

President of the International Olympic Committee

Dear Mr Bach,

We, the like-minded ministers of the Member States of the European Union responsible for the sports agenda, are concerned by the deteriorating situation in Ukraine caused by the ongoing Russian war of aggression and supported by Belarus. We are concerned that the common approach across the sports' world, i.a. recommended by the IOC, is being questioned or even broken by some entities.

The Olympic Charter mentions: "The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity." Therefore, we call upon the IOC Executive Board to reiterate its position expressed in its statement of 28th February 2022 and to invite all international sports federations to follow the principles set out in this statement. It is our human duty to protect the integrity of global sports competitions and the safety of all participants. International Sports Federations and sports event organisers were recommended not to invite nor allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials in international competitions.

As the statement further mentions, if such actions are not possible for time-related, organisational or legal reasons, it is recommended to do everything in the power of Federations or organizers to guarantee that Russian and Belarusian athletes do not compete under the name of their countries and are only accepted as neutral entities without displaying any national symbols, colours, flags or anthems.

Bearing in mind the seriousness of the situation, you have our full support in promoting such measures. We would like to reiterate the position we have already expressed by signing the two statements on 8th March 2022 and on 4th July 2022, condemning the Russian aggression against Ukraine from the position of sports policymakers.

We encourage the international sport community through IOC to continue to show its solidarity with the people of Ukraine. In this regard, we invite you to reaffirm the principles contained in the 28th February recommendation to the International Sports Federations and to use all the appropriate measures to recall, that the Olympic sport movement is strongly against Russian aggression, supported by Belarus, and will uphold these measures until this act of barbarism is over.

Signed by the following Ministers:

Austria	Werner Kogler, Vice-Chancellor, Minister of Arts and Culture, Civil Service and Sport
Belgium	Valérie Glatigny, Minister for Higher Education, Adult Education, Scientific Research, University Hospitals, Youth Welfare, Houses of Justice, Youth, Sport and the Promotion of Brussels of the

	<p>French-Speaking Community.</p> <p>This signature commits the French-speaking Community, the Flemish Community and the German-speaking Community of Belgium.</p>
Croatia	Nikolina Brnjac, Minister of Tourism and Sport
Cyprus	Prodromos Prodromou, Minister of Education, Sport and Youth
Czech Republic	Vladimír Balaš, Minister for Education, Youth and Sports
Estonia	Piret Hartman, Estonian Minister of Culture
Finland	Petri Honkonen, Minister for Science and Culture
France	Amélie Oudéa-Castéra, Minister of Sports and the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Germany	Mahmut Özdemir MP, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community
Greece	Lefteris Avgenakis, Deputy Minister for Sports
Ireland	Jack Chambers TD, Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht
Italy	Andrea Abodi, Minister for Sport and Youth
Latvia	Anita Muižniece, Minister for Education and Science
Lithuania	Jurgita Šiugždinienė, Minister of Education, Science and Sport
Luxembourg	Georges Engel, Minister of Sport
Malta	Dr Clifton Grima, Minister for Education and Sport
Netherlands	Conny Helder, Minister for Long-term Care and Sport
Poland	Kamil Bortniczuk, Minister of Sport and Tourism
Portugal	Ana Catarina Mendes, Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and for Parliamentary Affairs (in charge of Youth and Sport)

Romania	Carol-Eduard Novak, Minister of Sports
Slovakia	Ján Horecký, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
Slovenia	Dr Igor Papič, Minister of Education, Science and Sport
Spain	Miquel Octavi Iceta i Llorens, Minister of Culture and Sport
Sweden	Jakob Forssmed, Minister for Social Affairs