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EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1582
Vienna, 22 October 2026

EU Statement on the Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

1. Russia has escalated its large-scale, deliberate and systematic missile and drone attacks against Ukraine's civilians and civilian infrastructure, including energy and transport systems, and healthcare and educational facilities.

2. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. According to UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, at least 328 civilians were killed and 2,105 injured in September 2026 - the highest September toll since the start of the full-scale invasion, and 85 per cent higher than in September 2025. The first two weeks of October were among the deadliest periods for civilians in years. A brutal Russian strike on a park in the Kharkiv region on 19 October killed six people, including a one-year-old child, and wounded many more. These are not just numbers, but shattered families, stolen futures, and countless human tragedies.

3. Despite the announcement of an energy ceasefire by the United States, Russia has continued to attack Ukraine's energy and oil and gas sectors, causing widespread damage and power cuts. Strikes have hit power plants and substations in Kyiv and the Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, Odesa and Kharkiv regions. In Kyiv, attacks on energy infrastructure disrupted electricity, public transport and water supplies — essential services on which civilians depend every day.

4. We demand that Russia immediately and unconditionally cease its aggression, withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, and fully respect Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

5. We reiterate our call on all countries to immediately cease any assistance to Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine, whether direct or indirect, and notably through

the provision of dual-use goods and components. In particular, we strongly condemn the deployment of the DPRK's military forces in the war against Ukraine as well as the continued military support provided to Russia by Iran, Belarus and the DPRK, among others.

6. We condemn the repeated attacks against civilian shipping, merchant and commercial vessels in the Black Sea, such as the recent attacks against civilian ships in Romania's territorial waters (on 14 and 15 October) and in Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone (on 13 October), including against an EU Member State flagged vessel. These attacks are unacceptable and constitute a serious violation of international and maritime law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We furthermore strongly condemn repeated violations of EU Member States' airspace, most recently on 17 October 2026, when two Russian drones entered Romanian airspace and were shot down over the Black Sea.

Mr Chair,

7. The European Union supports a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law and underpinned by robust and credible security guarantees for Ukraine. Only a solution that respects Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity can bring about a just and lasting peace. Borders must not be changed by force, the aggressor cannot be rewarded and Ukraine's long-term security and ability to defend itself must be guaranteed. The path to peace in Ukraine cannot be decided without Ukraine. The European Union will decide on matters of its competence or affecting its security.

8. Humanitarian relief efforts and confidence-building measures, notably the exchange of prisoners of war and the return of unlawfully deported Ukrainian children and civilian detainees, including the three OSCE staff members — Vadym Golda, Maksym Petrov and Dmytro Shabanov, must continue as part of the pathway to peace.

9. We remain committed to ensuring full accountability for war crimes and the other most serious crimes committed in connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. ODIHR, through its monitoring activities, and the OSCE Human Dimension Mechanisms also make important contributions to that end. The OSCE plays and will continue to play a role in view of a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

10. We will continue our firm and unwavering support for Ukraine, including on its path towards the EU, and further increase pressure on Russia, including through sanctions.

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.