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(via e-mail)

Stop Escalation in Ukraine Immediately!

Solidarity with Employees!

Vienna, 28 February 2022

Dear colleagues,

younion _ Die Daseinsgewerkschaft joins the call of the international trade union movement: "The world does not need conflicts, but investments in people and jobs, peace and stability".

Together with PSIⁱ and EPSUⁱⁱ, younion _ Die Daseinsgewerkschaft condemns the Russian aggression against Ukraine in the strongest terms. War and occupation bring suffering to employees, their families and the whole society. We can also empathise with what the Ukrainian colleagues in the municipal services are currently going through and accomplishing. We stand in full solidarity with the Ukrainian employees and their unions – as well as with the peace protesters in Russia who are being harshly repressed by the Russian regime. Likewise, we support those Russian trade unions that are advocating for an end to the acts of war and, in doing so, are openly opposing the Russian regime.

Our thoughts are with our colleagues in the Ukrainian trade unions who are sending us first reports of attacks and who, despite the dangers, keep standing up for the trade union members on the ground. We are also convinced that this war is not what the people in Ukraine and Russia want.

We therefore call for an immediate end to the conflict and for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine. These measures must be followed by negotiations leading to a permanent military de-escalation in the region.

Also, we call on the international community – and the Member States of the European Union in particular – to immediately take concrete and effective measures aimed at forcing Putin's regime to end the military aggression.

Furthermore, we appeal to the Member States of the European Union and the international community to ensure a solidarity-based admission policy for those Ukrainians who are forced to flee.

Negotiations are the only way to achieve lasting security, democracy, respect of human and trade union rights, peace and prosperity for the people in Ukraine, Russia

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and Europe. It is within the responsibility of the trade union movement to defend these rights with all the means at their disposal. Only through a global mobilisation this objective can be achieved.

This conflict impressively shows us that freedom and democracy cannot be taken for granted. Consequently, we all have to contribute to safeguarding our free and democratic model of society.

Our thoughts are with our colleagues in the Ukrainian trade unions as well as our colleagues in public services, who in these difficult days are fulfilling their tasks in the service of humanity with great sacrifice.

In solidarity,

Ing. Christian Meidlinger
President

Thomas Kattinig
PSI and EPSU Vice-President

Annexes:

Statement of ITUC and ETUC: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/ukraine-putin-war-must-stop?lang=en>

Statement of PSI and EPSU: <https://www.youunion.at/themen/ukraine--oegb-und-internationaler-gewerkschaftsbund-fordern-sofo>

Message of the Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB):
<https://www.oegb.at/themen/gewerkschaften-weltweit/internationales/ukraine--oegb-und-internationaler-gewerkschaftsbund-fordern-sofo>

ⁱ Public Services International is one of the global trade union federations with 700 public sector affiliates, representing around 30 million members in 154 countries.

ⁱⁱ European Federation of Public Service Unions is a European trade union association based in Brussels. It represents 8 million members in about 270 unions in 49 countries.