

## **PM statement on President Zelenskyy's address: 8 March 2022**

On a point of order, with your permission Mr Speaker, may I say that never before, in all our centuries of parliamentary democracy, has the House listened to such an address.

In a great European capital, now within range of Russian guns, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is standing firm for democracy and freedom, in his righteous defiance I believe he has moved the hearts of everybody in this House.

At this moment, ordinary Ukrainians are defending their homes and their families against a brutal assault, and they are by their actions inspiring millions with their courage and their devotion.

And I think today, one of the proudest boasts in the free world is: Ya Ukrainets' – "I am a Ukrainian". So this is a moment for us to put our political differences aside, Mr Speaker.

I know I speak for the House when I say that Britain and our allies are determined to press on, to press on with supplying our Ukrainian friends with the weapons they need to defend their homeland as they deserve.

To press on with tightening the economic vice around Vladimir Putin and we will stop importing Russian oil. Mr Speaker my Right Honourable Friend the Business Secretary will update the House on that tomorrow.

And we will employ every method – diplomatic, humanitarian and economic Mr Speaker – until Vladimir Putin has failed in this disastrous venture and Ukraine is free once more.

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## **Statement on Russia's war on Ukraine & international sport**

Australia Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck, Minister for Sport Austria Vice-Chancellor Werner Kogler, Minister of Arts and Culture, Civil Service and Sport Belgium Ms Valérie Glatigny, Minister for Higher Education, Adult Education, Scientific Research, University Hospitals, Youth Welfare, Houses of Justice, Youth, Sport and the Promotion of Brussels of the French-Speaking Community. This signature commits the French-speaking Community, the Flemish Community and the German-speaking Community of Belgium. Canada The Honourable Pascale St-Onge, Minister of Sport Croatia Dr Nikolina Brnjac, Minister of Tourism and Sport Cyprus Prodromos Prodromou, Minister of Education, Culture,

Sport and Youth Office Czech Republic Petr Gazdík, Minister for Education, Youth and Sports Denmark Ane Halsboe-Jørgensen, Minister for Culture Estonia Tiit Terik, Minister of Culture Finland Mr Antti Kurvinen, Minister of Science and Culture France Roxana Maracineanu, Minister of Sport Germany Mahmut Özdemir MP, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community Greece Lefteris Avgenakis, Deputy Minister for Sports Hungary Dr Tünde Szabó, Minister of State for Sport Iceland Ásmundur Einar Daðason, Minister of Education and Children Ireland Jack Chambers TD, Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht Italy Mrs Valentina Vezzali, Secretary of State for Sport Japan H.E. SUEMATSU Shinsuke, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Republic of Korea HWANG Hee, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Republic of Latvia Anita Muižniece, Minister for Education and Science Principality of Liechtenstein H.E. Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport Republic of Lithuania Dr Jurgita Šiugždienienė, Minister of Education, Science and Sport Luxembourg Georges Engel, Minister of Sport Malta Dr Clifton Grima, Minister for Education and Sport Netherlands Ms Conny Helder, Minister for Long-term Care and Sport New Zealand Hon Grant Robertson, Minister for Sport and Recreation Norway Anette Trettebergstuen, Minister of Culture and Equality Republic of Poland Kamil Bortniczuk, Minister of Sport and Tourism Portugal Tiago Brandão Rodrigues, Minister of Education (responsible for Youth and Sport) Romania Carol-Eduard Novak, Minister of Sports Slovakia Ivan Husar, State Secretary for Sport Slovenia Dr Simona Kustec, Minister of Education, Science and Sport Spain Miquel Octavi Iceta i Llorens, Minister of Culture and Sport Sweden Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration Switzerland Viola Amherd, Head of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport United Kingdom The Rt Hon Nadine Dorries MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport United States of America Jennifer Hall Godfrey, Senior Official for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

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## [Women in Defence Charter announces Sam des Forges as MOD Co-Chair](#)

News story

Sam des Forges, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Ministry of Defence (MOD), has been appointed as the new Defence Co-Chair for the Women in Defence Charter



Sam succeeds Morag Stuart, who has served as the MOD Co-Chair of the Charter since 2019. Sam will work alongside Angela Owen OBE, Women in Defence UK Co-Chair, and Sophie Thomas, Industry Co-Chair, to drive forward the Charter's ambitions. She is committed to working with the Charter's growing network of signatories to improve gender balance and enable women to succeed at all levels in the Defence sector.

As a member of the Charter's Steering Board, Sam will set the strategic direction of the Charter and help deliver the Charter's key objectives and plans.

I would firstly like to thank my predecessor, Morag Stuart for her strong leadership of the Charter alongside the other Co-Chairs, their leadership ensured the Charter remained relevant throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and spearheaded the successful launch of the Women in Defence Charter's Strategy in 2021 at the Defence and Security Equipment International Exhibition in London.

I am committed to working alongside Angela and Sophie to support the Defence sector in turning ambitions into achievements and to ensure that MOD truly harnesses the power of difference to drive capability that safeguards our nation's security and stability. I look forward to working with my co-chairs in progressing the Charter through 2022 and beyond.

Sam was appointed the first ever MOD Director of Diversity and Inclusion in 2021. Sam works across the Whole Force to ensure that the MOD welcomes difference and maximises everyone's talent to drive capability that safeguards our nation's security and stability.

During her five-year career in the MOD, Sam has played an instrumental role in championing a more inclusive environment for everyone. Sam is also the MOD LGBT+ Champion, providing strategic guidance and supporting the work of the MOD LGBT+ Staff Networks, and was previously the MOD Gender Champion and remains an active supporter of the MOD Gender Networks.

For more information and the latest updates about the Charter, please visit the [website](#), or follow it on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)

## [PM meeting with Slovak Prime Minister Eduard Heger: 8 March 2022](#)

Press release

The Prime Minister met Slovak Prime Minister Eduard Heger this afternoon to discuss the appalling situation in Ukraine.



The Prime Minister met Slovak Prime Minister Eduard Heger this afternoon to discuss the appalling situation in Ukraine.

The Prime Minister thanked Prime Minister Heger for his country's robust response to Russia's unjustified aggression and said his leadership on the issue had been vital to ensuring cohesion across Europe.

Slovakia could depend on the UK to support its response to the humanitarian crisis, the Prime Minister added.

The West also needed to do more to wean itself off Russian hydrocarbons, the Prime Minister said, and the leaders agreed to focus on renewables to ensure the West would never depend on Russian energy again.

Both leaders agreed to stay in close touch on what more they could do for Ukraine and said they would continue to build on the UK-Slovakian partnership in the coming months.

# UK to phase out Russian oil imports

- UK to phase out the import of Russian oil during the course of the year in response to illegal invasion of Ukraine
- government establishes a new joint taskforce with industry to work together on an orderly transition
- move will increase the growing pressure on Russia's economy by choking off a valuable source of income

The UK will phase out imports of Russian oil in response to Vladimir Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine by the end of the year, the Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng has confirmed today (Tuesday 8 March).

The phasing out of imports will not be immediate, but instead allows the UK more than enough time to adjust supply chains, supporting industry and consumers. The government will work with companies through a new Taskforce on Oil to support them to make use of this period in finding alternative supplies.

The UK is working closely with the US, the EU and other partners to end our dependence on Russian hydrocarbons in response to Russian aggression in Ukraine, recognising the different circumstances and transition timelines.

The import of Russian oil makes up 44% of Russian exports and 17% of federal government revenue through taxation – this move steps up the international pressure on Russia's economy.

In a competitive global market for oil and petroleum products, demand can be met by alternative suppliers. We will work closely with international partners to ensure alternative supplies of fuel products.

Russian imports account for 8% of total UK oil demand, but the UK is also a significant producer of both crude oil and petroleum products, in addition to imports from a diverse range of reliable suppliers beyond Russia including the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, and USA.

Whilst this transition takes place, the government recognises the need to continue to import Russia oil in the meantime as we work to this aim. This will help ensure continuity in our supply and protect consumers.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

In another economic blow to the Putin regime following their illegal invasion of Ukraine, the UK will move away from dependence on Russian oil throughout this year, building on our severe package of international economic sanctions.

Working with industry, we are confident that this can be achieved over the course of the year, providing enough time for companies to

adjust and ensuring consumers are protected.

Business and Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

Unprovoked military aggression will not pay and we will continue to support the brave people of Ukraine as they stand up to tyranny, building on our existing sanctions that are already crippling Putin's war machine.

We have more than enough time for the market and our supply chains to adjust to these essential changes. Businesses should use this year to ensure a smooth transition so that consumers will not be affected.

This significant move will increase the growing pressure on Russia's economy by choking off a valuable source of income and hitting its ability to impose further misery on the Ukrainian people.

The elimination of oil imports is in addition to existing trade, financial and personal sanctions already imposed by the UK against Putin's regime and those who support him in his war against Ukraine.

Russian oil is already being ostracised by the market, with nearly 70% of Russian oil currently struggling to find a buyer, and in a competitive global market demand will quickly be met by alternative suppliers. On 1 March Russian ships were banned from UK ports and authorities were granted new powers to detain Russian vessels.

The UK is not dependent on Russian natural gas, making up less than 4% of our supply. Ministers are also exploring options to reduce this further. The Prime Minister confirmed that the government will set out an energy strategy to set out the UK's long term plans for greater energy security, including both renewable and domestic oil and gas supplies.

1. The UK benefits from significant domestic production of oil and gas. More than two-thirds of our road fuel comes from domestic production.
2. Russian oil is already being ostracised by the market, with nearly 70% of Russian oil currently struggling to find a buyer, and in a competitive global market demand will quickly be met by alternative suppliers.
3. Russia produces only a fraction of the fuel products currently imported to the UK, with the vast majority coming from reliable suppliers like the USA, Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium and Saudi Arabia.
4. Russian oil imports as a percentage of total demand (DUKES 2020):
  - Petrol, 0%
  - Jet fuel, 5%
  - Heating oil, 0%

- Diesel, 18%
- Gas oil (such as red diesel), 1%
- Fuel oil, 0%
- All oil imports, 8%