Ukraine Is Totally Corrupt: Former European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker

Former European Commission chief bashes Kyiv's EU candidacy.

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*Former European Commission President **Jean-Claude Juncker** has slammed the possibility of Ukraine joining the EU, lambasting the country as massively "corrupt."*

> "Anyone who has had anything to do with Ukraine knows that this is a country that is corrupt at all levels of society. Despite its efforts, it is not ready for accession; it needs massive internal reform processes," Juncker said during an interview with German outlet Augsburger Allgemeine published Thursday.

> "Making false promises" to Ukrainians regarding EU accession "would be neither good for the EU nor for Ukraine," added Juncker, who was boss at the Berlaymont in Brussels from 2014 to 2019.

> "You shouldn't make false promises to the people in Ukraine who are up to their necks in suffering," Juncker said. "I am very angry about some voices in Europe who are telling Ukrainians that they can become members immediately."

Kyiv has been fending off Russian **President Vladimir Putin's** full-scale invasion which began in February 2022.

EU membership for aspirant countries like Ukraine and Moldova must be connected to "internal reforms" and be backed by a "qualified majority," Juncker argued. Ukraine has faced questions for years over its track record on fighting corruption.

Current European Commission chief **Ursula von der Leyen** and European Council boss **Charles Michel** are both much more bullish than Juncker on Ukraine's accession to the bloc.

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