

Open letter to Audax Club Parisien regarding war in Ukraine and the Russian Federation aggression

1 ПИСЬМО

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Hello,

My name is Serhii Chyzyhik.

- I participating in brevets since 2018.

- In 2019 I participated the Paris-Brest-Paris under the number Q099.

- In 2020, with the support of the Moguls Audax and Audax Kharkov clubs, I created and headed the Audax Dnipro club – the organizer of bike rides according to the rules of the Audax Club Parisien.

Our club, the same as every year, has planned a brevet calendar for 2022.

Also this year, we have already begun to prepare and gather people for a trip to Paris-Brest-Paris.

We wanted to celebrate the anniversary 300 km brevet this year.

I bought myself a new bike specifically to go to Paris again in 2023.

But, it turns out that none of these plans will come true, because of the war that was unleashed by the Russian Federation, from its territory, as well as from the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

Our club is based in the city of Dnipro and fortunately, our city has not suffered much from the bombing. At least for now. So far, we do not have major destruction, unlike Kharkiv or Chernihiv, we do not have a humanitarian catastrophe, as in Mariupol. Our biggest problem today is that every day we have to go down to the bomb shelters or metro stations when we hear the air raid signal. Other cities were far less fortunate. This is our reality, the reality of one of the European countries, which became possible because of the Russian Federation.

But for you, these are just words. You cannot understand what it is like when sirens howl in your city when rockets destroy your houses, schools, hospitals, squares where you gather when civilians are killed. And that's okay. No inhabitants of any country in 2022 should neither understand nor become witnesses of all these troubles. I would not wish it on anyone.

Why am I writing all this to you?

Many countries participated in the discussion of the open letter from our association. There was one question that I want to answer. The question was: "You are proposing sanctions for the citizens of the Russian Federation, but why should ordinary people suffer from the actions of his government?".

Then I'll ask a counter-question:

- Why ordinary people in Ukraine are dying from the actions of the government of the Russian Federation?

- Why ordinary people in Ukraine are forced to leave their homes, evacuate their wives, children, grandparents, pets?

- Why in 2022, being a simple person in one of the European countries, I am afraid, that a rocket will hit my house or the houses of my close during the next air raid?

I'm sure if you answer my questions, you'll get an answer to yours. But if not – I'll tell you. Here is the main thesis which I want to address to everyone, who doubts the need and efficiency of even such tiny sanctions regarding ordinary people:

The point is not to simply punish ordinary people for something they did not do. The point is to convey the idea to every Russian and Belarusian that their government is doing something wrong. There can not be a subjective point of view for this situation. Invading another country, killing its citizens, destroying buildings and other people's lives is bad. If they don't accept these actions, they must do something with their government. If they don't care or even like it, then they also tacitly agree to isolation from the rest of the world. There is no third option.

The results of a social survey by the "All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center" show that **71% of all citizens of the Russian Federation support this war**. Could you imagine that more than half of the population officially supports the war? Should not just this single fact encourage the Audax Club Parisien to block at least 71% of the clubs and participants of the Russian Federation for further events?

At this moment most both commercial and non-commercial organizations understand or starting to understand that relationships with anyone from Russia in the current situation are toxic. Strava, Union Cycliste Internationale, Race Across America, Decathlon, and many other sports organizations have suspended their services or blocked Russians and Belarusians from participating in their events.

So,

We understand your position of tacit consent, but it is unacceptable to us. To be neutral in the fight against evil is to take the side of evil.

Therefore, we urge you once again:

1. to cancel the accreditation of Audax Club Parisien for organizing clubs in the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus;
2. to abolish the calendar of BRM, LRM, Fleche Nationale, Trace Nationale, SR clubs of organizing clubs in the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus for 2022;
3. stop registering new organizing clubs in the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus;
4. prohibit at the level of the rules of BRM, LRM, Fleche Nationale, Trace Nationale, SR on routes under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus;
5. to admit to BRM, LRM, Fleche Nationale, Trace Nationale, SR citizens and residents of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus only in organizing clubs under the jurisdiction of third countries, with the registration of results of these participants under common codes of independent participants;
6. prohibit at the level of the Paris-Brest-Paris rules the performance of citizens and residents of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus under the flags of these states and/or from the organizing clubs in the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus;
7. to introduce the above sanctions for an indefinite period until the restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine, namely the return to Ukraine of the temporarily occupied territories.

I emphasize that we do not want to permanently deprive the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus of the right to host and participate in events from the Audax Club Parisien. When the war is over and these countries apologize and make up for all the damage they caused us – they can return to hosting and participating in events. But now such measures are really important.

Each of us is doing what we can to end this war as soon as possible.