

*Dear President Michel,
Dear President Macron,
Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear Vice-President Borrell,*

Brussels, 24nd of March

The war in Ukraine will soon go into the fifth week, and the Russian aggression shows no sign of diminishing, despite the heroic efforts of the Ukrainians, military and civilians alike.

The humanitarian suffering caused by the Russian attacks are truly unprecedented, and we welcome all investigations, including by the International Criminal Court, of likely crimes against the laws of war.

While we welcome all the unprecedented measures that the EU has quickly taken over the last weeks, we regard them as insufficient and we urge the European Union to immediately and urgently strengthen the sanctions taken against the Russian Federation.

We undersigned call for a full and immediate trade embargo against Russia and Belarus, including a ban on trade of oil, gas and coal.

We equally call for an immediate extension of the so-called Swift sanctions to all Russian and Belarusian financial institutions, thus closing any possible loopholes.

It is our strong conviction that the sanctions must not only become deeper, but also reach a wider part of the Russian governing elite. We call for the inclusion on the sanctions list of a broader segment of Russian officials, governors and mayors that abide by the current policy of the Putin regime and benefit thereof.

We also call for a strong response towards those third countries that help in the circumvention of the sanctions imposed on Russia and Belarus, and for EU sanctions to be extended and imposed on those responsible for collusion with those on the sanctions list.

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