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In Brussels, 12th May 2022

Dear High Representative/Vice-President,

As democratically elected representatives of the citizens of the European Union, we address you with an urgent request to engage in the efforts to save Ukrainian civilians and military personnel, currently staying in Mariupol, Ukraine.

Beginning in February 2022, Mariupol was occupied and gradually cut off from the territory controlled by the Ukrainian government. The city is under constant heavy shelling by the Russian Federation, which has not allowed any city buildings to survive. In addition, the civilian population is massacred daily by Russian troops who control the streets of Mariupol. The situation in the city is essentially a humanitarian catastrophe: the local population does not have access to food, medicine and basic hygiene products. Despite all these atrocities and the desire of thousands of Mariupol residents to leave the war zone, the Russian authorities either do not allow the opening of humanitarian corridors or constantly disrupt them with massive shelling.

The last outpost controlled by the Ukrainian military in Mariupol is currently the building of the Azovstal steel plant. In very unsanitary conditions, lacking any military reinforcements, humanitarian aid and with almost no hope of help, Azovstal continues to hold on. Although the Ukrainian authorities have made enormous efforts to evacuate, there are still wounded and civilians on the territory of the plant in addition to the Ukrainian military personnel, the exact number of which cannot be estimated at the moment. However, the lives of Azovstal defenders and Mariupol residents are hanging by a thread - the Russian army has already broken into the plant and is destroying all possible infrastructure for evacuation.

The city of Mariupol and Ukraine need immediate and coordinated action from the EU. We urge you, Mr Borrell, to use all your authority and your diplomatic weight to engage in already launched negotiations with the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Ukrainian government to develop a plan to evacuate the military and civilians from Azovstal and destroyed Mariupol, and to ensure the security of these corridors, due to the ruthless and brutal actions of the Russian authorities. Ukrainians are paying too high a price, defending the security of Europe and the world and dying for the fundamental values on which the EU is founded. We must act immediately before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the European Parliament,

Ivan ŠTEFANEC



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