

By e-mail

To the ALLEA Member Academies

President

Prof. Antonio Loprieno

Email: president@allea.org

Ref: Suspension of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

Berlin, 4 March 2022

Dear Presidents,

It is with deep regret and sorrow that we are seeing the unjustified Russian invasion of Ukraine, supported and co-facilitated by the government of Belarus, and the resulting humanitarian crisis. I would like to hereby share with you the steps that have been taken by the ALLEA Presidency and Board, ultimately leading to the suspension of our Russian and Belarusian member academies.

As you may have seen, the ALLEA Presidency has released a [Statement on 25 February](#), wherein we call on the Russian government to respect the international conventions on the protection of civilians and cultural artefacts and express our deep concern for the safety of our academic colleagues. We have also been in contact with the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine to express our full solidarity and support and will reach out to individual Ukrainian members of the ALLEA Working Groups.

The situation has continued to escalate over the past week, with mounting evidence indicating that the Russian government is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine, with full support of the Belarusian government. The Board of ALLEA, conscious of its duty to uphold the shared values embodied by our academies and to give expression to international sanctions and the outrage of the academic community, has unanimously agreed to suspend the membership of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. The suspension has been communicated to the two academies directly and shared with the public via the attached statement on our website and social media channels.

This unprecedented decision was made in line with recent resolutions of the [Council of Europe suspending](#) Russia's right of representation in the Committee of Ministers. It also takes into consideration that the autonomy and independence of the Russian and Belarusian academies from their governments has come into question but is by no means intended as a repercussion against individual scientists. On the contrary, the Board of ALLEA explicitly commends the utmost courage of the many [Russian academics who have spoken out](#) at great risk to their physical and professional security, including numerous fellows from the suspended Russian Academy of Sciences.

This difficult but necessary decision was reached after thorough discussion within the ALLEA Board, and I would like to again emphasise the temporary nature of the measure. Any more definitive actions, as well as possible ways how the membership might be re-activated in the future, will be addressed by the ALLEA General Assembly on 11 May 2022.

In the meantime, we very much encourage and applaud any actions from our member academies that support Ukrainian researchers currently at risk. Please do also share any initiatives with the ALLEA Secretariat. We will be using these to further raise awareness among our members and the wider scientific community as appropriate.

Kind regards,



Antonio Loprieno,
President of ALLEA