



1554th (Reinforced) Meeting of the Permanent Council
Secretary General Feridun H. Sinirlioglu's Speech
24 February 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

On this anniversary, we are reminded that the war in Ukraine continues to pose the most serious threat to peace and security in the OSCE region. It has caused immense suffering and destruction that will leave an indelible mark for generations. And it has deepened mistrust, increased risks and undermined the principles that underpin our common security.

The human cost of this war is devastating. Hundreds of thousands have been killed, wounded or displaced. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims. Homes, schools and hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. The war is permanently changing the lives of an entire generation of children. Ultimately, the best way to protect them is peace.

Distinguished delegates,

This war must end, with a just and viable peace. And such a peace can only be achieved through negotiations. There is no alternative to dialogue. Therefore, I welcome continued diplomatic engagement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, under US mediation, to bring this horrible and dangerous war to an end. I also thank the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis for hosting the last round of the trilateral talks just last week in Geneva. Efforts that pave the way towards a negotiated settlement to end the war must be supported.

The OSCE stands ready to play a useful role in post-conflict stabilization and rehabilitation, including the monitoring of the implementation of the terms of a negotiated settlement that may emerge between the sides to end the war.

Europe's stability and security depend on dialogue, co-operation and the steadfast respect of international law. The people of Ukraine and of the entire OSCE region deserve nothing less than a just and lasting peace, which would be a first step towards a new security architecture in Europe.

I thank you.