

SKYMUN'23

Study Guide of Consilium Europa(Council of the European Union)



Agenda Item: EU responds to Russia's war of Aggression against Ukraine

Under Secretary General : Egehan Akçay

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2.1-Letter from Secretary-General

Dear participants,

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to Sky Model United Nations conference on the 18th, 19th and 20th of August. It is my honor to have the

opportunity to serve as the Secretary-General of a conference which aims for the absolute best.

First of all, I think it is my responsibility to state that both academic and organization teams worked real hard to provide you the best Model United Nations experience possible, as if they live by our motto "aim for the sky".

The world we live in today is riddled with conflicts, wars and clashes of interests. As hard as it might to hear, it has yet to become a lost cause. As educated and equipped youths, we aim to amend such problems and, together, build up a brighter future by uniting and supporting each other. Thus, through the format of Model United Nations, our goal is to further encourage the youth to take action to achieve such goals.

I would like to invite you - our most distinguished applicants - to join us on this thrilling journey.

Best regards.

Bedirhan YILDIRIM

Secretary-General of SkyMUN'23 Conference
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2.2-Letter from Directors-General

As Directory General, it is my great honor and pride to welcome you. For our esteemed participants, I am eagerly waiting for the SKYMUN organization to be

permanent and an organization that will leave a mark. Dear participants, I look forward to seeing you on 18-19- 20 August.

We are open to all kinds of suggestions from you, our esteemed participants, on the way we embarked by accepting as our motto that we, the young people, will shape the future. We aim that young dimas should have a say in political issues and develop their social communication skills by focusing on the cause-effect relationship. We are also the biggest advocates of the idea that we need young minds as a world.

As the organization team, we will do our best to improve the conference experience of our valued participants. We will be there for you in every request and need, and we will do whatever it takes to find solutions to a potential problem.

As Directoray General, we promise that we will work hard with our organization team within the framework of your wishes and needs and to ensure that the SKYMUN experience is permanent for you.

Eren ÖZBAKIR Director General - Baha ÖZYURT Deputy Director General

2.3-Letter from Academic Assistant

Dear Delegates,

My name is Beril Akcacakir and I am the Academic Assistant of the of Consilium Europa(Council of the European Union)committee . I am very excited to be able to supervise all of you and work with you. This conference will undoubtedly be exciting and every creative solution made will go one step beyond the optimistic expectations of creativity and perception.

Our Under Secretary General Egehan Akçay is very interested in EU related committees he took part in many similar committees before, and we also took part in the European Parliament committee together.

I am a junior student at Muharrem Hasbi Anatolian High School. I started Model UN in the first year of high school because I was very interested in deftly analyzing international problems and suggesting solutions with others. I am excited to spend this beautiful experience with you all. It will be easier for you to reach a solution if you review the study guide before the conference. Hope it will be a productive conference. If you have any other questions, you can feel free to contact

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3-Introduction To the Committee

Consilium Europa, or the Council of the European Union constitutes the most important forum for debate and direct action of the European Union. In addition to the European Parliament, which is elected directly by the citizens, it

forms the other half of the European Union legislature, representing the governments of its member states. Delegates to the Council are the respective national ministers relevant to the topic area under current debate. Among the various European Union organs, it is at the Council where the member states thus best represent their own national interests. Compared to national analogies, the Council can be understood as the Upper House of the European Union's bicameral legislative.

The Council was formalised with the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007. Prior to that, the Council had been active already as a supervising board since the days of the European Economic Community, the predecessor of the European Union, which was established in 1957. Its mandate has gradually been expanded, and now includes a wide range of functional policy areas, subdivided into the areas of expertise of respective Council Configurations (working groups of a sort).

This committee simulation will represent the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) Configuration, tasked with mapping out the future of strategic investment and European Union engagement in the Western Balkans, the current main area of prospective enlargement for the European Union, as part of its Common Foreign and Security Policy



4-Information about Agenda Item

The EU and its member states strongly condemn Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. They also condemn Belarus' involvement in Russia's military aggression.

Since February 2022, the European Council and the Council of the European Union have been meeting regularly to discuss the situation in Ukraine from different perspectives.

EU leaders demanded on several occasions that Russia immediately cease its military actions, unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

They emphasised the right of Ukraine to choose its own destiny and commended the people of Ukraine for their courage in defending their country.

In response to the military aggression, the EU has massively expanded sanctions against Russia, by adding a significant number of persons and entities to the sanctions list, and by adopting unprecedented restrictive measures.

The EU has shown unity and strength and has provided Ukraine with humanitarian, political, financial and military support.

The EU is committed to continue to show solidarity and provide **support to the refugees** fleeing the war in Ukraine and the countries hosting them. It is also coordinating with partners and allies, within the UN, OSCE, NATO and the G7.

On several occasions, the European Council condemned Russia's **indiscriminate attacks against civilians** and civilian infrastructure, and urged Russia to stop the systematic missile strikes against Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

EU leaders underlined that Russia, Belarus and all those responsible for **war crimes** and the other most serious crimes will be held to account for their actions in accordance with international law.

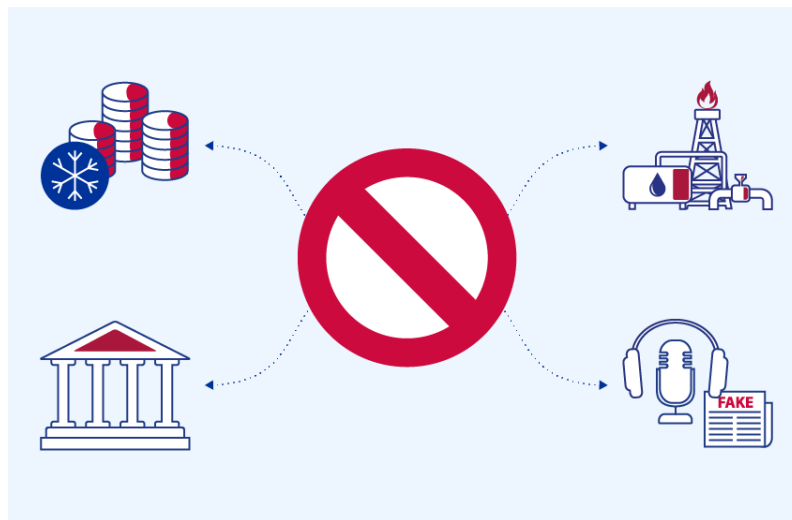
Individual and economic sanctions

The EU has adopted a number of sanctions in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

The measures are designed to weaken Russia's economic base, depriving it of critical technologies and markets and significantly curtailing its ability to wage war.

In this context, the EU has also adopted sanctions against:

- Belarus in response to its involvement in the invasion of Ukraine
- Iran in relation to the use of Iranian drones in the Russian aggression against Ukraine



Russia's War Against Ukraine: European Union Responses and U.S.-EU Relations

Sanctions:

The EU has imposed 10 packages of sanctions—or restrictive measures—intended to cripple Russia's ability to finance the war against Ukraine, enact costs on Russia's elites, and diminish Russia's economic base. Imposing sanctions requires unanimity among EU members.

To date, EU sanctions on Russia's government and financial, business, defense, technology, and media sectors include

- Freezing the assets of 207 entities (including key banks) and 1,473 individuals (primarily Russian officials and elites), to whom travel bans also apply.
- Imposing debt and equity restrictions on certain banks and companies.
- Restricting transactions with Russia's central bank and blocking access to its reserve holdings.

- Banning transactions with certain Russian state-owned military-industrial enterprises.
- Disconnecting 10 leading Russian financial institutions—including Sberbank, Russia's largest bank—from SWIFT (the world's dominant international financial messaging system).
- Broadening export controls on dual-use goods and technologies.
- Banning certain exports in the aviation, maritime, and technology sectors (e.g., semiconductors) and the export of drone engines and luxury goods to Russia.

The impact of Russia's war against Ukraine on Sino-European relations

Russia's aggression against Ukraine poses the largest threat to Europe's peace and security since the end of the Cold War. It has also changed how the EU sees its future relationship with China. Sino-EU ties have always been shaped by two interrelated drivers: EU external trade, which represents a key tool of economic statecraft, and security policy, which has evolved in the context of rivalry between the United States and China (Kirchner, Christiansen, and Dorussen [Citation2016](#); Men, Schunz, and Freeman [Citation2020](#); Kirchner [Citation2022](#)). The war has amplified China's significance in both areas, and China's foreign policy is now just as important for stability in Europe as America's. Beijing derives its influence from its close ties with Russia, large economy, and unrivalled control of rare earth supply chains, which are essential for Europe's clean energy transition. There is now also increasing uncertainty about Beijing's willingness to use military force against Taiwan.

The subject of Ukraine's sovereignty was still questionable even in the wake of the December 1991 Independence referendum due to Russia's prolonged and open reluctance (Dragneva- Lewers & Wolczuk, 2016). After the breakdown of the socialist system, former Eastern European satellites of the Soviet Union have systematically integrated towards Western institutions, such as the EU and NATO. Russia, however, did not accept the Maiden revolutionary removal of the democratically-elected Yanukovych regime and the intensification of Western orientation in Ukraine (Pabriks & Kudors, 2015, p.78). Russia's hostility towards Ukraine has often been pointed out by the western world (Charap & Darden, 2014). In Russia's eyes, Ukraine was of vital importance, and hence, Russians considered this

Russian-Ukraine 2022 War: A Review of the Economic Impact of Russian-Ukraine Crisis on the USA, UK, Canada, and Europe. *Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal*, 9(3). 144-153.separation as abnormal (Dragneva-Lewers &

Wolczuk, 2016). Several mainstream historians, political scientists, scholars, journalists, and; government leaders have thought that the subject relating to the relationship between Russia and Ukraine (Ukrainian-Russian relationship) needed a significant consideration, especially addressing the 'Ukrainian side of the equation.

The war in Ukraine is likely to worsen Europe's economic problems

Short- and long-term implications of the Russia-Ukraine war for the European Union

	Short-term effects (1-2 years)	Long-term effects (3-5 years)
Trade and foreign direct investment	Collapse of exports to Russia. Reduced capital for EU firms.	Restructuring of supply chains and foreign direct investment flows away from Russia.
Refugees and reconstruction	Large inflows of refugees to EU states lead to additional fiscal costs.	No lasting effect. Most refugees are likely to return to Ukraine or enter the EU workforce. Contribution to the rebuilding of Ukraine.
Defense	Added costs of weapons and military support for Ukraine weigh on defense budgets.	Increases to EU defense budgets.
Efficiency	No short-term effect.	EU firms to reconsider their reliance on extended supply chains and just-in-time delivery schemes, causing further deglobalization and reduced efficiency.
Food	Higher food prices as Ukrainian and Russian crop yields fall, reducing global supply and damaging fragile developing economies.	No lasting effect.
Energy	Higher energy bills. Reduced efficiency from temporary reliance on outdated energy sources. Possible supply disruptions. Added costs from alternative sourcing.	New energy sourcing. More energy integration at the EU level. Accelerated transition to renewables.
Uncertainty	More precautionary saving.	Possible drive towards closer EU policy integration.



Source: Adapted from Olivier Blanchard and Jean Pisani-Ferry's Policy Brief, Fiscal support and monetary vigilance: Economic policy implications of the Russia-Ukraine war for the European Union.

Abnormality, instability, and conflict are what the Ukrainian-Russian relationship has been since the fall of the Soviet Union (Kyiv and Moscow disagreement). Among a couple of other problems that have strained the Ukrainian-Russian relationship, the following have played a significant role: formal Soviet Union asset/debt disposal; Ukraine's significant energy debt; eastward expansion of NATO, border demarcation between both nations; and the situation of the Russian minority in Ukraine. Malyarenko and Wolff (2018) state that Russia's use of "violent civil conflict in countries in its so-called Near Abroad as a means to extend its influence in the post-Soviet space and simultaneously to reduce that of the West...

Moscow prefers a stable and friendly neighborhood and seeks to avoid a stable but hostile pro- Western neighborhood." These authors equally expose the vulnerability of Ukraine as it is being pushed/pulled from diverse directions- EU and NATO from the west and Russia from the east coupled with Ukraine's internal challenges like a socio-economic crisis, weak institutions, and internal

division. The late 2013 protest in Ukraine as a result of its government's denial to sign a new agreement with the EU did not only pull global attention but triggered significant challenges to its statehood leading to more internal instability (Dragneva-Lewers & Wolczuk, 2016). The end product of this protest was not only the escape of president Yanukovich from Ukraine but the occupation of Crimea by Russia and Russia's propagation of separatist movements in the Eastern part of Ukraine as an attempt to protect the ethnic Russian minority (Korovkin & Makarin, 2019).

The 2014 crisis in Ukraine led to the overthrow of President Viktor Yanukovich (an ally to Russia's interest); the signing of a trade agreement with the EU as the first path towards membership by the interim government (pro-western) in February; and Russia's capturing of Crimea in April of the same year. Between 2014 and 2015 the Minsk Accord (cease-fire) was signed by Russia, Ukraine, France, and Germany; and by April 2019, Volodymyr Zelensky (former comedian) was voted as President of Ukraine (Bigg, 2022). In January of 2021, President Zelensky requested to join NATO resulting in Russia massing of troops at Ukraine's border with the excuse of training exercise, hence, a growing tension between the Western countries, Russia and Ukraine leading to Russia's invasion ("special military operations") of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. In response to this recent attack, Ukraine's Western allies announced heavy financial sanctions on Russia like "restrictions on Russia's central bank and expelling key banks off the main global payments system"

5-Timeline :

- 26 July EU member states agree to reduce gas demand by 15%
- 23 February New package of sanctions against Russia
- 24 February EU leaders agree on further sanctions against Russia
- 24 February Joint statement of EU leaders on the situation in Ukraine
- 25 February EU imposes sanctions against Vladimir Putin and Sergey Lavrov
- 25 February EU foreign affairs ministers adopt new sanctions
- 27 February EU home affairs ministers discuss response to the Ukraine crisis
- 27 February EU foreign affairs ministers discuss further measures against Russia
- 28 February EU defence ministers discuss the latest developments in Ukraine
- 28 February EU adopts new measures in response to Russia's invasion
- 28 February EU energy ministers exchange views on the energy situation in Ukraine and Europe
- 2 March EU imposes sanctions on Russian state-owned outlets Russia Today and Sputnik
- 2 March EU introduces a SWIFT ban for certain Russian banks
- 2 March EU imposes new sanctions in response to Belarus' involvement in Ukraine's military invasion
- 2 March EU agriculture ministers discuss agri-food market situation
- 4 March EU adopts temporary protection scheme for persons fleeing the war in Ukraine
- 4 March Ministers held an extraordinary Council to discuss the latest developments regarding the situation in Ukraine
- 9 March EU agrees new measures targeting Belarus and Russia
- 9 March EU imposes sanctions on an additional 160 individuals
- 10-11 March EU leaders' declaration on the situation in Ukraine
- 14 March EU ministers discussed the situation in Ukraine and the financial support for the reception of refugees
- 15 March EU adopts fourth package of sanctions against Russia
- 15 March EU health ministers guarantee refugees a right of access to healthcare
- 16 March Education ministers set in motion a joint response for the schooling of Ukrainian children in the EU
- 16 March Additional EU funds soon available to help people fleeing the war
- 17 March Council agrees on Frontex operational support for Moldova

- 21 March Council discusses food situation with Ukrainian agriculture minister
- 23 March EU approves an additional €500 million to support the Ukrainian armed forces
- 23 March Social partners discussed the situation in Ukraine at the Tripartite Social Summit
- 24-25 March EU leaders agree to set up a Ukraine Solidarity Trust Fund
- 28 March Home affairs ministers discuss reception of refugees from Ukraine
- 4 April €17 billion of EU funds available to help refugees from Ukraine
- 4-5 April EU ministers discuss the European response to the war in Ukraine in their respective policy areas
- 6 April Ukraine: Council approves immediate disbursement of €3.5 billion to EU countries welcoming refugees
- 7 April Agriculture ministers express full support to Ukraine
- 8 April Fifth package of sanctions in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- 12 April Ukraine: EU countries to receive €3.5 billion in additional pre-financing for hosting refugees
- 13 April EU introduces exceptions to restrictive measures to facilitate humanitarian activities
- 13 April Council agrees on third tranche of support under the European Peace Facility
- 13 April EUAM Ukraine will provide support in the investigation and prosecution of international crimes
- 13 April Council agrees recommendation on the exchange of Ukrainian banknotes into EU currencies
- 2 May Energy ministers recall solidarity to Ukraine and discuss gas supply challenges
- 6 May Council adopts mandate on new rules allowing Eurojust to preserve evidence of war crimes
- 11 May Member states agree on negotiating mandate for gas storage proposal
- 19 May EU member states to collaborate to store and share gas supplies
- 23 May EU increases support to the Ukrainian armed forces
- 24 May EU adopts temporary trade liberalisation with Ukraine
- 25 May Eurojust to preserve evidence of war crimes
- 30-31 May European Council agrees on sixth sanctions package
- 2 June Transport ministers discuss coordinated measures in response to Russia's war in Ukraine

- 3 June Sixth package of sanctions in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- 9 June Council highlights the need to protect children facing armed conflicts
- 13 June Effective international coordination needed to respond to the food crisis, agriculture ministers say
- 20 June Global food insecurity: Council approves conclusions on the Team Europe response
- 23-24 June European Council grants EU candidate status to Ukraine
- 27 June Council adopts regulation on gas storage
- 27 June Council adopts statement on the protection of children from Ukraine
- 26-28 June G7 leaders condemn Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine
- 30 June Council to add the violation of sanctions to the list of EU crimes
- 7 July Urgent temporary measures for Ukrainian driver documents
- 12 July Council adopts additional €1 billion assistance to Ukraine
- 18 July Moldovan agricultural products: Council adopts temporary trade liberalisation measures
- 20 July Council adopts position on FAST-CARE
- 5 September EU reaffirms support for Ukraine and its European path
- 9 September EU suspends visa facilitation agreement with Russia
- 20 September EU adopts an additional €5 billion in assistance to Ukraine
- 23 September G7 condemns Russia's sham referenda in Ukraine
- 30 September EU leaders condemn Russia's illegal annexation in Ukraine
- 6 October Eighth package of sanctions in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- 7 October EU leaders consider military training missions for Ukraine
- 13 October Council greenlights further flexibility in the use of cohesion policy funds in response to Russia's war in Ukraine
- 17 October EU increases support to Ukrainian armed forces to €3.1 billion
- 17 October EU sets up a military assistance mission to support Ukraine
- 20 October EU sanctions three individuals and one entity in relation to the use of Iranian drones in Russian aggression
- 21 October EU leaders reach a deal on measures to face the energy crisis
- 28 November EU adds violation of sanctions to list of EU crimes
- 9 December Council adopts conclusions on the fight against impunity
- 15 December EU leaders discussed how to help Ukraine through the winter

- 27 January EU prolongs economic sanctions over Russia's military aggression against Ukraine
- 2 February EU increases support to Ukrainian armed forces to €3.6 billion
- 3 February EU-Ukraine summit
- 4 February EU agrees on level of price cap for Russian petroleum products
- 9 February President Zelenskyy addresses EU leaders in Brussels
- 13 March EU renews individual sanctions over Russia's military aggression against Ukraine
- 20 March The Council agreed on the three-track proposal to provide Ukraine with artillery ammunition, from existing stocks or jointly procured
- 23 March EU leaders reiterated their condemnation of Russia's war of aggression and reaffirmed support for Ukraine in terms of ammunition
- 24 April Ministers exchange views on the Russian aggression against Ukraine, and the EU action plan on its geopolitical consequences
- 19-21 May G7 summit, Hiroshima, Japan
- 22 May EU ministers exchanged views on the Russian aggression against Ukraine
- 25 May Council adopts renewal of temporary trade liberalisation
- 9 June EU sanctions: Council finalises position on law that aligns penalties for violations
- 23 June Eleventh package of sanctions in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- 29 June EU leaders reiterate their condemnation of Russia's war
- 28 July Information manipulation in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: EU lists seven individuals and five entities

6-Bibliography

- <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-response-ukraine-invasion/>