



*Statement of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences  
of the European Union (COMECE)*

**A heartfelt appeal for peace in Ukraine and in the whole of Europe**  
*"Guide our feet into the way of peace" (cf. Lk 1,79)*

We, the Bishop Delegates of the EU Bishops' Conferences, gathered for the Autumn Plenary Assembly, wish to express our deep sadness at the horrific human suffering inflicted on our brothers and sisters in Ukraine by the brutal military aggression initiated by the Russian authorities. We remember the victims in our prayers and wish to express our closeness to their families. We would wish to express our closeness also to the millions of refugees, mostly women and children, who have been forced to leave their homes, as well as to all who suffer in Ukraine and in the neighbouring countries because of this 'madness of war'. We are deeply concerned that recent actions risk increasing further expansion of the continuing war, with disastrous consequences for humanity.

The war in Ukraine also affects us directly as citizens of the European Union. Our thoughts turn to all who find themselves in increasingly dramatic socio-economic hardship due to the energy crisis, rising inflation and the soaring cost of living. Such crises make us realise the deep value of the European Union and its founding vision. We are grateful for the tireless efforts of European decision-makers in showing solidarity with Ukraine and in mitigating the consequences of the war for European citizens, and we strongly encourage these leaders to maintain their unity and to remain committed to the European project.

In full communion with the numerous appeals made by Pope Francis and the Holy See, we too make a strong appeal to the aggressors, immediately to suspend the hostilities, and to all parties to open themselves up to negotiation of 'serious proposals' for a just peace, to work towards a solution to the conflict, which respects international law and the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Asking the intercession of Mary, the Queen of Peace, we pray to the Lord "*to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace*".

Approved by

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