

8<sup>th</sup> of November 2024

Executive Vice-President Valdis  
Dombrovskis  
Executive Vice-President Maroš  
Šefčovič  
CC: Björn Seibert  
Head of Cabinet of the President  
of the European Commission

Dear Vice-President Dombrovskis and Vice-President Šefčovič,

We are writing to you to express our strong will that the Commission presents a comprehensive proposal to further increase tariffs for the broadest possible range of imports into the European Union of Russian products.

As stated by President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen in her speech before the European Parliament on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, *The European Union's commitment to support Ukraine as well as to counteract Russia's aggression and antagonistic behaviour will be defining pillars of EU foreign, security and defence policy during the next legislature and beyond. We will continue to provide political, humanitarian, military and financial support to Ukraine for as long as it takes.*

Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, imports from Russia have dropped considerably, yet it still amounted to 42 billion Euro in 2023. In comparison, this is more than half of the total EU support to Ukraine – 81 billion Euro in financial, economic and humanitarian support since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion (2022-2023).

**We need to target trade that continues to bring Russia significant incomes. A concrete contribution to achieving this objective is to introduce EU import tariffs on Russian goods.**

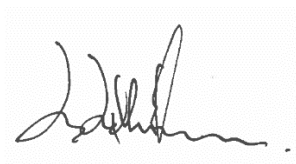
As raised by Heads of State and Governments in the European Council conclusions on 17-18 of April, and reiterated on the 17-18 of October 2024, it is imperative that the EU takes an extensive approach to supporting Ukraine. This was also raised by us and supported by many member states at the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) in May 2024.

We therefore call on the Commission to develop a comprehensive proposal to further increase tariffs for the broadest possible range of imports into the European Union of Russian and Belarusian products, while ensuring that the transit of agricultural products to developing countries remain unaffected.

As a complement to the sectorial sanctions already adopted, import tariffs will add to ongoing efforts aiming at reducing dependency and replacing imports from Russia with other suppliers. These tariffs could contribute to diversifying the EU's imports of goods and raw materials, reducing sectoral dependencies, and strengthening the EU's economic resilience. To minimize the effects on the European economy, tariffs, identified on the basis of detailed information on the range of the products covered by these tariffs as well as a comprehensive assessment of these measures, could be introduced with transition periods for targeted sectors and in parallel with measures to facilitate European industries' transition from Russian goods. Such tariffs are in full alignment with WTO rules and have already been introduced by key partners.

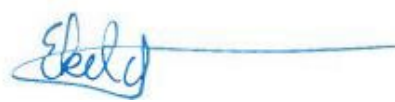
To conclude, we urge the Commission to move forward with a proposal on the next steps without delay in order for the EU to fulfil its commitment to support Ukraine as well as to counteract Russia's aggression.

Yours sincerely,



**Lars Løkke Rasmussen**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Denmark**



**Erkki Keldo**

**Minister of Economy and Industry,  
Estonia**



**Ville Tavio**

**Minister for Foreign Trade and  
Development, Finland**



**Peter Burke**

**Minister for Enterprise, Trade and  
Employment, Ireland**



**Baiba Braže**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs, Latvia**




**Gabrielius Landsbergis**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Lithuania**



**Krzysztof Paszyk**  
**Minister of Economic Development  
and Technology, Poland**



**Benjamin Dousa**

**Minister for International  
Development Cooperation and  
Foreign Trade, Sweden**