

Buantoscáireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Shlándaíl agus Comhar san Eoraip
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, Helen McEntee TD, at the 1554th Reinforced Meeting of the Permanent Council

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

24 February 2026

Thank you, Chair, and I would like to thank you for convening us in this reinforced format. We meet at a stark moment – four years since Russia launched its unprovoked and unlawful full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Ireland's support for Ukraine remains firm and unwavering. I also welcome ongoing international efforts, including those led by the United States, to bring Russia's war of aggression to an end.

Unfortunately, it is clear that Russia's response to peace efforts has been more missiles and destruction targeting Ukraine's towns and critical infrastructure. This has resulted in civilian casualties and has deprived millions of Ukrainians of electricity, heating and water in the middle of winter.

Ireland is working closely with our EU partners and others to ensure Ukraine receives the support it needs, including through the €90 billion EU loan package. Our strong support will also shape Ireland's approach as we prepare for our upcoming EU Presidency.

Russia's brutal aggression in Ukraine represents not only a grave breach of international law, but also a systematic violation of the Helsinki principles.

That is why it is essential that we keep Russia's aggression at the top of our agenda at the OSCE. We welcome the Chair's commitment to ensuring this is the case.

We also welcome all efforts to secure an end to Russia's aggression, including the recent visit by the Chair-in-Office and Secretary General to Kyiv and Moscow. It is important that this organisation is ready to play its role in supporting a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, drawing on its significant expertise and unique range of tools.

At the same time, we must step up practical support for Ukraine through OSCE programmes and institutions, and continue working together to ensure Russia is held accountable for its actions.

This year also marks four years since the unlawful detention of three OSCE staff members: Vadym Golda, Maxym Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov. I once again reiterate our demand for their immediate release and return to their families.



Chair,

Russia claims to want peace and to see the OSCE as a platform for dialogue on European security. Let's be clear - this is in Russia's hands.

It can end its war at any time and we again demand that it does so.

But we also need to be realistic. Meaningful dialogue cannot take place while its aggression continues and while it is attacking civilians and critical infrastructure.

I call on Russia to end its brutal attacks, to agree to a ceasefire, and to engage meaningfully in peace efforts.