

The President

Mr Andriy Klochko

Chairman of the
Parliamentary Committee on State
Building, Local Governance,
Regional & Urban Development
Verkhovna Rada
Kyiv - Ukraine

Ref. ► 2022-256

Strasbourg, 4 April 2022

Dear Chairman,

Thank you for your letter of 11 March and for the information it contains, which sadly adds to our knowledge of the growing list of atrocities perpetrated by the Russian Federation upon Ukraine.

In your letter you refer to the Declaration adopted by the Congress Bureau adopted on 28 February 2022. I enclose for your information the Declaration adopted by the Congress on 25 March 2022. This declaration was adopted unanimously following a debate with the participation of Minister Chernyshov, Mayor Klitschko, Mayor Senkevych and many Congress members including the Ukrainian delegation.

In addition, at its session the Congress announced a new online platform, developed by the city of Sindelfingen, Germany with the support of the Congress. This platform called "Cities4Cities" (cities4cities.eu) matches the demands and needs of Ukrainian cities with the capacity, know-how and supply of other European cities, enabling faster and more efficient support to reach those who need it.

As you know, the Council of Europe as a whole was swift to condemn and to react to the military aggression against Ukraine and as a result the Russian Federation has been excluded from the Organisation. The political instances including the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress will continue to consider the situation.

I take fully on board your concerns and will bring your letter to the attention of my fellow Bureau members at our next meeting.

Dear Mr Klochko, let me express, on behalf of the Congress, our solidarity with the Ukrainian people and our deep respect for them and, for their government and parliament and, in particular, for the leaders on the ground, the mayors, councillors, heads of councils and governors, who are fulfilling with courage and determination their dual roles as lynchpin for the co-ordination of services to their citizens and as rallying point for the fight against the invading forces.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Leendert Verbeek