

Vienna, 26 February 2022

**To the signatories of the Open Letter from Russian scientists and science journalists
against the war with Ukraine**

Dear Colleagues,

In these difficult hours and days that cause us great consternation and leave us deeply worried for the people in Ukraine, for society's wellbeing in the region, and for peace in Europe and worldwide, we, the Presiding Committee of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, would like to express our thanks and our firm support for your Open Letter.

Free science is a pillar of democracy, of the rule of law, and of peace in and between our societies. Wherever these principles are trampled on, free science is acutely under threat.

You – Russian scientists and science journalists – have contributed to free exchange between our societies for years, indeed for decades, in impressive fashion, often under the harshest conditions. Your courageous and timely letter demands our deepest respect. We share with you and your colleagues in Ukraine the same ideas about being able to live in peace and democracy in Europe.

The Austrian Academy of Sciences has expressed its solidarity with and support for the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in this dramatic situation. Please rest assured that in advocating free science in democratic societies, we feel just as closely connected to our longstanding partner academy, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Russian scientific community.

It is our firm conviction that science, especially in times of conflict, can contribute to peace, stability, and peaceful coexistence between people and societies. Your Open Letter is testimony to that and strengthens and encourages us in our conviction.

The Presiding Committee of the Austrian Academy of Sciences