

International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and metabolic disorders
European Chapter

Memorandum February 28th 2022

THE INVASION OF UKRAINE

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the invasion by Russia of its peaceful, democratic and sovereign European neighbour, Ukraine.

We believe the invasion to be not only an illegal and unprovoked act of warfare against the Ukrainian armed forces; but also that its indiscriminate targeting of civilians and hospitals and the threatened use of mass casualty weapons represent the perpetration of war crimes.

Nonetheless, we recognise that many decent Russians oppose Putin's act of savagery and we therefore continue to welcome the Russian Bariatric Surgery Society within the IFSO-EC family.

By continuing this welcome we wish to stress our common European heritage and the liberal-social democratic values we hold dear.

However, we have to balance this welcome against a clear duty to act in support of our colleagues and the wider population in Ukraine

Therefore, under the current circumstances we must with much regret stipulate that, for the time being, Russian bariatric clinicians

- *are barred* from standing for, or holding office within the Chapter
- *may not* chair sessions or otherwise participate in the organisation of scientific meetings, but
- *will continue* to be welcome to present papers at meetings.

We intend to keep the position under review and adapt our position if needed.
For and on behalf of IFSO-European Chapter



Jean Marc Chevallier,
(IFSO-EC president) in the name of the IFSO-EC Executive Board



Alberic Fiennes
(IFSO-EC Senior Advisory Board – Chair)