

To the attention of:

**Ursula von der Leyen**

President, European Commission

**Nicolas Schmit**

Commissioner for Social Rights

**Věra Jourová**

Commissioner for Values and Transparency

**Ylva Johansson**

Commissioner for Home Affairs

**Janez Lenarčič**

Commissioner for Crisis Management

## **Call for urgent support to European NGOs assisting refugees**

Dear President, Dear Commissioners,

Among the many recent developments with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, one of the few sources of solace we have found was the overwhelming and heartwarming response of the EU citizens and civil society in the face of the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

Hearts and arms were opened, but so were ample networks of volunteers all throughout the four main receiving countries, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, and beyond. On Facebook and Telegram groups, via email, Instagram, Whatsapp, Viber or other means, people are organising, donating, offering shelter, food, clothes, medicine and assistance, transport and almost everything else those fleeing the deadly Russian invasion.

Often all this is done with little or no coordination or support from local authorities. Generally, this wave of solidarity has plugged gaps in the capacities of local, national and European authorities to deal with the sudden, massive influx of refugees.

We are concerned however of the sustainability of these support networks for a longer term action, as well as the need for their adequate coordination. Resources are spent, for example, for foodstuff that is above the current needs, and become lost in the momentum. Other needs are harder to meet, for example matching humans and material resources with the places and recipients that need them.

Better coordination is also needed in identifying and making the best use of experts on care, assistance to children, translators, logisticians and others.

Furthermore, many of the NGOs involved will run out of resources at this rate or are at risk of losing financing from usual financing grants because of the overall crisis.

We therefore call on the European Commission to :

- Identify and propose sources of financing for EU CSOs assisting Ukrainian refugees;
- Consider ensuring that AMIF (The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) is adapted urgently to contain calls for grants for CSOs assisting Ukrainian refugees;
- Work with Member States to ensure adequate coordination between CSOs and government authorities but also between civil society organisations themselves, at local but also EU level, with the best interest of refugees in mind.

An added benefit of this initiative is the fact that any steps taken will be useful both for the duration of this current crisis but also raise the capacity of EU to deal with refugee waves in the future.

We remain at your disposal for further cooperation on this topics and, as the voice of citizens in the EU, are firmly committed to ensuring that the European Union is and remains the space of freedom, democracy, tolerance and safety that refugees seek.

With regards,

Members of the European Parliament

Strasbourg, 08.03.2022

Dragoş Pişlaru  
Alin Mituța  
Nikolaj Villumsen  
Karin Karlsbro  
Andrus Ansip  
Gheorghe Falcă  
Anna Donath  
Katalin Cseh  
Eugen Tomac  
Damian Boeselager  
Irena Joveva  
Pierre Larrourou  
Tomasz Frankowski  
Izaskun Bilbao Barandica  
Ramona Strugariu  
Ondřej Kovařík

Roberts Zile  
Brando Benifei  
Krzysztof Hetman  
Nicolae Ștefănuță  
Dan Motreanu  
Vlad Gheorghe  
Vlad Botoș  
Dragoș Tudorache  
Dacian Cioloș  
Olivier Chastel  
Ausra Maldeikiene  
Dennis Radtke  
Martin Hojsík  
Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová  
Michal Šimečka



Parlamentul European

Michał Wiezik