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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.4.2025)

The Commission, in coordination with its partners, followed closely the military build-up by Russia ahead of the full-scale invasion. Foreign Affairs Council discussed the issue regularly throughout 2021¹. In December 2021, the European Council stressed the urgent need for Russia to de-escalate tensions caused by the military build-up along its border with Ukraine and aggressive rhetoric. It reiterated its full support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, warning that any further military aggression against Ukraine will have massive consequences and severe cost in response, including restrictive measures coordinated with partners².

Ever since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the European Union has firmly and unequivocally condemned this blatant violation of international law.

¹ See for example on 19 April 2021: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/informal-video-conference-eu-foreign-affairs-ministers-remarks-high-representativevice-president_en

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/53575/20211216-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>