



H.E. Mr. Kęstutis Navickas
Minister of Agriculture
Lithuania

MC/2022.084.cb

11 April 2022

Dear Minister,

I am writing to ask you to help the OECD help Ukraine. Russia's large-scale and unprovoked aggression against its neighbour has already led to untold human suffering and a powerful shock to the world economy. The invasion also **threatens famine for Ukraine and heightened food insecurity for millions of the world's poorest.** It is this that we are working to prevent.

Ukraine has asked for help providing farm machinery, seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, as well as fuel and logistical support to maintain farm production. **Time is very short with respect to the spring planting,** and Ukraine's ability to limit damage to 2022 production will have **important implications for food security in Ukraine and in other countries.** Its success in containing Russia's invasion so far means that much of the country can still be cultivated if the world acts fast to support its farmers.

Last month, the OECD reached out informally to its private-sector networks to see whether manufacturers could play an active role in responding to Ukraine's request in the form of agricultural vehicles or parts. The response from private-sector actors was overwhelmingly positive. **We have since started to receive more detailed information from companies about tractors, combines and other equipment that is available for rapid delivery to the Ukrainian border and that matches Ukraine's needs.** If adequate funding is available, some of this equipment could reach the border within a week.

The sums are substantial but modest given what is at stake. For example, one producer told us on 4 April that it could deliver 15 Tractors, and 30 combine harvesters complete with headers to the Ukrainian border in a week or less for EUR 8 000 000. The manufacturer has its own logistics network and can ensure delivery to the border. The company still has a network inside Ukraine that can assist with the delivery of the equipment to Ukrainian farmers. Other manufacturers are coming to us with their potential offers.

Aid agencies are already warning of serious food-supply problems to come because of the war, and they are preparing to finance the response to this crisis. Yet too little is being done to mitigate those problems by supporting Ukraine's productive capacity. **The principal challenge is mobilising the modest funds required very fast.** I am hoping that you can help.

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I am not asking for funds for the OECD, rather for your willingness to join us in working directly with one or more manufacturers. We are racing against the clock, so I would be most grateful for your consideration. If you can help, my team and I can connect you immediately with colleagues in the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate who can link you up with the suppliers, so that you and they can work out the most efficient modalities directly. We can also provide more detailed information on Ukraine's needs, as identified by the Ministry of Agriculture.

I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Kind regards,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a long, sweeping curve that loops back and ends with a short horizontal stroke.

Mathias Cormann

Cc: H.E. Ms. Lina Viltrakiene, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the OECD