

3 March 2023

Decision of the Bundesrat

Resolution of the Bundesrat on the anniversary of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine

In its 1031st meeting on 3 March 2023, the Bundesrat adopted the resolution set out in the annex.

Annex

Resolution of the Bundesrat on the anniversary of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine

1. The Bundesrat strongly condemns the ongoing war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The Russian invasion of Ukraine one year ago and the brutal war being waged since then are a blatant violation of the UN Charter prohibition on the use of force. Such a violation of core principles of international law such as sovereignty and territorial integrity permanently destroys the foundation of the European peace order.
2. For a year now, Russia has been responsible for the suffering and death of countless people. The Bundesrat calls on the Russian Federation to immediately cease all acts of aggression and to withdraw from the entire territory of Ukraine. It condemns the continued attacks on Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure and expects Russia to immediately cease its attacks on civilians. The Bundesrat condemns in the strongest possible terms the numerous war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine, as documented by the UN and others. It supports the efforts of the federal government for the establishment of an international tribunal to try those responsible for the Russian aggression in Ukraine.
3. The Bundesrat pays great respect and tribute to the determined struggle of the Ukrainians. It is a fight for common European values that unite us with Ukraine and for the right of sovereign states to decide their own destiny.
4. The Bundesrat welcomes the fact that the EU, together with its partners and allies, is showing determination and unity in its response to this war of

aggression. The Bundesrat particularly welcomes the packages of sanctions adopted by the EU. A strict enforcement of sanctions and a continuous review of possible further sanctions are necessary.

5. It also welcomes the decision of the EU Member States to grant Ukraine EU candidate status. All Member States, their regions and municipalities are called upon to actively support Ukraine on its path towards EU membership.
6. Military, humanitarian and financial support for Ukraine is required, alongside an economic exchange, to enable Ukrainians to assert their right to live in a free, democratic and autonomous country. Partnerships between the German federal states (Länder) and regions of Ukraine as well as twin town arrangements can be an important element of this support. This type of direct cooperation can provide significant momentum, especially in the fields of education, science, culture as well as police and the justice system. Municipalities can contribute valuable experience by way of direct exchange and thereby help municipalities in Ukraine. Partnerships would initially be about providing direct emergency aid, supporting reconstruction and, finally, developing future projects together, which would also assist Ukraine's EU accession prospects. The Bundesrat welcomes the fact that such partnerships are currently being considered at various levels.
7. The Bundesrat appreciates the great efforts made by EU Member State to take in refugees who have fled from Ukraine. In Germany, the federal government, the Länder and municipalities are going to great lengths in that regard. Welcoming and accommodating the large number of refugees and integrating them into our society and providing the children with a good education is an enormous challenge, especially for the municipalities. The Bundesrat welcomes the fact that, during the Chancellor's meeting with the heads of government of the Länder on 2 November 2022, the federal government acknowledged its joint responsibility, including in terms of financing refugee-related costs incurred by the Länder and municipalities, and pledged its support. In view of the continuing war in Ukraine and the continually high number of Ukrainian and other refugees seeking protection in Germany, the Länder and municipalities now need further support from the federal government.