

My dear friends!

Dear teachers, students, and employees of the University!

**Dear Colleagues of Association of Rectors of Pedagogical Universities
in Europe!**

Ukraine today is going through difficult times. The new Ukrainian government's efforts to stabilize the situation in the community were blocked by the aggressive actions of the Russian authorities who sent troops into the territory of Ukraine without any reason. "Protection of the Russian-speaking population of Crimea" is a far-fetched and illusional reason. All citizens of Ukraine have a guaranteed security by the Ukrainian State and the Ukrainian society. And none of us needs protection provided by an aggressive "northern neighbor".

Ukrainians want to live in peace and cooperation with all the peoples of Europe and world, including Russians. We respect Russians, we love Russian culture and we understand that military aggression is an unfortunate mistake. It may be a crime made by Russian politicians, but not Russian people. Its consequences can be tragic for our nations and the entire European space.

Dear friends! I ask you to refrain from hasty words, assessments and actions. I urge you to strengthen the unity of our team, labor discipline and civic responsibility, our consolidation around Ukrainian authorities, they are doing everything to stabilize the situation, to return it to the peaceful direction. Our country has all the necessary means to protect national interests, including military. We must also be prepared to defend our Homeland. But I hope you all agree, my dear friends that the best way to resolve any international controversy is through peace talks, political discourse of the parties, politicians and civil society. I urge everybody to be reasonable, considerate and decent.

At the same time I appeal to the world community asking to support Ukrainians in our struggle for independence, renewal of the country and society, entry into the family of European nations. I am convinced that countries that guaranteed our security will fulfill their international obligations. Europe should be peaceful and tranquil, with trust and cooperation between peoples who live in it.

As a president of the Association of Rectors of Pedagogical Universities in Ukraine and Europe I appeal to all members of the Association, especially the honorable and respected by me, rectors of Russian pedagogical universities. I urge you to explain to your authorities that Ukraine seeks for peace and tranquility, decent life together with our close and distant neighbors. Recently adopted by us "Pedagogical Constitution of Europe" obliges us to defend its principles in any

situation and with respect to any people. After all, democracy and peacefulness, human rights and environmental safety, tolerance and solidarity, and other human values are not just words declared by the "Pedagogical Constitution". This is the foundation of a new European worldview, a new philosophy of communication of the peoples and cultures based on deep mutual understanding, respect and cooperation.

Everyone can make mistakes, even the greatest politicians. We – the teachers, people who are called to sow eternal, good, fair – have to be the first ones to show them the way to the Temple. For it is the only one for those who has a heart and conscience, a sense of love and brotherhood to all human beings, as the highest creations of God. I am sure your voice will be heard and taken into account.

Having gathered with a noble intention to prepare a New teacher for a united Europe of the XXI century on the basis of national and universal values, we must be faithful to our calling. We all have enough reason and patience, restraint from any hasty action. Responsibility to solve the situation was put on politicians whom we trust. European future must be peaceful, secure, growing and flourishing. On the horizon of the future I see the inevitable "Rise of Europe". So let God accelerate it!

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