

Open letter from the German academic community to heads of governments of NATO countries

27.02.2022

Your Excellencies, Heads of Government, and Dear Members of Governments of the NATO States,

We are members of the staff of various German Universities, and many of us have direct or indirect personal links to Ukraine. Naturally, we are all shocked by the massive Russian invasion that is currently unfolding in Ukraine. We strongly appeal to the NATO member states to give Ukraine the support it needs to defend its people, values, culture, language, as well as its European choice.

Ukraine did not ask for this war and did nothing to provoke this outrageous violation of human rights that brings nothing but death and destruction. Moreover, in the last 20 years, and especially since the Maidan revolution, the will to be a democratic country with European values has become very strong in Ukraine. Naturally, the will to remain an independent sovereign state, to which they have every historical and legal right, is equally strong. It is, therefore, not an option for the Ukrainian people to simply admit defeat and live on as a part of Russia, or a vassal state like Belarus with a new government/dictator that is a puppet of Putin. The Ukrainian people will keep defending themselves and their sovereignty because, if Russia wins this war, there will be many more lives lost in the years to come due to Russian suppressions. This cannot be allowed to happen. Moreover, Ukraine not only fights for Ukraine, but it fights for the whole of Europe and the whole world.

Therefore, Ukraine needs all the help it can get. We appeal to the NATO and its member states to do whatever you can to support Ukraine and its people and to limit the suffering and death.

The current political consensus seems to be that we need radical changes in European security and military policy and that Putin will need to be punished with sanctions that hurt in the medium to long run. However, the consensus also seems to be to simply accept that this comes too late for Ukraine and to watch as an 'innocent' bystander how tremendous suffering and death hits and will continue to hit the Ukrainian people. On the first day of the invasion 137 Ukraine's were killed and 316 were wounded. The Russian army also killed 3 Ukrainian children. The western attitude of simply accepting the destruction of the Ukrainian people needs to change now.

In particular:

- 1) We strongly appeal to immediately stop buying Russian gas which finances Putin's war.
- 2) We strongly appeal to supply Ukraine with all possible materials to defend themselves, including the immediate delivery of weapons.
- 3) We strongly appeal to put in place a no-fly zone over the territory of Ukraine to protect civilians from Russian bombs.

When considering these appeals, **imagine that all of this would be happening in your own countries** (and unfortunately, given the current course of Putin, this possibility has become much less unlikely than it once was) - **how would you want the rest of the world to respond?**

Yours sincerely,

Juniorprof. Dr. Joep Lustenhouwer
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Heidelberg University

Prof. Dr. Bogdan Babych
Institute for Translation and Interpreting, Heidelberg University

Prof. Dr. Christian Proaño
Faculty of Social Sciences and economics, University of Bamberg

Prof. Dr. Olga Garaschuk
Werner Reichardt Centre for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen

Prof. Dr. Felix Voigtlaender
Mathematical Institute for Machine Learning and Data Science, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Juniorprof. Dr. Tomasz Aleksander Makarewicz
Faculty of economics, Bielefeld University

Dr. habil. Alexandra Avdeenko
Center for Evaluation and Development &
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Heidelberg University

Dr. med. Alexander Moldavski
Central Institute of Mental Health, Heidelberg University

Prof. Dr. Rüdiger von Rosen
Präsident der Frankfurter Gesellschaft für Handel, Industrie und Wissenschaft

Dr. Viktoria von Rosen
Vize-Präsidentin der Deutsch-Ukrainischen Gesellschaft für Wissenschaft und Wirtschaft

Dr. Anna Veselovska
Faculty of Mathematics, Technical University of Munich

Dr. Oksana Seumenicht,
Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC) in the Helmholtz Association, Berlin

Dr. Andis Sofianos
Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Heidelberg University

Dr. Sergii Grebinyk
Division Molecular Biotechnology and Functional Genomics,
Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau

Dr. Anna Grebinyk
Division Molecular Biotechnology and Functional Genomics,
Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau

Dr. Frank Filbir
Applied Numerical Analysis, Technical University of Munich

Dr. Alexander Drost
Interdisciplinary Centre for Baltic Sea Region Research, University of Greifswald

Dr. Johannes Maly
Faculty of Mathematics and Geography, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

PD Dr. Michael Gerten
Institute for Classical Philology and Philosophy, University of Bamberg

Nikolai Teufel
Center for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, University of Bayreuth

Yehor Horokhovskiy
Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences Göttingen

Hanna Roetschke
Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences Göttingen

Maryna Korshevniuk
Horizon 2020 TranSYS project. University Medical Center Groningen

Oleh Melnyk
Helmholtz Center Munich and TU Munich

Thomas Heindl
Faculty of Mathematics and Geography, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Aleksandar Radivoievyh
Molecular Biotechnology and Functional Genomics, Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau

Andrei Caragea
Faculty of Mathematics and Geography, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Stefan Kolek
mathematics of AI lab, LMU Munich