



Declaration of the Italian Association of European Union Law Scholars (AISDUE)

Russia's intervention in the territory of Ukraine, in violation of several principles of the international legal order, gives rise to serious concern also and above all for the European Union.

This intervention is not only triggering an armed conflict that is potentially devastating for the civilian population, but is also aimed at eliminating the sovereignty of a country that has declared its ambition to join the Union and has therefore made the development of its political and institutional system and society towards the standards required for such membership the main shared reason for its recent progress.

The reaction of the Union's institutions was immediate and unanimous. The measures in which it is taking shape have already been taken or are being defined and adopted. For their part, in a sort of extensive application of the solidarity clause established in Article 42(7) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), individual member states are also doing the same, in particular by providing military and humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian authorities and population.

While the principle of solidarity primarily inspires relations between Member States, it also extends to the Union's relations "with the wider world" as stated in Article 3(5) TEU, which declares that one of the Union's objectives is to contribute to international peace and security.

In the face of these events, the President and the Board of Directors of AISDUE, acting as interpreters of the scientific community gathered in the Association, express their concern about the consequences of a foreign intervention in the sovereignty of an independent State.

In this perspective, we reserve to contribute, as far as possible, with a careful and continuous analysis of the situation to a better understanding of the impact of such an intervention on the process of European integration.

In this sense, particular attention should be paid to the so-called "strategic compass" presented a few months ago by the European External Action Service, which constitutes a good starting point for a common defence policy.

At the same time, it seems desirable to us to postpone the closure of the Conference on the Future of Europe, which is scheduled for late spring 2022. Such a step would allow European citizens and the Conference to reflect more carefully and fully on the impact that Russia's intervention in Ukraine will have on European dynamics, and at the same time would symbolically underline the importance that the Union and its Member States attach to democratic processes as an essential component of the European values enshrined in Article 2 TEU.

Rome, 1st March 2022