



9 April 2020

His Excellency Mr. Jens Stoltenberg
NATO Secretary General
NATO Headquarters
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Open Letter to NATO Secretary General about Ukraine's accession to NATO

Your Excellency:

On behalf of NGO "Ukraine-2050", I welcome NATO's aid package for Ukraine announced on 2 April 2020, and look forward to increased aid in the near future. It is about the next steps that I write today.

Since Ukraine's independence, the West has looked at the political and economic developments in Ukraine with interest and with greater or lesser involvement. However, the West's mindset was mostly Russia-centric.

When Ukraine chose its own course of development and categorically turned away from the Russian Federation towards Europe and the West, Western countries were faced with a dilemma.

On the one hand, democratic principles and the rule of international law dictated the full acceptance of Ukraine as an independent country; however, on the other hand, the West's economic ties with the Russian Federation, mostly due to its vast energy resources, made such a political position inconvenient.

The Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline is a prime example of domestic interests trumping global security. The construction of Nord Stream 2 has benefited national and local economies, and will offer European countries direct access to Russian gas supplies eliminating transit countries including Ukraine. Clearly underestimated has been the inevitable dependence of Europe on Russian gas supplies opening wider the door to exploitation of European countries by the Russian Federation, boosted resources to support President Vladimir Putin's expansionist policies and the opportunity for the Russian Federation to increase its military presence in the Baltic Sea. Ukraine, on the other hand, will lose a key source of income and geopolitical leverage while being further isolated from Europe.

Global political considerations were also conveniently disregarded with the reinstatement of all the rights of the Russian Federation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) without the fulfillment of any of PACE's demands related to the Russian Federation's brutal aggression against Ukraine. Democratic values and principles, the foundation upon which PACE was established, were not only blatantly betrayed but also dangerously undermined for crass short-term financial considerations to make up PACE's budgetary shortfall resulting from the Russian Federation's refusal to fulfill its budgetary commitments.

This vacillation continues to define the West's current position and policies towards Ukraine and reminds us how Western democracies tried and failed to contain the aggressive and expansionist actions of Nazi Germany. A lack of a firm, timely and principled stance against Nazi aggression and an ill-fated policy of appeasement led to an enormous catastrophe - World War II.

Aggression, whether on an international or interpersonal scale, cannot be tolerated, and appeasement of aggression is definitely not a viable solution. Indeed, aggression must first be stopped, and only then can long-term policies be developed fairly, involving all concerned parties.

The now infamous "*Twelve Steps Toward Greater Security in Ukraine and the Euro-Atlantic Region*" issued by the Euro-Atlantic Security Leadership Group (EASLG), and published on the website of the 2020 Munich Security Conference, is further testimony to this attempt at appeasement for the sake of political convenience. Not only was the document flawed at its core since it assumed - wrongly - that the Russian Federation actually wants peace and security in Ukraine and the Euro-Atlantic Region, it blatantly ignored the fact that Russian military forces continue to attack Ukraine. The relentless military attacks against Ukraine by Russian military forces since the Munich Security Conference further confirm this fallacy.

The Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine is a direct and egregious breach of the Budapest Memorandum, raising serious doubts about the viability and effectiveness of this type of international agreement meant to promote global peace and security.

The Russian Federation has paid lip-service to, but in reality disdained, five years of initiatives by the West, including NATO, to end the Russian military aggression in the Donbas, including Minsk I, Minsk II and the Normandy Four Summit in Paris.

Incredibly, even at a time when the world is trying to unite for the sake of fighting the Covid-19 global pandemic, the Russian Federation continues to exhibit its shameless contempt for the obligations it has undertaken toward Ukraine and the international community by continuing to violate its ceasefire commitments.

That is why NATO and its member states should counter the Russian Federation's ongoing hybrid aggression against Ukraine in an effective manner, namely by:

- (1) strengthening sanctions by NATO member states against the Russian Federation until it fully ceases its hybrid aggression against Ukraine;
- (2) providing Ukraine with the necessary support, including military aid, to enable it to successfully counter Russian aggression; and
- (3) offering Ukraine the NATO Enhanced Opportunity Program and NATO Membership Action Plan to accelerate Ukraine's accession into NATO.

Nothing short of this will put a permanent end to the brazen attacks against Ukraine by the Russian Federation and its open defiance against the West.

Ms. Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO recently expressed: "*Russia must let those countries have their sovereign rule, their sovereign territory, their boundaries, and we are very intent on helping Georgia and Ukraine continue to respond to the Russian aggression that has taken over parts of their countries. And we are not going to let down on those efforts.*"

Ukraine's accession into NATO will permanently change the entire playing field in the best interests of all NATO member states.

Indeed, as Zbigniew Brzeziński wrote in *Strategic Vision: America and the Crisis of Global Power*:

“It cannot be stressed enough that without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be an empire, but with Ukraine suborned and then subordinated, Russia automatically becomes an empire.”

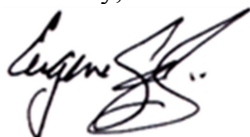
Such unequivocal actions by NATO and its member states should also eventually refocus the attention of the Russian authorities on developing the Russian Federation for the benefit of all its citizens, instead of pursuing its covert interventions and open aggression in foreign countries.

The plummeting oil prices create the right conditions for NATO to make important geopolitical decisions required in order to achieve lasting peace and stability in that very critical part of the world.

We understand, with regret, the need to reschedule the 22-25 May 2020 session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Kyiv, and sincerely hope that NATO will schedule such session in Kyiv in the nearest future.

We call upon you, Mr. Secretary General, to ensure that NATO and its member states accelerate Ukraine’s accession into NATO now to ensure greater security in the whole Euro-Atlantic region.

Sincerely,



Eugene Czolij
NGO “Ukraine-2050” President
Ukrainian World Congress President (2008-2018)

cc: His Excellency Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine

Non-governmental organization (NGO) “Ukraine-2050” is a non-profit organization established to help implement, within one generation - by 2050, strategies for the sustainable development of Ukraine as a fully independent, territorially integral, democratic, reformed and economically competitive European state.