



28th of February 2022

Rugby Europe
45 rue de Liège
75 008 Paris

Dear Octavian, dear President,
Dear Members of the Board of Rugby Europe,

Integrity, passion, solidarity, discipline, respect - these 5 values define what is rugby and build the character of the people who play it, and support it to create a better society, and a better world. These are the values we all always have in our mouth when we speak about rugby, and in our hearts when we live our life. It is now the time when the words must turn into actions.

Ukraine is under the invasion of the Russian Federation and the Russian army is well deep into Ukrainian sovereign and independent territory. Without previous provocation or aggression to Russian territory, Ukraine has been attacked and invaded. The aggression to the Ukrainian land does not only include military facilities, and military personnel, but also civilian households, hospitals and any buildings as well as civilian people.

The Rugby Community cannot stand still and inactive or remain equidistant between the aggressor and the victim. We must put our core values in action and stand shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine.

On behalf European Rugby Unions below we urge Rugby Europe to take further action from the IOC official statement and:

- Suspend temporarily any Russian and Belarussian team from participating in any international rugby competition.
- Suspend the Rugby federation of Russia and Belarusian Rugby Union from Rugby Europe full membership.
- To request World Rugby to suspend the Rugby Federation of Russia from their full membership and to stop any further payments either for their World Rugby development grant support or high performance grant support.
- To make this decision stand as long as the brutal aggression to Ukraine continues, and to revisit and revoke this decision once there is a complete cease fire from the Russian invasion forces.

Sport is peace, is freedom; is bringing people, cultures, ideas, and hearts together. Sport is the opposite of war. Therefore, sport must speak in times like this to preserve freedom, encourage peace and show the world our solidarity and integrity

will always stand with those that suffer. At this moment, we must stand with Ukraine.

Undersigned unions:

Austria- Österreichischer Rugby Verband
Bosnia & Herzegovina - Ragbi Savez Republike Bosne
Croatia - Hrvatski Ragbijaški Savez
Czechia - Ceska Rugbyova Unie
Denmark - Dansk Rugby Union
Estonia - Estonian Rugby Union
Hungary - Magyar Rögbi Szövetség
Latvia - Latvian Rugby Federation
Lithuania - Fédération Lithuanienne de Rugby
Malta - Malta Rugby Football Union
Norway - Norges Rugby Forbund
Poland - Polski Związek Rugby
Scotland - Scottish Rugby Union
Slovenia - Rugby Zveza Slovenije
Sweden - Svenska Rugby Forbundet
Ukraine - Федерація регбі України