



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to Switzerland and to the Principality of Liechtenstein

Head of Delegation

Bern, 28 February 2022

Your Excellency President Ignazio Cassis,

As you are well aware, the European Union has reacted swiftly and in a determined manner to the Russian President Putin's unprecedented military aggression against Ukraine. We have condemned in the strongest possible terms Russia's gross violation of international law. We have demanded that Russia immediately ceases military actions, unconditionally withdraws all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, and fully respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

We cannot allow Russia to get away with invading a peaceful, friendly neighbour. It is therefore essential to convey clear, strong and united messages of rejection to the Russian government. In parallel, it is important to have public expressions of support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence of Ukraine.

The EU has been forced to reply with strongest possible restrictive measures to convince Russia to return to a path of law and negotiations and to cease in its aggression towards Ukraine. We are simultaneously calling upon all like-minded partners and allies to join our efforts to uphold democratic governance and international law, while rejecting the Kremlin's despicable actions.

In this spirit, we welcome the recent statements by Switzerland, condemning Russia's aggression in the strongest possible terms. We are like-minded in our concern about the dangers of Russia's military action on innocent civilians. However, statements are insufficient in the current context. We expect Switzerland to take a further step and fully align with the sanctions agreed upon by the EU. It is unthinkable that those sanctioned by the EU could continue to have access to their assets through Switzerland's financial institutions, or finance their destructive war by commodity trade that flows through Switzerland.

The EU underlines the need for unity and determination among European democracies. We are faced with a choice between protecting the victim or siding with the aggressor, between democracy and autocracy. This is the moment for democracies to stand up. The EU hopes that Switzerland's internal deliberations on the appropriate sanctions response will rapidly lead to a clear decision to align with the position taken by the EU.

The EU Delegation in Bern remains seized on the matter and I expect to stay in close contact with our Swiss partners in the coming days and weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Petros MAVROMICHALIS