



Protocol number: 1965

Athens, March 8, 2022

Honorable Minister Blanquer,
Dear Jean-Michel,

As the EU stands united in reacting swiftly and decisively to Russia's aggression against Ukraine and in showing its full solidarity to the Ukrainian people on multiple fronts, access of Ukrainian students to education remains severely undermined.

According to UNICEF, the Russian invasion has already left more than 350,000 Ukrainian school children with no access to the fundamental right of education, while several million children are expected to be impacted by the conflict and deprived of educational services.

We are hereby submitting a proposal to the French Presidency to consider consulting with all EU Education Ministers regarding the creation of an EU Special Task Force for the continuation of education of Ukrainian students. The Task Force's activities would obviously be over and above individual efforts and actions of Member States to integrate Ukrainian refugee students in their respective educational systems.

I have already communicated with the Ukrainian Minister of Education and Science, Mr. Serhiy Shkarlet, who appears to believe that the Task Force could provide valuable support to Ukraine's educational community.

We believe it is our duty to leverage all available tools and knowledge acquired during the Covid-19 pandemic emergency in order to support the Ukrainian educational community, within and beyond the borders of Ukraine. In particular, we envision the development of a digital platform, which will match demand and supply vis-à-vis educational resources. On the one hand, the needs of the Ukrainian educational community e.g. in terms of equipment, educational material and technical support will be recorded. On the other hand, the Task Force will coordinate a supply mechanism for those needs, with the contribution of Member States, the business sector, civil society actors and other stakeholders in an effective, fair and transparent way. International organisations could also be called upon to assist the Task Force. It is hereby noted that the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science has already compiled a first list of needs of its educational community.

With my heartfelt wish for a prompt restoration of peace, I sincerely hope that we all together take concrete action to support the educational community of Ukraine.

Please allow me to express my appreciation and offer you the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours sincerely,

Niki Kerameus