Ukraine Conflict

Dear colleagues,

There is a war going on in Ukraine. Many of us are affected by it, some of us perhaps directly because their families or friends live in contested areas; others have professional or personal ties to Ukraine or Russia. The Russian government has ordered the invasion of a neighboring country and has embroiled Ukraine in war. People now have to flee, people are losing their lives in the fighting.

In this situation, it is important for us as Managing Directors to take a stand: we condemn the war of aggression and the breach of international law by the Russian government. That is why we fully stand behind the sanctions imposed by the German government and its international partners. We are aware that they will have a strong impact on our own activities, but we believe that the measures are necessary in this situation.

It follows that we will not be able to work on joint projects with Russian institutions as before. In accordance with the Alliance of German Science Organizations and the directives of our funding agencies, we will, therefore, immediately cease all cooperation with Russian government agencies and will cancel dialogue formats. We will not conclude any new bilateral cooperation projects with researchers in Russia until further notice. Ongoing bilateral cooperation projects with researchers in Russia will be suspended with immediate effect. All communication with Russian agencies of any kind will cease immediately. For multilateral projects involving Russia, we will coordinate with the other partners to freeze the cooperation. All these regulations also apply to Belarus.

There is a war going on in Ukraine, and that is plunging some into personal conflicts here in Germany as well. We must not make the mistake of discriminating against colleagues on the basis of their origin and nationality and blaming them for the policies of the Russian or Belarusian governments. As Managing Directors, we call on you not to deal with different political viewpoints personally at the workplace. We urge you to show respect for colleagues who are personally affected.
In the context of the sanctions that have been decided, we ask you to comply with the following concrete catalog of measures, which applies with immediate effect:

- All deliveries to Russia are to be stopped.
- No new orders to be placed with Russia.
- Any know-how and technology transfer to Russia is to be stopped.
- Existing cooperation agreements are to be suspended.
- GSI's NICA project is frozen, as other GSI/FAIR bilateral projects with Russia.
- Workshops, talks, scientist exchanges, etc. with individuals from Russian institutions/companies must not be planned and must not take place.
- New visits of Russian partners must not be planned and must not take place.
- Participation of GSI/FAIR staff in advisory boards and activities of Russian institutions/companies and vice versa must be suspended.
- Any official communication with Russian institutes/companies such as BINP, JINR, etc. must be frozen.

Adjustments of the measures will be made depending on the further development of the situation.

Yours sincerely,

Paolo Giubellino    Ulrich Breuer    Jörg Blaurock