

28 January 2015

**Her Excellency Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the European Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and
Vice President of the European Commission**

Bât. Berlaymont
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Federica.Mogherini@ec.europa.eu

Dear Ms. Mogherini:

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is gravely concerned about the situation in Eastern Ukraine which continues to escalate at the cost of innocent lives.

The UWC draws your attention to the senseless crimes against humanity being committed by the Russian Federation which continues to support the terrorists decimating the civilian population in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts with indiscriminate rocket fire into high density residential areas. The killings in Volnovakha, Donetsk and Mariupol are examples of deliberate targeting of innocent men, women, children and the elderly in an attempt to further destabilize the country.

The *European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2015 on the situation in Ukraine* reaffirmed the European Parliament's support for Ukraine and stated specifically that the European Parliament:

5. Strongly condemns Russia's aggressive and expansionist policy, which constitutes a threat to the unity and independence of Ukraine and poses a potential threat to the EU itself, including the illegal annexation of Crimea and waging an undeclared hybrid war against Ukraine, including information war, blending elements of cyber warfare, use of regular and irregular forces, propaganda, economic pressure, energy blackmail, diplomacy and political destabilisation; stresses that these actions are in breach of international law and constitute a serious challenge to the European security situation; [...]

7. Calls for the continuation of the current EU sanctions regime, in particular with a view to the upcoming March 2015 Council meeting, as long as Russia does not fully respect and, above all, deliver on its Minsk obligations, and urges the Commission to find ways to enhance solidarity among Member States should the crisis with Russia continue; [...]

Openly mocking the Minsk agreements of 5 and 9 September 2014, the so-called Donetsk people's republic has publicly vowed to push forward with its offensive.

Based on the blatant disregard for international law and commitments, including the Minsk agreements and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, and the human, financial and material resources, including weapons, being provided by the Russian Federation to the criminal element in the guise of so-called Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics, we appeal for the European Union to:

- increase targeted sanctions against the Russian Federation, including limiting the ability of Russian entities to conduct international financial transactions by blocking access to the SWIFT banking transaction system;
- designate the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics as terrorist organizations; and
- declare that the Russian Federation is a state sponsor of terrorism.

We urge the international community to act decisively now to stop Russian expansionism that threatens peace, security and stability in all of Europe.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has member organizations in 34 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 14 additional countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status.