

Our reaction to the war in Ukraine

**Louis Moureaux (Belgium)
ECFA ECR Panel meeting
2022/06/14**

An aerial photograph of a city in ruins, showing the skeletal remains of numerous multi-story buildings. The image has a blue color cast. The text "War is horrible" is overlaid in yellow on a blue rectangular background in the upper left corner.

War is horrible

We should condemn it

An aerial photograph of the same city in ruins, showing the skeletal remains of numerous multi-story buildings. The image has a yellow color cast. The text "Hamburg, Germany after WWII" is overlaid in blue on a yellow rectangular background in the lower right corner.

Hamburg, Germany after WWII

CERN treaty (1953)

The Organization shall provide for collaboration among European States in nuclear research of a **pure scientific and fundamental** character, and in research essentially related thereto.

The Organization shall have **no concern with work for military** requirements and the results of its experimental and theoretical work shall be published or otherwise made generally available. [\[full text\]](#)

**An example of
Science diplomacy**



**Part of the post-WWII
European construction**

Nobel Peace Prize 2012

ECFA (1963)

Introductory talk to the first session

A machine that goes beyond the European frame is certainly desirable from a human, political and idealistic approach. However, I think [...] that the general constellation of events and of attitudes is such that this so-called world machine, which might not be built by the whole world but maybe Europe, Russia and America, that such a machine is probably not on the cards for the next step, but one might hope that it will be on the cards for a step after the next step, and one must fervently hope that it will not always be the $n + 1$ st machine that is built.

— V. Weisskopf [[full text](#)]

How things are decided

We are here

- ECFA defines a long-term strategy

Affected by the war?

- Member States approve it

- CERN implements it

This week!

First ECFA statement

[...] **We believe in peaceful collaboration** of scientists from all nations and reject any violence to achieve political goals. We express our solidarity with all people suffering from this war.

[...]

Particle physics - and CERN in particular - have set a prime example for successful international cooperation in science and for bringing nations and people together. We hold up to these values. However, given the severity of the aggression, **no new cooperation agreements with Russia should be made.** [full text]

Proposed to the CERN Council (likely)

Cease collaboration with Russia, Belarus and JINR

- **Revoke access for all 567 scientists**
- **Remove them from paper author lists**
- **Use CERN funds to replace in-kind contributions**

Two thirds majority needed (not easy, not impossible)

We can influence this decision

How?

- Open letter to the Council?
- Closed letter to the Council?
- Public statement?
- **Must be fast!**
- Discussion now, poll this afternoon, send tonight?

Food for thought

EDITORIAL | 04 March 2022

Russia's brutal attack on Ukraine is wrong and must stop

Nature stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian research community – and continues to support the global exchange of scholarly knowledge.

The [Global Young Academy] is also rightly calling for the research community to **uphold scientific collaborations** with Russian scholars amid the invasion and is urging researchers to “not let war divide us”. [[full text](#)]

EPJC

Policy on geopolitical conflict

Editorial decisions should not be affected by the origins of the manuscript, including the nationality, ethnicity, political beliefs, race, or religion of the authors. Decisions to edit and publish should not be determined by the policies of governments or other agencies outside of the journal itself, except where a decision might place the journal in violation of applicable law. [\[full text\]](#)

DESY

Public statement

Despite DESY's long tradition of collaborating with scientists from all over the world, and to promote peace, open dialogue and open science, **we suspend cooperations with Russian and Belarusian institutes**, effective immediately. We are aware that the sanctions also affect those Russian and Belarusian scientists that oppose the war and will maintain contact individually. [\[full text\]](#)

Actual rules

- DESY employees will **not participate in conferences** co-organized by Russian or Belarusian institutes or **where speakers from Russian or Belarussian Institutes are announced.** [\[full text\]](#)

science4peace

Petition signed by about 200 scientists

The sanctions imposed on scientists are counterproductive, they do not put pressure on the Russian government, but make communication among scientists difficult and in some cases impossible. They often affect colleagues who share our condemnation of the war and have endangered their own welfare by expressing their opinions publicly. These sanctions will not help to achieve a ceasefire or resolve the conflict. On the contrary, these measures will isolate Russian and Belarusian scientists and decouple them from international discussions, in science and elsewhere. [[full text](#)]

A look from the other side

In the nineties, the academic sanctions now proposed against Russia were implemented against Serbia. Excerpt from an eyewitness' blog:

There was, for a long time, this burning hope in many that the West would somehow become our allies in trying to stop Milošević. Academics always felt connected to the more liberal western world and many naively thought that the West feels a similar kinship with us. Instead, **we were left with the feeling that [the West] turned its back on us completely.** [\[full text\]](#)

Belle II

Considering the above points, the Belle II Collaboration adopts the following measures:

- **Belle II members from Russian institutes continue to contribute** to the experiment as collaboration members.

As for publications,

- We list the names of all individuals who signed the authorship confirmation.
- Affiliations, country names, and funding-agency acknowledgements are not listed.

[\[full text\]](#)

Draft poll

- Open or closed letter?
- Condemn the invasion?
- Science as way to promote peace?
- Call for removing Russian institutes from CERN (like DESY)?
- Call for only removing acknowledgements from papers (like Belle 2)?
- No new collaborations with Russia (like ECFA)?
- Ethical concerns about removing authors from publications?
- Sanctions with a well-defined ending condition?
(e.g. “until a peaceful resolution of the conflict”)
- Emphasize the long-lasting effects of sanctions?