



The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
United States

15 March 2022

Dear Mr President,  
Dear Secretary of State Blinken,  
Dear Secretary of Defence Austin,

As Members of the European Parliament, we are writing to express our concern regarding the rapidly deteriorating situation in Ukraine. Recent satellite images indicate that the 40-mile Russian convoy with vehicles, tanks and artillery outside Kyiv have been redeployed, raising fears of Russian troops surrounding the city in preparation of a possible ground assault. At the same time, the situation in Mariupol is worsening as a result of persistent Russian attacks and a looming food crisis.

On March 8th, Poland offered to deploy all their MiG-29 fighter jets to the US Ramstein Air Base in Germany and place them at the disposal of the US to, in turn, provide them to Ukraine. In return, Poland requested the US to provide them with used aircraft with corresponding operational capabilities. Poland indicated its readiness to immediately establish the conditions of purchase of the planes, and urged other NATO allies that owned MiG-29 jets to do the same.

The right to self-defence is a fundamental principle of international law. Article 51 of the UN Charter, as well as customary international law, provides for the possibility of collective self-defence. Therefore, Ukrainians have a right to self-defence and European nations, as well as the United States, which is by far the military leader of the western world, have a responsibility to assist Ukrainians in exercising their right to self-defence against the Russian aggression.

The US and the EU have involved themselves in conflicts in the past where much less was at stake. Air-defence capabilities are crucial for Ukrainians to effectively defend themselves in the next stage of the conflict. The Ukrainian Air Force has no time to familiarise itself with unfamiliar aircraft. Going from a Ukrainian MiG-29 to a Polish MiG-29 does not demand any major training and would therefore be the most effective support we could provide.

On behalf of the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, we urge the United States to reconsider the Polish proposal on the deployment of MiG-29 fighter jets as a matter of urgency.

To echo the sentiments expressed by President Zelenskyy, Ukrainians do not need an evacuation opportunity, they need air support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jaak', written in a cursive style.

Jaak MADISON  
Charlie WEIMERS  
Riho TERRAS