

Unofficial English translation of the original Swedish text

The SAMAK Paasitorni Declaration: A common stance on foreign and security policy

A year ago, Russia started its unlawful and cruel war of aggression against Ukraine, in which Russian forces cause Ukrainians immense suffering, devastation and death. Our primary task is to support Ukraine with full force so that Ukraine will come out of the war victorious and get on the path of reconstruction and EU membership. Sanctions against and other pressure on Russia must be continued for as long as Ukraine considers the conditions for peace to be nonexistent.

Russia has disputed the right of its neighbouring countries to choose their security policy line and openly violates the UN Charter and international law. Russia's war and actions are the most serious threat to our common security and international peace and stability in decades. Russia's war has fundamentally changed European security and there is no going back. In this situation, Finland and Sweden have applied for NATO membership.

Our common Nordic goal is to have both Sweden and Finland admitted to NATO as swiftly as possible and at the same time. This will strengthen the Nordic region and this will strengthen NATO.

When Finland and Sweden become NATO members, the significance of the Nordic region in Europe will increase. It will also enable joint Nordic defence planning. At the same time, it will increase the countries' responsibility for strengthening the common European foreign and security policy.

This declaration was adopted by SAMAK in its annual meeting at Paasitorni, Helsinki, Finland on February 28th 2023. SAMAK is the cooperation committee for the social democratic parties and trade union confederations in the Nordics.