

Gdańsk, 15 March 2022

Urgent Call from Mariupol

Joint Call of European Mayors to European governments and the European Commission on raising efforts to end the war in Europe

We strongly condemn Russia's war acts and armed aggression against Ukraine. Nothing can justify Russia's illegal use of force.

While Ukraine is on the path to joining the EU, Ukrainians and other European nations are already integrated. Ukrainians already constitute more than 10% of citizens in a dozen EU cities. There is no major European city, county or region without Ukrainian women and men.

Today, our Ukrainian sisters and brothers are forced to defend their homeland. Although the EU and its citizens have initiated hundreds of humanitarian and solidarity actions, every one of us can see that Ukraine stands alone against the aggression of a much more powerful invader. After 20 days of the unprovoked destruction of the 40-million nation of Ukraine, we are calling on you to act immediately:

1. **We call on you to force the Russian government to open humanitarian corridors.** Europe cannot just stand by and watch while innocent people are ruthlessly murdered with impunity. We cannot accept that so called humanitarian corridors "opened" by the Russian army are corridors in which civilians are being shot at and killed, while trying to escape on foot or by bus. Our friends must look up to the sky not for hope, but rockets fired at them. All military action toward civilians must end now. We believe it is Europe's and its global allies' duty to enforce it.
2. **We call for European solidarity to work out and swiftly adopt decisions concerning the refugees' capable reception and relocation in Europe.** We call for the governments of the border countries between the EU and Ukraine to engage with international and national organizations with expertise in emergency response and crisis management. Humanitarian aid for internally displaced women and children in Western Ukraine should also be initiated as soon as possible. Unless we act now, the biggest refugee crisis after WWII will turn into a humanitarian catastrophe.

We agree that all European countries need to act, participate in the support and show solidarity. We will fulfil the EU 2015 decision on common and shared responsibility related to the refugee crisis management and support.

3. **We demand a stop to all trade relations with Russia and Belarus until the Russian army withdraws from Ukraine.** It is a choice of profound gravity, but we have no doubts whatsoever about how European values should guide us. We believe that the lives of women and men are more important than trade, jobs and even energy. Even though it is challenging, the choice should be very simple. You do not trade with murderers and liars.

We strongly believe in European solidarity to manage the inevitable energy crisis. We believe that the EU member states will equally share the burden of radically eliminating fossil fuels from our economies. We have no doubts that the sudden shock of ending our addiction to oil, gas and coal is a necessary sacrifice compared to the sacrifice of innocent Ukrainian women and men. In the face of war crimes and genocide, "business as usual" must end.

Finally, we call on all the mayors of the world and on the international community to speak with one voice: deliberate attacks on civilians are war crimes. Starving thousands of innocent men, women and children and making entire communities of people die from hypothermia is genocide. International tribunals must fulfill their duties. The guilty must be punished. In order to do so, war crimes evidence must be well documented for future trials at the ICC and elsewhere.

It is with great respect that we observe thousands of brave Russian youth and elders who are being detained for taking part in rallies each day. At the same time, we condemn all those who support Russian propaganda that makes it impossible for their fellow citizens to access the truth. In fact, they support the terror in Ukraine.

We hereby demand the immediate release of the captured, detained and, most probably, tortured mayors of Melitopol and Dniprorudne. We are hoping for a longstanding peace between the EU and a democratic and law-abiding Russia that respects human rights.

For the past 20 days, the citizens of our cities and villages have been helping Ukrainian refugees, and we will not stop helping in any way we can. This is our priority. However, the current situation does not allow us not to speak out about what our citizens feel.

Could we ever again believe in Europe if it lets one of the European countries bleed out and fall into ruin? We ask for more. The time is now.

Mayors of European Cities and European City :

1. Vadim Boichenko, Mayor of Mariupol
2. Aleksandra Dulkiewicz, Mayor of Gdansk
3. Dario Nardella, Mayor of Florence, President of the Eurocities (association of 233 cities)
4. Roberto Gualtieri, Mayor of Rome
5. Zdeněk Hřib, Mayor of Prague
6. Rafał Trzaskowski, Mayor of Warsaw
7. Raymond Johansen, Governing Mayor of Oslo
8. Sadiq Khan Mayor of London
9. Carlos Moedas, Mayor of Lisbon
10. Kostas Bakoyannis, Mayor of Athens
11. Tomas Gulbinas, Deputy Mayor of Vilnius
12. Edvards Smiltens, Vice Mayor of Riga
13. Minna Arve, Mayor of Turku
14. Mathias De Clercq, Mayor of Ghent
15. Burkhard Jung, Mayor of Leipzig
16. Peter Kurz, Mayor of Mannheim
17. Peter Feldmann, Lord Mayor of Frankfurt am Main
18. Triin Varek, Mayor of Rakvere
19. Gunter Czisch, Lord Mayor City of Ulm
20. Katrin Albrecht, Lord Mayor, City of Neu-Ulm
21. Filipe Ferreira, Metropolitan Secretary, Lisbon Metropolitan Area
22. Tomislav Tomašević, Mayor of Zagreb
23. Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga
24. Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo, President of the Sicilian Association of Cities
25. Juan Mari Aburto, Mayor of Bilbao
26. Laia Bonet, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona
27. Ernest Maragall Barcelona Metro Area, Vice-president of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area
28. Jordi Ballart, Mayor of Terrassa
29. Jennifer Ramírez, Councillor of Terrassa
30. Bev Craig, Councillor, Manchester,
31. Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester
32. Matteo Lepore, Mayor of Bologna

33. Anna-Lisa boni, Deputy Mayor, Bologna
34. Michèle Rubirola, Mayor of Maresille
35. Gregory Doucet, Mayor of Lyon
36. Rita Viljanen, City of Vantaa
37. Jimmy Nordengren, Deputy Mayor of Örebro
38. Dominic Fritz, Mayor of Timisoara
39. Jukka Makela, Mayor of the City of Espoo
40. Wojciech Szczurek, Mayor of Gdynia
41. Jacek Karnowski, Mayor of Sopot, president of the Polish Local Government Movement 'Tak! dla Polski'
42. Ellie King, Cabinet member for Public Health, Communities and One City, Bristol
43. Susana Carillo Aparicio, Vice Mayor of Malaga
44. Huw Thomas, Leader of Cardiff Council
45. Lauri Lyly, Mayor of Tampere
46. Aino-Maija Luukkonen, Mayor of Pori
47. Anna Tenje, Mayor of Växjö
48. Visvaldas Matijosaitis, Mayor of Kaunas
49. Johan Persso, Mayor of Kalmar
50. Ritva Viljanen, Mayor of Vantaa
51. Ann Kajson Carlqvist, Mayor of Trelleborg
52. Erik Rostoft, Deputy Mayor of kristiansand
53. Laur Kaljuvee, Vice Mayor of Rakvere
54. Lars Vikinge, City of Linköping
55. Janis Baiks, Chairman of Valmiera
56. Rytis Račkauskas, Mayor of Panevezys City
57. Ralvis Ragainis, Chairman of Jēkabpils municipality Council
58. Jimmy Nordengren, Mayor of Orebo
59. Aires Pereira, Mayor of Póvoa de Varzim
60. Anders Josefsson, Deputy Mayor of Lulea
61. Tadeusz Truskolaski, Mayor of Białystok, president of the Union of Polish Metropolises
62. Rafał Bruski, Mayor of Bydgoszcz
63. Marcin Krupa, Mayor of Katowice
64. Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of Kraków
65. Krzysztof Żuk, Mayor of Lublin
66. Hanna Zdanowska, Mayor of Łódź
67. Jacek Jaškowiak, Mayor of Poznań
68. Konrad Fijołek, Mayor of Rzeszów
69. Piotr Krzystek, Mayor of Szczecin
70. Jacek Sutryk, Mayor of Wrocław
71. Dorota Zmarzłak, Mayor of Izabelin
72. Janusz Wróbel, Mayor of Pruszcz Gdański
73. Magdalena Kołodziejczak, Mayor of Pruszcz Gdański rural commune
74. Krzysztof Swat, Mayor of Krynica Morska
75. Michał Pasieczny, Mayor of Rumia
76. Hanna Pruchniewska, Mayor of Puck
77. Artur Tusiński, Mayor of Podkowa Leśna
78. Piotr Grzymowicz, Mayor of Olsztyn
79. Anna Mieczkowska, Mayor of Kołobrzeg
80. Arkadiusz Wiśniewski, Mayor of Opole
81. Andrzej Nowakowski, Mayor of Płock
82. Jerzy Łuźniak, Mayor of Jelenia Gora
83. Roman Szełemej, Mayor of Wałbrzych
84. Artur Kozioł, Mayor of Wieliczka
85. Gabriela Staszkiwicz, Mayor of Cieszyn
86. Przemysław Major, Deputy Mayor of Cieszyn

87. Daniel Putkiewicz, Mayor of Piaseczno
88. Małgorzata Żebrowska, Mayor of Łomianki
89. Marcin Jakubowski, Mayor of Mińsk Mazowiecki
90. Elżbieta Radwan, Mayor of Wołomin
91. Albina Łubian, Mayor of Pilawa
92. Marek Banaszek, Mayor of Józefów
93. Mirosław Lech, Mayor of Korycin municipality
94. Beata Moskal-Słaniewska, Mayor of Świdnica
95. Roman Ciepiela, Mayor of Tarnów
96. Kazimierz Karolczak, President of the Metropolitan Area of Silesia
97. Zygmunt Frankiewicz, President of the Union of the Polish Cities
98. Henk Bouwman, Secretary-General, METREX network for European Metropolitan Regions and Areas (Association of 51 metropolitan regions and areas inhabited by 125 million inhabitants)
99. Antonella Valmorbidia, Secretary General of ALDA, Strasbourg
100. Mantas Jurgutis, President of Union of the Baltic Cities

With a global support:

101. Nina Hachigian, Deputy Mayor for International Affairs in Los Angeles
102. Wen-Je Ko, Mayor of Taipei

Mr Charles Michel, President of the European Council and Honorable Prime Ministers and Heads of States

Ms Ursula Von Layen, President of the European Commission

From the chat
(...)

13:34:42 From Kaunas City Municipality to Everyone : Union of the Baltic Cities strongly supports this initiative. The time to act is now and we will do so. Ukraine was not, is not and will not be alone.

13:36:40 From dariakaleniuk to Everyone : Russian elite and their families love Prague - they purchase luxurious real estate in this beautiful city. Often they are hiding behind shell companies. I call Prague city administration to look into this problem. We need to kick out Russian elite from European and American cities, we need to seize their luxurious real estate

13:39:11 From Raivis Ragainis to Everyone : Latvia, Jēkabpils strongly condemn Russia war in Ukraine. We accept joint call of support. Slava Ukraina!

13:40:39 From Michal Geisler, Prague to Everyone : is it still possible adjust the wording of the point of resolution regarding help to refugees? Thank you. Zdeněk Hřib, Prague

13:40:48 From Johan Persson, Mayor City of Kalmar to Everyone : City of Kalmar support of course the proposal.

13:42:18 From Ieva Dirmaitė, Vilnius Mayor's Office to Everyone : This is the web Vilnius Deputy Mayor Tomas Gulbinas just mentioned - here is all info (Q&A) about Vilnius help to Ukrainians who come to us: <https://ukraina.vilnius.lt/ua/> (in Ukrainian language too).

13:42:41 From Huw Thomas to Everyone : Hi, Councillor Huw Thomas here, Leader of Cardiff, Capital City of Wales. We send love, prayers, and total solidarity to the people of Ukraine, and utterly condemn the Russian invasion. We are very happy to sign the draft declaration, and welcome the strengthening of the language around the ICC – there must be justice for the crimes Russia has committed.

Wales has offered to be a super-sponsor for receiving Ukrainian refugees to the UK, and we will continue to press the British Government for further action – both in terms of military and economic aid to Ukraine, sanctions on Russia, and providing greater welcome to refugees.

13:44:55 From Taisia Apanovych to Everyone : On March 4, 2022, Energodar Mayor Mr. Dmytro Orlov was under severe pressure, Bucha Mayor Mr. Anatoliy Fedoruk was wounded on March 6, Russian invaders killed Hostomel Mayor Mr. Yurii Prylypko on March 6. The connection was lost with Mayor of Kherson Mr. Ihor Kolykhayev.

On March 11, 2022, it became known that the Russian army had abducted Melitopol Mayor Mr. Ivan Fedorov.

On March 13, 2022 the mayor of Dniprorudnyi Matveyev Yevhen was also abducted.

13:45:19 From Taisia Apanovych to Everyone : Condemn and appeal to stop persecution, detention and killing of democratically elected mayors of Ukrainian cities. Demand the immediate release of Melitopol Mayor Mr. Ivan Fedorov and of Dniprorudnyi Mayor Yevhen Matveyev abducted by the occupational Russian forces.

13:45:22 From Anna Tenje Mayor of Växjö to Everyone : The city of Växjö supports the resolution with the suggested adjustments. We stand United with Ukraine!

13:47:15 From Michal Glaser to Marseille(Direct Message) : YES hat's you suggestion?: is it still possible adjust the wording of the point of resolution regarding help to refugees? Thank you. Zdeněk Hřib, Prague –

13:47:45 From Antonella Valmorbida - ALDA to Everyone : For our italian participants, www.alda-europe.eu translated the resolution in IT. But without the yellow changes proposed this morning

13:48:01 From Caroline Schep GPM to Everyone : Is it possible to condemn the abduction of Ukrainian mayors aimed at destroying democratically legitimate structures at the local level.

13:48:14 From Jakub Mazur- METREX; Wroclaw to Everyone : Greeting from METREX, very supportive European network, representing 100 million inhabitants. We need to be more pragmatic. Its time to act. Two perspective: ad hoc and long-term

Right now as a Polish cities directly hosting 1,5 million of Ukrainian refugees we need your support in the area of organizing the transport and accommodation of immigrants for whom we are not able to guarantee appropriate conditions.

Material aid is mainly equipment: camp beds, blankets, but also equipment that we can provide to civil defense in Ukraine - bulletproof vests, dressings and medical supplies, military provisions, helmets, power generators

Financial aid: these are foundations dedicated and transparent in their activities for years for the Ukrainian minority and community

Long-term help is the organization of work, education and development opportunities for those who will stay and for their families

METREX and Wroclaw is ready to cooperate today. Please contact us directly

13:49:32 From Jakub Mazur- METREX; Wroclaw to Everyone : Yesterday we also discussed it with Frans Timmermans and Andrej Savoy.

13:50:24 From Aires Pereira - Mayor of Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal to Everyone : could you please share on this chat the draft resolution in english version?

13:50:30 From Jakub Mazur- METREX; Wroclaw to Everyone : Unfortunately I have to leave. SLAVA UKRAINI!

13:50:39 From Michal Glaser to Everyone : To Prague: Yes, please give us the suggestions (is it still possible adjust the wording of the point of resolution regarding help to refugees? Thank you. Zdeněk Hřib, Prague)

13:50:49 From Burkhard Jung, Leipzig, Germany to Everyone : Maybe we can add after "The guilty must be punished" a new paragraph: "With great respect we see unbelievable courageous resistance in Russian cities. We totally support these democratic forces in Russia."

13:51:10 From Lars Vikinge to Everyone : The city of Linköping in Sweden strongly supports the proposed text with the additionen proposals that has been presented so far.

13:51:52 From Tomas Gulbinas to Everyone : On behalf of Vilnius, I suggest adding a sentence at the end of the draft Resolution: "We invite the European Commission to speedily provide its opinion on the application of Ukraine to become a member of the European Union."

13:52:19 From Carlos's iPad (2) to Everyone : Hello everybody. I'm the Mayor of Lisbon and will have to leave in 5 min. All my solidarity to the people of Ukraine. Count on Lisbon. We are with you

13:52:39 From Odile Huiban to Everyone : On behalf of the mayor of LYON, I would like to announce that the Mayor will sign the joint call of european Mayors. Currently, the local Council is voting an aid of 30 000 € to the humanitarian organisations in Ukraine.

13:54:16 From Henk Bouwman METREX to Everyone : METREX info@eurometrex.org

13:54:43 From Michal Glaser to Everyone : Perfect, thank you: Maybe we can add after "The guilty must be punished" a new paragraph: "With great respect we see unbelievable courageous resistance in Russian cities. We totally support these democratic forces in Russia."

13:55:22 From camusjyv to Everyone : Yes, let's add this

13:57:23 From Cllr Bev Craig -Leader of Manchester to Michal Glaser(Direct Message) : Dear Michal, I am afraid I will have to leave just after 1pm

13:57:44 From dariakalenjuk to Everyone : "With great respect we see unbelievable courageous resistance in Russian cities" - honestly from Ukraine we don't see this "unbelievable courageous resistance in Russian cities". This war is supported by majority of Russian population. Those who are opposing are in huge minority.

13:58:37 From Antonella Valmorbida - ALDA to Everyone : This was the opening of our Agency in Mariupol. A european flag on the municipality door !

13:59:00 From Antonella Valmorbida - ALDA to Everyone : They are paying a high price for this !

13:59:09 From Minna Arve to Everyone : City of Turku fully supports the resolution. We have already agreed on 150.000€ support to humanitarian help to Ukraine and Finnish cities have agreed more than 1,5m€ support altogether.

All solidarity from me and from our city council to the people of Ukraine and all mayors in Ukraine taking care of their residents.

13:59:34 From Burkhard Jung, Leipzig, Germany to Everyone : We Know, but we have to strengthen this minority.

14:01:13 From Aires Pereira - Mayor of Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal to Everyone : The Municipality of Póvoa de Varzim (Portugal) would like to express its strong support to the Ukrainian people and to the approval of the proposed resolution. Thank you for the opportunity of participating in this important meeting. We stand united!

14:01:32 From Erik Rostoft to Everyone : In Kristiansand we have decided to facilitate up to 1000 refugees for this war as well as NOK 1 million to support Critical help. We are now working closely With several national and local voluntary organization to arrange the practical issues.

14:02:04 From Marseille to Everyone : Marseille will speak as a french city after Oslo as planned if it's possible. thank you very much.

14:02:45 From Tomas Gulbinas to Everyone : Sorry, I have to disconnect now. Thank you for your leadership, Mayor Dulkievicz

14:04:28 From Burkhard Jung, Leipzig, Germany to Everyone : Today we have nearly 4000 refugees in my City. We support them and the aid for Ukraine and our sister City Kiev with 9 Mio€ from our Budget.

14:06:26 From Taisia Apanovych to Everyone : Ukraine is grateful to all the support and assistance from the EU. The only important thing now is CLOSING THE SKY OVER UKRAINE. If the EU Mayors declaration could also contain the appeal to EU national authorities as well as EC to push forward the urgent need to close Ukrainian sky - it would definitely ease the migrants pressure on the EU, save EU funds for future rebuilding of Ukraine and of course it would prevent unnecessary deaths of civilians trapped by the humanitarian catastrophe in center of Europe.

14:06:29 From Ritva Viljanen to Everyone : City of Vantaa supports the resolution. We agree also to add the text concerning mayors in Ukraine. Vantaa and the six biggest cities in Finland gave 1,5 million euro to humanian support to Ukraine.

14:10:31 From iPhone von Stadt to Everyone : City of ulm (Germany) supports the Resolution

14:12:19 From Jouko Hautamäki (City of Pori) to Everyone : Unfortunately, the Mayor of Pori is not available today, but I am sure she will reiterate my full support for the resolution on behalf of our city.

14:12:21 From Rainer Kern, Mannheim/Germany to Everyone : Mayor Peter Kurz, City of Mannheim, Germany supports and signs the declaration.

14:14:06 From Burkhard Jung, Leipzig, Germany to Everyone : Rafal, thank you so much! Germany will support you and is ready to host refugees.

14:14:19 From Rytis Račkauskas / Mayor of Panevėžys to Everyone : Mayor Rytis Račkauskas, City of Panevėžys, Lithuania fully supports and signs the declaration.

14:14:27 From Antonella Valmorbida - ALDA to Everyone : At the Conference of the future of Europe Plenary, last week, ALDA reported the voice of EU local authorities and civil society for Ukraine. We also supported an immediate coordination for the refugee crisis, now and the future ones. They will be

14:16:24 From Nuno Gouveia - Braga to Everyone : Mayor Ricardo Rio, from Braga, Portugal, supports and of course signs the declaration.

14:16:49 From makelju to Everyone : City of Espoo also supports the resolution with the suggested adjustments. Espoo and the six biggest cities in Finland gave 1,5 million euro to humanian support to Ukraine. Independence is a very important value to us.

14:17:15 From Anders Josefsson to Everyone : The city of Lulea, Sweden of course supports the declaration.

14:17:57 From Joan Chicón (Terrassa) to Everyone : Hi on behalf of Terrassa City we of course supports also the declaration and will sign it.

14:20:13 From Jānis Baiks to Everyone : The city of Valmiera (Latvia) fully supports the suggested text for joint resolution!

14:20:28 From Matti Helimo, Tampere Finland to Everyone : City of Tampere supports the resolution. The city gave 150.000€ to support Ukraine. People in Tampere are helping many ways and the city is co-operating with the 3rd sector to help refugees. We start teaching groups for ukrainian children in Tampere. We also want to offer hobbies for children in co-operation with local sport clubs. Thank you colleagues for the meeting.

14:23:16 From Henk Bouwman METREX to Everyone : METREX supports the declaration on behalf of 51 Metropolitan Regions and Areas. We are now addressing the members for very practical and hands-on help! All the best, L'Union Fait la Force

14:26:50 From Marseille to Everyone : amendements from the city of Marseille : - add one sentence to mention that our action is guided by the ideal of peace that as prevailed for the european cnstruction. I think the world PEACE must be mentionned.
Thank you in advance
Sorry we have to leave.

