

We, EPP regional and local leaders,

1. call on the Russian Federation to immediately stop its unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine and to withdraw all military and paramilitary forces and administrative officials from the occupied Ukrainian territories; state that **there is no recognition of any mayor, city council or any local "representative" appointed by the occupying forces**; welcome the full suspension of the EU-Russia visa facilitation agreement and the new policy to grant new visas only on a case-by-case basis;
2. welcome the ban on imports of Russian coal in Europe, and support the call for a ban on imports of Russian gas and oil; fully support the EU's efforts to increase its energy independence, in view of the skyrocketing energy prices;
3. fully understand the discontent of citizens who are exasperated by continued emergencies, and who are anxious of what they will find in their next energy bill. Our families, our entrepreneurs, ask for concrete solutions to these pressing problems; call therefore for more efficient use of EU investment to enhance local and regional renewable energy production and consumption, low-carbon public transport, energy efficiency in public buildings, local energy storage, and the boosting of research and innovation in low-carbon and alternative sustainable fuels;
4. **call for direct funds for local and regional authorities implementing projects that accelerate energy transition in line with the RePowerEU Plan**, as well as for an EU-wide fair solution for an energy price ceiling without leaving any region, city, or municipality behind; call also for ensuring food security in EU regions and cities by finding a solution to food shortages and high food prices;
5. stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine by being in the front line when delivering aid to refugees from Ukraine, as well as its mayors and regional authorities, and **reiterate our call to grant EU cities and regions direct access to EU funding for migration and integration**; ask the European Commission to put forward a proposal for a revision of Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE), to consider short- and medium-term solutions for the EU's local and regional authorities;
6. fully endorse the candidate status of Ukraine and Moldova and recognise the European perspective for Georgia; remain **committed to supporting the reconstruction process of Ukraine** from the bottom up, including via the European Alliance of Cities and Regions and by revitalising twinning as a means to share know-how on urban sustainable development, local democracy, innovation, establish economic cooperation, and attract new investment;
7. **stand for a Union that invests in its future, by supporting innovation at all levels of governance; reiterate our commitment to fostering innovation-oriented policies and encouraging effective investments in innovation and research** to enhance competitiveness, protect citizens and support local economies; encourage interregional and cross-border cooperation in this regard;
8. condemns Russia's war in Ukraine as a deliberate attack against democracy and a weapon to instil fear and panic in the people and their local communities; concludes that the fight for freedom in

Ukraine must **reinforce our defence and promotion of the EU's fundamental values at the core of the EPP's beliefs**: rule of law, sovereignty, equality between women and men, and the safeguarding of our European way of life.