



On behalf of the All-Ukrainian Non-Governmental Non-profit Organisation "Ukrainian Bar Association" (UBA), we would like to assure you in our highest respect, and to address you on the following.

On 24 February 2022 at 5.00 am Kyiv time, **the Russian Federation waged 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. 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, crimes against humanity and a crime of aggression against Ukraine.**

In response to the criminal invasion in Ukraine, the Government of the US, European and many other countries, EU institutions and other international stakeholders imposed a vast scope of economic and financial sanctions against the Russian and Belarussian Governments, their high-level political and military officials, as well as oligarchs who financially support the war. **In this regard, we are grateful for all the support of the French Republic to Ukraine, and for all the measures introduced by the Government towards putting an end to the war.**

In parallel with sanctions, proceedings have been initiated at the International Court of Justice, International Criminal Tribunal and the European Court of Human Rights. In addition, intergovernmental discussions take place on the establishment of a Special Tribunal on the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

Along with ensuring individual responsibility of persons who planned, ordered, executed or facilitated atrocities, we believe that a mechanism of financial reparations is to be set up so that to enable reimbursement of damages to natural and legal persons inflicted as a result of the war.

In order to facilitate damages claims in the future, we kindly ask French Government to take stock of assets owned by Russian and Belarussian state and state enterprises (any company in which the Russian or Belarussian states own 51% or more shares) in mainland and overseas territories of the French Republic. In addition, we kindly ask French Government to commence an investigation into compliance by French residents with sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and to prosecute violations.

We suggest that the relevant investigation could aim at:

- Taking stock of assets owned by Russian and Belarussian states and state enterprises (any company in which the Russian or Belarussian states own 51% or more shares) in the territory;
- Monitoring of sanctions implementation in the country, enforcement of economic, financial and other restrictions and countermeasures;
- Targeting efforts to use cryptocurrency and other means to evade sanctions;
- Using civil and criminal asset forfeiture authorities to seize assets belonging to sanctioned individuals or assets identified as the proceeds of unlawful conduct.

We thank you once again for a strong stance and support of the French Republic to Ukraine, and remain at your disposal for any questions or comments.

Yours faithfully,

Anna Ogrenchuk, President of the Ukrainian Bar Association