







# Our Union needs unity and stronger stance on security

We, the representatives of Central and Eastern European social democratic parties, strongly condemn the war that was launched by Vladimir Putin against the free and democratic Ukraine and its people based on absolutely absurd pretext. We fully support the heroic struggle of Ukrainians against the aggressor.

The European Union needs to step up its response to the Russian violation of international and humanitarian law. We need to show much stronger unity and clear determination to stand behind our partners and our values. Any hesitation sends the wrong message – to our partners to the aggressors as well.

We call on Member States governments to stand for cutting off the Russian Federation from the international banking system/SWIFT and further sanctions.

The unity of the EU and NATO should not be undermined anymore. No single political or financial interest should be over our common security.

We call on the governments of all Member States of the European Union to step up their financial, material and humanitarian support to the Ukrainian government. We have failed to deter Russia from attacking Ukraine. We cannot fail to resolutely support it in its fight for its independence, freedom and democracy!!! Especially we need to support the capacities and capabilities of Ukrainian Armed Forces to defend their citizens, their cities, towns and villages, against the invader. We call on Member States to immediately provide supplies of military material, including lethal systems, to Ukraine.

## Today is "never again" day!

It is time also for us European Social Democrats to re-evaluate our positions on our security and defence. If we are to keep our way of life and to protect our European welfare state, we can't achieve it without security and stability. We need to acknowledge that our security is not for free. All Member States need to significantly step up the modernization of their armed forces. We need to strengthen our defence capabilities and improve the synergies between the EU and NATO.









It is time to admit that we will need to pay a price for getting rid of our vulnerabilities. We consider it unacceptable that today's or possible future aggressions by Russia are funded largely by our purchases of oil and gas, with oil being the main income for the Russian state budget, i.e. for their military expenditures. We need to replace Russian oil and gas, the main source of the Russian budget income, as soon as possible.

## On behalf of:

## Czech Social Democratic Party Nowa Lewica Poland

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Tomáš Petříček, Vice President

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