education, enhanced efforts to boost strategic communication, and a strengthened toolbox to tackle hybrid and cyber threats and to fight disinformation and explore all possible options to fight malicious foreign interference in EU Member States' domestic politics. Call for making swift progress in establishing a Defence Union with more ambitious short-, medium- and long-term

objectives by implementing the concrete actions laid down in the Strategic Compass, which would serve as a starting point for implementing common EU defence, in line with the provision laid down in Article 42(2) TEU. In this regard also acknowledge the positive role that national parliaments can play in providing sound and robust legislative framework for defence-related activities at the national level.

6. Welcome that Denmark has joined the Common Security and Defence Policy and ended this opt-out, and that Finland and Sweden officially submitted their applications to join NATO on 18 May 2022. Underline the importance of all NATO allies swiftly ratifying their accession protocols. Welcome the adoption of the NATO Strategic Concept during the Madrid Summit and note the need to ensure that the Strategic Compass and the NATO Strategic Concept lead to increasing strategic complementarity. Recall the need to strive for full convergence between the EU and NATO in security and defence matters and emphasise the role of NATO as a strategic partner in providing security and fostering capacity-building.
7. Reiterate our condemnation in the **strongest possible terms** of the **unprovoked, illegal, and unjustified Russian war of aggression and invasion of Ukraine**, as well as the involvement of **Belarus** in this aggression, and urge the Russian Federation to immediately **terminate all military activities** in Ukraine and **unconditionally withdraw** all forces and military equipment from the entire internationally recognised territory of Ukraine.
8. Express our **undivided solidarity with the people of Ukraine**, and support the **investigation of war crimes** committed by Russia in Ukraine, including through calls for a special **UN tribunal** to ensure that the perpetrators of war crimes and human rights violations are held accountable, and call for the EU to **assist Ukraine in its international war crime investigations** and also to collect evidence of committed war crimes in EU Member States' respective criminal law jurisdictions. Call for the **provision of weapons**, without delay, in line with the needs expressed by the Ukrainian authorities, particularly by using the **European Peace Facility** and the clearing house mechanism, and under the bilateral agreements of Member States with Ukraine, and for considering ways to strengthen the security and resilience of the EU's associated partners through utilising the possibilities opened by the Strategic Compass and increasing assistance to Georgia and Moldova within the framework of the European Peace Facility.
9. Underline the need to **put pressure on the Russian Federation** to comply with international law and treaties. Call for a holistic approach towards the Russian Federation and abandoning any selective engagement with Moscow in the face of the atrocities and war crimes orchestrated by Russian political elites and committed by Russian troops, their proxies and mercenaries in Ukraine and elsewhere. **Call for reinforcing joint action of EU Member States with a view to freezing the assets of Russian nationals**, their family members, or intermediaries. Recommend waiving citizenship by investment-schemes in the EU or EU-residence permits. Recommend restricting the number of Schengen visas issued to citizens of Russia and Belarus, while directly using visa fees to help Ukrainian victims of the Russian military aggression. Deplore Russia's **use of energy resources** as a geopolitical tool and **call for energy dependence on Russia to be minimised** by encouraging the diversification of energy sources and routes. Urge strengthening European energy security, and emphasise the need for international cooperation on **food security** concerns.

10. Condemn the direct and the indirect involvement of the **Russian Federation** and other external actors in armed conflicts as well as hybrid attacks, occupations and military build-ups inside the region or on its borders with the region. Note with grave concern the **Russian interference in the Western Balkan region**, which is conducted through hybrid tactics that include disinformation campaigns intended to undermine the EU's role and commitment to the European future of the individual countries, including economic and energy cooperation and vaccination diplomacy.
11. Call for the **comprehensive monitoring of EU sanctions and their implementation** and enforcement by Member States. Call for outreach to EU candidate countries and encourage more alignment with the EU's restrictive measures. Call for close **coordination** with transatlantic allies and like-minded international partners in order to maximise the effectiveness of sanctions.
12. Reaffirm their commitment to **enlargement**, which is more than ever a geostrategic investment in a stable, strong and united EU. Call on Member States to re-energise the enlargement process and deliver on their promises through concrete positive steps in the accession processes of countries that seek to join the Union. Welcome the **granting of candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova** and call on **granting it to Georgia** once the priorities specified in the Commission's opinion have been fully addressed.
13. Reiterate their strong support for the **European perspective of the countries of the Western Balkans** and reiterate accordingly the call for providing a clear pathway for countries seeking to join the EU. Emphasise that each enlargement country should be judged on its own merits, and that the enlargement process remains firmly based on the **fulfilment of all relevant criteria** with a strong focus on strengthening democracy, the rule of law, and human and minority rights, as well as fostering reconciliation and economic progress, as prerequisites for durable peace, stability and prosperity. Call on Member States to renew their commitment to enlargement by delivering on EU's obligations towards the Western Balkans. Call therefore for **lifting visa requirements for Kosovo** citizens. Welcome the **opening of negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia**, as well as the European Council's **readiness to grant candidate status to Bosnia and Herzegovina**. Recall that the EU should be the first "partner of choice" in order to promote peace, security, and progress in the region and call for active steps in strategic communication to balance malign foreign interference. Underline that the Western Balkan countries should benefit from EU-level security and defence cooperation, such as the Permanent Structured Cooperation and the European Defence Fund.
14. Reiterate the call for bringing **democratic transformation and the rule of law back to the centre of the EU accession process**. Underline that the funds from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) should be more targeted to make progress in these areas as well as on improving visibility of the EU funding in the region and bring a tangible impact on the ground through **enhanced conditionality**. Encourage more efforts to ensure that the citizens of the region are more closely associated with the EU and simultaneously benefit from the enlargement process and call upon the EU to speed up **the involvement of the countries in the region in cohesion policies and foreign affairs issues**.

15. Reaffirm their **unwavering support to the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries**, in particular as regards their independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within their internationally recognised borders as well as the respect for the will of the people to decide their own future and foreign policy, free from outside interference. Acknowledge that the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is **negatively impacting first and foremost the EaP countries**. Call on the EU to review the European neighbourhood policy with the aim of thoroughly assessing the impact of Russia's war against Ukraine on cooperation within the Eastern Partnership.
16. Support peace, stability, prosperity and democratic principles in the **Southern Neighbourhood**. Call for strengthened EU dialogue and cooperation with Southern Neighbourhood countries in relevant policy areas and promote conflict prevention and peacebuilding, counter-piracy, maritime security, and the countering of terrorism, radicalisation and extremism.
17. Underline the importance of the full implementation of the **EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement**, including the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland, and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Consider it important to work with the UK to maximise the possibilities for future cooperation and coordination in the area of foreign and security policy and defence, including in the framework of EU-NATO cooperation.
18. Call for stronger **EU-US transatlantic cooperation** on the basis of a partnership of equals, based on shared values and objectives and on the principle of partnership in leadership and responsibility, while respecting the other party's autonomy, interests and aspirations. Fully support and commit to pursuing synergies and common foreign and security objectives by deepening cooperation in the framework of the EU-US transatlantic dialogue on the key global challenges such as climate change, the threat posed by authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, terrorism and radicalisation and the protection and preservation of cultural heritage, in particular in conflict zones. Welcome the unprecedented level of coordination between the EU and the US on sanctions and the aid to Ukraine.
19. Welcome the EU's Joint Communication on a 'strategic partnership with the **Gulf**' on 18 May 2022. Underline that an enhanced partnership with the Gulf countries is key and timely, particularly at a moment of radical geopolitical shifts. Insist that the EU's priority is to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as a matter of security for Europe and the region. Recall that the JCPOA remains the only way to stop Iran's worrying nuclear activities.
20. Welcome the EU's renewed commitment to the **Indo-Pacific** region and underline that the EU's new Indo-Pacific Strategy needs to be implemented swiftly as it offers partners in the region a possibility to address the common challenges together. Call on all parties to promote an open, stable and rules-based regional security architecture in the Indo-Pacific, in line with the principles of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and international law, and most notably the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Advocate for stronger cooperation with countries in the region, in particular **Japan**, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (**ASEAN**), **Australia**, **New Zealand**, the **Republic of Korea**, and **Taiwan**.
21. Take note of the outcome of the **EU-China** Summit. Call for more unity among EU Member States over the adoption of measures to address China's anti-democratic policy and

aggressive behaviour, which endangers the sovereignty of its neighbours and the stability of the Indo-Pacific region. Underscore the necessity to ensure that **any support by China to Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine** and any circumvention of the effects of the sanctions against Russia must have consequences for its relations with the EU.

22. Reaffirm the importance of the **EU-Africa partnership**, which can only be successful if it is truly a partnership of equals, built on own responsibility and solidarity and common vision for our future. Call for the strict implementation of the **SDGs** in all areas of EU-Africa relations and welcome the conclusion of the **Post-Cotonou Agreement** in April 2021 and the strengthening of the EU's links with the countries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the increased cooperation in multilateral forums on the Sustainable Development Agenda and climate action. Condemn the presence in Africa of private military and security companies, in particular the **Kremlin-backed Russian Wagner Group**.
23. Remain gravely concerned over increased instability in the **Sahel region**, and emphasise the EU's commitment to comprehensive engagement in the region on political support, technical and financial assistance, notably for security sector reforms, military training and support for the protection and strengthening of civil society, which are essential for tackling security threats. Call on **ECOWAS** and the EU Member States to effectively implement the memorandum of understanding on peace, security and governance, and for full operationalisation of the **G5 Sahel and for EU Member States** to cooperate closely with it on security matters.
24. Recall the high importance of a strong relationship of the EU with **Latin America and the Caribbean** (LAC) and call for enhancing cooperation with partners in the region, particularly on defending the rules-based multilateral order. Call on the EU and the Member States to implement more assertive policies towards authoritarian regimes that have benefited from their relations with the EU and have dismantled, violated or directly suppressed the rights and freedoms of their citizens.
25. Recognise that technology, connectivity and data flow are important dimensions of the EU's external relations and partnership agreements and have significant geopolitical implications. Support the EU's ambitious and multifaceted '**Global Gateway**' initiative, which aims to create links instead of dependencies, by investing in digital networks and quality infrastructure with partners around the world in a fair and sustainable way. Call for cooperation with countries in the Global South through the Global Gateway to promote and defend peace, democratic principles, human rights and the values the EU stands for.

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