

European Humanitarian Forum

Forum humanitaire européen



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European Humanitarian forum Strengthening the coordination of the European response to the Ukrainian crisis 22 March 2022

Moderator: *Stephane Romatet*, Director of the Crisis Center of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs;

Panelists: *Hans Das*, Director for Emergency Management and rescEU; *Kevin Goldberg*, CEO Solidarités International; *Amin Awad*, UN Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine; *Karolina Krupa*, Deputy-Director of the Development Cooperation Department Polish MFA; *Stephen Cahill*, WFP Deputy Senior Emergency Coordinator for the Ukraine Emergency Response; *Dorin Frasineanu*, Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova; *Maksym Dotsenko*, Ukrainian Red Cross Society Director General, *Mahir Safarli* UNHCR; *Patrick Vial*, Member of the Crisis Team in charge of ICRC's operational response in UA and neighbouring

Executive Summary:

The session focused on concrete issues of humanitarian access to the Ukrainian territory and existing bottlenecks in the delivery of the assistance. It highlighted concrete approaches and listed pragmatic options to respond to the fast changing and highly volatile situation on the ground. The panel addressed financial, technical and practical issues such as hubs and the different ways of channeling private and public solidarity's manifestations.

Panelists noted the dramatic situation in Ukraine, where millions of people are on the move (8 million internal displaced people and over 4 million people who fled to neighboring countries). They stated how the conflict endangered the lives of civilians and caused severe damages to housing, water and electricity supply, heating, but also public infrastructure such as schools, and health facilities. According to them, humanitarian needs in Ukraine are immense. Challenges of respect of International Humanitarian Law, access, logistics, delivery and coordination of aid and transfer of funds must be overcome in order for the European solidarity to effectively reach the populations in urgent needs.

The session highlighted the importance to enhance a "Team Europe approach" able to address all these challenges and to provide the humanitarian support needed (UCPM and Humanitarian funding). Panelists stressed the need to encourage both sides and parties to fulfil IHL obligations. They added that it was necessary to provide support local NGOs, which were well located and connected to the territory, with funding and expertise. Moreover, the workshop underlined the importance to develop and deploy multi-purpose cash assistance and stated the EU key role as humanitarian coordinator. In addition, speakers emphasized the urgent need to provide safe humanitarian access and passages for civilians affected by the conflict

Finally, the speakers suggested cooperating closely with Ukrainian authorities in order to respond to the effective Ukrainian needs. They asked not to forget the neighboring countries (Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, and Czech Republic), which are providing humanitarian support to Ukraine by welcoming thousands of refugees every day. The consequences faced by Moldova were a major concern. In conclusion, panelists stressed the fundamental importance for Member States and humanitarian actors to scale up their presence on the ground and claimed for additional funding in order to address the enormous humanitarian challenges.