# EU–Ukraine: Responding to Challenges Together

Media Digest. May 2024

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

**The latest issue of the Media Digest features publications on the key events of May manifesting the condition and prospects of EU-Ukraine relations.**

A number of decisions adopted by the European Union in May will have a decisive impact on the future of Ukraine and Europe, both in the context of the war and post-war reconstruction, and joint work on the country's path to EU membership. The month of May traditionally concludes with Europe Day celebrations, which Ukraine has celebrated for the second year in a row on the same date as Europe.

## TOP 3

### Roberta Metsola: The European Parliament will continue to support Ukraine

On 9 May, during her visit to Kyiv, the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, emphasised that the European Parliament would "support Ukraine in moving forward on its European path, including in the EU accession negotiations should start as soon as possible, and I am optimistic that the negotiation framework will be adopted by EU Member States," said Ms. Metsola. "We will continue to work together to strengthen military support and deliver results in our financial support.

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### Josep Borrell: Russia's war of aggression is not only threatening the European Union, but world peace

On the occasion of the Europe Day on 9 May, the European Union's High Rep for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, shared some reflections on the current state of affairs in the world. "The dangerous geopolitical landscape we are now living in, between the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the war in the Middle East.

"We must assume our strategic responsibility now and become able to defend our interests and to build a strong European pillar inside NATO," he stated.

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### Olha Stefanishyna: The key thing that connects Ukraine with Europe is values

Europe Day, which Ukraine celebrated together with the European Union for the second time on 9 May, embodies our most important aspirations - unity and peace. Ukraine's path to the EU, which is led by Stefanishyna, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine, is a path to peace. As a full Member State of the EU, will undoubtedly become one of the most significant events will also strengthen the European Union.

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EUROPE DAY IN UKRAINE

### Commemorative coin to mark Europe Day

On 9 May, Ambassador of the European Union to Ukraine, Katarina Mathernova and Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine, Andriy Pyshnyy, unveiled a coin to mark the commemorative coin. This coin symbolises the unity of Ukraine and Europe, solidarity in the struggle for democracy and freedom, our shared values, and our aspirations for a brighter future. The unveiling ceremony of this coin highlights the strength of the links between Ukraine and the EU," said Ms. Mathernova.

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### First EuroSummit of CSOs takes place on Europe Day

EuroSummit united key civil society organisations (CSOs) involved in the process of European integration since the Association Agreement's implementation in 2014, along with newer CSOs possessing vast expertise in the EU and its member states their knowledge in this field. The mandate of negotiations on Ukraine's membership in the EU is a lengthy process, requiring years of systematic effort and substantial expertise from civil society bodies, including the expert community.

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### #TogetherWeActFest: On 25 May, over 3,000 people learned how the EU supports civil society and media in Ukraine

On 25 May, the TogetherWeActFest, organised by the EU Support to Civil Society in Ukraine project, brought together over 3,000 people, including civil society activists, experts, CSOs and media representatives, officials, youth, residents, and visitors at the Mykolaivska Square in the heart of Kyiv. The public event organised in the framework of the nationwide communication campaign "Together We Act. Together We Are Europe".

A street exhibition called #TogetherWeAct, which consisted of 14 photo booths, was presented at the festival. It will be open to visitors at Sophia Square in Kyiv until early June.

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EU-UKRAINE ACCESSION ALGORITHM

### Lyubov Akulenko: Our main challenges are having a depoliticised professional negotiation team and reforming public administration

In anticipation of the start of negotiations between Ukraine and the EU, the expert community is actively discussing how to make the process truly constructive. Ukraine will have to manage both the external negotiations with the EU and the internal reform process. One significant challenge is the government's institutional reform of public administration. This is a key element of public administration. This is a key element of public administration. Ukraine faces. Read on to learn more.

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### Reconstruction, reform: European integration require irreversible changes

On 14 May, the Council of the European Union finalised the Ukraine Plan, necessary for the implementation of the Ukraine Facility programme. Yulia Svyrydenko, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, that investment tool of the programme - the Ukraine Investment Framework (UIF) - is expected to be operational in June to use. How will it work for businesses, who will be able to apply and how, and what funding can they receive?

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ECONOMY, FINANCE, BUSINESS

### EU Council approves confiscation of profits from Russian assets in favour of Ukraine

Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People, Valdis Dombrovskis, said: "This is a fair and balanced solution that is legally sound and flexible, so that support can adjust to Ukraine's most pressing needs. We will keep an eye on the process, and the Commission will continue making all efforts to allow the First payment to be made already in July."

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### The EU is the largest donor of budget assistance to Ukraine

Ukraine received the largest donor of budget assistance to Ukraine, having provided close to EUR 32 billion since February 2022, over the 10 years of Russia's war against Ukraine, financial support from the EU, which has reached a total of EUR 37 billion, and the lion's share of it came after February 2022, when Russia launched its full-scale invasion. The EU provides Ukraine with equally strong support in the security, humanitarian, and financial spheres.

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### EU supports Ukrainian energy sector

On 6 May, the European Commissioner for Energy, Kadri Simson, met with the Deputy Minister of Ukraine, Herman Halushchenko, in Kyiv. They discussed ways to strengthen the resilience of the Ukrainian energy system and prepare for the next heating season. Commissioner Simson also coordinating international cooperation to increase pressure on Russia and oust the aggressor from the world energy markets was discussed.

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### Rémi Duflot: We will support the media that tell the truth

Rémi Duflot, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, announced at the 10th Lviv Media Forum that the European Union is ready to allocate EUR 5 million to support 150 Ukrainian national and regional media outlets, including efforts to protect journalists. The EU recognises the critical importance of journalists' work and supports Ukrainian media at both national and regional levels.

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SUPPORT FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR

### Reliable 'checkpoint' for veterans of the Ukrainian army

On 1 May, a rehabilitation space for veterans of the Ukrainian Army, 'Checkpoint', opened in Zaporizhzhia. It will help veterans, their former military personnel and their families can receive psychological support, sports rehabilitation, and legal and business counselling to open start-ups. The project also provides a mobile team that will help veterans and their families tackle urgent problems. 'Checkpoint' Zaporozhia provides a safe space for veterans and groups of veterans and their families, and the team includes a sign language interpreter.

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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION

### Artificial intelligence under legal control

The Council of Europe has adopted a framework convention on artificial intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (the 'Convention'). It is the first international treaty on artificial intelligence. The document covers all aspects of the use and risks associated with the use of AI in the context of respect for human rights, respect for democratic institutions and the rule of law. Ukraine for accession to countries outside the EU.

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### Scientists for local municipalities

On 24 May 2024, the final event of the EU Educational Capacity Space for Students and Community' (EDUSPACE) project on "The Development of Local Communities and Institution" took place at Manupil State University. The staff of the Manupil State University and Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs launched the EDUSPACE project in October 2022 when the active full-scale war were forced to relocate. The project's achievements will therefore be used to support the relocation of Ukrainian higher education institutions are currently operating.

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SECURITY FOR ALL

### Non-bot chat 'Unsee' already receives 673 reports

'Unsee', a child-friendly, non-bot Telegram chat for Ukrainian children to report and anonymously complain about inappropriate online content, has been launched in Ukraine with EU support. The tool was developed by the Child Well-being Fund Ukraine, with the Ministry of Education of Ukraine, as part of the EU-funded project 'Empowering law enforcement in overcoming online violence against children'.

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MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

The media digest was prepared by the EU project "Moving Forward Together in Ukraine (Ukraz)"

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