

АДРЕСАТ ИМЯ

ДОЛЖНОСТЬ

НАЗВАНИЕ КОМПАНИИ

E-mail

Re: Stopping doing business with Belarus

Dear ИМЯ,

As belarussian I write to you on the following appeal.

Like the rest of the civilized world, the Belarusians are appalled by the Russian aggression against Ukraine. We applaud your decision to pull out from Russia. A country that manifestly assaults the civilization as we know it does not deserve to utilize the benefits of society. Continuing to do business in Russia becomes a reputational liability for any international company.

Sadly, Belarusian citizen **Lukashenka**, who blatantly stole the last election and seized presidential authorities, **is Putin's accomplice in this war**. Lukashenka's support is crucial. Thus, Lukashenka's illegitimate government, against the will of the Belarusian people, allowed Russia to occupy the territory of our country before the war with Ukraine even began. Consequently, Belarus became a springboard for an attack on Ukraine. Without the territory of Belarus, **Putin would simply have not been able to wage war**: it is geographically impossible to lay the siege on Kyiv or destroy Ukrainian infrastructure with cruise missiles or helicopters without utilizing Belarusian territory. **The EU has established that Belarus is participating in an unprovoked Russian invasion against Ukraine.**¹

The Belarusian regime is skilled in evading economic sanctions, likely more so than previous targets of economic sanctions for the simple reason: **contraband in all directions has been a major source of income for Lukashenko's inner circle for quite some time**. He essentially privatized a part of the Russian border and illicitly moved everything from petrochemical products to shrimp for years - to earn sanctions or steal customs dues. Any action that touches Belarus and Russia differently provides Lukashenko with an opportunity to make money.

From that perspective, we urge you to stop doing business with Belarus, like you stopped doing business with Russia. In all likelihood, your Belarus-related revenue is much smaller than Russian, and by cutting Belarus off, you do not lose much. Opposite, you ensure that your step of cutting off Russia is effective and does not result in another dictator circumventing your intentions and making money in the process.

Best regards,

Citizen of Belarus

¹COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2022/353 of 2 March 2022 implementing Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2022:066:FULL&from=EN>