



Warsaw, 23 February 2022

**MINISTER
OF SPORT AND TOURISM**

Kamil Bortniczuk

Ministers for Sport
in the European Union

Dear Ministers,

The Polish Government is observing the situation in Ukraine with great concern. We see a significant escalation of tension on the Russian-Ukrainian border and the invasion of the armed forces of the Russian Federation on Ukrainian territory. In such a situation it is necessary for all Member States of the European Union to take decisive action, showing their full solidarity with Ukraine and unambiguously condemning the policy of the Russian authorities.

We, the ministers responsible for sport, should resolve as soon as possible to take joint action limiting any cooperation with the government of the Russian Federation within our area of responsibility. Poland is ready to take immediate action to establish a common EU position, or to support the French Presidency in its efforts in this regard. As ministers for sport we should also establish close dialogue with sports federations, so that the participation of our countries' representatives in sports events on the territory of Russia cannot be used by the authorities of the Russian Federation to legitimise their actions in Ukraine before the international community and Russian society.

It is my belief that revoking the right to organise sports events held on the territory of the Russian Federation, and taking similar actions to isolate the Russian administration would send a clear message showing the EU's firm opposition to the actions of Russian authorities. Combined with similar reactions in all other areas of public life, such actions could have a real effect and would deprive the Russian authorities of the opportunity to present their narrative regarding the separatist republics in Donbas.

Yours sincerely