



To:
Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Margaritis Schinas
Commission Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life

Ylva Johansson
Commissioner for Home Affairs

Brussels, 28 September 2022

We need a coordinated EU mechanism for Russian dissidents and defectors

Dear Commission President von der Leyen,
Dear Vice-President Schinas,
Dear Commissioner Johansson,

Following the recent announcement to start a partial military mobilisation in Russia, as Members of the European Parliament, we turn to the European Commission to request prompt action for coordinated EU-level solutions proposed to the Member States to ensure effective access to asylum for dissidents and persons fleeing compulsory drafting into the Russian military.

As customary, fleeing from obligatory conscription into the military is a widely accepted cause for asylum all around the world, including in Member States of the European Union. Keeping this practice is pertinent, especially in a situation of such geographical proximity to the parties at war.

Since the beginning of the war of aggression of Putin, numerous atrocities and war crimes committed by the Russian army have been reported, while news of misinformed and disenchanted Russian soldiers have also been widely reported.

The European Union was founded on the values of democracy and fundamental rights and the aim to ensure peace in Europe. It must therefore be in the interest of all Member States to uphold the human rights of Russian defectors to seek asylum in the EU instead of being forced to fight and kill our Ukrainian allies.

As such, we turn to the European Commission to urgently propose a mechanism to allow deserters to flee to the EU. Only good coordination and quick action at EU level can bring to safety many people who refuse to participate in Russia's murderous war in Ukraine, knowing the complicated security situation and geopolitical sensitivity of this issue.

The quick activation of the Temporary Protection Directive showed that unity and coordination leads to results and following that great example, we hope for proposals in the same spirit and pledge the active cooperation of the European Parliament.

With this letter, we also want to echo the calls made by Council President Charles Michel and Czech Prime Minister Fiala at the beginning of March to grant asylum to Russian soldiers unwilling to continue fighting in this war.

With kind regards,

MEP Erik Marquardt (Greens/EFA)
MEP Rasmus Andresen (Greens/EFA)
MEP Malin Björk (GUE/NGL)
MEP Micha Bloss (Greens/EFA)
MEP Saskia Bricmont (Greens/EFA)
MEP Delara Burkhardt (S&D)
MEP Anna Cavazzini (Greens/EFA)
MEP Clare Daly (GUE/NGL)
MEP Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield (Greens/EFA)
MEP Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg (Greens/EFA)
MEP Cornelia Ernst (GUE/NGL)
MEP Daniel Freund (Greens/EFA)
MEP Malte Gallée (Greens/EFA)
MEP Alexandra Geese (Greens/EFA)
MEP Claude Gruffat (Greens/EFA)
MEP Bernard Guetta (Renew)
MEP Henrike Hahn (Greens/EFA)
MEP Morten Helveg Petersen (Renew)

MEP Dietmar Köster (S&D)
MEP Philippe Lamberts (Greens/EFA)
MEP Pierre Larrousurou (S&D)
MEP Karen Melchior (Renew)
MEP Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA)
MEP Hannah Neumann (Greens/EFA)
MEP Niklas Nienäß (Greens/EFA)
MEP Jan-Christoph Oetjen (Renew)
MEP Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)
MEP Jutta Paulus (Greens/EFA)
MEP Terry Reintke (Greens/EFA)
MEP Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL)
MEP Jordi Solé (Greens/EFA)
MEP Tineke Strik (Greens/EFA)
MEP Yana Toom (Renew)
MEP Miguel Urbán Crespo (GUE/NGL)
MEP Nils Ušakovs (S&D)
MEP Viola von Cramon-Taubadel (Greens/EFA)