



Patriarch Kirill
Patriarchate of Moscow

Brussels, 11 April 2022

Your Holiness,

We thought that we should inform you that, in our capacities as President of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union and President of the Conference of European Churches, we have written to the President of the Russian Federation and the President of Ukraine. We have asked them to order a ceasefire for the eight days between Easter as celebrated according to the Gregorian calendar and Easter as observed according to the Julian calendar - that is to say the period between the beginning of Sunday 17 April (00 hours) until midnight (24h00) on 24 April. This request echoes the appeal for a truce made by Pope Francis on Sunday 10 April.

We are writing to request your public support for this initiative. In doing so you could demonstrate how much importance you attach to giving Christians in Russia and in Ukraine, sisters and brothers in Christ, the necessary respite to enable them to celebrate Easter in peace and dignity. After two years when Easter had to be celebrated with certain restrictions due to the pandemic, we are hoping, with your support, to create conditions which will allow all of us to celebrate those essential moments for all Christians, the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

A truce such as this would also be of benefit to all citizens of the two countries in conflict by dispelling for a moment the agonizing uncertainty as to the health of their loved ones involved in the fighting or affected by it.

We hope we can count on your support, and we assure you of our fraternal greetings.

Respectfully yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,

H.Em. Card. Jean-Claude Hollerich SJ
Archbishop of Luxembourg President
COMECE
Square de Meeûs 19, B- 1050 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 235 05 10
president@comece.eu

Rev Christian Krieger
President
CEC
rue Joseph II, 174, B- 1000 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 230 17 32
president@cec-kek.be