

Stockholm/Berlin 25 February 2022

## Statement by the BSPC President and Vice-President on the war in Ukraine

The President and the Vice-President of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference condemn in the strongest possible terms the completely unjust and full-scale military attack and invasion being carried out by the Russian Federation against the sovereignty, independence, and people of Ukraine.

We also express our support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We deplore the loss of life and the human suffering, and we are standing in solidarity with Ukraine.

The attacks on Ukraine pose a serious threat to peace, stability and democracy across Europe and the world. They defy the rights and freedoms of all Europeans, not just those of Ukrainian citizens.

These military attacks are contrary to both international law and European security. They violate the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of International and Humanitarian Law.

We appeal with all possible urgency to the Russian Federation to immediately stop the use of aggressive armed force to countless civilian victims – and to arrive at peaceful solutions in compliance with international law.

We strongly condemn any violation of international law and human rights. Respect for international law and human rights, peace and democracy are fundamental principles that the BSPC has pursued since its founding 31 years ago and has emphasised again and again.

These are the foundations of our parliamentary cooperation – the foundations the current Presidency as well as every future BSPC Presidency will be based on.

In our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference we unanimously pointed out the urgent need of peaceful and close neighbourliness. We underlined again that democratic values, the rule of law and human rights are the foundation of our cooperation.

As long as these foundations are invalidated by brutal armed force by the Russian Federation, which was initiated by parliamentary decisions regarding Donetsk and Luhansk, we see no possibility of continuing our parliamentary cooperation in the previous trusting manner due to the unanimous condemnation of the military attacks by all our member parliaments that do not belong to the Russian Federation.