

We Support Ukraine

Prague: 1.3.2022

To: International Hockey Federation (FIH), European Hockey Federation (EHF)

Copy: Russian Hockey Federation Ukrainian Hockey Federation, Belarus Hockey Federation, National Sport Agency Czech Republic, Board Czech Hockey Federation

Dear hockey colleagues, friends,

On behalf of the Czech Hockey Federation we would like to share with you that we are shocked by the current aggression of Russia and support of Belarus versus the Ukraine. Though as sport we prefer to stay non-political, in this situation we can not stay quiet and just be on the sidelines. For that reason we have decided, supporting our colleagues from the National Sport Agency (ministry of sport) that we, the Czech Hockey Federation:

- * will not participate in any event taking place in Russia and Belarus in the unforeseen future
- * will not welcome any Russian or Belarus hockey players/officials/teams in the Czech Republic until their governements will adhere to the Olympic values

We have noticed today's announcement of the EHF which is in line with these restrictions. We have not however seen any clear standpoint of the FIH regarding this topic. We have noticed the exclusion of the Russian ladies U21 team for the WC in South Africa but we expect a more clearer standpoint from the FIH in condemning the aggression of Russia and Belarus to their neighbour Ukraine.

Though we believe in one european hockey family including all European countries, the current conflict is not in line with the values we cherish. We categorically condemn Russia's and Belarus's activities. We do not want to blame people who are not directly involved but at the same time we can not ignore the fact the Russian and Belarus leadership is acting at this moment. We believe every citizen has the possibility and responsibility to put an end to this.

Herewith we would also like to share our full support to the Ukrainian federation, to Mrs. Iryna Kharchenko and all our Ukrainian hockey friends. It is with them that our hearts are and we hope to give them strength in this unrighteous battle. We're standing behind you. Should there be any concrete help we can offer you, feel free to let us know. With love from the Czech Republic

On behalf of the Czech Hockey Federation and the whole Czech hockey family

Cino

Gino Schilders, President Czech Hockey Federation

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