



Warsaw, 17 June 2022

**MINISTER
OF SPORT AND TOURISM**

Kamil Bortniczuk

DWM-WMWS.0720.18.2022

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

Dear Ministers, dear friends,

It was with profound shock and utter disbelief that I have learned about **the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) Appeals Tribunal's decision** to annul the decision by the IBSF's Executive Committee to suspend the Bobsleigh Federation of Russia.

This decision goes against 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 contravenes the intent of 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.

Russia's unprovoked and totally unjustified invasion and war has claimed the lives of thousands of Ukrainians and reduced many of Ukraine's cities to rubble. Russia's aggression continues and that's why, in my view, this decision is unjust, unfounded and damaging. Respect for human rights and peaceful relations between nations are at the core of the values of international sport.

We should be in no doubt that Russia will use this occasion to promote its own interests and put more pressure on the sports world to let Russian athletes back into international sporting arenas.

Therefore I am calling on you to ask your national federations to boycott all events organized by the IBSF. I believe this moment requires determined unity of action. We must show our full solidarity with Ukraine and not allow the aggressor to use this opportunity for its own ends.

Yours sincerely,