

**Honorable ALI EHSASSI
Chairman of the committee
Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs
and International Development**

Dear Chairman EHSASSI,

In the light of upcoming Parliamentary hearings in the House of Commons on the issue of Canada's decision to import and repair Russian government-owned pipeline turbines for up to two years in circumvention of sanctions against Moscow, United for Ukraine Network, which unites more than 300 parliamentarians from 30 countries, would like to address this letter to you outlining potential downsides of such a decision for the whole of Europe and beyond.

First of all, the recent developments in this area have shown, that it was a mistake to give permission to circumvent sanctions even for the first turbine, because it appears that Russians do not want to use that turbine. It would be a political mistake to continue with the exemption of sanctions for the remaining six turbines because Russians will not use them also. Kremlin has different possibilities to deliver gas to Europe, not only through Nord Stream 1 pipeline (it can be done using pipelines in Poland or in Ukraine), but Kremlin's deliberate decision is very clear - to cut gas supplies to Germany and the EU in order to make geopolitical pressure on the countries which are supporting Ukraine in its defence against Russia's aggressive war.

As all of us know, recently Gazprom announced the reduction of flow through Nord Stream 1 and the current flow is only about 40% of the capacity. Gazprom declared that the decrease was due to sanctions and the fact that the turbine repaired at Siemens plant in Canada cannot be delivered to Russia, furthermore, because only 3 out of 7 gas pumps at the Nord Stream 1 compressor station are operational. But today it is the fact that even after the exclusion of the first turbine from the sanctions, and its delivery to Germany, Russia still has not prepared the necessary documentation to obtain it back. This fact proves that the real intention of Russia is less the necessity to repair turbines, but rather to showcase how Kremlin can energy blackmail Europe.

We welcome very much the strong decision of the House of Commons taken in regard to Kremlin attack on Ukraine to recognize that Russia is committing acts of genocide against the Ukrainian people. Therefore, we urge you to reinforce this courageous position by further rejection of the possibility of maintenance of other NS1 turbines to avoid creating a precedent in the circumvention of sanctions.



On the other hand, creating exemptions from sanctions will serve as a precedent for even further pressure on Europe and will strengthen Kremlin's attempts to use Europe's dependence on gas, opening a corridor for similar exemptions from sanctions in the future.

Russia has shown many times how it can blackmail with energy, and we must be united in our efforts to deter Russian aggression against the West. This is Europe's chance to build its own energy security without Russian gas and we very much hope that our partners will step up to the challenge. With its high LNG terminal capacity, Canada is an important partner in structuring Europe's energy future without Russian gas, and we look forward to furthering strategic partnerships in this area.

Europe needs more Canadian LNG gas, not the turbines for Gazprom gas deliveries, which nevertheless will not happen because of the Kremlin deliberate policy.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Steering Committee of United for Ukraine Network

**Andrius Kubilius, Member of the European Parliament, Standing Rapporteur on Russia,
Coordinator of the United for Ukraine Network, former Prime Minister of Lithuania**