



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

The President of the Swiss Confederation

Swiss Confederation

Bern, 25 March 2022

Dear Ambassador, *cher Monsieur*

Thank you for your letter of 28 February 2022 conveying the European Union's position on Russia's military action against Ukraine.

Switzerland has condemned the Russian military attack on Ukraine in the strongest terms and continues to do so. Russia's actions violate the prohibition of the use of force, as well as the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine as enshrined in international law. Over the past weeks, Switzerland has repeatedly called on Russia to immediately cease all hostilities and withdraw its troops from Ukraine without delay. It has also called for the respect of international humanitarian law, in particular the protection of civilians.

In light of the severity of the violation of fundamental norms of international law, the Federal Council decided on 28 February 2022 to align with the EU sanctions against Russia. Switzerland has taken the necessary measures to adopt the targeted listings, including against Russian President Putin and Foreign Minister Lavrov, the financial measures, as well as the trade restrictions put in place by the EU. Switzerland also closed its airspace to Russian flights and partially suspended its 2009 Visa Facilitation Agreement with Russia. On 16 March, the Federal Council also decided to align with the EU sanctions against Belarus in view of the country's involvement in Russia's serious breach of international law in Ukraine.

In these trying times for European security, I would like to reiterate Switzerland's commitment to a strong partnership with the European Union. Ours is a partnership based on common values. It is more important than ever to defend these values and to work together for security, peace and democracy in

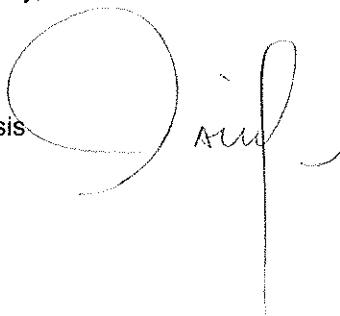
His Excellency
Mr Petros MAVROMICHALIS
Head of Delegation
Delegation of the European Union to Switzerland and to the Principality of Liechtenstein
Bern

Europe and the world. This is also the reason why the Federal Council has adopted the EU sanctions against Russia and Belarus. In the light of European solidarity, let me also express Switzerland's gratitude for the support offered to some Swiss citizens and residents as part of the evacuation organised by the EU Delegation from Kiev, Ukraine on 9 March.

Let me conclude by recalling that the Federal Council discussed Swiss-EU relations during its retreat dedicated to EU policy on 23 February. It reaffirmed Switzerland's interest in pursuing the bilateral way and proposed to address pending issues in our bilateral relations within a broad package of measures in our mutual interest. Switzerland intends to continue cooperating with the EU in a constructive and forward-looking manner in order to maintain and deepen our good relations.

Yours sincerely,

Ignazio Cassis

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long vertical stroke.