



To
RUEF Board

Via email

Paris (Levallois-Perret), 30 May 2022

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your letter from 31 March, 2022. As advised, we reported it to the UFI Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, both of which have been in session earlier this month in Poznan, Poland, on the eve of this year's UFI European Conference.

In its session there, the Board reviewed the decisions taken by the Executive Committee at its extraordinary meeting in March and confirmed them.

Let us re-iterate that – contrary to many other bodies and associations – UFI is not expelling or suspending the membership of you, our Russian members businesses. As it has been expressed by many colleagues around the world and both in Russia and Ukraine in many conversations and exchanges: our industry will be vital after the current fighting has ended. We will be needed to bring people back together. However, and as stated, the Board has confirmed that for now, representatives of Russian member companies are excluded from participating in UFI events and activities.

In your letter, you write that you consider this a suspension of your respective memberships in our association, and that you suspend the payment of UFI membership fees.

To stress and emphasize our position of non-suspensions, the UFI Board has agreed to a proposal from the UFI leadership trio to waive the membership fees of our Russian members in good standing for the time being.

In addition, we have been approached about attending your upcoming RUEF meeting on June 23/24. This meeting overlaps with UFI's Global CEO Summit. But we will be more than happy to send a video message to underline a non-political message to stress the willingness of the exhibition industry to help to re-connect people, businesses, and societies after the end of the current fighting.

We stand by this conviction – just as we shared it with our industry on 24 February, 2022, when we stated that “The Meetings Industry is there to bring people together – our market places and meeting places are the platforms where businesses, people, nations come together to talk to each other, to discuss and agree on deals, and to overcome obstacles and solve problems...In a world confronted with many unprecedented challenges, in politics, with natural disasters, and the pandemic – more than ever, we need peace, not conflict.”

Monica Lee-Müller
UFI President

Kai Hattendorf
UFI CEO