



Fitzgerald House
Summerhill North
Cork
T23 TD90

An Taoiseach
Micheál Martin TD
Department of the Taoiseach
Government Buildings
Merrion Street Upper
Dublin 2
D02 R583

4th March 2022

RE: Invasion of Ukraine

Dear Taoiseach

As you know, Cork Chamber represents 1,200 members together employing 100,000 people throughout the city, metropolitan area and county. Our vision is to be a world-leading Chamber of Commerce, delivering on a progressive economic, social and sustainability agenda at the heart of a vibrant business community. We exist to bring people together for good.

The unprovoked assault on the sovereign democratic Ukrainian people is an assault on every value held dear by sovereign democratic people worldwide.

I write to express the solidarity and support of Cork Chamber with the Ukrainian people and to encourage you to continue to take the strongest steps at your disposal. We are horrified by, and condemn in the strongest possible terms, Russia's unprovoked invasion of the sovereign, peaceful and democratic nation state of Ukraine.

The actions of the Russian Government and military have killed innocent civilians including children who were living in peace until they invaded Ukraine. The current course will destabilise and threaten the whole of Europe, our principles and economies indefinitely. It will embolden all enemies of freedom globally with severe implications for the balance of global power.

Our membership is diverse and includes business owners and employees of every nationality including Ukrainians, Russians, Belarusians, Polish, Slovakian, Hungarian, Moldovan, and Estonians, who all work together to create the vibrant economy

and business community we enjoy. We will always promote equality, diversity and inclusion and are equally and forcefully opposed to actions that have the opposite effect.

Cork Chamber of Commerce have taken a series of actions to show our solidarity with the Ukraine. We have raised the Ukrainian flag alongside the Irish tricolour at our offices. We are donating funds and actively encouraging our members to donate to humanitarian charities. Among our membership there is a diverse array of initiatives underway as is so typical of the compassionate nature of the Cork business community.

We have written to the Ukrainian Ambassador expressing our solidarity. We have written to the Russian Ambassador appealing to his humanity and sense of reason to do everything he can to ensure no further death and destruction is brought to the people of Ukraine.

We write to you as Taoiseach and your colleagues in Government asking that every possible step is taken to provide assistance and aid, and that Ukraine be given every available support and sign of solidarity at EU level, in the UN and in interaction with NATO.

We ask that St Patrick's Day engagements are leveraged globally to this cause and that every diplomatic, practical and symbolic step be taken to associate our most prolific platform with the cause of democratic sovereign nations.

We ask that Ireland steps up momentarily on renewable energy to play a role that reduces the current state of affairs, where many European countries are dependent on Russian fossil fuels. Following events of last week the geopolitical landscape has now irrevocably changed and Ireland must pull its weight.

We hope that the international community will continue to further and deepen its solidarity with Ukraine over the coming days and weeks before it is too late. Every value held by free nations is at stake.

Speaking to your forebears in the Oireachtas, President Kennedy once said. "I am certain, free Ireland, a full-fledged member of the world community, where some are not yet free, and where some counsel an acceptance of tyranny—free Ireland will not be satisfied with anything less than liberty.

I am glad, therefore, that Ireland is moving in the mainstream of current world events. For I sincerely believe that your future is as promising as your past is proud, and that your destiny lies not as a peaceful island in a sea of troubles, but as a maker and shaper of world peace."

Let us please live up to his expectations and encourage the international community to do likewise.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Sincerely



Conor Healy
CEO

CC: Government Cabinet Ministers