



## ГОЛОВА ВЕРХОВНОЇ РАДИ УКРАЇНИ

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Ukraine is grateful for the bipartisan support that our country enjoys in the U.S. Congress. It gives me great pleasure to note that the Congress has always been supportive of Ukraine, but recent years especially have been marked by a significant consolidation of support and assistance to Ukraine as it continues to counter Russian armed aggression.

Let me express appreciation for your personal efforts relating to Ukraine. Since 2014, you have supported the *Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act*, *Ukraine Freedom Support Act*, and *Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act*. These laws, drafted in bipartisan fashion, were instrumental for advancing immediate sanctions against Russia, increasing the cost of aggression for Russia, and providing new forms of assistance to Ukraine.

It is extremely commendable that there is full unity across the aisle in the Congress when it comes to supporting and assisting Ukraine, which has now been for eight years on the frontline of defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity, fundamental principles of the rules-based security order, values of democracy, and respect for human rights. As Russia is raising stakes in the conflict and threatens our country with escalated aggression by amassing large quantities of troops and weaponry along Ukraine's borders, Ukraine continues to rely on the steadfast support of the U.S. Congress in bolstering capabilities for effective deterrence and response.

In this context and as Congress assembles new legislation to deter a new stage of Russian aggression, I respectfully request that you include the following components in the legislation:

**(1) Expedited and higher-impact security assistance, including air defense, anti-ship and anti-armor capabilities, and flexible loans and financing mechanisms.**

- a. Ukraine values the military assistance that it is now receiving from the United States, but to truly deter Russian aggression, the United States must provide Ukraine with more advanced capabilities and in larger quantities.

**(2) Immediate, mandatory sanctions against Gazprom's wholly-owned subsidiary Nord Stream 2 AG, which will stop Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline;**

- a. Nord Stream 2 is a source of multidimensional security, political and economic threats to Ukraine and Europe as a whole. It is not an exaggeration that Nord Stream 2 is no less an existential threat to Ukraine's security and democracy than the Russian troops on our

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border. This pipeline must be stopped and the only way to prevent its completion is to use all the tools available to do that.

- b. So far, the decision to waive sanctions against Nord Stream 2 in May 2021 has emboldened Russia and caused Moscow to conclude that the United States may accommodate its hostile intentions.
- c. After a clear majority of the U.S. Senate voted 55-44 in favor of imposing immediate sanctions against Nord Stream 2 AG on January 13, 2022, it is essential that the Congress include immediate sanctions against Nord Stream 2 AG in any new legislation to undercut options for Russia's aggressive actions in Ukraine.

**(3) A clear trigger for the instant and unqualified imposition of any sanctions that are not imposed immediately upon enactment of the legislation.**

- a. While some sanctions—like sanctions against Nord Stream 2—should be imposed immediately to demonstrate to Moscow that the United States is indeed serious about severe measures, including removing Russia from SWIFT, the trigger for these future sanctions must be clear in order to be effective.
- b. A “significant escalation in hostilities” whose “aim or effect of undermining, overthrowing, or dismantling the Government of Ukraine, occupying the territory of Ukraine, or interfering with the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine” is too high of a threshold to deter Russian aggression or affect the Kremlin's cost-benefit calculus.

**(4) Mandatory pre-trigger and post-trigger sanctions against all of Russia's most significant financial institutions.**

The United States is Ukraine's principal ally and strategic partner. We have chosen our future of democracy, rooted in shared values and principles with the United States. But for Ukraine to realize its future as a prosperous, reformed, and capable American ally that helps advance U.S. national interests both regionally and globally, we must be able to defend ourselves from Russian aggression. And to achieve this, Ukraine needs now bolstered support of the United States more than ever.

Ukraine speaks from centuries of experience. We understand Russia. We know what will and what will not deter the occupants of the Kremlin. Please give serious consideration to the above recommendations for immediate, mandatory action to prevent further Russian aggression and provide tangible support to Ukraine.

Sincerely,

Ruslan Stefanchuk  
Chairman  
Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

