

Joint Declaration of Centerpartiet (the Centre Party) of Sweden and Sluha Narodu (Servant of the People) of Ukraine

More than two years since the full-scale Russian invasion and war of aggression against Ukraine, and as Ukraine is fighting for freedom and our European way of life, our two parties have agreed during a visit by representatives of Sluha Narodu to Stockholm to initiate a closer partnership as sister parties.

This visit is more than a message of support and solidarity, it is a step towards a more active cooperation between our two parties in order to facilitate a Ukrainian integration into the European Union and Sluha Narodu's integration into Renew Europe. This declaration manifests the relation between Centerpartiet and Sluha Narodu as sister parties and members of the ALDE party.

We thus follow the example of previous generations of European liberals and centrists who, after the fall of the Iron Curtain, built bridges between the liberal and centrist European family and likeminded parties in candidate countries. Those links never faltered and laid the ground for the strong liberal, centrist and progressive political force that we are today.

The signatories have agreed on taking the following concrete steps, in accordance with the Joint Declaration signed by Renew Europe and Sluha Narodu on February 15, 2023.

Active cooperation on the integration of Ukraine to the EU and Sluha Narodu into the Renew Europe political group: Ukraine's future belongs in the EU as a dedicated member state. Centerpartiet will continue to support Ukraine's smooth accession process and work within both the Swedish Parliament and European Parliament to further that goal, with due respect to the frameworks guiding the process. We will work for a gradual but decisive integration of Ukraine into the EU Single Market and key sectoral programmes, along with other types of regional cooperation. Simultaneously, both parties will cooperate on the accession of Sluha Narodu into the Renew Europe political group in the European Parliament. Once Ukraine becomes an EU member state, we look forward to a quick integration into Renew Europe. Until then, we will continue to cooperate as ALDE members.

Establish forums for exchange and cooperation: Centerpartiet and Sluha Narodu will work toward establishing forums and formats for cooperation on areas including but not limited to policy proposals, organization, and learning exchanges. A deep understanding of the circumstances and political climate in respective country is key to facilitate a broader integration process into the liberal European family. Our aim is to pursue networks for exchange for members, with a particular focus on young people, women, and professionals.

Enhanced influence for the victory of Ukraine: Based on the solid support and solidarity with Ukraine from Centerpartiet, both parties will coordinate to effectively promote an agenda at the EU and national level that will ensure Ukraine's victory. Specifically, our parties will advocate for:

- more humanitarian and military assistance to Ukraine;
- concrete proposal from the EU Commission for confiscation and transfer of frozen Russian assets directly for the recovery-related needs of Ukraine;

- effective measures to be taken to ensure accountability and punishment for Russian crimes of aggression against Ukraine, in particular those related to the establishment of the Special Tribunal which would have a specific jurisdiction;
- acceptable living standards for refugees from Ukraine residing in the EU generally and Sweden specifically;
- more sanctions towards individuals and companies that directly or indirectly sustain the Putin regime, in line with the lists of the Navalny Foundation, as well as the swift implementation and enforcement of all sanctions;
- full support for the Ukrainian government's 10 points peace plan;
- preparation for implementation of Ukraine's economic program;
- intensified efforts to bring back forcefully abducted children and youths to Ukraine.

As allies, as friends and as fellow Europeans, we commit unwaveringly for Ukraine, for Europe, for freedom and for joint victory

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30/05/2024

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30/05/2024