

Dear colleagues,

We always adhered to the principle that science should be out of politics, except for 1991, when we stand unarmed protecting our Parliament from Russian (then Soviet) tanks. However, what is happening now in Ukraine is not politics - it is a crime... It is understandable that many of us believe that most of the intelligent and educated Russian colleagues are not supportive for the Putin regime and severing ties with them will only worsen the situation. But be not mistaken, 70% of the Russians support Putin foreign policy, and many of them are your fellow researchers, who are only polite enough to avoid sensitive topics in private conversations with German, French or Italian scientists (while being much more straightforward with Russian speaking colleagues from Lithuania, Latvia, or Estonia). It is not a surprise for us, as we could read Russian tabloids and watch Russian TV, which are the brainwashing machine Goebbels never has dreamed of, instrumental in creating a parallel reality in the state Russian media. We hope that changes right now as innocent people are dying in the streets of Ukrainian cities and more Russians start to realise the criminal deeds of their leader. We are not asking you to cancel individual peer-to-peer collaboration, but rather to stop all official contacts with state institutions, especially in the fields of oceanography, remote sensing, space research and mathematical modelling, which have undeniable links to the Russian Military or Navy. During the last few years, we have experienced an abrupt change in collaboration mode with such institutes, when our staff was denied entrance to laboratories, even when having common projects. Russia is not anymore a country it was twenty or even ten years ago.

Please remember that your support of Russian science and technology could end in the increase in capacity for the aggression of Putin's criminal regime, not only in Ukraine but also in the Baltic states or Poland.

We also plea the support for the Ukrainian scientists, who we are ready to accommodate if the late and weak reaction from the West will end up in occupation of their country.

Many of us who signed this plea are ethnic Russians and Belarusians, who are united denouncing this bloody regime and its supporters whoever they are – politicians, writers, servicemen, or academics.

Our thoughts are with heroic Ukrainian people fighting for their country and brave Russians risking their careers and freedom protesting the war on the streets of Moscow and St. Petersburg or signing official petitions.

Here below goes the list of researchers from oceanographic and marine institutes in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Romania, who support this plea:

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