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PRESS RELEASE

Russian Invasion Of Ukraine: Why Has The Rail Sector Been Less Decisive Than The Airline Sector?

BRUSSELS, March 1st 2022: two days ago on Sunday, the President of the European Commission Dr. Ursula von der Leyen personally announced that the EU will ban Russian aircraft - as a response to the invasion of Ukraine[1] last Thursday.

Some airlines were even faster: last Friday, Delta Air Lines already announced it that was ending its partnership with the Russian airline Aeroflot "*immediately*"[2].

There has been a contrast between the firm & decisive measures to strengthen trade restrictions against Russia in the airline sector compared to the rail sector. This is a surprise, considering the major role that the Russian rail operator RZD played in moving Putin's military to Ukraine's border over the recent months[3].

As we speak, European railway operators of all kinds (RegioJet, PKP, Leo Express, ČD and many others) are doing amazing work rescuing refugees from the war zone.

Yes, both the EU & the USA have included Russian Railways ("RZD") in their sanction list, albeit with less media attention than for airlines. At the same time, it is worrying to read in the rail trade press that: *"sanctions are a complicated matter, which can often be circumvented. Industry professionals say that business is not affected."*[4]

ALLRAIL Secretary General Nick Brooks states: *"all European rail companies currently working together with RZD should emulate Delta Air Lines and unequivocally commit to stop doing so - as long as the aggressor Putin remains in power".*

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian national rail operator Ukrzaliznytsia has issued a new press statement[5] urging all operators to **stop** freight & passenger services to Russia and for all worldwide railway organisations to expel RZD immediately. As of today, some of these organisations still show RZD as a full member. ALLRAIL urges them to throw out RZD right away and transfer any membership dues already paid by the Russians to Ukrzaliznytsia instead. To summarise: **#WeStandWithUkrzaliznytsia**

[1] https://twitter.com/vonderleyen/status/1497973334847414278
[2] https://www.cnbc.com/2022/02/25/delta-air-lines-cuts-ties-with-aeroflot-after-russia-attacks-ukraine.html
[3] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoJC7L4On-A
[4] https://www.railfreight.com/policy/2022/02/28/no-business-with-russian-railways-say-the-us-and-eu/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20week%202022-09
[5] https://uz.gov.ua/press_center/up_to_date_topic/page-2/577398/

ALLRAIL asbl
Washingtonstraat / Rue de Washington 40
B-1050 Brussels

e-mail | info@allrail.eu
web | www.allrail.eu
phone nr. | +32 485 832 991