

President Metsola's address to the European Parliament
Extraordinary Plenary Session marking 1,000 days of Russia's invasion of Ukraine
Brussels, 19th November 2024

Today, we mark 1,000 days since Russia unleashed its brutal invasion of Ukraine.

1,000 days of terror, suffering, and unimaginable loss. 1,000 days of courage, resilience, and unbreakable spirit.

For 1,000 days, the people of Ukraine - and you, President Zelenskyy - have shown the world what true bravery looks like. You have stood up, refusing to break. Your people are an inspiration to all who value freedom around the world.

And for 1,000 days, this European Parliament has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Ukraine and their representatives in the Verkhovna Rada, united and unwavering. And we will continue to stand with Ukraine - today, tomorrow, and every day. For as long as it takes.

This is an assault not only on Ukraine but on the rules-based order. An assault on our values, and on our way of life. Peace, democracy and freedom - this is what is at stake here. And we know the sacrifice the Ukrainian people are enduring - not just for themselves, but for all of us.

I will forever be proud that this Parliament has led the charge in supporting Ukraine with political, financial, humanitarian and military assistance. We will always stand for peace - a real peace based on justice, dignity and the principle of 'nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine'.

This is why we have imposed tough sanctions on Russia and we call to go even further to hit Russia's war machine.

This is why we were the first to call for Ukraine's rightful place inside our European Union. This is why we were there, on the ground in Kyiv, just a couple of weeks after the invasion began.

Today, we send a clear, simple message: we stand with Ukraine, until freedom, until real peace.

For as long as it takes. Slava Ukraini!