



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ursula von der Leyen
The President

Brussels, 22. 02. 2022
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Dear Honourable Member,

Thank you, and your co-signatories, for your letter of 14 February 2022 on the situation in relation to Ukraine. I would like to assure you that Ukraine is a key priority for the European Commission. We are following the situation with the utmost attention. We are very concerned about the developments and share your assessment of possible implications, including in terms of population movements in the case of escalation.

I would like to underline that we are in close contact with the Government of Ukraine to reiterate our support to people of Ukraine. In the beginning of February, the Commission tabled a proposal for EUR 1.2 billion emergency macro-financial assistance package for Ukraine. With the government, we also discuss contingency planning and the need to strengthen preparedness to support its crisis-affected population.

As regards the humanitarian support, the European Commission has been providing humanitarian assistance since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine in 2014 and is continuing to do so in line with the humanitarian needs. To date, the European Commission has mobilised almost EUR 194 million of humanitarian funding to help the people affected by the conflict.

As regards the current situation, the Commission is in constant contact with its humanitarian partners and other major donors in Ukraine to prepare for possible aggravation of the humanitarian situation and to rapidly respond to increasing humanitarian needs. In fact, we have authorised our humanitarian partners to use part of the EU funding for preparedness actions. Similarly, we are in contact with potential partners in Moldova to prepare for the potential provision of humanitarian assistance, in case there are humanitarian needs.

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However, EU humanitarian assistance which can only be provided in third countries is not enough. We also need to be prepared internally for a sudden influx of refugees into the Member States with borders with Ukraine, which are the Union's external borders. The Commission has therefore scaled up its overall contingency planning over the past weeks to prepare as much as possible for such a sudden influx of refugees into the Union from Ukraine.

Furthermore, the Commission will put at the disposal of affected Member States, all instruments under its toolbox for migration management. The EU support will notably be available through the expertise and capabilities of its Agencies, in particular the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the EU Asylum Agency (EUAA). The Commission is also prepared to mobilise where necessary the Emergency Assistance financial resources to support the most concerned Member States, through in particular the Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Border Management Visa Instrument (BMVI). The Commission will also stand ready to coordinate any solidarity efforts needed with the Member States affected, notably to ensure proper reception conditions for potential refugees. All these actions will be complemented by the ongoing coordination and monitoring efforts undertaken within the framework of the Migration Preparedness and Crisis Blueprint established by the Pact on Migration and Asylum, where the Commission continues to closely exchange information and crisis response with Member States and EU agencies.

The Commission is also prepared to support countries, including EU Member States and Moldova, bordering Ukraine through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). Once needed, the EU can help in mobilising the Member States to offer to those requesting assistance the shelter capacity, emergency medical teams, medicines and medical equipment, COVID-19 testing capacity and other measures. Over the past weeks the Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre has been in constant contact with Member States to coordinate contingency planning. To enhance preparedness, Member States have been requested to keep the key capacities on standby to be ready for deployment at short notice, in case needed.

I continue to believe that the best path forward is to resolve the situation with diplomatic means, and that there are many options for that still open. However, I would like to assure you that we are ready to support our Member States as well as international partners in a robust way. As the budgetary authority, I also count on the full support of the European Parliament to secure additional funds should there be a need.

Yours faithfully,



Ursula von der Leyen