

STATEMENT
on the occasion of the 249th Anniversary
of the Independence of the United States of America

We, the Members of Parliament, extend our heartfelt congratulations to all Americans on this Independence Day of the United States of America.

On this day 249 years ago, a new American nation was born. It has become a global symbol of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

America's success has been an inspiration to freedom-loving people all over the world. The U.S. leadership has become a driving force shaping the world's history and has played a pivotal role in creating the foundations of global peace, security, and rules-based international order.

Today, these foundations are under attack by a nuclear power and a permanent member of the UN Security Council – by the Russian Federation waging a brutal war of aggression against Ukraine. It started over eleven years ago with the attempted illegal annexation of Crimea and has continued for over three years as a full-scale military invasion of the scale unseen since World War II, with Russia's daily missile and drone attacks on peaceful Ukrainian cities.

Today, Ukraine, like America 249 years ago, defends its right to live in peace and decide its own destiny. Ukrainians are fighting for the same principles and values the Americans were fighting for in the 18th century – independence for the sake of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

These are the values that we all must defend, and this is the fight that we must win.

Ukraine has clearly shown its openness to full and unconditional ceasefire and negotiations, as was proposed by President Trump. However, this offer was rejected by Putin, and Russia only increased its brutal attacks.

Now is not the time to show weakness. We must not allow tyranny to prevail and impose its will on free people. Putin must be forced to stop his aggression and accept a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace.

Our history teaches us that if evil remains unpunished, it will inevitably grow and spread, putting other democratic nations, partners, and allies in danger.

Continued defense support for Ukraine is critical. It is vital for saving thousands of lives of civilians being killed by Russia every day in its terrorist attacks. Military support is also essential for forcing Russia to negotiate, because it only understands the language of strength.

We must greatly enhance cooperation – especially in the technological sphere – among all those around the world who are defending life. Ukraine must have an advantage on the battlefield, forcing Putin to end the war. Therefore, Ukraine needs more weapons and ammunition, supplied in a stable and timely manner. It is critically necessary to urgently provide Ukraine with F-16 fighter jets, powerful air defense systems such as PATRIOTs and missiles for such systems to create an effective air shield capable of stopping Russian ballistic missiles, supply long-range weapons, drones and artillery ammunition, and invest in their co-production in Ukraine. Any delay would mean more lives of innocent people, including women and children, being killed by the Russian aggressors every day.

This is a pivotal moment, and we need to stay united. Ukraine's victory will be a victory for the entire free world.

We are confident that together, with President Trump's leadership and bipartisan and bicameral U.S. Congress's support of diplomatic efforts, we will succeed in undercutting the modern "axis of evil," achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace for Ukraine, restoring respect for international law, and reinforcing Trans-Atlantic and global security.

Marko Mihkelson, Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee, Estonia

Zygimantas Pavilionis, Deputy Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee, Lithuania

Oleksandr Merezhko, Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee, Ukraine

Prof. Dainius Žalimas, Member of the European Parliament

Pavel Fischer, Chair, committee on foreign affairs, security and defense, Senate of the Czech Republic

Rihards Kols, Member of the European Parliament

Johannes Koskinen, Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee, Finland

Beata Jurik, Deputy Chair of European Affairs Committee, Slovakia

Eerik-Niiles Kross, Member of Parliament, Estonia

Frederic Petit, Deputy Chair of European Affairs Committee, France

Andro Krstulović Opara, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Croatia

Henrike Brandstötter, Member of National Council, Austria

Sergey Lagodinsky, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA

Pablo Hispan, Chairman of EPP, Council of Europe, Spain

Tomasz Grodzki, Chief of the EU Committee of the Senate of the Republic of Poland
and vice Chair of the Political Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Louise Brown, Member of Danish Parliament

Michael Gahler, Member of the European Parliament

Heikki Autto, Chair of Defence Committee, Finland

Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Chair, Committee on Ukraine's Integration into the EU,
Ukraine

Els Van Hoof, Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee, Belgium

Michał Kamiński, Deputy Speaker of Senate, Poland

Roderich Kiesewetter, Member of Foreign Affairs Committee, Bundestag, Germany

Lia Quartapelle, Deputy Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee, Italy

Gustaf Göthberg, Member of Defence Committee, Riksdag, Sweden

Ferenc Gelencsér, Member of National Assembly, Hungary

Simona Malpezzi, Senator, Italy

Marco Lombardo, Senator, Italy

Honourable Benedetto Della Vedova, Member of Parliament, Italy

Honourable Giorgio Mulè, Member of Parliament, Italy

Honourable Piero Fassino, Member of Parliament, Italy

Bruno Fuchs, Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee, France

Harris Georgiades, Chairman Foreign and European Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, Republic of Cyprus

Laurynas Kasčiūnas, Deputy Chair of Defence Committee, Chair of Homeland Union - Lithuanian Christian Democrats, Lithuania

Pawel Bartoszek, Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee, Iceland

André Gattolin, honorary senator, France

Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat, Member of House of Commons, the United Kingdom

Hristo Gadzhev, Chair of Defence Committee, Bulgaria

Tobias Winkler, Member of Foreign Affairs Committee, Bundestag, Germany

Nathalie Loiseau, Member of the European Parliament

Ivan Vuković, Chair of European Affairs Committee, Montenegro

Doina Gherman, Deputy Speaker, Moldova

Derk Boswijk, Member of Foreign Affairs Committee, the Netherlands

Dimitris Kairidis, Member of Parliament, Head of the Greek delegation to NATO PA and VP of the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, Former Minister, Greece

Agnieszka Pomaska, Chair of European Union Committee, Sejm, Poland

Anton Hofreiter, Chair of European Affairs Committee, German Bundestag

Helmut Brandstätter,
Member of the European Parliament

Knut Abraham, Member of Parliament, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Germany

Barry Ward, Chair of Committee on European Union Affairs, Ireland

Margareta Cederfelt, former President of OSCE PA, Member of Riksdag, Sweden

Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, Senator, Italy

Garret Ahearne, Deputy Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee, Ireland

Remigijus Motuzas, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Lithuania

Edmunds Cepuritis, Chair of European Affairs Committee, Latvia

Peeter Tali, Chairman of European Union Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu, Estonia

Saara-Sofia Siren, Chair of Grand Committee, Finland

Reinis Pozņaks, Member of the European Parliament, Latvia

Michał Kobosko, Member of the European Parliament, Poland

Madison Jaak, Member of the European Parliament, Estonia

Michał Szczerba, Member of the European Parliament, Poland

Kristoffer Storm, Member of the European Parliament, Denmark

Ivars Ijabs, Member of the European Parliament, Latvia

Liudas Mažylis, Member of the European Parliament, Lithuania

Paulius Saudargas, Member of the European Parliament, Lithuania

Merja Kyllönen, Member of the European Parliament, Finland

Virginijus Sinkevičius, Member of the European Parliament, Lithuania

Małgorzata Gosiewska, Member of the European Parliament, Poland

Antonio Miloshoski, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of R.N. Macedonia

