

## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS (ECHO)
Neighbourhood and Middle East

Southeast Europe and Eastern Neighbourhood

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By email: <a href="mailto:segreteria@fnomceo.it">segreteria@fnomceo.it</a>

Dear Mr Anelli,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 17 March, the President asked me to reply on her behalf.

The European Commission is very concerned about the dire humanitarian situation in Ukraine and the impact of the Russian invasion on the civilian population. The European Commission continues to stress that the violations of International Humanitarian Law are inacceptable and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructures must stop immediately. We share your concern regarding the attacks on health facilities and medical personnel, including on the maternity hospital in Mariupol. The EU continues to advocate for unhindered access to health for people in need.

I would like to reassure you that the European Commission remains committed to support Ukraine. As you know, on 28 February, the Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations has allocated EUR 85 million to support the conflict-affected population of Ukraine<sup>1</sup>. This funding is a part of a larger emergency package amounting to EUR 550 million, announced by the President on 24 March<sup>2</sup>. The humanitarian funding is channelled through the humanitarian partners present in the country, including United Nations, INGOs and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The assistance is provided on the basis of needs and in respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. It includes as well health assistance and medical supplies<sup>3</sup>. The EU pays particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable individuals, including elderly and disabled people, children and pregnant women.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip 22 1462

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT 22 2007

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/europe/ukraine\_en

Furthermore, in an unprecedented display of solidarity, 27 EU Member States, Norway and Turkey have already offered various assistance to Ukraine under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and over 9500 tonnes of assistance from these countries and items of the rescEU stockpile have been delivered in Ukraine. The assistance includes medical supplies, mobile hospitals and ambulances.

A specific procedure for Medical Evacuation (MedEvac) for the Ukrainian patients has been put in place. Italy carried out the first MEDEVAC operation from Poland on 13 March, using financial and operational support from the UCPM and the Early Warning and Response System. As of 31 March, 19 patients have been transported to 5 Member States (IT, IE, DE, DK, SE) and one Participating State (NO).

Additionally, as part of the 'Stand Up For Ukraine' campaign, the European Commission has created a new system to channel in-kind donations from the private sector to Ukraine, Moldova and neighbouring EU Member States, to help cater for the needs of internally displaced and refugees.

Those efforts will be continued.

Yours faithfully,

Martin TASCHNER Head of Unit