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Robert Agee
President & CEO
American Chamber of Commerce in Russia

Ulitsa Lesnaya 7
Block A, 11th floor
Moscow 125196
Telephone: +7 (495) 961-2141
Fax: +7 (495) 961-2142
www.amcham.ru

CC: President's Circle

Darren W. Woods
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of **ExxonMobil**
capital.markets@exxonmobil.com

Carmine Di Sibio
EY Global Chairman and CEO
+44 20 7951 1345

Michael Miebach
Mastercard Chief Executive Officer
BIN_Inquiries@mastercard.com,
investor.relations@mastercard.com

Len Blavatnik
Chairman of **Access Industries**
40 W 57th St, Fl 28, New York City, New York 10019, US

Amsted Rail
Amsted Rail Headquarters
311 S. Wacker, Suite 5300
Chicago, IL 60606
Fax: 312-922-4502

Michael K. (Mike) Wirth
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Chevron
6001 Bollinger Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA 94583, USA

Citi
388 Greenwich St, New York, NY 10013, United States

Noel Wallace
Chief Executive Officer, **Colgate-Palmolive**
investor_relations@colpal.com

Christian Sewing
Chief Executive Officer



Deutsche Bank

deutsche.bank@db.com

Joaquin Duato
Chief Executive Officer

Johnson Johnson

One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08933
(732) 524-0400

Richard R. Rogers
Executive Chairman

Mary Kay

P.O.Box 799045
Dallas, Texas 75379-9045

Jean-Michel Ribieras
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Sylvamo

6400 Poplar Ave
Memphis, TN 38197

Dear Mr Agee,

As you are probably aware, on 24 February 2022 at 5.00 am Kyiv time, **the Russian Federation with the support of the Republic of Belarus started a war against Ukraine.** The United Nations Charter, Helsinki Accords, European Convention on Human Rights and in general any and all established norms and principles of international law are being openly and disparagingly violated. For 12 days now (!), the army of the Russian Federation supported by the Republic of Belarus is bombing residential areas, maternity hospitals, kindergartens, ambulances and civilian vehicles in Ukraine. **The foregoing actions of the Russian Federation and of the Republic of Belarus constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.** Moreover, the Russian Federation has **put the World on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe by shelling on 4 March 2022 the Europe's largest nuclear power station in Ukraine.**

Despite the World's strong response and a number of unpresidential sanctions introduced against the aggressor countries by the US, European and other countries, high-level officials of the Russian Federation continue insisting that so-called "military operation" will not stop until full "demilitarisation and denazification" of Ukraine, which means full destruction of all those who oppose Russian supremacy over Ukraine and is ready to defend Ukraine's independence and sovereignty.

In these circumstances, western businesses publicly announce about leaving Russian and Belarussian markets and closing their offices. **Despite this, it seems like the American Chamber of Commerce in the Russian Federation not only continues its business as usual but also reaffirms its partnership with Russian commercial associations.** As it is indicated on the website of ACC in Russia, on 2 March 2022 – on the 7th day of the war in Ukraine when war crimes and crimes against humanity became a well-known fact – **ACC in Russia and Russian business associations agreed "to continue close collaboration, to organize joint events, including for the Russian regions where enterprises owned by American business operate. In addition, the chambers will cooperate in informing their**



governments that businesses are interested in continuing normal operation, preserving investments and jobs." (https://www.amcham.ru/eng/news/20220304_tpp)

We, the Ukrainian legal community, view such an approach of the ACC in Russia as a blatant disregard of the atrocities committed in Ukraine, international sanctions and of solidarity of commercial structures around the world with the people of Ukraine. **Continued activities of the ACC in Russia is an open encouragement of Russian business development and investments.**

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE URGE ACC IN RUSSIA TO:

- **Immediately stop any activities with Russian businesses until full termination of any and all military actions against Ukraine,**
- **To take a public stance and openly make a statement to this end urging the Government of the Russian Federation to STOP military invasion in Ukraine.**

While using an opportunity, we would also like to bring to your attention the initiative¹ of numerous European countries to establish a dedicated Tribunal On Punishment of the Crime of Aggression Against Ukraine. The jurisdiction of the Tribunal, as it is envisaged at the moment, would include not only persons who committed the crime of aggression in respect of the territory of Ukraine, but also "those who have materially influenced or shaped the commission of that crime"².

 Best regards,

Anna Ogrenchuk
President of the Ukrainian Bar Association

¹ <https://gordonandsarahbrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Combined-Statement-and-Declaration.pdf>

² Ibid.