



Warsaw, 8 October 2022

**MINISTER
OF SPORT AND TOURISM**

Kamil Bortniczuk

**Ministers responsible for sport,
Signatories of the Statements
on Russia's War on Ukraine & International Sport
from March 8, 2022 and July 4, 2022**

Dear Ministers, dear friends,

It was with great shock that I have learned about **the International Boxing Association's (IBA) decision** to lift the sanctions imposed on Russian and Belarusian boxers as a result of Russia's shameful attack on Ukraine.

IBA's decision, which is effective immediately, means that boxers from Russia and Belarus will be able to perform under the flags of their countries, and if they win a gold medal, they will hear their national anthem. This sets an extremely dangerous precedent for the entire world of sport.

This decision contradicts the recommendation of the International Olympic Committee that called for athletes from Russia and Belarus to be banned from international competition because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It also runs counter to the Statement on Russia's War on Ukraine & International Sport from March 8, 2022 signed by you, Ministers, which states that individual athletes selected by Russia and Belarus, administrators and teams representing the Russian or Belarusian state should be banned from competing in other countries.

I express serious concerns, that the IBA's decision may be the beginning of a massive Russian effort to bring their athletes back into international sport. With the war in Ukraine still going strong and thousands of people losing their lives, we cannot let it happen.

In this regard, I am calling on all of you to submit to the International Olympic Committee a joint proposal in which we will request the removal of the International Boxing Association (IBA) from IOC membership. We cannot allow Russia to use this situation to permanently return to sports arenas before the end of the war in Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,