



## **Committee for Economic Development Of The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine**

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### *Economic Policy Committees of the Council of Europe member States*

To whom it may concern,

Ukraine appreciates a strong support of of the Council of Europe to enhance its defense against ungrounded and brutal invasion of Russia.

In addition to advanced ground operation, unprecedented air and missile strikes on infrastructure and civilian objects Russian Federation executes a complete blockade of navigation to Ukraine ports in Black Sea and Sea of Azov. This ruins Ukraine's economy as well as deprives civil population of access to critical cargo supplies.

Now it's obvious that all applied sanctions have actually little impact on development of Russian aggression, which is still in progress and due to unexpected resistance of Armed Forces of Ukraine have already turned into an open terror against civilians, which is becoming a true humanitarian catastrophe.

We strongly urge you to close ports of the Council of Europe member States for vessels of the shipping companies who continue calls to port of Russian Federation, as they in fact support economy of the aggressor and eliminate effect of imposed sanctions.

There are several reasons for that:

1. There are numerous sanctions against Russian companies and individuals, while at the same time it's still easy to avoid the sanction using intermediary non-sanctioned companies or change suppliers to those who don't care about US or EU sanctions. So, it's not a problem for such companies to continue business as usual and use commercial fleet for that.
2. There are no navigation and private property security in ports of Russia after recent cases of opening fire towards commercial vessels in Black Sea by naval fleet of Russian Federation that was actually an act of open aggression against shipping and safety at sea.
3. Risk of seizure of foreign vessels in ports of Russian Federation as a response for EU and USA sanctions and seizure of property of Russian officials and oligarchs.
4. Administrative control of transit cargo to Russian Federation in respect of sanctions' compliance creates serious pressure for operational processes at ports and terminals in addition to challenges created by Covid that can disrupt work at specific ports and terminals in the Council of Europe member States anytime and impact stability of international trade and economy.

5. It's not a balance situation when Ukraine ports are blocked, and at the same time Russian Federation has no limitations in that respect.

On behalf of the Committee for Economic Development we are urgently calling to promptly address your governments and take relevant legislative actions to:

1. Close the Council of Europe member States ports for Russian maritime and river cargo and shipment of all goods produced in Russia
2. Close the Council of Europe member States ports for ships which captain and/or crew are citizens of the Russian Federation
3. Close the Council of Europe member States ports for ships that flies under the flag of Russian Federation

All listed points are in favor of the Council of Europe decision to impose comprehensive and robust package of restrictive sanctions against ships and shipping companies of the Russian Federation.

Sincerely,

Chairman of the  
Committee for Economic  
Development  
of The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Dmytro Natalukha



ЄАС ВЕРХОВНОЇ РАДИ УКРАЇНИ

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Дійсний до: 09.02.2023 0:00:00

Апарат Верховної Ради України  
№ 14д9/13-2022/56573 від 22.03.2022



851353