



ACI EUROPE (Airports Council International) Partners with Disaster Logistics Nonprofit Airlink to Raise Money to Help Fund Movement of Humanitarian Aid to Ukrainian Refugees

ACI EUROPE launches an appeal encompassing its members across airports, business partners, their employees and communities to help support the nonprofit Airlink, funding the delivery of aid and responders to help Ukrainian refugees displaced by the war.

Brussels and Washington DC, 16 March 2022: Airport trade association ACI EUROPE is today launching a fundraising campaign amongst its 500+ members and their business partners and staff in aid of the relief efforts triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and subsequent humanitarian crisis.

The Ukraine Crisis Airport Response is a joint initiative between ACI EUROPE and Airlink, the not-for-profit humanitarian logistics organisation and is the first time that the association has partnered with Airlink on this type of disaster response fundraising exercise. Airlink provides free and heavily subsidised airlift for a partnership of over 120 NGOs ensuring that the costs of air travel are not a bar to organisations responding to disasters. Last year, Airlink moved over 1000 responders, shipped 10 million items of PPE and delivered humanitarian aid that directly helped more than 7.8 million people – equivalent to the population of London.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI EUROPE, said: *"The scale of humanitarian need we are seeing unfolding in the region is unimaginable. We are shocked, saddened and appalled to see the distress and suffering not only in Ukraine but rippling through Europe as the diaspora of refugees seek safety, aid and shelter. We all of us want to do what we can – and our partnership with Airlink will enable airports and their wider business communities to channel transport resources and support where they are most needed. I am grateful for the amazing work Airlink is doing and for the opportunity to partner with them and engage our airport community in their actions."*

Since the start of the invasion of Ukraine by Russian armed forces almost three weeks ago, Airlink has delivered over 108,000lbs of humanitarian aid, including medical supplies, blankets, tarps and solar generators. Airlink has also delivered 87 responders all on behalf of 16 different NGOs. These early teams included medical personnel as well as assessment and scouting teams that enable NGOs to set up warehousing and distribution networks.

"We are delighted to have the support of ACI EUROPE and its membership. We are very proud to be a part of the aviation family which again has shown how willing it is to support vulnerable communities in crisis", said **Steve Smith, Airlink President and CEO.** *"The funds that ACI EUROPE and its members raise will make a material difference to the lives of thousands of Ukrainian refugees."*

Airlink anticipates that the needs of Ukrainian refugees will exist long after any hostilities abate, requiring a sustained response from NGOs for a number of years.

[Just Giving page](#)

###ENDS###

Notes for editors

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ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 500 airports in 55 countries. Our members facilitate over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe. Air transport supports 13.5 million jobs, generating €886 billion in European economic activity (4.4% of GDP). In response to the Climate Emergency, in June 2019 our members committed to achieving Net Zero carbon emissions for operations under their control by 2050, without offsetting.

Airlink is a global humanitarian organization delivering critical aid to communities in crisis by providing airlift and logistical solutions to nonprofit partners, changing the way the humanitarian community responds to disasters around the world. Its network includes more than 130 aid organizations and 50 commercial and charter airlines. Since its inception in 2010, Airlink has flown more than 8,000 relief workers and transported nearly 5,000,000 pounds of humanitarian cargo. In 2021 the humanitarian aid Airlink delivered assisted 7.8 million people. For more information, please visit www.airlinkflight.org. Follow Airlink on Facebook and Twitter.