

Zelenskyy calls on the EU: "Don't leave us alone." Putin is bombing Kyiv, Europe stands at the side of the Ukrainian people

The European Union extends its friendly hand to Ukraine - while Putin is bombing houses, schools, public buildings. "Yesterday, 16 Ukrainian children were killed, yet Putin refers to military targets", said **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, President of the Ukrainian Republic, in a livestreamed video address to the extraordinary Plenary Session of the European Parliament in Brussels. The debate confirmed the unanimous support of the EU-27 to Kyiv, its institutions and the people of Ukraine, whilst condemning the unjustified attack by the Russian army. EU lawmakers agreed that the war was sparked off by an unbridled dictator who has become a global threat.



introduced the plenary session before giving the floor to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy. "We will stand up. We will not look away. Putin will have to answer" for his deeds. "We are facing an existential threat to the Europe", she said, praising the "courage of the Ukrainians." She then mentioned Kiev's request to join the EU: "We will work towards that goal. We must face the future together."



Ukrainian parliament speaker, asked the EU not to abandon Ukraine and persevere in its economic sanctions. "We are defending the borders of Europe and of civilisation," said the president of Kyiv's parliament.



, addressing the assembly, said the Russian attack was "geopolitical terrorism pure and simple." "Once again, war and bloodshed are being seen on European soil. Vladimir Putin launched a brutal, massive invasion of Ukraine, an unjustified war. And he did it for one reason only. Because in Maidan, you, dear Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and you, dear people of Ukraine, you made the choice of freedom, democracy and rule of law" Michel said. The President of the European Council went on to comment on the Kyiv government's request for EU candidate status: "Ukraine wants to be part of Europe, and it is up to us Europeans to rise to the occasion. We understand that this is a complex issue, because it concerns enlargement" to the East. Moreover, "there are different points of view among EU Member States." It is therefore up to "the European Commission to express an opinion on

which the Council will assume its responsibility. It will have to assess the strong and, I believe, legitimate political request which has been made in an honest way, providing guidelines for making the right choice."



, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, pointing out that geopolitical Europe "comes into being at a time when we are confronted by threats, when Europe must face up to its responsibilities. For the first time since the Second World War, a country is invading another country. And this country" – Russia - "has nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening its capacity for intimidation." In his lengthy speech, Borrell declared that "the EU must take rapid steps to eliminate its dependence on Russian gas", also because "the European Union does not exchange human rights with gas, nor will we compromise on defending our freedoms and respect for human rights." Borrell went on to point out that half of Russian central bank reserves are beyond Moscow's control; the assets "are frozen, revealing a coercive capacity impossible to conceive of until three days ago." In his view, "Russian citizens are starting to suffer the consequences of inflation and are assessing the collapse of their currency."



said: "President Putin decided that Ukraine has no right to exist. We will never accept that." "We stay united and we will stand up in this war. How we respond today to what Russia is doing will determine the future of the international system. The destiny of Ukraine is at stake, but our own fate also lies in the balance." The speech of the President of the Commission focused on the measures adopted to help the Ukrainian people and those decided to thwart Russia's war and economy. She thus declared: "We are welcoming Ukrainians freeing from Putin's bombs." And this is why "we are proposing to activate the temporary protection mechanism to provide them with a secure status and access to schools, medical care and work." "The EU has adopted the largest sanctions package in our Union's history", she remarked. "I am well aware that these sanctions will come at a cost for our economy, too. But I believe that the people of Europe understand very well that we must stand up against this cruel aggression." Ursula Von der Leyen commented on what is happening in several cities in the Russian Federation: people "are marching for peace and freedom. And how does the Kremlin respond to this? By arresting thousands of them. There is another Russia besides Putin's tanks. And we extend our hand of friendship to this other Russia. Be assured, they have our support."

