



Mr Benoît Biteau  
Member of the European Parliament  
European Parliament  
Altiero Spinelli 08G201  
60 rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussel

Mr Karim A. A. Khan QC  
International Criminal Court Prosecutor  
Office of the Prosecutor  
Post Office Box 19519  
2500 CM The Hague  
The Netherlands

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**Subject : Alleged food pillage in Ukraine by Russian army forces**

On the 30th of April, Ukraine's deputy minister of Agriculture, Mr Taras Vysotskiy, accused Russia of stealing "several hundred thousand tonnes" of grain in the area they occupy. According to him, 1.5 million tonnes of grain are currently stored in the territory under Russian control. This new information, if confirmed, would add up to the list of exactions perpetrated by the Russian army forces, for which evidence needs to be gathered in the framework of future prosecution. This would substantiate further the statements made by Commissioner Wojciechowski and Commissioner Dombrovskis, according to which Russia deliberately targets food stock, food storage, agricultural facilities and agricultural machinery.

The prohibition of pillage is a long-standing rule of customary international law recognised by various declarations and codes. Pillage is fully prohibited by The Hague Regulations concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, as well as by the Geneva Convention IV. Instrumentalising food supplies and harvests, and therefore hunger on Ukrainian civilians as a war weapon, reminds us of the darkest times of our continent. Furthermore, it fosters the global food crisis that could drive globally hundreds of million people in dramatic situation of food insecurity while the latest Report on Food Crisis reveals that a record 193 million people were contending with high level of acute hunger in 2021.

The current ICC investigation on the war in Ukraine should shed light on these alleged hunger war crimes. It is also crucial that specific means are put in place to investigate on these issues and provide a meaningful assessment of their global impact notably on food importing developing countries.

Sincerely yours,

Members of the European Parliament,

ALFONSI François  
ANDRIEU Eric  
AVRAM Carmen  
BITEAU Benoît  
BOGOVIC Franc  
CARÊME Damien  
CORMAND David

D'AMATO Rosa  
DELBOS-CORFIELD Gwendoline  
DELLI Karima  
DURAND Pascal  
ĎURIŠ NICHOLSONOVÁ Lucia  
EROGLU Engin  
EVI Eleonora  
GALLEE Malte  
GHEORGHE Vlad  
GLOVICKO Jan  
GLUCKSMANN Raphaël  
GRUFFAT Claude  
GUERREIRO Francisco  
HAUTALA Heidi  
HETMAN Krzysztof  
HOJSIK Martin  
JADOT Yannick  
JUKNEVICIENE Rasa  
KANEV Radan  
KOVATCHEV Andrey  
LALUCQ Aurore  
LARROUTUROU Pierre  
LEXMANN Miriam  
MELCHIOR Karen  
NOICHL Maria  
OLEKAS Juozas  
RIVASI Michèle  
ROOSE Caroline  
SATOURI Mounir  
ŠIMEČKA Michal  
TOLLERET Irene  
TOUSSAINT Marie  
VAZQUEZ LAZARA Adrian  
WIENER Sarah  
WIEZIK Michal  
YENBOU Salima