

## **European political community**

The Russian aggression against Ukraine has reinforced Ukraine's legitimate aspirations to join the European Union. At the Versailles Summit, EU Heads of State and Government committed themselves to further strengthening our ties and deepening our partnership to help Ukraine, as part of our European family, to progress on its European path.

The European Council on 23 and 24 June will be asked to decide on Ukraine's application, as well as those of Moldova and Georgia, on the basis of the European Commission's opinions.

Whatever the stage reached at this European Council, the enlargement policy, because of the requirement for the reforms necessary to join the European Union and the duration that necessarily follows, does not today offer the necessary political framework to respond to the urgent historical and geopolitical needs arising from the war against Ukraine and to develop the political structuring of our European continent.

This is why it is proposed to create this year a European Political Community between all the European States wishing to contribute together to the security, stability and prosperity of our continent. The European Political Community would be open to European states that share a common set of democratic values, whether or not they are members of the Union and regardless of the nature of their current relationship with the European Union: whether they wish to join it, have left it, do not plan to join it, or are linked to it only by economic agreements.

The Community would not replace the Council of Europe, the OSCE or the transatlantic relationship. But today we have no non-specialized European forum to bring together all the members of the European family on an equal footing and in a spirit of unity of our continent. On the contrary, relations between the countries of our continent, whether or not they belong to the European Union, whether or not they wish to join it, are marked by a complex web of plurilateral or bilateral frameworks. All will remain relevant. But we must regain a sense of community.

The European Political Community would strengthen the political, economic, cultural and security links between its members. It would provide a forum for coordination, decision-making and cooperative projects to respond in a concrete way to the challenges facing all countries on the European continent: foreign and security policy issues, climate change and the supply of energy and other raw materials, food security, infrastructure development and interconnection, mobility, migration, the fight against organized crime, relations with other geopolitical actors.

The European Political Community would not be an alternative to EU membership and would not be a substitute to the enlargement process. For European states wishing to join the European Union, it would, on the contrary, allow for the strengthening of links with EU member states prior to accession, both politically and in terms of accompanying participation in certain EU policies, including, where appropriate, through gradual integration into the EU internal market.

The European Political Community would take the form of a light legal structure, with decision-making capacity, while respecting the decision-making autonomy of the European Union and of each of the States that make up this Community. It would meet several times a year at the level of Heads of State and Government, as well as at ministerial level.