

NATO PA – UKRAINE INFORMAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE CRIMEA PLATFORM

FACT SHEET

The NATO PA - Ukraine informal support group for the Crimea Platform was established on 27 April 2021. Three leading members of the NATO PA – Michal Szczerba of Poland, Marcos Perestrello de Vasconcellos of Portugal and Rick Larsen of the United States – and three of their counterparts from the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine – First Deputy Chairman Oleksandr Korniyenko, Head of the NATO PA delegation Yehor Cherniev and Deputy Head Solomiia Bobrovska are taking the lead in supporting efforts to remobilise international attention on Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea and its multi-faceted impact.

This informal group was set up to support the parliamentary dimension of the Crimea Platform initiative. Ukraine established the Crimea Platform at the end of 2020 in order to increase the effectiveness of the international response to Russia's ongoing occupation and ultimately achieve Crimea's full peaceful return under Ukraine's effective control. The Platform functions at four levels: Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Parliaments and experts.

The Assembly's informal support group contributes to the parliamentary dimension of the Platform. The inaugural summit of the Crimea Platform took place in Kyiv on 23 August 2021 at Heads of State and Government level. The Summit adopted a [Joint Declaration](#) where parties committed, *inter alia*, to continue the policy of non-recognition of the illegal annexation, to consider further political, diplomatic and restrictive measures towards Russia and to redouble efforts aimed at protecting the rights of the Crimean Tatar people.

The NATO PA informal group will serve as the main forum for initiatives related to the parliamentary dimension of the Crimea Platform. It aims to promote NATO PA members' awareness of developments related to Crimea and maintain support for the non-recognition of Russia's illegal annexation. This group examines how the NATO PA could contribute to the objectives agreed upon at the Crimea Platform Summit.

The creation of this Group is a further visible demonstration of the Assembly's support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. The Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council (UNIC) is the Assembly's main forum for cooperation with Ukraine. The informal support group is closely linked with UNIC and works in close coordination with it. Michal Szczerba and Oleksandr Korniyenko as Co-chairs of UNIC would help ensure this close coordination of effort.