

Open Letter to His Majesty the King Philippe, King of the Belgians On Seizing Russian Assets for Ukraine

Your Majesty,

We, the undersigned, write to you at a pivotal moment for Europe's security and our collective moral standing. Belgium holds an extraordinary responsibility — and a unique opportunity — to demonstrate leadership by seizing frozen Russian assets held on Belgian soil and transferring them directly to Ukraine. We urge you to publicly support this step and encourage the Belgian government to act immediately.

Belgium currently holds the largest volume of frozen Russian assets in the European Union, exceeding €250 billion. The funds — much of them held at Euroclear — are not ordinary financial instruments. They are the profits of a state responsible for waging a brutal war of aggression, committing systematic atrocities, and violating the most fundamental principles of international law. Every day these assets remain idle is a day Russia profits from Belgium's caution.

There is both a legal basis and a moral imperative to act. International law recognizes the right of states to seize the assets of an aggressor to compensate victims and finance reconstruction. Precedent exists, including asset seizures tied to Iraq and Libya. Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine, a war condemned by the UN General Assembly and the International Court of Justice, leaves no doubt about the aggressor's liability. Belgium's own constitutional commitment to justice, the rule of law, and upholding international norms further reinforces this obligation.

Furthermore, this is not merely a legal choice — it is a test of European resolve. Belgium can and must lead by example, showing that European values are not hollow words but principles with consequences. Belgium's position at the heart of the European Union means your leadership would resonate across the continent, sending a clear message to partners and adversaries alike: Russian aggression will not pay, and Europe will stand firm in its defense of international law.

The revenues generated from these frozen assets — already contributing to Ukraine's support through taxation — demonstrate Belgium's recognition of the link between Russian wealth and Ukrainian suffering. However, this is insufficient. With the war entering its third year, Ukraine's immediate needs for reconstruction, air defense, and economic stability far exceed the trickle of tax revenues. Full seizure

and transfer of these assets is the only proportionate response to the scale of Russian aggression and Ukraine's needs.

We urge Belgium to act not only because it is the right thing to do — but also because Europe stands at a dangerous crossroads. With sanctions against Russia due for renewal in June, serious doubts have emerged about the unity of all EU member states in maintaining a firm stance against the Kremlin. Both our partners and our adversaries are closely watching the fractures in Europe's resolve, and the consequences will be felt far beyond Ukraine.

At a time when and the transatlantic consensus is under strain, Belgium has the chance to show strength and fortitude — to demonstrate that European principles are not negotiable, and that support for Ukraine is unwavering even in the face of political turbulence. By acting decisively now, Belgium can send a clear signal that Russian aggression will not be rewarded, and that Ukraine's victory and recovery remain at the top of Europe's agenda.

We therefore call upon Your Majesty to publicly support the immediate legal seizure and transfer of these assets to Ukraine, and to encourage the Belgian government to champion this policy at both national and EU levels. Belgium can be the front-runner Europe needs in this moment of uncertainty — turning frozen assets into a tangible lifeline for Ukraine's defense and reconstruction.

With utmost respect,

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