

Statement in relation to events in Ukraine

Ukraine, its people and our Ukrainian members deserve our solidarity in this grave situation for all of Europe.

The Assembly of European Regions (AER) is built on our shared values of democracy, fairness, solidarity, and dialogue. The AER takes a stand for these values, from which all its member regions should be able to benefit.

Democratic principles are fundamental to protect the freedoms of all citizens, regions, and countries of Europe. The pursuit of democracy is closely related to the right of peoples to self-determination. This is one of the fundamental principles of international law, which states that a nation has the right to decide freely on its political status, form of government, and its economic, social and cultural development.

The values of fairness and solidarity go hand in hand with mutual respect in international relations. The AER advocates solidarity between all regions and peoples of Europe, while urging fairness as a source of cohesion on our continent.

The AER promotes dialogue and dares to confront ideas in a peaceful way; military threats and escalations must never be used as a means to enforce political interests. Internationally recognised borders must be respected on the basis of international law.

Because these values are dear to us, we respect and support the basic fundamental principles of the Council of Europe through our Statutes, and ask our members to do so. These values and principles of ours are not only common European values: they are closely linked to human rights and the fundamental principles of international relations.

We cannot stand aside. We stand by our values and demand that Ukrainian territorial authorities and all Ukrainian citizens have the same access to their vested rights as regions and peoples elsewhere in Europe.

Strasbourg/Brussels, 22 February 2022



Magnus Berntsson
President



Christian Spahr
Secretary General