

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. Andreas Bovenschulte, Mayor of Bremen
17. Peter Kurz, Mayor of Mannheim
18. Peter Feldmann, Lord Mayor of Frankfurt am Main
19. Gunter Czisch, Lord Mayor City of Ulm
20. Katrin Albrecht, Lord Mayor, City of Neu-Ulm
21. Michèle Rubirola, Mayor of Maresille
22. Tomislav Tomašević, Mayor of Zagreb
23. Gregory Doucet, Mayor of Lyon
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. Triin Varek, Mayor of Rakvere
29. Filipe Ferreira, Metropolitan Secretary, Lisbon Metropolitan Area
30. Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga
31. Matteo Lepore, Mayor of Bologna
32. Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

33. Jordi Ballart, Mayor of Terrassa
34. Jennifer Ramírez, Councillor of Terrassa
35. Anna-Lisa boni, Deputy Mayor, Bologna
36. Bev Craig, Councillor, Manchester,
37. Rita Viljanen, City of Vantaa
38. Jimmy Nordengren, Deputy Mayor of Örebro
39. Dominic Fritz, Mayor of Timisoara
40. Jukka Makela, Mayor of the City of Espoo
41. Wojciech Szczurek, Mayor of Gdynia
42. Jacek Karnowski, Mayor of Sopot, president of the Polish Local Government Movement 'Tak! dla Polski'
43. Ellie King, Cabinet member for Public Health, Communities and One City, Bristol
44. Susana Carillo Aparicio, Vice Mayor of Malaga
45. Huw Thomas, Leader of Cardiff Council
46. Lauri Lyly, Mayor of Tampere
47. Aino-Maija Luukkonen, Mayor of Pori
48. Anna Tenje, Mayor of Växjö
49. Visvaldas Matijosaitis, Mayor of Kaunas
50. Johan Persso, Mayor of Kalmar
51. Ritva Viljanen, Mayor of Vantaa
52. Ann Kajson Carlqvist, Mayor of Trelleborg
53. Erik Rostoft, Deputy Mayor of Kristiansand
54. Laur Kaljuvee, Vice Mayor of Rakvere
55. Lars Vikinge, City of Linköping
56. Janis Baiks, Chairman of Valmiera
57. Rytis Račkauskas, Mayor of Panevezys City
58. Ralvis Ragainis, Chairman of Jēkabpils municipality Council
59. Jimmy Nordengren, Mayor of Orebo
60. Aires Pereira, Mayor of Póvoa de Varzim
61. Anders Josefsson, Deputy Mayor of Lulea
62. Tadeusz Truskolaski, Mayor of Białystok, president of the Union of Polish Metropolises
63. Rafał Bruski, Mayor of Bydgoszcz
64. Marcin Krupa, Mayor of Katowice
65. Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of Kraków
66. Krzysztof Żuk, Mayor of Lublin
67. Hanna Zdanowska, Mayor of Łódź
68. Jacek Jaškowiak, Mayor of Poznań
69. Konrad Fijołek, Mayor of Rzeszów
70. Piotr Krzystek, Mayor of Szczecin
71. Jacek Sutryk, Mayor of Wrocław
72. Dorota Zmarzłak, Mayor of Izabelin
73. Janusz Wróbel, Mayor of Pruszcz Gdański
74. Magdalena Kołodziejczak, Mayor of Pruszcz Gdański rural commune
75. Krzysztof Swat, Mayor of Krynica Morska
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 Góra
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 Ciepela, 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