



Solidarity

Dear reader,

We are living in precarious times. COVID-19, which has held the world in thrall since February 2020, is caused by a non-sentient virus. But the current war in Ukraine is human-induced, and it is close to laying waste to an entire country, just a few hours away from us by air.

Unabated and undeterred, Vladimir Putin and his war machine are pressing ahead to subjugate Ukraine—mercilessly and seemingly unimpressed by the horror with which he is perceived outside Russia.

“Day after day, the suffering inflicted by the invading Russian army on its cousins in Ukraine is growing”, as the German broadsheet *Frankfurter Allgemeine* put it. The more people are killed, lose their beloved ones, lose their homes, lose their livelihoods, have to flee, the further Russia is departing from this historically and ethnically close relationship, from the perceived commonality of the Soviet era. And Russia is increasingly isolating itself from the rest of the world.

There are no winners in war, only losers.

What can Putin gain by invading and subjugating Ukraine? Even his own people are paying a high price in blood. And Russia will be isolated—politically, economically, socially and culturally.

We, the rest of Europe, will also be among the losers. The Russian artillery’s shelling of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant has spread fear and terror within and beyond the borders

of Ukraine. The fallout of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster has not been forgotten. How far will this egomaniacal president go to assert his power? Russia itself will also be affected by the consequences of a nuclear attack—as will the entire continent.

A prolonged period of peace in Europe is now over. Our continent is trembling with the repercussions of belligerence. We at BDIZ EDI and our partner associations declare our solidarity with the people in Ukraine—just like many other European organizations do. You will find our official statement in this issue.

There are several ways you can help: You can donate money directly. Or you can have urgently needed supplies—especially medical supplies—delivered via aid transports. We at BDIZ EDI are also active. Dr Markus Tröltzsch, Member of BDIZ EDI Board, organizes humanitarian transports to Ukraine.

BDIZ EDI also, and specifically, supports the Relief Organization of German Dentists (*Hilfswerk Deutscher Zahnärzte, HDZ*). You can find out more at www.stiftung-hdz.de.

Thank you very much for your attention and for any assistance you can provide.

Anita Wuttke
Editor-in-chief