

JOINT STATEMENT

adopted at the Meeting of the Speakers of Parliaments of the Visegrad Group States

on 29 February 2024

The Speakers of Parliaments of the Visegrad Group

1. **Acknowledge** the importance of regional cooperation in promoting the common interests of our citizens. The Visegrad Group is an important platform for consultation and coordination among the Central European states including at the level of national parliaments.
2. **Note** that the current international and security environment poses an unprecedented challenge to the whole community of democratic nations and **agree** on the urgency of upholding the basic principles of human rights, freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. **Intend** to promote a rules-based international order, good neighborly relations and strengthening of the European integration and transatlantic cooperation, while seeing regional ties like the V4 as a strong foundation for these.
3. **Condemn** in the strongest possible terms Russia's illegal, unprovoked, and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine that started ten years ago in February 2014 with the occupation of Crimea and entered a new level two years ago with a full-scale invasion in February 2022 and **reaffirm** their full support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, as well as for Ukraine's inherent right to self-defense against the Russian aggression and to negotiate the end of war on its terms.
4. **Reiterate** in line with the Joint Declaration of the participants of the Second Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform the commitment to imposing of sanctions against the Russian Federation, and diplomatic, economic, and other appropriate measures, to exert pressure on the Russian Federation, as well as to counter sanctions circumvention, and commitment to providing further political, economic and military support and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine as long as it takes, based on the sovereign decisions of each V4 country.
5. **Emphasize** the importance of the upcoming 20th anniversary of the membership of the V4 countries in the European Union as well as the anniversaries of their accession to the North Atlantic Alliance. The two organizations remain the key pillars of stability, security, and prosperity for our countries and the whole European continent.

6. **Reaffirm** their endorsement for the EU and NATO enlargement as a driving force for long-term stability, peace and prosperity across the continent. **Welcome** the strategic choice to join the EU and NATO by multiple European countries and **agree** that it is in the common interest of the V4 countries to support the accession process in line with agreed rules and principles.
7. **Support** sustainable economic recovery focused on leveraging new technologies and securing supply chains. **Reiterate** that innovation and research are indispensable to retain technological edge and advantage in the rapidly evolving world, and **stress** the need to support projects aimed at getting ahead of the technological curve. **Highlight** the importance of efficiently translating research results into everyday life and economic benefits for the citizens.
8. **Underline** the shared objective to diversify energy supply in order to eventually phase out dependency on Russia and enhance security of each individual country as well as the region as a whole, and the need to develop new and modernize existing energy infrastructure. **Call on** the European Commission and EU Member States to increase efforts in support of diversifying energy sources. **Commit** to the idea that we require all types of low-emission energy sources, including nuclear power, in order to ensure that energy remains affordable for households and industries, while also meeting our climate goals.
9. **Express** concern over the continuous inflow of irregular and illegal migrants to the EU while acknowledging that solutions are beyond the capabilities of any single state. **Consider** as essential to maintain strong and strict control over the EU's external border while actively cooperating to address the socio-economic, security and environmental drivers of migration. **Strongly condemn** the weaponization of migration as a tool of hybrid warfare and as a form of pursuing state interests.