



**European Council**  
The President

Brussels, 26 February 2025

Dear colleagues,

I would like to invite you to a Special European Council on 6 March, which will be dedicated to European Defence and to Ukraine.

On European defence, my aim is to follow-up on our informal retreat of 3 February with a view to taking first decisions for the short-term, in order for Europe to become more sovereign, more capable and better equipped to deal with immediate and future challenges to its security.

As far as Ukraine is concerned, there is a new momentum, which should lead to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. It is therefore important for us to exchange on how to further support Ukraine and on the principles that should be respected going forward. The EU and its Member States are ready to take more responsibility for Europe's security. We should therefore be prepared for a possible European contribution to the security guarantees that will be necessary to ensure a lasting peace in Ukraine.

I have invited President Zelenskyy to come to Brussels on the occasion of the meeting of the European Council to discuss with us the latest developments.

We will start our meeting at 12h30 with our traditional exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament, followed by a discussion with President Zelenskyy over lunch. We will then focus on European Defence, followed by a discussion on Ukraine.

I look forward to our meeting on 6 March.

Yours sincerely,

António COSTA