**Joint Call of European mayors to European governments & the European Commission**

**on raising efforts to end the war in Europe.**

DRAFT

While Ukraine is on the path to joining the EU, Ukrainians and other European nations are already integrated. Ukrainians stand for 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 19 days of the unprovoked destruction of the 40-million nation of Ukraine, we are calling on you to act immediately:

1. **We call you to force the Russian government to open actual humanitarian corridors.** Europe cannot just stand by and watch while innocent, wounded 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, whether they try to escape on foot or by bus. Our friends must look up to the sky and the sea, 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 WW II will turn into a humanitarian catastrophe.

In Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova we are running out of beds, medicine and food. We are conveying transports to Kyiv, but we do not know for how much longer it will be possible. We are calling for more aid now!

1. **We demand a stop to all trade relations with Russia and Belarus until 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. At least we want to believe that you should not do so in Europe.

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.

**Last but not least, 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 fulfil their duties. The guilty must be punished.

For the past 19 days, our citizens and we 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.