



26 April 2022
Or. English

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND MEDIA

Written Declaration

Saying no to the war by banning Russian and Belarus nationals from all events in the fields of science, education, sport and media¹

The Committee on culture, science, education and media resolutely condemns the attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation and Belarus. It is deeply saddened by the devastation provoked by this unjustified war; it expresses its full solidarity with the Ukrainian people and praises their great courage and determination.

The Russian authorities are silencing all forms of opposition and critical thinking; nothing remains other than severe bans which could force Russian people to confront the horror of this war that Russian propaganda seeks to conceal.

The committee supports the calls by the IOC, which urged all International Sports Federations to relocate or cancel their sports events planned in Russia or Belarus and recommended that International Sports Federations and sports event organisers do not invite or allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials in international competitions.

The committee considers that similar measures should apply beyond sporting events. Therefore, it urges decision makers and competent sporting, scientific, educational and media stakeholders of the Council of Europe member States to ensure that:

- a) Russian and Belarusian national teams, clubs and individuals be excluded from all sporting events;
- b) Russian and Belarusian participants be excluded from all scientific, educational or media events, and any exchanges or partnerships in these domains involving Russian or Belarusian participants be suspended or cancelled.

These measures should not apply to Russian and Belarusian nationals who neither represent Russia or Belarus nor participate, compete or perform under their banners.

The committee also calls on member States' authorities to ensure that no broadcasters or news outlets under the control of the Russian or Belarusian Governments or of their agents are permitted to broadcast propaganda in member States.

¹ Declaration adopted by the committee on 26 April 2022, based on a proposal by Lord George Foulkes (United Kingdom; Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group).