

August 22nd, 2026

**URGENT OPEN LETTER TO THE LEADERS
OF THE COALITION OF THE WILLING**

Re: The Coalition of the Willing and the Security of Ukraine and Europe

To: President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, President of Ukraine

And To: The Rt Hon **Andy Burnham MP**, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic

Friedrich Merz, Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

Giorgia Meloni, President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye

The Right Honourable **Mark Carney**, Prime Minister of Canada

Alexander Stubb, President of the Republic of Finland

Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of Norway

Ulf Kristersson, Prime Minister of Sweden

Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark

Rob Jetten, Prime Minister of the Netherlands

Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lithuania

Kristen Michal, Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia

Andris Kulbergs, Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia

Sanae Takaichi, Prime Minister of Japan

Nicușor Dan, President of Romania

The Hon **Anthony Albanese MP**, Prime Minister of Australia

Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

Bart De Wever, Prime Minister of Belgium

Pedro Sánchez, President of the Government of Spain

Luís Montenegro, Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic

Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia

Christian Stocker, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria

Micheál Martin, Taoiseach of Ireland

Kristrún Frostadóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland

The Rt Hon **Christopher Luxon**, Prime Minister of New Zealand

Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania

Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova

Hristijan Mickoski, President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia

Milojko Spajić, Prime Minister of Montenegro

Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus

Luc Frieden, Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Janez Janša, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia
Robert Fico, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic

Additional recipients:

António Costa, President of the European Council
Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
Mark Rutte, Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Excellencies,

Ukraine, and by extension Europe, faces an existential threat. Russian war crimes and destruction must stop now, before they spread further into Europe. Russian ballistic missiles are destroying civilian targets without restraint. Ukraine is not asking others to fight its war for it, but it is calling on you for help.

Russia Is the Cause of This War

Russia is the problem. It is an authoritarian, increasingly fascist, and openly imperialist state seeking to restore the defunct Soviet empire at the expense of Ukraine, Western democracy, and the rule of law.

This is not a conflict between two equally responsible countries. It is a deliberate war of conquest. Russia invaded Ukraine, occupies Ukrainian territory, bombs Ukrainian cities, attacks civilian infrastructure, abducts children, and denies Ukraine's right to exist as a sovereign nation.

The war continues because Russia continues to wage it.

If Russia stops fighting and withdraws from Ukraine, the war ends. If Ukraine stops defending itself, it will cease to exist. But if Ukraine falls, Europe will face an emboldened Russia, openly committed to restoring its lost imperial power. Diplomacy has a role, but negotiations with Russia cannot produce lasting peace if they reward aggression. A ceasefire that leaves Russia in possession of conquered Ukrainian territory, free to rearm and attack again, would not end the danger. It would merely postpone it. Meanwhile, under such a ceasefire, millions of Ukrainians will continue to be persecuted, tormented, and held hostage by Russia on those seized Ukrainian lands.

SEVEN IMMEDIATE ACTIONS REQUIRED

In summary, the Coalition of the Willing should:

- 1. Resist Russian nuclear blackmail and restore Western deterrence.**
- 2. Establish a European-led air shield over agreed areas of Ukraine.**
- 3. Transfer all available air-defence systems, interceptors, radars, and counter-drone capabilities to Ukraine.**
- 4. Deploy non-front-line personnel for logistics, medicine, engineering, training, maintenance, and infrastructure protection to Ukraine.**
- 5. Accelerate joint Ukrainian-European production of weapons, ammunition, drones, and air-defence systems.**
- 6. Reject any settlement that rewards aggression or surrenders Ukrainian territory and its people to Russian rule.**
- 7. Defend the International Order, support legal accountability for the crime of aggression, and establish an effective international tribunal to prosecute Putin and his followers, as was done at Nuremberg at the end of World War II.**

Now we will provide more detail on each point.

1. Reject Nuclear Blackmail

Russia has used nuclear threats to discourage democratic countries from helping Ukraine. Giving in to such intimidation would set a disastrous precedent. It would teach every authoritarian state that nuclear weapons provide protection from accountability and a licence to invade weaker neighbours. It would also encourage nuclear proliferation by showing that non-nuclear states cannot rely on international assurances.

Ukraine's case is especially serious because it surrendered the nuclear arsenal it inherited from the Soviet Union to Russia in exchange for assurances that its sovereignty and territorial integrity would be respected. If those assurances are abandoned, the damage to global trust will extend well beyond Ukraine.

2. Establish an Air Shield

Ukraine's most urgent need is currently protection from the air. Russia is attacking Ukrainian cities with ballistic and cruise missiles, along with large numbers of drones. These weapons strike apartment buildings, hospitals, schools, power systems, transportation networks, ports, and industrial facilities.

Ukraine cannot, on its own, provide the layered air defence needed to protect itself from attacks on this scale. Patriot systems are essential, particularly for countering ballistic missiles. However, Ukraine does not have enough Patriot batteries or interceptor missiles.

The Coalition should establish a European-led air shield over agreed areas of western and central Ukraine, at Ukraine's invitation and under clearly defined defensive rules. Coalition aircraft could intercept cruise missiles and attack drones over Ukrainian territory without entering Russian or Belarusian airspace or attacking targets inside Russia. This would protect cities, people and essential infrastructure. The purpose would not be to wage war against Russia. It would be to defend civilians from weapons already being launched against them.

3. Transfer Assets To Ukraine Now To Provide Air-Defence Systems

Coalition members should immediately identify and transfer every reasonably available:

- Patriot interceptor and battery;
- SAMP/T and other air-defence systems;
- radar and electronic-warfare capability;
- counter-drone system;
- spare parts and maintenance package; and
- accompanying supply of ammunition.

Countries unable to transfer complete systems can still provide financing, replacement guarantees, technical personnel, training, radar coverage, and joint procurement.

Europe must also expand direct production agreements with Ukraine. Interceptors, drones, sensors, ammunition, and other essential systems must be manufactured jointly and at wartime pace.

Cooperation with the United States remains important. But Europe cannot base its security on the assumption that Washington can be relied on to come to the aid of every ally in its hour of greatest need.

Europe must be able to defend Europe.

4. Deploy Non-Front Personnel To Provide Support Behind the Front

Ukraine also urgently needs personnel support behind the front lines. At Ukraine's request, Coalition countries should deploy non-combat and rear-area units to assist with:

- logistics and supply;
- equipment repair;
- medical care;
- engineering and demining;
- training and communications;
- cyber defence;
- infrastructure protection; and
- the security of transportation hubs.

These personnel would not be required to participate in front-line combat. Their role would be to relieve Ukrainian soldiers and specialists currently performing rear-area duties, allowing those Ukrainians to reinforce their country's defence.

North Korea has sent personnel and weapons to support Russia's invasion. Not only that, but North Korea has also provided launchers that are now operating from Russia and are within range of Ukrainian cities. Somehow, it is avoiding Western sanctions and is still able to obtain components to build these weapons. If an authoritarian state can do that to help the aggressor, democratic states should also be able to provide defensive support to the victim.

Restraint is prudent. Paralysis is not.

5. Accelerate joint Ukrainian-European production of weapons, ammunition, drones, and air-defence systems.

Assist Ukraine in entering into defence agreements with partners abroad to help produce the weapons and ammunition needed. While Ukraine and its allies are developing new weapons, this will take time. Coalition stockpiles are needed now.

6. Reject any settlement that rewards aggression or surrenders Ukrainian territory and its people to Russian rule.

The Coalition has far greater economic, industrial, technological, and military resources than Russia. Yet Russia repeatedly sets the pace because it acts while democratic governments deliberate. For years, Western governments warned, condemned, expressed concern, delayed weapons shipments, restricted their use, and withheld assistance out of fear of escalation. That

caution did not prevent escalation. It convinced the Kremlin that aggression would be met with words and limited measures, not decisive resistance.

The West holds strong cards but has too often played them poorly. That must change.

7. Defend Europe and the International Order

Ukraine is a founding member of the United Nations, and its sovereignty and internationally recognized borders are protected by the United Nations Charter. If Russia is allowed to alter those borders by force, every powerful state will understand that treaties and security assurances apply only until they become inconvenient. Russia's attacks on Ukrainian ports, interference with Black Sea shipping, and weaponization of food and energy also threaten freedom of navigation, cause massive food shortages, disrupt global commerce, and undermine international stability.

Supporting Ukraine not merely to end the war but to prevail is not an act of charity. It is a solemn responsibility for European nations, acting in accordance with international law and in defence of their own security. It is also an investment in the strength and credibility of democratic alliances. If Ukraine is defeated, Russia will gain additional territory, resources, industrial capacity, military experience, and strategic depth, leaving Europe to confront a stronger, more aggressive, and battle-hardened adversary increasingly able to impose its will on the rest of Europe.

China and other authoritarian governments are watching. They will judge Western resolve by what happens next in Ukraine. Russia must be held accountable for all its actions.

The Time to Act Is Now

History will not judge the Coalition by the number of meetings it held or by the strength of its declarations. It will judge whether democratic governments used their powers when action could still change the outcome.

Ukrainians have already shouldered the overwhelming burden. However, they are asking their partners to:

- protect civilians from missile terror;
- strengthen Ukraine's ability to defend itself;
- prevent Russia from rebuilding an empire;
- defend Europe before the war moves farther west; and
- prevent nuclear intimidation from becoming the governing principle of international affairs.

The Coalition has the aircraft, technology, personnel, industry, and wealth, and, under Article 51 of the UN Charter, the legal authority to act at Ukraine's request. What is missing is not capacity but the resolve to use it.

The question is no longer whether Europe *can act*. The question is whether Europe *will act* before it's too late. Europe must act now!

Respectfully,

Ann Semotiuk

**Ann Semotiuk
President**



Suite 150, 1-165 North Queen Street,
Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada M9C0C5
Email: 01Ceed@gmail.com Website: www.CEEDWeb.ca

