

Statement from the ENGSO Executive Committee on the situation in Ukraine

Shocked and horrified by the attack on Ukraine and its people, ENGSO reaffirms its solidarity for Ukraine, condemns the violence ordered by the Russian and Belarusian governments, and calls for the immediate Russian withdrawal from Ukraine and the reinstalment of peace.

As the European Sports NGO representing the civil society of sport, our aim is to fight inequality, discrimination, violence, abuse and hate in sport and through sport, with a specific focus to empower groups such as children, women and minorities, through the diversification of sport and the promotion of ENGSO's values: democracy, equality, inclusion, sustainability, integrity and education.

Since 24 February 2022, the world has witnessed the unprovoked attack and acts of war in Ukraine, harming and also killing civilians, and the escape of one and a half million Ukrainians seeking refuge abroad. Alongside the catastrophe, we have also seen utmost acts of kindness and courage. While the Olympic Truce, the values of sport as well as the values of ENGSO have been severely violated, athletes and other influential leaders within sport have stepped up and called for peace, some of them even risking their own safety doing so.

While we admit there is little we can do to directly impact the situation, we are raising our voice to address ENGSO members, organised sport, and world leaders, in hope of making a contribution that will help stop the violence and end the war.

1. ENGSO stands in solidarity with Ukraine, its people and the sports movement in Ukraine. We condemn the violation of territorial integrity of Ukraine, the continued violence and the obscene attacks on civilians.
2. ENGSO fully supports the decisions and recommendations of the International Olympic Committee that the International Sports Federations and sports event organisers do not invite or allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials in international competitions.
3. ENGSO calls for its members to support the above-mentioned recommendations and refrain from attending events on Russian or Belarusian soil, and from accepting the participation of Russian and Belarusian representatives in their events, be it athletes or officials.
4. ENGSO also restrains from organising events and participating in events organised in Russia or Belarus and denies the participation of any Russian or Belarusian representatives in our events, be it the General Assembly (GA), the European Sport Platform or any other ENGSO events.

5. ENGSO Executive Committee (ExCom) has decided to suspend the ENGSO membership of the Russian Olympic Committee until further notice. Due to the suspension, Russian Olympic Committee representatives will not be eligible to represent ENGSO or to participate in ENGSO decision-making processes, including voting or participating in the work of the ENGSO ExCom, other committees or GA.
6. ENGSO praises those courageous Russian athletes and other citizens, activists, researchers, journalists and even businesses for publicly expressing their opinion against the war. Their example is crucial in order for other voices to find their courage to join.
7. ENGSO calls for its members and all relevant public authorities to do everything in their power to make sure that Ukrainian refugees can take part in the civil society and in grass roots sport in the countries they enter.
8. ENGSO calls upon all members and the sport family to make sure that innocent Russian and Belarussian children who live outside their respective countries and who are in a very difficult situation as a direct result of the Russian regime's aggressive actions in Ukraine, are still given the opportunity to take part in the local grass roots sports activities and its communities.
9. ENGSO asks its members and the sports family everywhere to live up to their values, to condemn the attack on Ukraine and ask their governments to do so, lending their support to restoring peace in Ukraine. Furthermore, we call on the world of sport, from sport clubs to top leaders, to continue the promotion of peaceful, democratic societies, so that we may be spared from another conflict in the future.

ENGSO Executive Committee, 6 March, 2022



Stefan Bergh
President



Sara Massini
Secretary General