

**UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE
OF AMERICA - ILLINOIS BRANCH**

2247 West Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622



**УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ КОНГРЕСОВИЙ КОМІТЕТ
АМЕРИКИ - ВІДДІЛ ІЛЛІНОЙ**

312.342.6298
uccaillinois.org

September 25, 2023

Dirk Van de Put
Chief Executive Officer
Mondelēz International, Inc.
905 West Fulton Market, Suite 200
Chicago, Illinois 60607
September 25, 2023

Request to schedule a meeting

Dear Mr. Van de Put,

We write to you today on behalf of the [Ukrainian Congress Committee of America - Illinois Division](#) amidst russia's unprovoked war against the people, democratically elected government, and territorial sovereignty of Ukraine. Our organization represents more than 300,000 Ukrainian Americans living in the greater Chicago area and supports cultural, educational, and humanitarian activities that celebrate Ukrainian American heritage. However, over the last year and a half, our mission has been to also support the people of Ukraine in their fight against Russian aggression.

We recognize that Mondelēz has taken action to support the people of Ukraine, including a \$15 million donation to Ukrainian communities, the provision of humanitarian aid through international and local NGOs, and relocation assistance for affected Ukrainian employees. However, we are deeply concerned by your company's decision to continue serving the Russian market, a decision that led the Ukrainian National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP) to designate Mondelēz as one of only seven American companies named as an [international sponsor of war](#). We are aware that a diverse set of company stakeholders, including your [employees](#), [civil society](#), and [shareholders](#), have already objected to your continued operations in russia. As neighbors and concerned Ukrainians, we request an urgent dialogue to better understand how your company reconciles its commitment to the people and democracy of Ukraine with its decision to serve the russian market, therefore being complacent and/or complicit in supporting the russian government's crimes against humanity and war crimes.

russia's full-scale invasion and brutal occupation of Ukraine has resulted in the death of 10,000 innocent Ukrainian civilians and the displacement of eight million more, making the Kremlin responsible for one of the worst humanitarian crises since World War II. The russian military is flouting international humanitarian law by targeting Ukrainian civilians and vital civilian infrastructure and carrying out unspeakable acts of sexual violence, torture, and forcing Ukrainians from their homes. The Ukrainian government is currently tracking [more than 107,000 war crimes and crimes of aggression](#), and the International Criminal Court [issued an arrest warrant](#) for russian president vladimir putin for the crime of trafficking Ukrainian children.

In response to the invasion, the United States and dozens of allied countries have supported Ukraine in its struggle against naked aggression and imposed a historic array of economic sanctions and export controls on Russia, limiting Putin and his cronies' ability to finance and resource their war machine. In the United States, no community has done more to support the Ukrainian people in their struggle for freedom than the City of Chicago.

As Kyiv's Sister City, Chicago is home to a thriving Ukrainian American community that dates back more than 100 years. Unfortunately, the newest members of this community are [refugees forced to flee their war-torn homes in Ukraine](#). In response, our city has come together to support them, their families back home, and our beloved homeland in this time of great need. Community and cultural groups like ours have [rallied together](#), [marched in solidarity](#), and [supported the diverse needs of Ukraine and its heroes](#). In the early days of the war, former Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the Chicago City Council passed a [resolution](#) affirming the city's support for "the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine," while Governor J.B. Pritzker and the State of Illinois have similarly stood by Ukraine, directing its pension funds to [divest from Russian and Belarusian banks and companies](#) and providing [emergency response vehicles](#) to the front lines. U.S. Representative Mike Quigley (IL-05), Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, has [traveled to Ukraine](#), met President Zelensky, and even visited Bucha -- the site of some of the Russian military's most horrifying atrocities.

From the onset of the war, Mondelēz has made public statements claiming to be "scaling back" or "scaling down" its operations in Russia. Yet, public data about your Russian operations indicate that your business continues to generate enormous profits for your company and revenue for the Russian state. Notably, in 2022, Mondelēz's three factories in Russia, which produce cookies, crackers, and other snacks, [generated more than \\$1 billion in revenue and \\$339 million in profit](#). These figures demonstrate that Mondelēz has increased its market share since Russia's invasion, **growing revenue by 38 percent and profit by 303 percent compared to the previous year**. Furthermore, the NACP details how these operations have contributed **more than \$61 million in taxes to the Russian government**. Your company's [SEC 10-Q filing](#) at the end of July notes that despite a decrease in 2023 revenues, "the profitability of [your] Russian business has increased significantly and contributed to [your] consolidated performance."

Mondelēz' decision to serve the Russian market is of particular concern after President Putin's September 2022 [mobilization order](#) that requires companies to assist in the conscription of employees and provide material support to the Russian military upon request. Along with additional Russian legislation that is mobilizing private and public resources for the war effort, the mobilization order increases the risk that Mondelēz and other remaining multinational companies may materially contribute to the war against Ukraine, including heinous war crimes committed by Russian forces.

Companies like Mondelēz face an array of [financially material risks](#), including legal and regulatory liability, operational disruptions, seizure of assets by the Russian state, and reputational harm associated with doing business with a pariah state. Mondelēz has already seen the [financial impact](#) of reputational risks associated with the Russian market as its Nordic customers and distribution partners have [boycotted](#) the company for failing to exit and the Russian military bombed the Mondelēz company's factory in Ukraine.

As you are aware, [hundreds of the world's largest corporations have left Russia](#) in response to the unjustified invasion of Ukraine. These companies realized that it is “the right thing to do” despite any revenue loss that may ensue. Mondelēz is a respected member of the Chicago community that has voiced concern for Ukraine, yet it continues to reap huge profits through its business operations in russia.

We would appreciate **your response by Monday, October 2**, to set up a time to discuss these issues of critical importance to Mondelēz, our community, and the people of Ukraine.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mariya Dmytriv MD

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