



STORTINGET

Oslo, 3 March 2022

Dear Chairman Stefanchuk,

on behalf of the Storting, I would like to express my deepest sympathy for you and your colleagues in the Verkhovna Rada in these dark times for Ukraine. It has been absolutely heart-breaking to follow the tragic events of the past week.

I am aware that many Ukrainians have already lost their lives in this senseless war. I would like to express my deepest sympathy with the victims and their loved ones. On Tuesday 1 March, we started our proceedings in the Storting with one minute of silence to commemorate the victims of the war.

Norway has condemned Russia's attack on Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. As our Prime Minister has stated, Russia bears full responsibility for having thrown Ukraine and Europe into this situation. I fully support our government's demands that Russia must immediately stop its military offensive and respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

You may be aware, Mr. Chairman, that the Norwegian government has decided to donate military equipment to Ukraine, including M72 anti-tank weapons, helmets and bulletproof vests. For many decades, Norway has had a restrictive policy with regard to exporting defence-related products. However, our government has decided to take unprecedented decisions and action due to the desperate and extraordinary situation Ukraine finds itself in.

Norway has already provided NOK 250 million in humanitarian support in response to Russia's attack on Ukraine. A few days ago, our government announced that this has now been increased to a total of NOK 2 billion.

Our Minister of Finance has also asked the Government Pension Fund Global, Norway's sovereign wealth fund, to freeze all its investments in Russia immediately. In addition, he will ask the fund to divest from Russia.

Norway also stands with the EU in introducing historically harsh sanctions against Russia and is among the countries that have closed its airspace for Russian planes.

MPs of the Storting are currently also active in supporting Ukraine through the various interparliamentary fora.

As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, the Storting cooperated closely with the Verkhovna Rada in the years following the 2014 Maidan revolution, aiming to support Ukraine's domestic reform

process. As part of that cooperation, we welcomed delegations from the Verkhovna Rada to the Storting on several occasions. My predecessors as presidents of the Storting also visited Ukraine and the Verkhovna Rada several times, enjoying the great hospitality of your own predecessors.

On many occasions, representatives of the Storting have commended Ukraine for the important steps you have taken towards good governance and a more robust democracy in recent years. It is a tragedy if this development is set back by the Russian invasion, and it cannot be allowed to happen.

Dear friend, please be ensured that we stand with you at this tragic time. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you have any comments or requests. If you would like a bilateral digital meeting or a telephone call with me, I am also ready at any time.

Yours sincerely,



Masud Gharahkhani
President of the Storting

Mr. Ruslan Stefanchuk
Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada
Kyiv
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