

**Ursula von der Leyen**

President of the European Commission

**Charles Michel**

President of the European Council

**Josep Borrell Fontelles**

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels, 28 February 2022

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**Dear President von der Leyen, dear President Michel, dear High Representative Borrell,**

CEC European Managers strongly denounces the war in which the Russian President has engaged Europe, expresses its full solidarity with the Ukrainian people who are demonstrating with strength and courage that they are ready to fight to defend their freedom and democracy and salutes the strong reaction that EU institutions, under your leadership, have adopted.

You, together with all the leaders of EU Member States and of the free world, will be facing tough choices in the days to come, but true leadership is about being able to make the right decisions at the right time. Europeans were relieved to witness EU leaders' willingness to support Ukraine and fight for the right of this European country to decide freely its own path. No foreign state has the right to invade a country and take away the decision-making powers of a democratically elected Government.

In this difficult moment, CEC European Managers expresses its support and backing to our Ukrainian sisters and brothers, and to their lawful political representatives. As a EU social partner, our organization has the privilege to be part of the democratic EU process. This privilege we need to protect from all threats, and it carries an obligation to protest when a European nation, its businesses, its trade unions and its people are aggressively deprived of their democratic privileges.

Since after the Second World War, Europe has been carefully built to prevent all EU member states and their people from reliving the atrocities of war and state aggression. We have been protected since 1945, which in the long run is already something exceptional. It is our precise intention to let you know without doubt, that the one million executives and managers that we in CEC European Managers represent support you.

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We ask you to take all the necessary measures to stop this war on our doorstep and make sure that your leadership and decision-making power is aimed effectively to preserve peace on our continent and in our member states. We call on you to mobilize all your energies to protect us, considering carefully how your leadership can be best put to use, and ask you to act united in the face of these events being ready if the worst happens. These decisions will affect our lives, our economies. But when democracy is at stake, our way of life and our values are at risk, it is the lesser evil and it is necessary.

Europe has dealt with COVID, taking exceptional measures. It must find new solution and be ready to impose exceptional measures once again. Europe, whose DNA was to avoid war between European countries, has shown all its efficiency. Now it is being asked to face up to war, to defend itself together against a common enemy. This is the ultimate challenge, which may well determine the 21st European century and the future of our children. In this hour, let us stand together and be ready to do anything to support our leaders and defend our European values. Let us show that we are able to stand together and that no matter what happens we shall prevail together.

Yours sincerely,



Maxime LEGRAND  
President



Torkild JUSTESEN  
Secretary-General