



Statement by Ireland at the 1518th Special Meeting of the Permanent Council
The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine
24 April 2025

Thank you Mr Chair,

Ireland fully aligns with the statement delivered by Poland on behalf of 26 EU Member States and I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr Chair,

As people around the world gathered to mark Holy Week and Easter, the people of Ukraine continued to face the appalling reality of Russia's relentless, brutal and unprovoked aggression. Cruel strikes on the city of Sumy on Palm Sunday resulted in the deaths of 34 people, including two children. A further 117 people were injured as a result of this despicable attack.

Over the Easter weekend, we received reports of further tragic loss of life in Kherson, caused by Russian attacks. Russia's utter disregard for human life was further demonstrated by its drone strike on a bus in Marhanets, which killed nine people and injured 40 as they travelled to work on Wednesday morning, as well as the massive overnight missile and drone attack that killed nine people and injured 70 in Kyiv. Large-scale assaults on civilians and civilian infrastructure, designed to cause immense suffering, have been a systematic tactic of Russia's full-scale invasion despite the fact that targeting civilians is a violation of international humanitarian law.

Mr Chair,

Russia's reprehensible actions clearly indicate a senseless desire to terrorise the Ukrainian population. This is unacceptable and must end. We call on Russia to ensure that all forcibly-transferred and deported children are returned immediately. All those arbitrarily detained in Ukraine must be immediately and unconditionally released including OSCE officials, Dymtro Shabanov, Maxim Petrov and Vadym Golda, who have been arbitrarily detained for three years now.

Acts of aggression, the targeting of civilians, and the systematic violation of the principles in the Helsinki Final Act cannot be carried out with impunity. Russia must be held to account for all of its crimes in Ukraine.

If Russia is serious about peace, it must stop its horrific attacks on Ukraine and take credible steps towards agreeing a meaningful ceasefire and building a just and lasting peace. How we arrive at peace matters. Ukraine must be centrally involved in negotiations. There needs to be a clear European role as well.

Together with partners, Ireland will continue to work for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace for Ukraine. A peace guided by our shared principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, based on the UN Charter and international law, which provides the necessary security guarantees.

Thank you.