

To
State University of Trade and Economics
Rektor Prof. Dr. Anatoliy Mazarak
Kioto 19
Kyiv, Ukraine

Düsseldorf, Oct 27 2026

Our Deepest Condolences and Solidarity with SUTE

Dear colleagues and friends at the State University of Trade and Economics,

It is with profound sadness and shock that we learned this morning of the devastating Russian missile attack on your university and the surrounding area in Kyiv. We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life and the injuries caused by this terrible attack.

On behalf of the entire IST-University of Applied Sciences, Duesseldorf/Germany, we would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have lost their lives. Our thoughts are with everyone who has been injured, with their families, and with the entire SUTE community during these incredibly difficult hours.

Our longstanding and excellent cooperation in the "International Entrepreneurship" study module, which brings together students from various faculties of SUTE, is a particularly valuable example of the close academic ties between our institutions. Only yesterday, our colleague Mr Daniel Schmidt had the honour of participating in the 5th International Scientific and Practical Conference, *Images of Modernity in the Humanities*, organised by your Faculty of Journalism and Advertising. Just last week, Professor Felix Kempf delivered a guest lecture in the field of Tourism, and Professor Gerhard Nowak is scheduled to contribute another guest lecture in the field of Sport Management in the coming weeks.

These recent academic exchanges make today's news particularly painful for us. They also remind us that our partnership is much more than an institutional agreement. It is a connection between people who share knowledge, ideas, mutual respect, and a belief in the importance of education and international cooperation.

At this moment, words seem painfully inadequate. We also recognize that, from a distance, it is difficult to know how we can best support you in such an unimaginable situation. Nevertheless, we want you to know that our solidarity goes beyond words. If there is any way in which we can provide assistance, we stand ready to help. Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do. There is, of course, no expectation of a response at this difficult time.

IST-Hochschule für Management GmbH

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Above all, we want to assure you that you are not alone. We stand firmly by your side, as colleagues, academic partners, and friends. Our commitment to our partnership remains unwavering, and we sincerely hope that our academic cooperation can continue to offer a small but meaningful contribution to mutual understanding, solidarity, and a peaceful future.

Please take care of yourselves and one another. Слава Україні!

With our deepest sympathy, heartfelt solidarity, and friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'K. Gessner-Ulrich'.

Katrin Gessner-Ulrich
President
IST-University for Applied Sciences

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Thomas Merz'.

Thomas Merz
Vice President Academic Affairs
IST-University for Applied Sciences

IST-Hochschule für Management GmbH

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