



POSITION PAPER

COUNTRY/ ORGANIZATION: Ireland

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TOPIC: Russia-Ukraine Crisis

On 24 February the Russian troops invaded Ukraine with several excuses which include not allowing Ukraine to join NATO. Russian President Vladimir Putin mentioned that Ukraine was a constant threat to Russia, not allowing the country to be safe, develop and exist. Furthermore, he added that he wants to end the genocide in several regions of Ukraine, demilitarizing and de-Nazifying the country and making sure that Ukraine's status stays neutral. This inhuman action of the invading country cost thousands of lives from both sides, destroying the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, having 13 million people lose their homes, and making them refuge. As a member of the European Union member state, Ireland is making sure that any Ukrainian citizen who seeks housing, humanitarian help, or anything between will get it without facing any difficulties. As the Irish PM mentioned in his speech, the government of Ireland will not assist Ukraine with any means of military, or lethal weapons, instead 9 million Euros will be contributed to non-lethal EU funding, including helmets, medical equipment, blood, and fuel. Additionally, the government will make sure that the ongoing humanitarian assistance will keep flowing through the EU Red Cross and Irish Red Cross to the vulnerable parts of Ukraine and neighboring countries. At the same time, Ireland will adhere to the policies regarding sanctions against Moscow, as an example, no Russian aircraft are allowed to fly over Irish airspace, and selected Russian banks are blocked from the international payment system, Swift. As a militarily neutral country, the Irish government will not support either side with military weapons, troops, or any other means of aid that jeopardize the country's neutrality.

One of the most pressing issues we face of the war includes its impact on Ireland's economy. Cutting off Russian gas and oil will have consequences for many sectors. 0.5% of Ireland's exports rely on Russia. While this number may seem small, inside that small 0.5 % some sectors have bigger reliance on Russia. Another concern is the fact that the longer this war continues, the more it sabotages the economic growth of the EU and Ireland as the war is affecting the world as a whole, especially western countries. The funds that are being allocated to the crisis in Ukraine resulted in the fiscal deficit of other sectors such as health, education, and human rights. The longer these problems are ignored, the more serious the results will become. Thirdly, imposing severe sanctions against Russian gas and oil will result in a drastic increase in these fuels within

the EU and Ireland which will undoubtedly raise concern in many low-income households. And lastly, the delegation of Ireland strongly feels that further sanctions may have devastating effects on Russian civilians as they will also be the victim of sanctions, and this will lead to the jeopardizing human rights of Russian civilians. We should abandon either of them, neither Ukrainian people nor Russian civilians.

Article 42.7 of the [Lisbon](#) Treaty obliges all of the member states of the EU to aid a member state that becomes “the victim of armed aggression on its territory” by “all the means in their power”. However, the member states are not obliged to aid if it is against the policy of a certain member state. The delegation of Ireland proposes considering, and eventually accepting Ukraine as an EU member state as a solution for the current issue. As the president of Ukraine Volodimir Zelensky [mentioned](#) in his recent speech “Only diplomacy can end the Ukraine war”. Ukraine may eventually win the war; however, it will leave the country vulnerable. Being a member state of the EU has numerous privileges, including free movement of people and goods. At the current time, being an EU member state will ensure eliminate the problems that Ukrainian refugees are facing. It will allow them to move, live, work and rebuild their lives in any member state. Moreover, the delegation of Ireland strongly recommends further negotiations of the Ukrainian and Russian governments with neutral parties.