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# STANDING WITH THE PEOPLE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN UKRAINE

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Council of European Municipalities and Regions

## CEMR's Declaration on the anniversary of the outbreak of war against Ukraine

Brussels, 24 February 2023

We, European local and regional leaders, recalling our declarations adopted on 24 February 2022<sup>1</sup> and 13 October 2022<sup>2</sup>, reiterate our strongest and unwavering support to Ukraine and its people on the one-year anniversary since the start of the brutal and unjustified full-scale attack by the Russian Federation.

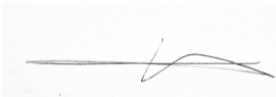
We fully condemn the full-scale war waged by Russian forces against Ukraine targeting innocent civilians and elected representatives and occupying illegally Ukrainian territories. Bombing civilians and essential public infrastructures represents a violation and clear disregard of the humanitarian law. The abduction of 35 Ukrainian mayors since 24 February 2022 by the Russian forces represents a violation of democratic principles and the 5 mayors still being detained<sup>3</sup> must be immediately released.

We reaffirm our full commitment to supporting the Ukrainian people and local and regional elected representatives in their path to victory and reconstruction. We will continue to empower local and regional governments in Ukraine through international municipal partnerships and other decentralised cooperation instruments in the context of the Bridges of Trust project, the Eastern Partnership programme and the European



Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine<sup>4</sup>. We are convinced that these efforts will result in the accession of Ukraine to the European Union as a full member<sup>5</sup>.

We recall the inviolability of European and universal values based on democracy, peace, and respect for the rule of law and principles of international law. Hereby, we join the international community that firmly supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and call upon the Russian Federation to stop its illegal war.



**Vince Maple**  
Chair of the  
Financial  
Management  
Committee



**Philippe Laurent**  
Co-President



**Christoph  
Schnaudigel**  
Co-President



**Gunn Marit Helgesen**  
President

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<sup>1</sup> [Declaration of 24 February 2022 on the support of the European local and regional governments to their peers in Ukraine](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Declaration of 13 October 2022 on the escalation of war against Ukraine](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Abducted mayors as of 23 January 2023](#)

<sup>4</sup> [European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Declaration on the opinions of the European Commission and the decision of the European Council on the application of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine for the membership of the European Union](#)

