



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 as long as needed 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 billion in reconstruction investments.

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

1. We invite the European Commission to establish a comprehensive and structured EU Reconstruction Plan for Ukraine, including a strategic European offer that accelerates Ukraine's Western integration and its EU membership path. This plan should align with the European Parliament's resolution of 17 July 2024, calling for long-term assistance, and be anchored in the expansion of the Ukraine Investment Framework (UIF). This would be supported by cross-sectoral cooperation between DG ENEST, DG GROW, DG TRADE and DG INTPA.

2. The plan would define critical European infrastructure and defence solutions that support Ukraine's EU accession, implemented in accordance with European technical standards. It would also facilitate the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) as part of the reconstruction process.

3. It is important to structure the existing Ukraine Investment Framework 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, in collaboration with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and national Development Finance Institutions (DFIs).

4. The Commission is invited to 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 – as Team Europe.