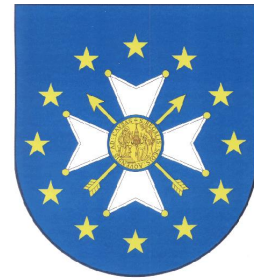




EGS



Dormagen, im Dezember 2022

Dear EGS family, dear EGS friends,

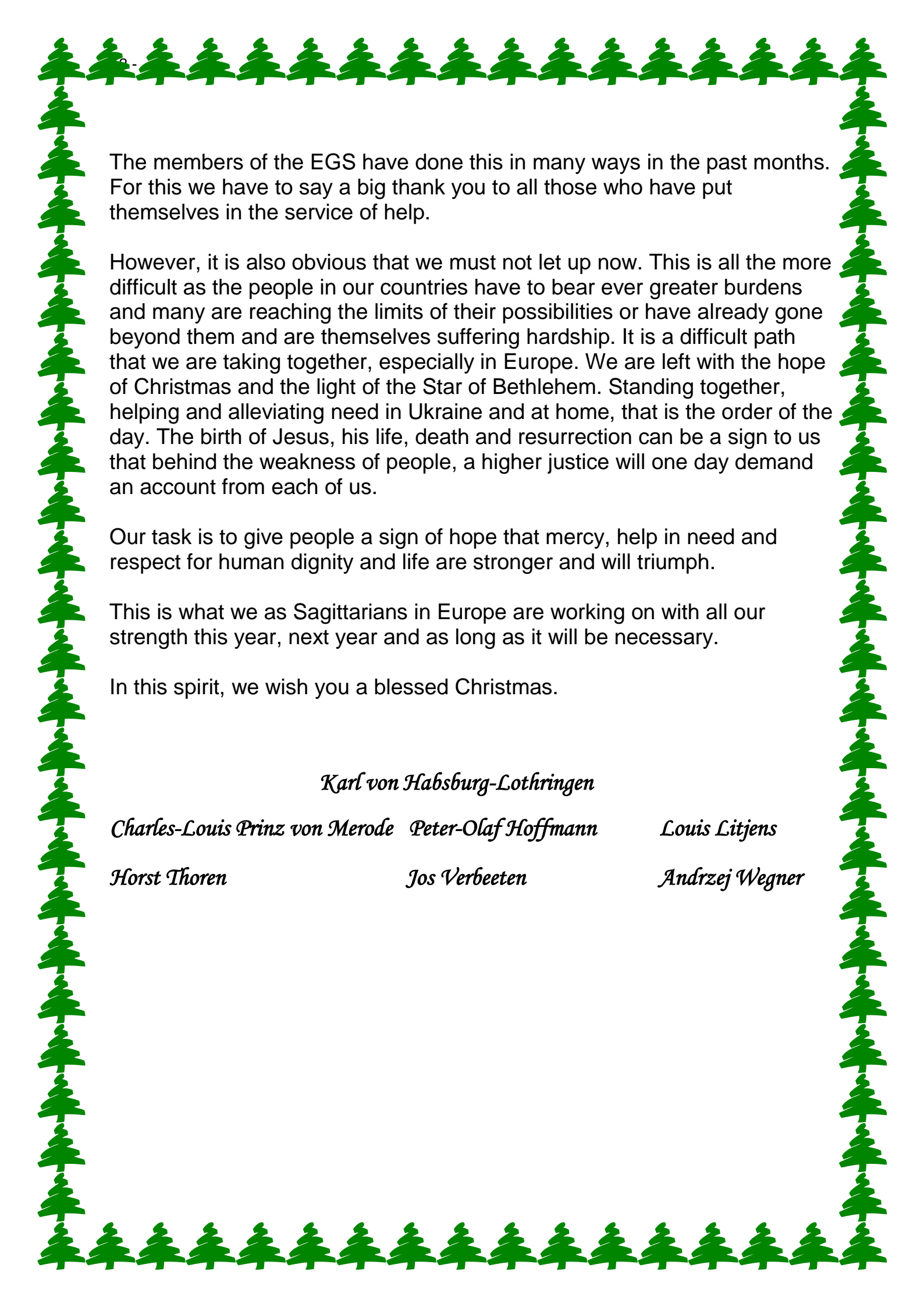
what a memorable year will soon come to an end!

Would anyone have believed at the beginning of this year that a few weeks later we would have war in Europe on our doorstep? Until then, no one could have imagined having to go through such reports, images and terrible experiences here in Europe again in their lifetime. But this shows what a fragile structure lasting peace is. No one wins in the long run through violence, war and destruction.

On the contrary, this war endangers the prosperity of millions of people in Europe and costs many millions of Ukrainians not only their prosperity, but their health or their lives. Senseless destruction, death and annihilation is the goal of some people who seem to have fallen completely out of time with their geopolitical ideas.

Should one not doubt God? How can God allow this, many will ask. This question is wrong. God is not responsible for what we do. We humans are responsible for this. We decide how we treat each other and how we treat our fellow human beings. God has given us the power and the intellect to do what is right or wrong. For this we have to answer to God and to people. Christ has shown us the way to come to God with his life and his suffering. But the decision which way we go, towards God or far from Him, that decision is up to us.

That is why we must counter the criminal path of the power addicts with the message of peace of the Christian Christmas. And because we cannot put an end to the crime against humanity by force without running the risk of setting the whole world on fire, all that remains for us to do is to give every help to the oppressed and suffering people of Ukraine, to defend their country and their lives.



The members of the EGS have done this in many ways in the past months. For this we have to say a big thank you to all those who have put themselves in the service of help.

However, it is also obvious that we must not let up now. This is all the more difficult as the people in our countries have to bear ever greater burdens and many are reaching the limits of their possibilities or have already gone beyond them and are themselves suffering hardship. It is a difficult path that we are taking together, especially in Europe. We are left with the hope of Christmas and the light of the Star of Bethlehem. Standing together, helping and alleviating need in Ukraine and at home, that is the order of the day. The birth of Jesus, his life, death and resurrection can be a sign to us that behind the weakness of people, a higher justice will one day demand an account from each of us.

Our task is to give people a sign of hope that mercy, help in need and respect for human dignity and life are stronger and will triumph.

This is what we as Sagittarians in Europe are working on with all our strength this year, next year and as long as it will be necessary.

In this spirit, we wish you a blessed Christmas.

*Karl von Habsburg-Lothringen*

*Charles-Louis Prinz von Merode Peter-Olaf Hoffmann*

*Louis Litjens*

*Horst Thoren*

*Jos Verbeeten*

*Andrzej Wegner*