

H. E. Mr António Costa
President of the European Council

H. E. Mrs Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

9 October 2026

Dear António, Ursula,

Russia has intensified its attacks on Ukraine's civilian population and is systematically targeting Ukraine's critical economic infrastructure. These are not isolated strikes. They are part of a broader and increasingly brutal campaign to weaken Ukraine's economy, disrupt its trade and sever its links with international markets.

Russia is deliberately attacking Ukrainian ports, civilian vessels, railways, trains and key trade routes. By targeting the infrastructure that allows Ukraine to export and sustain its economy, Russia is making Ukrainian trade significantly more difficult, more expensive and less secure. At the same time, Russia continues to seek access to international markets and increase its revenues.

The situation in the Black Sea is particularly concerning. Russia's attacks have severely disrupted the movement of grain to global markets. While undermining Ukraine's ability to export grain, Russia is actively seeking alternative routes for its own grain exports through the EU, including via the Baltic Sea.

This cannot be accepted as business as usual. The EU must not become a channel through which Russia compensates for the economic consequences of its own aggression. Deliberately attacking Ukraine's ability to trade while simultaneously redirecting its exports through the EU for profit is intolerable. We must not allow Russia to exploit our infrastructure and internal market to facilitate that strategy. We also need to prevent grain stolen by Russia from temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories from being exported via the EU.

As an urgent measure, the EU must ban the transit of Russian grain through the territory of the EU and strengthen economic measures that impose meaningful costs on Russia's ability to sustain its war effort. Furthermore, measures that support Ukraine, in particular reinforce the EU-Ukraine Solidarity Lanes, are crucial.

Ukraine is fighting for its survival. Europe must ensure that our policies do not make that fight harder.

Yours sincerely,

Kristen Michal,
Prime Minister of Estonia

Andris Kulbergs,
Prime Minister of Latvia

Gitanas Nausėda,
President of Lithuania