

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER SANNA MARIN IN KYIV, 26 May 2022

Prime Minister Sanna Marin visited Kyiv at the invitation of Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. Speech to be checked against delivery.

Dear Prime Minister Denys Smyhal,

I wish to warmly thank you and the whole Ukrainian nation for receiving me today in Kyiv.

To come here as the Prime Minister of Finland as you fight heroically against Russia is particularly important and essential.

I visited Irpin and Butsa today. In Finland, we have followed terrifying reports about atrocities and war crimes committed there by the Russian military.

I have been particularly shocked by the reports of torture, summary executions as well as widespread sexual and gender-based violence.

We all have been deeply touched by the suffering of ordinary Ukrainians. It is important to openly show that human side in us, in front of inhuman atrocities. Yet we know now what Russia is able to do.

We must fight against impunity. Those who have committed atrocities must be brought to justice as you have recently done here in Ukraine.

When Ukraine investigates and prosecutes war crimes and other crimes in Ukraine, you work also for humanity. In concrete terms, it is an immense undertaking and we are here to support you where we can.

Finland supports the ICC Prosecutor and finances the ICC. Finland supports all EU initiatives to provide assistance for the investigations.

Russia's war of aggression is a grave violation of the UN Charter and international law.

Russia's war against Ukraine is the turning point for Europe. It has changed the European security environment profoundly, as well as our perception of Russia. Trust is lost for generations.

You defend today the values and principles upon which Europe has been built. In our hearts, Ukrainians have already won.

Ukraine belongs to the European family. In these tragic times, we warmly welcomed the decision by the President of Ukraine to submit the EU membership application to become a member of the European Union.

We look forward to the Commission's opinion on the membership application. It will be published in June. It will start a broader discussion on the next steps on Ukraine's European path.

Finland and the EU will be there to support Ukraine on your European path both in the short and the long term.

There will soon be the time for reconstruction. This is where all our efforts will be much needed. The reconstruction should go hand in hand with broad reforms and it should be used to bring Ukraine even closer to the EU.

Dear Ukrainians,

Finland's support to Ukraine includes arms and military equipment. Finland has already made five decisions on defence materiel donations to Ukraine, the latest on 5th of May.

We are ready to donate more weapons. The coordination with other donors and Ukraine is progressing well.

Finland has just increased its overall support to Ukraine.

We have made a decision of 70 million euros more assistance for humanitarian aid and reconstruction of Ukraine, as I announced at the donor conference in Warsaw on 5th of May.

We are already working together with the Government of Ukraine to receive vulnerable people from Ukraine to Finland and provide them with special care.

Some 25 000 Ukrainians have applied for temporary protection in Finland. Finland has allocated 700 million euros to the reception of people fleeing Ukraine.

We are putting extra effort in the schooling of Ukrainian children while they stay in Finland. These children will learn skills and know-how, that will be essential when they return to re-build Ukraine.

Dear Dennis, dear friends,

This visit is very timely. We need to step up our support to Ukraine.

We know that it is urgent to cover Ukraine's short term financial needs. The EU is urgently working on this.

Next week, I will take this message to the European Council where we will be deciding on financial aid for Ukraine and also on more sanctions against Russia.

The EU's response to Russia's aggression has been strong. Russia is becoming more and more isolated. We can already see the sanctions affecting Russia's economy and capabilities. The whole Finnish society stands firm behind the EU sanctions and we are willing to do more.

Dear Prime Minister, Ukrainians,

Finland also has a difficult history with Russia and we too have had our wars. We have learned that we should never be alone again defending democracy, our rights, homes, families and children. Ukraine belongs in Europe. That is your family, our common home.

My message to you is that we are here with you.