



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ АВСТРАЛІЇ

Representing 22 Peak Ukrainian Organisations in Australia
Member of Ukrainian World Congress

The Embassy of Hungary
Canberra, Australia
Via email: mission.cbr@mfa.gov.hu

20 May 2022

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

As the representative body for Ukrainian organisations in Australia, we are writing to protest Hungary's actions in blocking the European Union's oil and gas embargo on Russia.

Without this embargo sanctions will not work, as Russia will continue to earn billions from oil and gas sales to fund its brutal and illegal war against Ukraine. According to Bloomberg, Russia has increased its oil revenue by 50% in 2022, collecting almost \$20 billion dollars a month on average from oil sales.

While we understand that Hungary is heavily reliant on Russian oil, and that any government is responsible for looking after its own people, we note that Hungary has already been offered an extension on phasing out Russian crude until the end of 2024.

We also consider it is imperative that members of the European community support and defend Ukraine in this unjust war. All European nations have an interest in maintaining global security, an international rules-based order and respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. European countries also share common values such as respect for human rights, peace and dignity, and a responsibility to protect our planet for future generations.

We are certain that Hungary, a country that shares a common border with Ukraine, is aware of atrocities happening in our country, and knows how we, your very neighbours, are suffering. We are certain that Hungary knows what is going on right now with our loved ones, our relatives, our friends, our children, and in our historic places. We are certain that you are aware of events in Bucha and Irpin, Borodyanka and Mariupol, Kherson, Chernyiv, Mykolaiv – just to name a few, and are aware of the mass graves, murders of civilians, rape, and constant bombing and shelling of cities and towns. You are also no doubt aware that the Russian invasion has forced more than 6 million Ukrainians to leave their country and displaced more than 11 million people within its borders, leaving in its wake a humanitarian crisis not seen since the end of WWII.

Supporters of Ukraine will continue their protests in front of the Hungarian Consulate in Sydney, and Hungarian consulates and embassies around the world. We ask you to stand with Ukraine and the civilized world, to influence your government in making the right decision, and help to save our homeland. We urge you to understand that Hungary faces diplomatic isolation by continuing to block the proposed oil embargo, and risks ending up on the "wrong side of history".

We consider that Ukraine and Hungary should be allies and friends, not opponents, especially when it comes to supporting each other's right to independence, freedom and justice.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Kateryna Argyrou
Co-Chair

Stefan Romaniw
Co-Chair