

8 June 2023

## EEB Statement Concerning the Destruction of the Kakhovka Dam in Ukraine

Following Russia's destruction of Ukraine's Kakhovka dam and its unthinkable environmental and humanitarian consequences, the EEB reiterates its solidarity with Ukraine and continues to deeply condemn Russia's ongoing unlawful aggression. We share concerns that the destruction of the dam implies unprecedented environmental damage and long-term consequences for the South of Ukraine and the Black Sea region. It has already displaced tens of thousands of people and has cut off drinking water supplies. It risks polluting large areas with sewage, leaked chemicals and fuels, creating additional hazards in mined territories, further compromising the safety of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, leaving agricultural land without irrigation and severely damaging sensitive ecosystems in the Dnipro River system and the Black Sea.

We urge the international community, and the International Criminal Court specifically, to investigate the destruction of the dam and assess this act of war on the grounds of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ecocide. We call upon the United Nations and all state parties to the International Criminal Court to treat the destruction of the dam as a war crime against the civilian population and as ecocide of Ukrainian nature and beyond. Those responsible must be brought to justice. Such actions inflicted upon civilians under Russia's illegal occupation of parts of Ukraine and its on-going military aggression violate the fundamental principles enshrined in international agreements related to human rights, humanitarian law and nature and marine protection.

The EEB calls on the international community, in particular the EU and its Member States, to assist Ukraine in fully assessing the environmental consequences of this act, in protecting human and environmental rights including access to clean drinking water and sanitation, in reducing and mitigating consequences and in restoring nature.

The EEB and its members stay ready to support Ukrainian members and Ukraine on their path towards a green post-war recovery and the reforms, including in environmental law, necessary for Ukraine's path to EU membership.