



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by HE Mr Yuri Vitrenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organisations in Vienna

1539th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 3, "Report by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek"
(23 October 2025)

Mr Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine takes note of the report by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.

In particular, we are compelled to express our **strong disappointment and concern** regarding some activities of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, which clearly and contrary to their mandate, conducted on 14 April 2025, a workshop titled "*Ukraine Identity Politics, 1991–2014*".

The Ukrainian side had **alerted** the Chairpersonship and participating States about the **manipulative nature and purpose** of this event, which served the purposes of Moscow's KGB propagandistic agenda.

As stated in the concept note of the event:

«...Since Ukraine became an independent sovereign state in 1991, it has faced a continual domestic tug-of-war between those who see Ukraine's future aligned with the West and those who see its future aligned with Russia.

This tug-of-war, while a perpetual feature of Ukraine from 1991 to 2014 (!), becomes manifest in violent protests, such as the 2004 Orange Revolution (! - example of exclusively peaceful protest, that amazed the whole world at that time) and the Euromaidan protests that culminated in the Revolution of Dignity in February 2014.

This tug-of-war is not, though, solely a domestic affair but one in which external actors, such as the European Union and Russia, are active agents.

Our project examines this tug-of-war between 1991 and 2014 to determine if the subsequent Russian annexation of Ukrainian territory was inevitable».

- How come that the OSCE-logoed entity can even pose a question/ or even assume that the annexation of the OSCE participation state's territory can be "inevitable"?

- What is this, if not a subversive, Moscow-style attempt to justify Russian aggression that started back in 2014?

And one more question begs to be asked - have all challenges in the Central Asian region already been addressed and resolved?.

Nevertheless, this workshop was held even after the withdrawal of the participants, including Ukrainians, as well as cosponsors, including the British Academy, in clear violation of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek mandate, which is limited to promoting regional co-operation, conflict prevention, and good governance **in Central Asia**.

We are particularly concerned that **the report presented today makes no reference whatsoever** to this incident. We take the failure to recognize this incident on the part of the Academy as a sign that questions the transparency, impartiality, professionalism, and ability of the Academy and its leadership to perform their duties in line with the entrusted mandate.

We wish to underline that this workshop constitutes a **blatant misuse of the OSCE logo** to promote **Russian propaganda narratives** under the pretext of academic freedom.

Ukraine, having **never been consulted** and **never requested** regarding the conduct of such a workshop discussion, considers this event **unacceptable**.

We expect the Secretariat and the current and upcoming Chairpersonships to take this matter seriously and to ensure that **such abuses of mandate do not recur**.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.