



## Statement on Russia's Membership of The International Rubber Conference Organisation

The attack against Ukraine, a democratic and independent country, is a violation of international law and of core values of humanity. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is an assault on the fundamental principles of freedom, democracy, and self-determination, which provide the basis for academic freedom and opportunities for scientific exchange and cooperation, a core value of The International Rubber Conference Organisation (IRCO).

It is for this reason that, through several Extraordinary IRCO Committee Meetings and a vote of the IRCO Member Organisations, by more than a two thirds majority of voting members the IRCO has taken the difficult decision to suspend Russia's membership of IRCO.

The IRCO wish to acknowledge our colleagues from NIIEMI, the Russian scientists and industrialists from the Russian rubber community, and the Russian citizens who do not support this attack and speak out against the war.

The IRCO call on the Russian leadership to cease all military action against Ukraine and put an end to this war and IRCO encourages NIIEMI to maintain a dialogue about reinstating their IRCO membership at an appropriate time in the future.

*Decision made by a vote of IRCO Members on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and approved at an Extraordinary IRCO Committee Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.*

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