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JOBS AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

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Dear Anu Viks,

On behalf of President Ursula von der Leyen I would like to thank you for your letter asking to support women and children fleeing the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

I very much welcome Business and Professional Women's (BPW) efforts to help women fleeing the war in Ukraine and their families. You have highlighted very important areas to be addressed such as training, integration and language courses, psychological support, reskilling, job-search support, interpretation, integration of Ukrainian teachers, recognition of diplomas and support to women entrepreneurship.

The European Union stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine fleeing Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression, providing them food, shelter, school, and employment opportunities, paying particular attention to the rights of children and their protection.

The areas mentioned in your letter are very important to help displaced women and their families settle in safely and integrate quickly into local communities, and I am pleased to inform you that our services are currently stepping up our efforts to address remaining challenges.

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Ms Anu Viks
Executive Member of BPW International
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Firstly, the European Union has activated the Temporary Protection Directive¹ which provides immediate residency rights in the Member States. Displaced women and men who are beneficiaries of the temporary protection have direct access not only to employed and self-employed activities but also to vocational training, social protection support, housing, medical care and education for children.

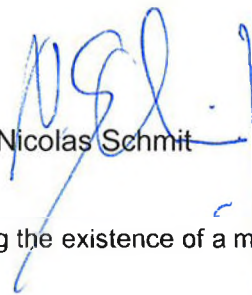
Secondly, I agree with you that there is a need to make it easier for women and men from Ukraine to present their skills and find jobs and other opportunities that match those skills. To this end, the Commission has launched a Ukrainian version of the EU Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals² and adopted guidelines on facilitating the recognition of professional and academic qualifications. Together with the European Training Foundation, Ukrainian authorities and EU Member States we are currently comparing the European Qualifications Framework and the Ukrainian national qualifications framework from primary to post-doctoral. Europass³ will be also soon available in Ukrainian, and the Commission is exploring the potential of European Digital Credentials for learning to reissue diplomas in digital format for those who do not have the necessary documents. Additionally, the Commission will launch an EU Talent Pool for people fleeing the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine by summer 2022. This web-based pilot initiative will make it possible to identify and map the skills of people that have fled Ukraine and who are present in the Member States, to facilitate their matching with EU employers.

Thirdly, EU funding is available to help Member States in their efforts to help displaced Ukrainian women to settle in, integrate into labour market and acquire the necessary skills. The *Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE)*⁴ initiative in force since April facilitates the flexible use of funding still available from the 2014-20 programmes.

Finally, the Commission is mobilising existing networks, instruments and agencies, including the European Network of Public Employment Services and the European Labour Authority, to ensure effective support to those on the ground, and to share information and good practices, including through the European Website on Integration.⁵ We are in constant contact with our partners to ensure that women and children displaced from Ukraine, in particularly those most vulnerable, have access to the help they need without delay.

I would like to encourage you to continue your further efforts to help the women and children fleeing the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,



Nicolas Schmit

¹ Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/migrantskills/#/>

³ Europass is a tool that allows users to create and update their CVs and cover letters.

⁴ CARE <https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en/news/ukraine-new-cohesion-support>

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/page/early-integration-those-fleeing-war-ukraine-overview-across-eu_en