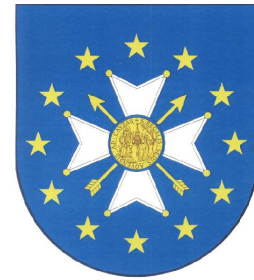




EGS



Dormagen, December 2025

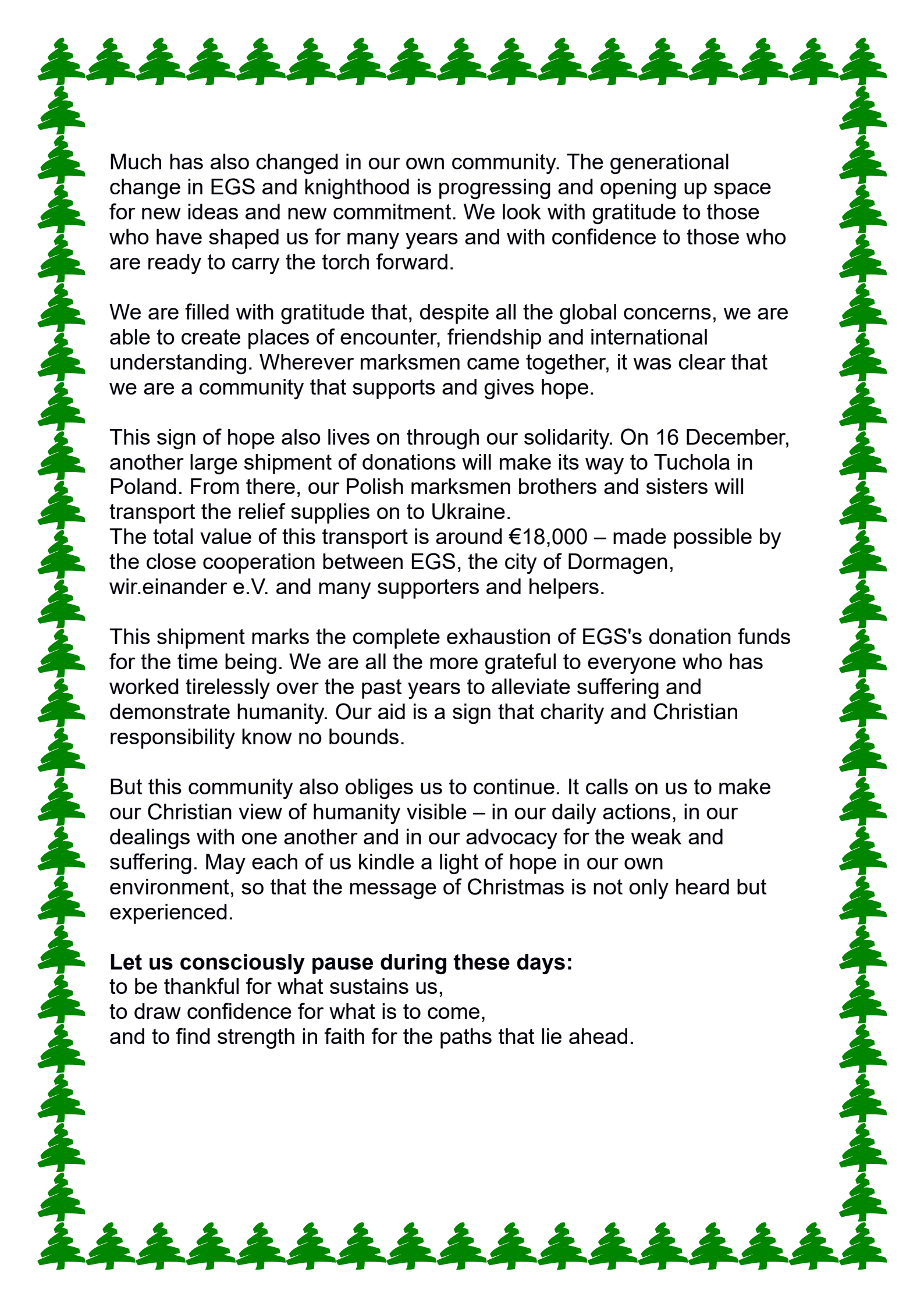
Dear fellow marksmen and markswomen,

Another year is drawing to a close – a year that has once again impressively demonstrated how precious peace, freedom and human closeness are. In many regions of the world, the situation has continued to escalate: political tensions, military conflicts, displacement, hunger and natural disasters are claiming countless victims. In some places, many people's hopes for stability and security seem further away than ever.

It is precisely in times like these that we as marksmen are called upon to live our values with determination: respect for the dignity of every human being, a willingness to serve our neighbours and the courage to stand up for peace in the spirit of faith. Christmas reminds us that God became human not in power, but in the weakness of the child in the manger – to show us how peace can grow: quietly, patiently and carried by love.

A particularly bright spot this year was our EGS pilgrimage to Rome from 27 May to 1 June. The days we spent in the Eternal City during the Holy Year touched us deeply: the joint celebration of our faith in St. Peter's Basilica, the impressive visit to the holy site of St. Sebastian, the intense encounters with one another and, last but not least, the visible unity of the European marksmen's family in the heart of the Church.

This pilgrimage reminded us how strengthening it is to walk spiritual paths together. Many of us brought home new confidence and new strength for our ministry.



Much has also changed in our own community. The generational change in EGS and knighthood is progressing and opening up space for new ideas and new commitment. We look with gratitude to those who have shaped us for many years and with confidence to those who are ready to carry the torch forward.

We are filled with gratitude that, despite all the global concerns, we are able to create places of encounter, friendship and international understanding. Wherever marksmen came together, it was clear that we are a community that supports and gives hope.

This sign of hope also lives on through our solidarity. On 16 December, another large shipment of donations will make its way to Tuchola in Poland. From there, our Polish marksmen brothers and sisters will transport the relief supplies on to Ukraine.


The total value of this transport is around €18,000 – made possible by the close cooperation between EGS, the city of Dormagen, wir.einander e.V. and many supporters and helpers.

This shipment marks the complete exhaustion of EGS's donation funds for the time being. We are all the more grateful to everyone who has worked tirelessly over the past years to alleviate suffering and demonstrate humanity. Our aid is a sign that charity and Christian responsibility know no bounds.

But this community also obliges us to continue. It calls on us to make our Christian view of humanity visible – in our daily actions, in our dealings with one another and in our advocacy for the weak and suffering. May each of us kindle a light of hope in our own environment, so that the message of Christmas is not only heard but experienced.

Let us consciously pause during these days:

to be thankful for what sustains us,
to draw confidence for what is to come,
and to find strength in faith for the paths that lie ahead.



With this in mind, we wish all marksmen, their families and friends a blessed, peaceful Christmas and health, strength and God's protection for the New Year.

We look forward to seeing you again among the European marksmen – at the plenary meeting on 10-11 April 2026 in Weißenthurm or wherever our community spirit comes to life.

To the praise of God and the delight of mankind.

Karl von Habsburg-Lothringen

Albert-Henri Prince of Merode

Peter-Olaf Hoffmann

Horst Thoren

Andrzej Wegner

Wim Sanders

Mark Pijnenburg

Wolfram Schmitz