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The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) office - [cis@industrial-union.org](mailto:cis@industrial-union.org)  
All-Russian "Electric Trade Union" (ARETU) - [shpilkina-gb@mail.ru](mailto:shpilkina-gb@mail.ru); [elprof@elprof.ru](mailto:elprof@elprof.ru)  
Automobile and Farm Machinery Workers' Union of Russia – AFW - [afw@fnpr.ru](mailto:afw@fnpr.ru)  
Industry Workers' Union of Russia - IWU - [panychev@inbox.ru](mailto:panychev@inbox.ru); [rosprofprom@rosprofprom.ru](mailto:rosprofprom@rosprofprom.ru)  
Interregional Trade Union "Workers Association" - ITUWA - [naty\\_nikulova@list.ru](mailto:naty_nikulova@list.ru); [trudovoi2010@yandex.ru](mailto:trudovoi2010@yandex.ru)  
Miners' & Metallurgical Workers' Union of Russia - [cs@gmpr.ru](mailto:cs@gmpr.ru); [alexander\\_kulagin@mail.ru](mailto:alexander_kulagin@mail.ru)  
Russian Aircraft Industry Workers' Union "Profavia" - [info@profavia.ru](mailto:info@profavia.ru)  
Russian Chemical Workers Union - [chemprof@fnpr.ru](mailto:chemprof@fnpr.ru)  
Russian Independent Coal Employees' Union - ROSUGLEPROF - [int@rosugleprof.ru](mailto:int@rosugleprof.ru); [info@rosugleprof.ru](mailto:info@rosugleprof.ru)  
Russian Oil, Gas and Construction Workers Union - [dogadina@rogwu.ru](mailto:dogadina@rogwu.ru); [inter@rogwu.ru](mailto:inter@rogwu.ru); [rogwu@rogwu.ru](mailto:rogwu@rogwu.ru)  
Russian Radio-Electronic Industry Workers' Union - REIWU - [info@profradioelectron.ru](mailto:info@profradioelectron.ru)  
Russian Trade Union of Nuclear Power and Industry Workers - RTUNPIW - [borisov@profatom.ru](mailto:borisov@profatom.ru);  
[ck@profatom.ru](mailto:ck@profatom.ru); [sidorov@profatom.ru](mailto:sidorov@profatom.ru)  
Timber & Related Industries Workers Union of Russia - TRIWU - [dzh749@gmail.com](mailto:dzh749@gmail.com); [roslesprof@gmail.com](mailto:roslesprof@gmail.com)

**Copy:**

industriAll Europe – Luc Triangle, General Secretary  
IndustriALL Global Union – Atle Hoye, General Secretary  
industriAll Europe Eastern Region  
Baltic Trade Unions  
Ukrainian Trade Unions

Prague, 28.2.2022

Fellow trade unionists,

OS KOVO is shocked by the actions of the Russian leadership, which has decided to invade Ukraine militarily. Russia is one of the nuclear powers, and after the economic recovery of the USSR, your country's leadership seems to believe that it has the right to dictate its will to the surrounding countries. When it failed to defeat Ukraine in a matter of hours, President Putin said he had put nuclear weapons on alert!

For many decades, Russia's army was gratefully remembered for the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945 with enormous casualties. But then came 1968 and the military occupation of Czechoslovakia for another 21 years. This was a major milestone in relation to Russia in the minds of the vast majority of the Czech population. Over the last 30 years, the roads of Russia and the Czech Republic have gradually diverged and relations have been reduced to trade. Nevertheless, OS KOVO sought contact with your trade unions on the basis of trade union solidarity in a market economy.

Ukraine has now been invaded. Heavy military equipment was deployed, and in 2022 not only soldiers but also civilians are dying in Europe, including children. This is unacceptable for OS KOVO members. The killing of people cannot be justified by any territorial or economic goals of any European country.

Today is not 1968. The world will unite in the instinct of self-preservation against this Russian aggression, and from long-term developments it will have great consequences, especially for ordinary citizens and employees of your country.

Russia is currently involved in a number of international projects to move humanity forward. Cosmonautics, energy and other fields address the future of all mankind.

Military aggression in a neighbouring state will throw this cooperation back decades and Russia will probably no longer participate in it.

In the name of trade union solidarity, OS KOVO calls on your trade unions to act, as far as possible, on public opinion in your country, which would force your country's leadership to end the war in Ukraine and to find a way to a peaceful negotiation.

We look forward to your response to this letter.

I solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Souček', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jaroslav Souček  
OS KOVO President