



Open letter to the Polish political class

The business community has followed with great concern the increasingly dramatic effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Although we look with hope at the expressions of solidarity with Ukraine coming from all over the world and the resulting actions, we regret to say that, despite previous Russian aggression in Georgia or Ukraine, it was only the outbreak of a large-scale war with Ukraine that led to deeper reflection and an attempt to counter Russia's aggressive policies.

We would like the current events to change the attitude of the entire political class in Poland. The current situation clearly shows what can happen to a country where democratic institutions, such as the public prosecutor's office and the courts, are mapped and dependent on the executive. This system was the foundation of all dictatorships and made it possible to transform Russia into a state with a system sometimes referred to as "mafia"-like. It is a system that allows oligarchs and their supporters operating in the administration to rob and expropriate citizens and is a tool to fight with impunity all opposition manifestations. Therefore, we want to make it very clear that we are opposed to the subordination of the prosecutor's office and the courts to the executive power in our country. The system of our country should not leave a trace of doubt about the fact that it can ever be used to follow the Russian path in the model of economic steering.

The pressure of the political and business system led by Vladimir Putin forced the country to attack a sovereign state and start a war that could turn into a world war. Historical, legal and moral legitimacy is on the Ukrainian side. Today, however, it can only serve to mobilise the army and the democratic community of the world to defend their prosperity and security. The dictatorship won't hear it.

While observing the political, diplomatic, economic and military actions taken around the world to stop Russian aggression, we would like to draw attention to some important economic facts that pushed Russia to attack Ukraine.

The first and most important is an effective and accelerating economic transition. The success of the 3x20 package and the content of the Green Deal and Fit 55 strategies pose a great threat to the interests of the Russian oligarchy and its army. This comes with a prospect of a rapid decline in revenues from the sale of energy raw materials and a loss of basic tools for EU policies.

The second - yet equally important - category of reasons relates to the inevitable consequences of Ukraine's accession to the EU. For Russia, this means a loss of direct control over the resources used for building weapons and waging wars. Conversely, Ukraine's resources can be a particularly important in the search for opportunities for the European economy to become independent of resources in the hands of hostile EU countries.

These resources can be briefly described in numbers:

- 1st place in Europe in terms of documented and available uranium ores,
- 2nd place in Europe and 10th place in the world in terms of the amount of titanium ore resources,
- 2nd place in the world in terms of manganese ore resources (12% of the world's resources),
- 2nd largest iron ore reserve in the world,
- 2nd place in Europe in terms of mercury ore resources,
- 3rd place in Europe in terms of shale gas deposits,
- 4th place in the world in terms of the total value of natural resources,
- 7th place in the world in terms of coal resources,

- 1st place in Europe in terms of agricultural land area,
- 3rd place in the world according to the area of chernozem (black earth) (25% of the world's resources).

Without full and unconditional control over these resources, Russia's arms production costs will rise sharply. To sum up, for Russia, welcoming Ukraine to the EU means losing almost half of its revenues from the export of energy resources and cutting it off from the possibility of unlawful exploitation of Ukraine's resources. It can be easily predicted that in the next 20 years, the Russian economy may become smaller than the Polish one. Russia seems to have come to the conclusion that Ukraine will continue its attempts at accessing the EU. For Ukraine, this is the only way to regain control over its resources to use them to build a modern economy and the well-being of citizens. In view of the above, we express serious concerns about the effectiveness of diplomatic action in stopping Russian aggression. It is very likely that Russia will not abide by any international agreements, treaties and conventions until it takes full military control over the entire territory of Ukraine.

Moreover, everything indicates that Ukraine's independence and sovereignty can only be maintained by force. Therefore, providing military support to Ukraine in such a way as to displace Russia from its territory is the *raison d'état* of all democratic European countries.

Poland, in consultation with its partners, can and should play an important role in defending Ukraine's sovereignty and supporting its efforts towards European integration. In order to fulfil this role more effectively, a number of necessary steps should be taken.

We, therefore, call for:

1. Closing all disputes with the EU by restoring the rule of law in line with the judgments of the CJEU.
2. Ending cooperation with all political forces in the country and abroad that actively, passively, or declaratively support the political concepts, politics and system of values that constitute the foundation of the Russian dictatorship.
3. Using all EU aid to build the socio-economic system's resilience to the perturbations of war by launching a rapid program of transition to a circular network economy based on renewable energy and green hydrogen.

For years, business organisations have been informing the government and the entire political class about the growing level of conflict between current economic and international policy and the Polish *raison d'état*. It's time to change that. Our political class needs a wake-up call. . We call on politicians to abandon backstage games as soon as possible and to turn to harsh reality instead.

Warszawa, March 01, 2022

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