



## EU's support for Ukraine must continue

### Comprehensive EU Reconstruction Plan to support Ukraine's integration into the European Union

The EU's strong support for Ukraine must continue for as long as necessary to ensure Ukraine's survival, sovereignty, accession, and integration into the EU. Supporting Ukraine's defense capabilities, both bilaterally and through EU instruments, requires strengthening the EU's and Ukraine's defense industrial base and enhancing cooperation.

The Confederation of Finnish Industries (EK) is committed to supporting Ukraine and its accession to the EU, in line with the enlargement process and the conditions for EU membership.

The role of the European business sector in the sustainable peace, resilience, reconstruction and modernization of Ukraine is crucial. A successful reconstruction process that meets EU technical requirements and standards is a precondition for Ukraine's future integration with the West and the EU.

There is an immediate need for short- and medium-term reconstruction in Ukraine. The currently established EUR 9.3 billion Ukraine Investment Framework (UIF) should focus on these immediate reconstruction needs. The Framework aims to leverage EUR 40–50 billion in reconstruction investments.

#### **EK proposes the following measures to contribute to Ukraine's reconstruction:**

**The European Commission should establish a comprehensive and structured EU Reconstruction Plan for Ukraine, including a clear and strategic European offer that accelerates Ukraine's Western integration and EU membership path.** This plan would be aligned with European Parliament's resolution of 17 July 2024, which called for long-term assistance, and be anchored in the expansion of the Ukraine Investment Framework (UIF). This requires cross-sectoral cooperation between DG ENEST, DG GROW, DG TRADE, and DG INTPA.

- 1. The plan should define critical European infrastructure and defence solutions** that support Ukraine's EU accession, implemented in accordance with European technical standards. It should also facilitate the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) as part of the reconstruction process.
- 2. The existing Ukraine Investment Framework should be restructured** to serve these objectives. To accelerate project implementation and strengthen the role of European businesses, Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) should be integrated as delivery channels for both current and future EU financial instruments for Ukraine, alongside International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and national Development Finance Institutions (DFIs).
- 3. The Commission should create an EU Business Consortium Mechanism** to strengthen Team Europe cooperation and to coordinate and promote European-led reconstruction projects financed through the UIF. This mechanism would support the formation of Team Europe-style consortia between Member States and EU-based companies through open partnership calls. The focus would be on delivering critical, large-scale reconstruction projects that align with EU standards and Ukraine's EU membership goals.