



**Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine  
As for delivery by H.E. Mr. Andrii SYBIHA,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine,  
at the 1554th Reinforced Meeting of the Permanent Council of the  
OSCE,**

24 February 2026

**Excellencies, dear colleagues,**

It is a pleasure and an honor to address you today. I thank the Swiss Chairpersonship for convening this reinforced Permanent Council meeting. I also thank all participating States who support Ukraine, our people, and our shared values.

This meeting sends a clear message: Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine remains at the top of the international agenda. Moscow will not sweep its crimes under the rug.

We all know what Russia is doing. Many of you have seen it with your own eyes.

Today, I will not focus on listing Russian crimes.

Today, I want to speak about global security challenges—and about the possible role of the OSCE. This organisation can—and must—find its place not only in peace efforts, but also in the future security architecture and the post-war reality.

We often hear that the OSCE was never an organisation of like-minded countries. That it was created for dialogue in times of deep disagreement.

That is true.

But the Helsinki principles were agreed by all participating States. And international law is mandatory. It is not optional.

We also hear that Russia cannot be expelled from organisations like the OSCE and the UN. We have heard this since 2022.

And today we mark the fourth grim anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion.

For Ukraine, these are four years of fighting and resilience. Four years of suffering. And countless human tragedies.

But what does it mean for the OSCE?

It means a growing crisis inside the Organisation.

The fifth year without a budget.

Too often, we cannot act fast.

Too often, we cannot act effectively.

And this year, we are even without a Triika.

This is not abstract. This is the result of Moscow's sabotage. Moscow wants to overturn the international order. And we feel it here, in this Organisation.

As long as Russia violates OSCE principles, the OSCE must be clear about its role: It must be a platform for sustained pressure and accountability. Not a platform for dialogue with the aggressor.

If we return to business as usual today, we will normalise genocidal wars as a tool of foreign policy. We can never do this.

I am grateful to the OSCE leadership and to participating States for understanding this. And for being ready to do more against Russia's destructive influence.

Dear colleagues,

On 2 February, we hosted His Excellency Mr Ignazio Cassis in his capacity as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. He was accompanied by OSCE Secretary General Feridun Sinirlioğlu.

In this regard, I want to thank the OSCE for its readiness to support diplomatic efforts aimed at ending Russia's aggression.

But for these efforts to work, we must be clear. Russia is not a stakeholder. Russia is the aggressor state.

Russia's aggression is not an alternative point of view. It is a crime. It is the gravest crime. And it cannot be justified morally or legally.

This must be the starting point for any further discussion on how the OSCE can contribute to ongoing peace efforts.

Because if Russia does not respect international rules, it must feel our strength with which we defend them.

And let me finish with what remains an open wound of the OSCE. Russia's illegal detention of three former Ukrainian SMM employees—Vadym Holda, Maksym Petrov, Dmytro Shabanov.

They must be released unconditionally, and the only obstacle is the Kremlin's approach to innocent people as a bargaining tool.

This open wound must be healed. As well as OSCE itself.

Thank you!