



Mr Alexei Kudrin
Chairman of the Accounts Chamber
Accounts Chamber of the Russian
Federation

2 March 2022 No 11-1.1/22/116

Dear Mr Kudrin

I wish I could write to you under any other circumstances than I am doing right now. For example, to discuss how to audit, in cooperation between the supreme audit institutions of the two neighbouring countries – the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation – the environmental state of Lake Peipus, the border lake of the two countries, and to analyse what each country could do to further benefit trade and economic cooperation. Just like we had, for example, in these areas our rational and smooth cooperation between the two audit authorities before the year 2014. However, the current situation is not nearly comparable with the one even 8 years back.

Today, I am turning to you as the Chairman and President of the umbrella organisation for the world's supreme audit organisations, the INTOSAI. Under your leadership, Russia's supreme audit institution has been successfully and professionally performing its duties since 2019, and has earned respect for it.

Knowing you as a recognised economist and a rational former politician, I believe you understand very well that the current warfare of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is not creating, but only burning the bridges between the members of INTOSAI. Just like the imaginary bridges between the historical fraternal nations, and the real bridges in Ukraine are burned.

People on both sides are losing their lives because of the decision made by the President of Russia, whose activities have unfortunately destroyed for years even the hope of the Russian economy you were attempting to build up years ago when you were the Minister of Finance and initiated economic reforms.

It is not my place to advise you because I am sure that you grasp the situation very well. I hope that when looking into your soul you will feel that the only right choice is to hand over the INTOSAI Presidency to the next Presidency, Brazil, without waiting for the official end of term in autumn (or find some other way to discontinue your chairmanship).

I believe that you very well understand that this step is inevitable in order to prevent any further polarisation of the INTOSAI membership and tensions that Russia's war against Ukraine has created. The role of the INTOSAI President is to unite its members, whereas Russia who has unleashed war can no longer continue chairing the INTOSAI in the current situation as it will not be in line with INTOSAI values.

As we all know, the INTOSAI's motto is "*Experientia mutua omnibus prodest*" or "Mutual experience benefits all". By adapting this motto to the current situation it can be said that the situation is just the opposite – from the terrible experience that the Russian Federation and its leaders are offering to Ukraine, to Europe, to the world nobody will win but everybody will lose. And the Russian people and state themselves will be the main losers.

I do ask you to forward awareness of this to the authorities in whose hands is the decision to end this war immediately. Unlike ordinary people in Russia who are threatened with detention or treason for protesting against war, you, using your high authority and status, will have the possibility to bring this awareness to the leaders of your country.

Looking forward to the immediate stopping of the war.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Janar Holm', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janar Holm
Auditor General of the Republic of Estonia