



International Association "HOTREC, Hotels, Restaurants & Cafés in Europe" ("HOTREC")
Rue Dautzenberg, 36/38, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Kyiv, March 02, 2022

Dear **HOTREC** members,

Dear Members of the Executive Committee

Dear Mr. President

Jens Zimmer Christensen

Dear Ms. Director General

Marie Audren

Dear Mr. Director General of the **Hotelstars Union (HSU)**

Markus Luthe

Re: Support for sanctions against Russian invasion.

Dear colleagues,

On Feb.24, 2022, Russia has launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine by land, air and sea, attempting to ruin our peaceful cities, historical building and museums, but most importantly - killing innocent civilians and children, enforcing the displacement of millions, making them refugees overnight. Russia has carried out a deceptive and outrageous military attack. Just imagine for a minute – today, in 2022! cruise missiles attacking residential neighbourhoods, kindergartens and hospitals in the heart of Europe. Ukrainian armed forces and civilians will be defending Ukraine till the end! We have nowhere to go, and no reason to go!

By starting the war, Russia blatantly violated the principles of international law, enshrined in the United Nations Charter, numerous international principles of peaceful co-existence and development of humanity. Among those - the fundamental aims of the UNWTO, which according to Article 3 of the Organization's Statutes, shall be *the promotion and development of tourism with a view to contributing to economic development, international understanding, peace, prosperity, and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.*

The whole civilized world is wholeheartedly and efficiently helping Ukraine these days, providing humanitarian and defensive aid. Russia's aggression under fictitious reasons must have fast and extensive response also in tourism & travel industry, to paralyze it in Russia. For the info: tourism contributed 4,8% to Russia's GDP (80 billion USD) in 2019. So, it certainly contributed to Putin's economy and helped financing his war machine. The bottom-up effect should be created as soon as possible, to overthrow the regime, stop the disaster in Ukraine, prevent it from spreading further in Europe and hold the regime accountable. Even sports, culture, many more – those nominally *out-of-politics* spheres – have already spoken out, and continue public condemnation & real counteraction.

UHRA urges HOTREC members, as well as whole tourism community - travel-related authorities & bodies, professional associations and businesses - to push for imposing restrictive measures on Russian tourism and hospitality industry:

1. expel Russia from UNWTO (please, see the respectful appeal attached, + list of local tourism authorities)
2. expel Russia from IATA and its bodies (please, see the respectful appeal attached)
3. urge global OTA's, i.e. those holdings, which own/operate [booking.com](https://www.booking.com), [expedia.com](https://www.expedia.com), [hrs.de](https://www.hrs.de), [hotels.com](https://www.hotels.com), [C-trip.com](https://www.c-trip.com) Airbnb to immediately halt the provision of their services on the Russian territory and for Russian entites and individuals
4. urge international wholesalers and tour operators such as Hotelbeds, DOTW, Sunhotel, Travco to terminate any kind of relationship and serving the Russian tourists and business units

Thank you in advance for your support!

Slava Ukraini!

Ms. Iryna Sidletska
President of UHRA

