EU-Ukraine: responding to challenges together



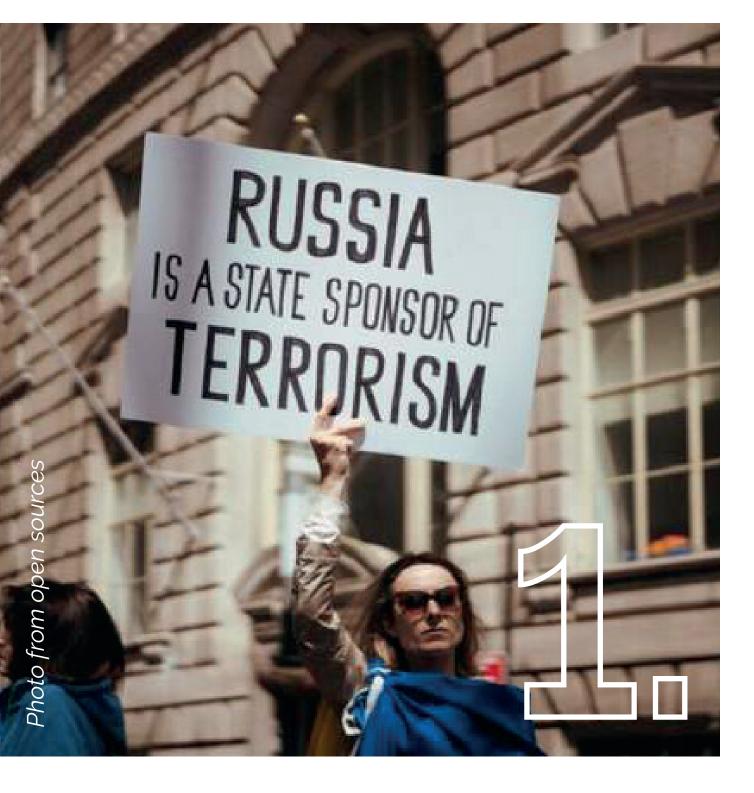
Media Digest, December 2022



November and December 2022 were rich in many dramatic military events and many breakthroughs, with landmark decisions taken to provide Ukraine with security support, and macro-financial assistance, and develop political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine. In times of war, the EU stands firmly side by side with Ukraine, and together they work for the future.

TOP FIVE

The EU decisions adopted in late autumn made November's and December's TOP FIVE topics. Some of them are of historical importance, others are routine, but all will have a sustainable positive impact on the situation in Ukraine and, at the same time, focus on building and development.



The European Parliament recognized Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism

The European Parliament acknowledged that Russia has conducted "indiscriminate attacks against residential areas and civilian infrastructure" in Ukraine, resulting in thousands of deaths. The aggressors have committed "summary executions, abductions, sexual violence, torture and other atrocities" in occupied territories.

On May 19, 2022, the European Parliament supported the establishment of a special international tribunal to investigate the war crimes of Russia and its allies against Ukraine. The establishment of such a body was also supported in PACE. The tribunal aims to bring to justice Russia's President Vladimir Putin and his inner circle.

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Strengthen to protect

The Council of the EU launched the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine) on October 17, 2022. Its mission is to enhance the military capability of Ukraine's Armed Forces to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, as well as to protect civilians in the war unleashed by Russia.



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Violating EU sanctions against Russia is on the list of EU crimes

The Council of the EU has unanimously decided to add the violation of sanctions imposed on Russia for its military aggression against Ukraine to the list of EU crimes included in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

This is the first step to ensure that sanctions are equally applied throughout the EU and prevent attempts to circumvent or violate them.

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EU plans to provide Ukraine with €18 billion in 2023

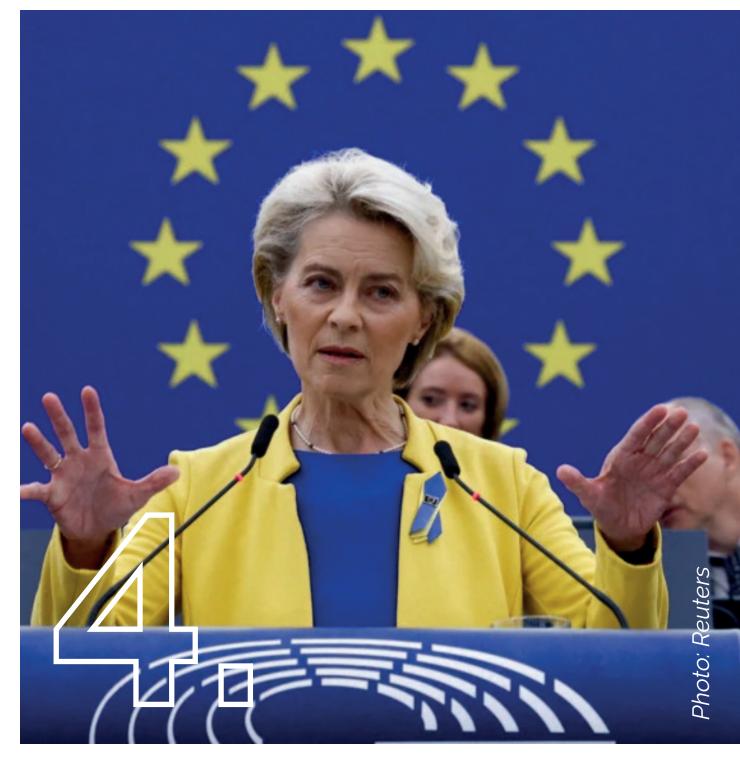
The European Commission has officially proposed an unprecedented €18 billion macro-financial support package for Ukraine for the next year.

"Ukraine needs emergency assistance, rapid rehabilitation, recovery, support for everyday life and survival to maintain the minimum public functions, salaries for teachers, soldiers, doctors and other groups of the population so that pensions and other benefits can be paid," said President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

To give this assistance, the European Commission plans to establish a new instrument for Ukraine, which will provide highly concessional loans to cover urgent needs, restore critical infrastructure, and ensure initial support for post-war reconstruction.

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We will win and rebuild

The European Union is working with international organizations to consolidate the forces and resources needed to protect and rebuild Ukraine.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union have announced an additional €35 million (\$34.4 million) for the UNDP Resilience Building and Recovery Programme for Ukraine. The key focus is on early recovery efforts to put communities back on the path toward the development and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

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SECURITY & PROTECTION

EU contributes to strengthening the cyber defense of Ukraine

To strengthen the cyber defense capacity of Ukraine's Armed Forces, the EU has funded and delivered cyber lab equipment, security software, and protective equipment to Kyiv. This was done through the European Peace Facility.

The Ukrainian system is being updated together with the European one – the EU Council decided on a large-scale modernization of the EU cyber defense system in November. In particular, it will expand the mandate and funding of the Computer Emergency Response Team and improve the efficiency of information exchange on computer incidents, etc.

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Russia must compensate for the damage caused to Ukraine

The damage suffered by Ukraine as a result of the unjustified and unprovoked war unleashed by Russia against Ukraine is estimated at €600 billion. Therefore, it is fair that Russia and its oligarchs have to compensate Ukraine for the damage caused and for the costs of rebuilding the country. "And we have the means to make Russia pay," stressed President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

The EU has blocked €300 billion of the Russian Central Bank reserves and frozen €19 billion of Russian oligarchs' money so far and plans to develop a mechanism to seize these assets in favor of Ukraine.

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BUSINES

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EU supports the resilience and sustainability of Ukraine's economy: we must survive, recover and develop

Each saved enterprise maintains value chains and supports the business ecosystem, each job means a normal life for Ukrainian families, payment of taxes, work for the victory, and a peaceful future. Three hundred micro and small Ukrainian business have received the first tranche of financial support under the Programme "EU4Business: SME Competitiveness and Internationalization" funded by the EU and the German Government. The amount of grant assistance is UAH 150,000.

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EBRD and EU to provide loans for the modernization of SMEs

The EBRD and the EU are providing a €25 million loan to state-owned Ukrgazbank to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Ukraine. Borrowers who successfully implement eligible investment projects will be able to receive incentive grants to purchase equipment and upgrade production processes as cashback of up to 15% of the loan amount and will benefit from technical and advisory assistance funded by the EU under its EU4Business Initiative.

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MEPs approved EU road transport agreements with Ukraine

Two new EU road transport agreements are part of the EU's response to the difficulties in the transport sectors of Ukraine and Moldova caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The new agreements temporarily allow Ukrainian, Moldovan, and EU carriers to transit each other's territories and ease cross-border transportation without permits. In addition, Ukrainian drivers can now use valid Ukrainian driving licenses and certificates of professional competence to drive in the EU without the need to hold an international driving license.

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Law on the administrative procedure: unified transparent rules and

harmonization with EU legislation

The law on administrative procedure will enter into force in 2023, so experts are discussing its implementation and functioning mechanisms. The entry into force and – most importantly – the real effectiveness of new laws, especially in times of war, is a sign of a democratic state and another step that brings Ukraine closer to the EU.

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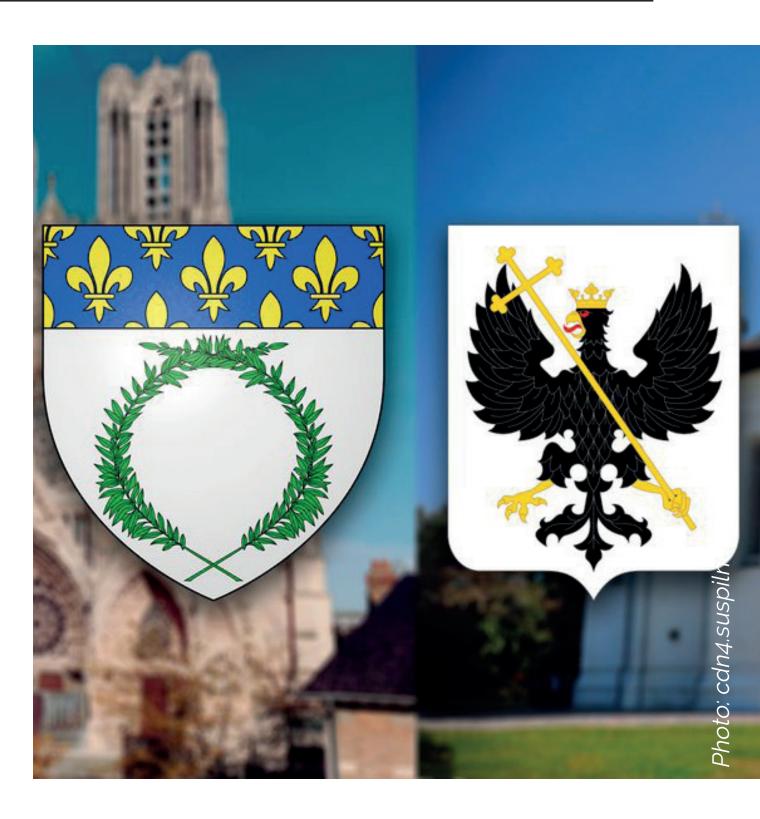


Chernihiv expands European contacts and learns from partners' experience

Two ancient European cities – Chernihiv and Reims – are establishing networking and cooperation thanks to the U-LEAD with Europe Programme. Chernihiv is interested in Reims' experience in waste management and recycling, water purification, public transport development, and cultural cooperation. Besides, Reims suffered devastatingly during the First World War and has experience not only in restoring but also in rethinking the city development – the issue Chernihiv is now working on.

Earlier, Chernihiv established the same close contacts with Rzeszow, Poland.

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For the first time in Khmelnytskyi Oblast: a vocational school got a new bus thanks to cooperation with the EU

Thanks to the international EU-funded Programme EU4Skills: Better Skills for Modern Ukraine, the Yarmolynets Agro-Industrial Centre for Vocational Education received a brand new school bus.

Now the educational process in Ukraine faces obstacles every day and suffers from air raids, power outages, etc., but the state and our partners are taking efforts to ensure that young Ukrainians receive quality education and stay safe.

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CULTURE, EDUCATION, AND SCIENCE

Creative talks on the role of European cooperation in culture took place in Mykolaiv

With the support of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the CREA Centre in Mykolaiv hosted a discussion on ways to develop Ukrainian culture and identity. It would seem that war is not the best time for such a topic, but Ukrainian culture, language, and identity have also become a weapon and an object of "strategic spiritual infrastructure".

In these difficult times for the creative community, a new layer of Ukrainian culture is being formed, and it is no coincidence that the EU finds an opportunity to support artists.

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Photo: creativeeurope.in.ua



ваша електронна адреса







Медіадайджест підготовлений проєктом "Українцям про ЄС» (СЕU4U), що фінансується Європейським Союзом.

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