

## **Urgent request to deploy humanitarian aid and facilities for Ukrainian refugees**

To the attention of:

Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Mr Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management

Strasbourg, 14 February 2022

Dear Ms von der Leyen, dear Mr Lenarčič,

We are extremely alarmed at the news of the imminent Russian invasion in Ukraine, which according to the evidence, is planned early this week. You would undoubtedly share our concern over the sovereignty of Ukraine and the lives of Ukrainian people. The first Russia's military intervention is expected to happen on Tuesday or Wednesday, and various cities are likely to be invaded by Russian troops. Direct military action will lead to millions of internally displaced people and refugees, who will seek safety and international protection in the neighbouring countries – Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and the Republic of Moldova. Romania and Moldova particularly are expected to immediately receive hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians escaping the war with Russia and being pushed by the Russian military coming from the east. In this context Moldova, as a de facto buffer zone, will face a strong challenge in managing the refugee flow.

At the same time, there is a high probability that the Russian troops will follow the refugees flow in the same direction to join with the Russian forces already deployed in Transnistria, which could ultimately even result in a blockade of Ukraine's refugees, both from east and from the south-west.

Considering that the events will develop very quickly in the following days, an immediate action is needed from the side of the EU in order to protect the lives of fleeing Ukrainian people. **We ask you to take all possible measures, in cooperation with the authorities of Moldova and EU countries bordering Ukraine, in order to urgently prepare humanitarian aid facilities for refugees expected to come from Ukraine in the next days.** They will need medical help, shelter and basic goods, because as we know in such rapidly developing situation, they have not had any time to prepare their departure in advance. EU has all necessary tools for such a rapid emergency response. Therefore, we hope that you will include our request into the humanitarian disaster risk strategy and will immediately deploy necessary facilities.

We rely on your urgent and careful consideration of this request and stand ready to cooperate.

Members of Renew Europe Group:

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