

## Position

### of the National Chamber of Commerce for Electronics and Telecommunications on the causes and consequences of Russian aggression in Ukraine

**The armed conflict in Ukraine and, above all, the response to the Russian invasion, closes one, but at the same time opens a new stage in international relations in the world at every level possible, including politics, economy and military relations.**

#### Reasons

There are many reasons for the outbreak of war in Ukraine. The most important include:

- 1) Acceleration of the construction of an environmentally and climate-neutral economy,
- 2) dysfunctional Russian economy,
- 3) the revival and restoration of Russian fascism.

**Ad. 1).** Implementing the ETS and accelerating the energy transition opened a pathway for a set of energy and digital technologies that enabled the smooth implementation of the 3x20 package. In this way, the EU has demonstrated in practice that the transition to a carbon-free and environmentally neutral economy by 2050 is real and inevitable. **The adoption of the EU Green Deal and Digital Europe Programme herald another technological leap. They were perceived by the Russian authorities as having a devastating impact on Russia's economy and political position.** For Putin, this meant a block on revenues from the sale of gas, coal, oil, products with a high carbon footprint and the prospect of a decline in the economic importance of the extractive industries. The implementation of the Digital Europe Programme means an increase in the security of Europe's cyberspace and thus a decrease in the effectiveness of information warfare against European and American policy. The fast-moving recovery of Euro-Atlantic cooperation means accelerating the globalisation of the green and circular economy.

Bitter realization that accelerated technological transformation poses a significant problem to Russia, however, does not answer the question of how the democratic world should react to military aggression. Nor does it make it possible to understand why the assault on Ukraine should be treated as a declaration of war on the global democratic community. A proper response requires a deep understanding of all the causes that led to the conflict.

**Ad. 2).** After the collapse of the USSR, democratic countries wanted to believe that Russia had joined the group of democratic countries. Opening of Russia's economy to international cooperation enabled its thorough modernization. Despite many signals, the democratic world did not acknowledge that in Russia a fascist dictatorship was reborn. The opening of European markets to Russian energy and mineral resources has helped Moscow finance the modernisation and expansion of its army and make EU dependent on imports of energy resources..

It was wrong to accept the general assumption that, by strengthening cooperation with undemocratic countries, they would eventually turn into democratic states. The inability of the Russian economy to switch from a raw material-based to zero-carbon and environmentally neutral energy is a result of political dysfunction, and not of a lack of resources and competences. Russia's real enemy is dictatorship and lawlessness, which transformed it into a mafia state. This is the main blockade for entrepreneurship and innovation and the main cause of the resulting problems.

Digitalisation and Internet access serve Russia to develop information warfare. The state of openness to information displayed by democratic countries, intended as a platform for cooperation, has been used to destroy the foundations of civil societies. Undermining trust in science and authorities facilitated the infecting of public opinion with the fascist system of values. Fuelling social conflicts, attacking the EU states' coexistence, as well as destroying democracy by interfering in electoral processes has become the main objective of Russia's foreign policy.

**Ad. 3).** In the political press, one can read that Putin's goal is to rebuild Russian imperialism. In our opinion, however, his goal is to revive and restore Russian fascism. Putin's Russia is built on a system of education, propaganda and violence used to print into social awareness the fascist vision of the world. Propaganda serves to incite hostility towards democratic states. The system of financing culture, the policy of management of religious organisations and the fight against NGOs serve to create an atmosphere of mistrust and hostility towards the outside world. The aim of internal policy is to disintegrate all forms of civil society. It uses racism, ethnic, religious,

philosophical, and even personal characteristics such as sexual orientation and lifestyle to incite conflicts. Internal coexistence is built by devising a social psychosis relying on existential threat. Sharing the view of many intellectuals that communism is one of the forms of political fascism, Putin exploits the grim heritage of Soviet communism, referring mainly to the Stalinist era, i.e., the days of inhumanity and genocide, also in relation to Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars. In Putin's anti-Ukrainian speeches, the echoes of the most devastating aspects of the Second World War resonated. So, it is worth recalling that Stalinism in Ukraine was a time of inhumane terror and deliberately bringing to great famine, as a result of which millions of people died. It was also a time of persecution of the Crimean Tatars. These were the direct reasons why many inhabitants of this country treated the entry of Nazi troops as salvation, without presuming that their situation would change for the worse. Putin's entire political career is built on murders, genocide, lies and manipulations. This is a very short and balanced description of the politician who decided to attack Ukraine.

**The announcement of Ukraine's accession to the EU means accelerating the construction of civil society.**

It is an opportunity to increase prosperity and to develop democracy. The strength of family, linguistic and cultural ties of Russian and Ukrainian societies build an information bus that devastates the Russian machine of disinformation and lies from within. For Russia, it also means a loss of another market for energy relying on raw materials and products with a high carbon footprint. The attack on Ukraine was inevitable and the beginning of the war with Ukraine should be seen as the beginning of a war with the whole community of democratic states.

To effectively prevent an imminent catastrophe, it is necessary to understand that this is not Putin's own decision. This war serves the implementation of interests of Russia's energy, raw materials, and arms corporations. We should not hope that Russia will be alone in this conflict. More or less openly, it is supported by economic forces perfectly understanding that the Green Deal is to decrease the value of all mining and hydrocarbon-based industries. The political and economic elites of Russia clearly state that the aim of this war is to eliminate the democratic opposition in Russia itself and democratic regimes in all neighbouring countries. They want to delay the green technological transition by decades in order to maintain the sources of funding for the current government.

**Impact**

Given the above, it may be concluded that the main **purpose of this war — the return to the Cold War**, has been achieved by Putin, and it does not depend on the outcome of fights in Ukraine. Threats of the use of weapons of mass destruction and the announcement of an attack on neighbouring democratic countries have returned to political rhetoric. The rapid escalation of hostilities indicates that Plan A presupposes the establishment of a puppet government and Plan B envisages the maximum destruction of all Ukraine's resources. If Ukraine were to be seized, the country's resources would serve to further strengthen Russia's military force. However, regardless of the outcome of the fighting, Russian society will be persuaded:

- that the real and main cause of the war and its consequences is NATO's aggressiveness,
- that the "fascist" government in Kiev committed genocide crimes against the Russian minority,
- that the West supports "Ukrainian crimes" and therefore defends Ukraine,
- that the war with NATO is right, fair and can be won,
- that the security of Russia requires the construction of a great imperial army,
- that it is necessary to break up the EU and subordinate the countries of Central Europe.

We therefore advocate and fully support the fast-moving intensification of action against Russia. The economies of the EU countries should be adapted as soon as possible to the conditions of Russia's full economic blockade until all the reasons for its establishment have been resolved. A genuine and sustainable deterrence of Russia requires immediate and simultaneous action to be taken, namely:

- providing military and economic assistance on a scale that will force Russian troops to withdraw from the entire territory of Ukraine,
- ensuring permanent blockage of all information channels enabling the conduct of information warfare,
- keeping a full economic blockade until a guarantee of compensation for war damage is obtained,
- implementing a very rapid reduction of imports of all fuel raw materials, fuels, and energy-intensive products,
- accelerating the energy transition and, in particular, increasing the EU's energy security by strengthening the investments in RES, energy storage facilities, and the hydrogen economy,
- systematically increasing the level of cybersecurity of network infrastructure,

- permanently preventing any possibility of financing any organisation from funds coming from Russia,
- launching an investigation and collect the necessary documentation to indict and convict all individuals responsible for the attack on Ukraine,
- returning to normal economic cooperation after the establishment of a legal order guaranteeing the peaceful resolution of disputes and certainty of economic activity.

**Everything indicates today that the world being born after the dissolution of the Soviet Union is entering a new, very dangerous stage. May the Russians solve their political problems as soon as possible and peacefully, and the world again believe in the possibility of ending the history of wars.**

**Warsaw, 28 February 2022**