Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria Karl Nehammer
Federal Minister for Finance of the Republic of Austria Magnus Brunner
Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria Alexander Schallenberg

Strasbourg, 25 April 2024

Dear Federal Chancellor Karl Nehammer,
Dear Federal Minister Magnus Brunner,
Dear Federal Minister Alexander Schallenberg,

We, Members of the European Parliament, are writing to you to express our deep concern about the activities of the Austrian Raiffeisen Bank International in Russia. We have been struck by recent reports that Raiffeisen Bank International is planning to continue and even expand its activities in Russia by hiring more than 2,000 new employees.

We deeply regret that Raiffeisen Bank International's statements and actions are fully contradictory. Instead of repeated statements about intentions to reduce and sell their activities in Russia, the Raiffeisen Bank International is the western lender with the largest operations in Russia. Moreover, in contrast to other Western banks that are reducing their activities in Russia, Raiffeisen Bank International has maintained and increased its local staff of almost 10,000 employees over the past year, and plans to expand it further.

After more than two years of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, much suffering and destruction, we do not see any excuse for Raiffeisen Bank International not to comply with the restrictive measures against Russia imposed by the EU, including the Republic of Austria. Let us be clear - activities of Raiffeisen Bank International in Russia contribute to Russia's economy and budget, and provide financial resources for continued military aggression against Ukraine, a candidate country for accession to the European Union.

We call on you, the respective leaders of the Republic of Austria, to encourage Raiffeisen Bank International to follow through on its statements and cease its activities in Russia. We call on you to ensure that all Austrian companies comply with the imposed restrictive measures and do not contribute to Russia's ability to wage an illegal and unjustified war against Ukraine and its people. We remind you that Ukraine, not Russia, shares our common democratic values and ideals and is a candidate country to join our common Union.

Sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius, Renew Europe, Lithuania

Ivan Štefanec, EPP, Slovakia

Claudia Gamon, Renew Europe, Austria

Markéta Gregorová, Greens-EFA, Czechia

Adam Bielan, ECR, Poland

Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Renew Europe, Germany

Traian Băsescu, EPP, Romania

Bart Groothuis, Renew Europe, Netherlands

Andrius Kubilius, EPP, Lithuania

Eva Poptcheva, Renew Europe, Spain

Rasa Juknevičienė, EPP, Lithuania

Olivier Chastel, Renew Europe, Belgium

Juozas Olekas, S&D, Lithuania

Javier Nart, Renew Europe, Spain

Marian-Jean Marinescu, EPP, Romania

Andreas Schieder, S&D, Austria

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Eugen Tomac, EPP, Romania

Ivars Ijabs, Renew Europe, Latvia

Ramona-Victoria Strugariu, Renew Europe, Romania

Andrey Kovatchev, EPP, Bulgaria

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Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner, ECR, Finland

Inese Vaidere, EPP, Latvia

Hannes Heide, S&D, Austria

Vlad-Marius Botoş, Renew Europe, Romania

Andrus Ansip, Renew Europe, Estonia