



Statement on the situation in Ukraine (24.02.2022)

(The spoken text shall prevail)

Today is a dark and sad day for Europe. The stability and security of Europe is at risk.

Over the past two months, all European leaders and NATO allies have actively urged Russia to choose the path of de-escalation and diplomacy. However, last night's military attack on Ukraine showed that Russia has opted for the military path.

I strongly condemn this military aggression, just as I condemned the decision taken on Monday by the President of the Russian Federation to unilaterally terminate the Minsk agreements by recognising the separatist entities of Ukraine

The EU reacted promptly by adopting yesterday a first package of sanctions focusing on 3 aspects:

- Targeted restrictive measures against Russian individuals and entities involved in the military aggression - visa ban, asset freeze.
- Restrictive measures in the financial sector, to further limit Russia's access to EU financial and capital markets. In concrete terms, the acquisition of financial instruments issued by Russia, its government or its Central Bank will be prohibited.

- The import of goods originating from the breakaway regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, which are not under the control of the Ukrainian government, will be prohibited.

This is merely the first package and the EU is ready to impose further sanctions.

Tonight I will be in Brussels to coordinate our response with our European partners and to call on President Putin to immediately halt this military attack. It is important that we define how we will respond to Russia and make sure that Russia is held accountable for its acts. We will also discuss what support we can give to Ukraine and its citizens.

I am particularly concerned that it is, once again, the civilian population that pays the highest price for these military escalations.

Our first priority is to establish an immediate ceasefire and to take all necessary measures to protect and support the civilian population.

This morning I summoned the Government for an extraordinary Government Council. On this occasion, we discussed, among other things, the question of energy supplies to citizens and companies in Luxembourg. We are currently in the midst of an exceptional situation, which raises a number of uncertainties. However, the government agrees that we must protect our country and our population against a rise in energy prices caused by geopolitical crises.

We therefore have decided to convene an energy round table next Monday, with all energy suppliers in Luxembourg, in order to identify quick and effective solutions together.

The Government is working on concrete measures to help those households that are suffering the most from the current surge in prices.

This afternoon, at 2pm, I will update the Parliament on the latest developments, together with the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Jean Asselborn, and the Minister of Defence, François Bausch.

At 3.30pm, a call is planned with the Ukrainian President. This evening, an extraordinary European Council will be held in Brussels. Tomorrow morning, at 10am, I will convene the Government again.

We are aware that you have many questions, to which we do not have definitive answers at the moment. The Government is currently working on all levels with its European and international partners to find the best possible solutions for the people of Ukraine, Europe and Luxembourg.