

EUROPEAN GROUP ON ETHICS IN SCIENCE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Statement in support of Ukraine and the people of Ukraine and in support of peace, solidarity, and fundamental rights.

We stand with Ukraine in the face of Russia's appalling and unacceptable military aggression. These testing times call upon us all to give meaning to the values we hold dear. We stand with the refugees and with all those who extend a helping hand to others in times of need. We stand with the people of Ukraine. May their courage inspire courage in others.

The European Union is a union of values. The European project is a project of peace. This is our strength. Now it is not only Ukraine that is under attack, but also these values and this project: democracy and the rule of law, human dignity and human rights, the very notion of a rules-based international order.¹ The current moment is a reminder of the fragility of these values and this project – and of the need to protect them and to stand alongside all those who uphold them. We stand with the people of Ukraine. We stand with the refugees – of this and all other conflicts – and with those who offer them support and warmth and welcome. We stand with all those who suffer the consequences of autocratic regimes.

Democracy is intimately linked to freedom of expression, and to matters of information and disinformation. A wider reckoning is in order in that regard and this war is an additional wakeup call. As to the evolving hybrid nature of warfare today and the importance of digital technologies therein. As to the need to continue to develop a coherent policy framework concerning the responsibility of platforms and also concerning the regulation of technological sanctions.² Democracy is also linked to academic freedom, the autonomy of science and research, and the possibilities of research cooperation. Science and ethics are a cooperative endeavour. Such is the task ahead and the history of the EGE and its sister organisations at international and national levels: advancing together the ethics and governance of science and technologies, across borders, under the headings of ethics diplomacy and science diplomacy. This war reminds us that we should seek to actively shape our future on the foundation of the values we hold dear. We need to work together, now more than ever, to address pressing global challenges, from pandemics to climate change.

This tragedy has thrown into sharp relief Europe's fraught reliance on Russian fossil fuels exports – and, more fundamentally, Europe's dangerous dependence on fossil fuels. This conflict has made the need to proceed to a wise energy transition even clearer. A sustainable approach considering all ins and outs and focusing on environmentally-friendly alternatives, on renewable energy sources.³ Nuclear disarmament is also starkly at stake here. The tragedy unveiled on 24 February 2022 is a crucial reminder of the need to move resolutely beyond the remnants of the Cold-War era's "mutually assured destruction" deterrence regime. Ours is a substantive call for peace, peace building, diplomacy and engagement, not just in times of war but as an ongoing duty of care.

¹ See EGE Statement [Values for the future: The role of ethics in European and global governance](#).

² See EGE Statement [The ethics of artificial intelligence, robotics and 'autonomous' systems](#).

³ See EGE Opinion [An ethical framework for assessing research, production and use of energy](#).