



## EU's support for Ukraine must continue

The EU's strong support for Ukraine must continue 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 50 billion in reconstruction investments.

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

1. For short- and long-term reconstruction and its financing, **the Commission should establish a comprehensive reconstruction plan.** The European Parliament has also requested the Commission to deliver this plan in its resolution on 17 July 2024. **Long-term financing for the reconstruction should be built on the Ukraine Investment Framework (UIF),** which we propose to be expanded.
2. In addition to the International Finance Institutions (IFIs) and national Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), **Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) should also act as channels for UIF funding.** This aims to accelerate reconstruction, ensure the participation of European companies, and support Ukraine's accession process for EU membership and reconstruction based on the EU's technical standards.
3. The **Commission should establish an EU Business Consortium Mechanism** to coordinate and promote European projects financed from the UIF. The aim of this mechanism is to bring together, through open partnership calls, EU-based companies and provide joint European solutions for large-scale reconstruction projects in Ukraine. This will supply solutions that meet European standards to support Ukraine's readiness for EU membership.
4. **EK supports the EU's sanctions regime** against Russia. To enhance the implementation and effectiveness of sanctions, it is necessary to better address their circumvention through third countries **by implementing end-user checks in target countries** and establishing a **help desk for SMEs** to support their due diligence processes. To ensure the well-functioning and effective sanctions regime, the Commission should move to **qualified majority voting** in its sanctions decision-making process and conduct **an impact assessment** on the articles affecting European companies.