



## Joint statement on sham referendums organised by the Russian Federation in the occupied territories of Ukraine

As Chairs of Foreign Affairs Committees of our respective Parliaments, in response to the Russian regime imposing sham referendums in four temporarily occupied regions of Ukraine and to the continued — unprovoked and unjust — war of aggression waged against Ukraine by Russia, we:

*reiterate* that the unjust invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a gross violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and is in clear violation of Russia's obligations arising from Article 2 of the UN Charter and international law, as well as the obligations Russia undertook by signing the Budapest Memorandum and committing to guarantee the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

*emphasise* that the sham referendums organised and imposed by the Russian occupation regime in four regions of Ukraine are a clear violation of international law, including the UN charter, and can only be considered as a false pretext to attempt to annex parts of Ukraine and justify their illegal war – a process reflecting Russia's approach in Crimea in 2014, combining military presence, violence, forced deportations, disinformation, intimidation, distribution of Russian passports to Ukrainian citizens and fake and illegitimate results;

*underline* that these referendums and whatever fabricated outcomes Russia will announce do not represent the demonstrated will of the Ukrainian people and are a severe violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and independence, and the annexation of Ukrainian territory cannot be recognised by any country;

*reiterate* our strongest condemnation of the ongoing war of aggression of Russia against Ukraine, Russia's sham referendums and all officials and collaborators involved in the organisation of these referendums in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, and demand that Russia immediately withdraw its forces from within Ukraine's internationally recognised borders and respect Ukraine's territory and sovereignty;

**call on** our partners and allies across the world and on all nations that respect the fundamental principles and core tenets of the UN charter – to reject and condemn the referendums organised in temporarily occupied regions of Ukraine and not to recognise any results that Russia might announce as well as the passports of the Russian Federation issued in the occupied regions of Ukraine;

**call on** the international community to seek accountability for those who have been actively involved in the organisation and holding of illegal referendums or engaged in other related activities;

**invite** the Euro-Atlantic community and its partners to urgently strengthen sanctions against Russia to weaken the ability of the Russian armed forces to wage war; increase military, financial, humanitarian and diplomatic support to Ukraine; unanimously support initiatives that condemn Russia's military actions in Ukraine and call for the perpetrators to be brought to justice; continue to isolate Russia from

international and regional organisations, as well as take equivalent decisions regarding Belarus and impose equivalent sanctions on it as a supporter of Russian military aggression;

**stand with** Ukraine and the Ukrainian people and express our strongest conviction to continue our support to the Ukrainian people and provide them with security assistance to help them defend themselves and their country as they courageously resist Russia's invasion;

**commemorate** all the victims of Russian aggression in Ukraine – thousands of civilians and defenders of Ukraine;

**express solidarity** with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

**Marko Mihkelson**

Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
Estonia

**Rihards Kols**

Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
Latvia

**Bogdan Klich**

Chair, Senate Foreign and European  
Union Affairs Committee  
Poland

**Pau Mari-Klose**

Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
Chamber of Deputies  
Spain

**Pavel Fischer**

Chair of the Senate Committee on  
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security  
Czech Republic

**Kery Marian**

Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
Slovakia

**Jussi Halla-aho**

Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
Finland

**Rudmer Heerema**

Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
Netherlands

**Laima Liucija Andrikiene**

Chair, Committee of Foreign Affairs  
Lithuania

**Marek Kuchcinski**

Chair, Sejm Foreign Affairs Committee  
Poland

**Marek Zenisek**

Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
Chamber of Deputies  
Czech Republic

**Titus Corlatean**

Chair, Senate Foreign Affairs  
Committee,  
Romania

**Jean-Louis Bourlanges**

Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee  
National Assembly  
France

**Michael Roth**

Chair, Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Germany

**Martin Lidegaard**

Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee  
of the Folketinget  
Denmark