



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in
Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to the address by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
H.E. Marija Pejčinović Burić**

As for delivery by Viktoriia Kuvshynnykova, Chargée D'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1470th meeting of the Permanent Council

25 April 2024

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes H.E. Marija Pejčinović Burić back to the Permanent Council and thanks her for the important messages she has just delivered.

I would like to stress that Ukraine highly commends the role of the Council of Europe in ensuring justice for Ukraine and accountability for russia and its war.

Accountability for russia's crimes committed in the course of the war serves a necessary prerequisite not only for sustainable peace and justice, but also for the restoration of the international rules-based order.

Dear Secretary General,

In your speech at the Conference in the Hague on April 2, you emphasized that instead of all russia's attacks, "there must be peace in Ukraine, a sustainable peace, which requires justice and it is a collective commitment to help deliver it".

We could not agree more with this your message, and your leadership in pursuing this goal is commendable.

Since the Register of Damage caused by the aggression of the russian federation against Ukraine was established last year, this mechanism has already become an integral element of restoring justice for Ukraine.

The Register of Damage is now operational and it allows Ukrainians to request compensation for damage and destruction of residential property caused by the russian invasion.

Opening of the Register's Office in Kyiv one month ago which was honored by your presence, became an important milestone in this regard.

This is a substantial step in terms of the work of the future international compensation mechanism as well as for establishing a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

In this context, I would like to share just several numbers to demonstrate the scale of the damage that russia has already brought to Ukraine and its people.

As of the beginning of 2024, according to estimations of the Kyiv School of Economics, the largest share of direct losses due to the russian war is the loss in the residential infrastructure – around 60 billion USD (58,9 billion). The regions with the most destroyed residential buildings include Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Kherson and Kyiv.

These numbers do not cover the destroyed city of Mariupol. Before the full-scale invasion 530 000 people lived in this city. All these people had homes that were destroyed,

damaged or looted by russians. And this lost, damaged and destroyed property must be fully compensated by russia.

Furthermore, according to conservative assessments, the destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant led to a complete or partial destruction of at least 19 000 houses.

It should also be noted that the damage to civilian infrastructure has increased significantly since russia intensified its massive attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure starting from March 2024.

We appreciate your personal attention to these barbaric acts and your immediate reaction to all such cases. Such a position looks really exemplary.

Accordingly, the Council of Europe's activity in this regard is highly relevant and important, and we are looking forward to the subsequent steps in the framework of the Register of Damage for Ukraine.

Dear colleagues,

The delegation of Ukraine supports the cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe as both organizations are based on the same values and work closely towards achieving security, stability and peace in our common region.

In addition to the existing four main areas of cooperation, we believe that other avenues should be further explored and developed to help Ukraine to address and mitigate the consequences of russia's war.

In particular, bringing back Ukrainian children illegally deported to russia is a highly potential area for such cooperation. We know that this issue is already high on the agenda of the Council of Europe, and further coordination with the OSCE to this end seems to be highly important and feasible.

Generally, we stand for the reinforced cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe in withstanding various threats to our common region stemming from the ongoing russian war.

In conclusion, I wish you, dear Secretary General, all the success in your important work and please, be assured that you can always count on our support.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.