



As at: 16 July 2025
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Speech at the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament at the general debate

***“A world in turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and
multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all”***

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,

How can a democracy be upheld if the capital city is being
bombarded by rockets and drones?

Ukraine shows us how, every day.

At the start of the month, an employee from the Verkhovna Rada
was visiting the German Bundestag. The whole day was devoted
to specialist topics: committees of inquiry, transparency, scrutiny
of the government. It wasn't until lunchtime that the question was
asked: “How are you doing, actually?”

And the woman broke down in tears.¹

Mr Stefanchuk,

¹ Auskunft RDn Anna-Maria Pawliczek (Int 4, 31735). Auch dabei UAL Christian Heyer. Bei der ukrain. Mitarbeiterin handelt es sich um Svitlana Mishura. Sie besuchte den DBT am 9. Juli 2025.



I am in awe of the courage that you and your colleagues and staff demonstrate every single day.

I am proud that the Bundestag stands firmly by your side providing active support – for example with a **battery system** that keeps your Parliament operational even during power cuts.

Yet support means more than technology and equipment. Sometimes support also means showing solidarity on a personal level, staying in contact and checking in with how the other party is doing.

The Bundestag is part of a strong network of parliaments who stand **firm** alongside the Rada. I am pleased that this broad base of solidarity exists – and I thank all our European partners for this outstanding example of working together.²

In difficult times, we see that **parliamentary democracies stand together**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

² Auskunft RDn Pawliczek (INT4): Gemeint ist unter anderem das EU-finanzierte Programm „Inter Pares“, das die Zusammenarbeit vieler EU-Parlamente koordiniert. Daneben organisiert der DBT z.B. mit der Assemblée nationale einen Mitarbeiteraustausch für die ukrainischen Kollegen.



we currently live in a world full of conflict – in Ukraine as well as the Middle East. **Israel**, too faces an existential threat. Hostages remain in the hands of Hamas. They must be released, once and for all!

In light of the many and complex conflicts around the world, global cooperation is required now more than ever.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,
at our meeting here, representatives from around **100 parliaments** have come together. We have been shaped by different backgrounds and hold different views of the world. We also have different interests.

And that is the very reason why we should **all** have an interest in multilateralism.

In **rules** that establish dependability. And which help us to balance interests and to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Multilateralism requires all parties to keep to the rules. To respect international law.

If the law of force prevails, multilateralism fails.



Commitment is required, along with the will to defend freedom and democracy – by all means necessary.

Colleagues,

if we wish to work for peace, justice and prosperity, we have to stand together.

Against those who wish to divide the world.

Who trample on international law, attack their neighbours and attempt to impose the law of the strongest.

Let us push back against the rule breakers!

Let us show our shared strength – for a world in which rules apply!