



Slovenia

Having spent weeks building up a huge military force along its border with Ukraine and in neighboring Belarus, Russian leader Vladimir Putin launched what Ukrainian officials described as a "full-scale invasion" of the country on February 24, 2022. It marked the start of a grim new chapter in, and a major expansion of an eight-year war in the country's east that had already claimed thousands of lives.

Slovenia, as one of the EU countries, has attend the extraordinary meeting of the UE foreign affairs council which consequence to suspend Russian federation from its right to representation in the council of Europe with immediate effect by adopting a new package of measures that will hit hard the Russian economy and those responsible for the attack, in the other hand Russia added all EU countries to the list of "unfriendly nations".

Standing with UKRANIA, Slovenia has been showing their support, opening borders to the country's refugees, sending weapons, humanitarian aid, and applying debilitating sanctions on Russia.

On 1 March 2022, a Russian rocket strike on Kharkiv destroyed, among other buildings, Slovenian consulate. Prime Minister of Slovenia Janez Janša said that the country will stop all agreements with Russian Federation related to defence, security and political cooperation. Foreign ministry of Slovenia summoned Russian Ambassador Timur Eyvazov, demanding an apology and financial compensation. *In addition, Slovenia also sent a new diplomatic representative to Kyiv in the latter half of March 2022*

Showing more support Slovenia being represented by his prime minister lead a visit by train to the Ukrainian capital to meet with President Zelenskyy.

Subsequently, the UN Human right council held an urgent debate, in which the prime minister of Slovenia strongly condemned the impact of Russia's aggression on ukrainian people. He also expressed Slovenia's full support to the resolution establishing investigative mechanism that will ensure accountability

NATO also organized an extraordinary meeting, Ministers condemned Russian aggression, expressing support for Ukraine's sovereignty & right to self-defence. AnzeLog presented Slovenia's aid, noting: "Continued Russia's aggression could further weaken the stability in Europe & WesternBalkans.

Once again, a special OSCE Per. Council with the hope that Kremlin would hear us:

- Stop shelling civilian targets
- Ensure humanitarian corridors leading to safety
- Stop targeting nuclear facilities
- Sit at the table without resorting the bullying

The fourth package of sanctions is another major blow to the economic and logistic base upon which Russia relies on to carry out the invasion of Ukraine. The aim of the sanctions is that President Putin stops this inhuman and senseless war.

We urge all UN Member states to join in demanding respect for international humanitarian law, humanitarian access and protection of civilians.

Well, this idea came from our, actually, personal experience also, because 30 years ago, Slovenia was invaded by Yugoslav Communist Army. We were partially in the same position, so we know exactly how our Ukrainian friends feel and how to handle this crisis to the stability.

Slovenia welcomes UNGA suspension of Russia's rights of membership in the HRC. Members of the HRC have an inherent duty to prevent extreme unreasonable and systematic violations of human rights.

European commission campaign has raised €9.1 billion for people fleeing bombs, inside and outside Ukraine. And once the bombs have stopped falling, we will help the people of Ukraine rebuild their country.

Largely due to the effects of the long-term COVID-19 crisis, that highly affected the prices of energy products; in that regard, the Slovenian government together with the European union suspended the payment of network charges and kept contributions and other charges to a minimum to help the people affected by the rising prices of electricity and gas. Both European Union and the Slovenian government remain convinced that heavy economic sanctions may provide the best answer to the Russian aggression, and that the EU states will be able to retain a high level of economic development while looking for new venues for the provision of energy which would favor ever-larger independence from Russia.

It's assumed that the economic sanctions on Russia are among the most severe ever forced upon a sovereign nation, and might be the cause for the downfall of the Russian economy in the following years. However, both the effects of the war in Ukraine by itself and of the economic sanctions against Russia have driven the rise in prices of several products. For example, much like the rest of the European Union, in March 2022 Slovenia experienced a significant rise in prices of petrol and diesel fuels (up to ca. 0,16 EUR/l at the beginning of March), and there were rumors of the grain and flour shortage around the European Union. So far, the Slovenian government officials tried to alleviate some of the fears about the possible future large-scale crisis, where rising prices are causing political and social tensions.

It's still difficult to say what the final reach of the economic sanctions against Russia will be and how it will affect the world economy in the years to come. However, it is clear that some significant changes – in particular, e.g., in the sphere of the distribution of energy products – will need to be made across European Union. While the world economy is preparing itself for future issues with rising prices for several products, the effects of the COVID-19 crisis seem to be ever less pronounced.

In any case, it appears that for the future Slovenian government, keeping the level of the economy at a high level will continue to be a significant challenge.