

Chairmanship: Poland

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
(1366th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 9.30 a.m.
Closed: 11.20 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Hałaciński

Chairperson, Russian Federation (Annex 1)

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION
AGAINST UKRAINE: ATROCITIES DISCOVERED IN THE
KYIV LIBERATED REGION

France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, Monaco, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 2), Ukraine (Annex 3), United States of America (Annex 4), United Kingdom (Annex 5), Turkey (Annex 6), Norway (Annex 7), Switzerland (PC.DEL/497/22 OSCE+), Albania (Annex 8), Georgia (PC.DEL/509/22 OSCE+), France (Annex 9), Iceland (Annex 10), Canada (Annex 11), Italy (Annex 12), Romania (Annex 13), Moldova (Annex 14), Germany (Annex 15), Latvia, Japan (Partner for Co-operation) (Annex 16), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/17/22 OSCE+), Chairperson

The Permanent Council observed a moment of silence in memory of the civilians killed in Bucha, Ukraine.

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Heinous staged provocation by the Kiev regime in Bucha and unacceptable relevant actions by the Polish CiO: Russian Federation (Annex 17)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 7 April 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1366
5 April 2022
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Point 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation regards the first item on the agenda of the special meeting of the Permanent Council announced by the Polish Chairmanship, as well as the convening of the meeting itself, as blatantly provocative and unacceptable, in flagrant violation of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the fundamental principles of the work of the Chairmanship-in-Office approved by the Ministerial Council in Porto in 2002 (paragraph 2(b)).

Mr. Chairperson, you stubbornly refuse to create a non-discriminatory space for discussion in our decision-making body, generating a deliberately confrontational atmosphere and ignoring the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States. We have always strongly opposed this practice.

Once again, we urge the Polish Chairmanship to be strictly guided in its work by the procedures agreed by all participating States and to stop turning the Permanent Council into an arena for settling political scores.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's special meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of France, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

The European Union condemns in the strongest possible terms the reported atrocities committed by the Russian armed forces in a number of previously occupied Ukrainian towns, in Bucha, but also in Irpen, Hostomel, Ivankiv, and other places that have now been liberated by the Ukrainian armed forces. Haunting images of large numbers of civilian deaths and casualties show the true face of the brutal war of aggression the Kremlin is waging against Ukraine and its people. We are profoundly shocked and appalled by reports of mass graves containing hundreds of persons, and of bodies of civilians found in the street, including those of women, children and the elderly, some with their hands tied behind their back. There are also reports that the Russian forces have placed mines in homes and equipment, and there are documented cases of repeated rapes, summary executions, as well as other incidents of unlawful violence and threats against civilians, including the mass destruction of civilian infrastructure and looting of civilian property by Russian soldiers. The massacres in the town of Bucha and other Ukrainian towns will be inscribed in the list of atrocities committed on European soil.

The Russian authorities are responsible for these atrocities, committed while they had effective control of the area. They are subject to the international law of occupation.

The perpetrators of war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as the responsible State officials and military leaders, will be held accountable. The European Union supports all measures to ensure accountability for these violations in Ukraine by the Russian armed forces.

In particular, we fully support the investigation launched by the International Criminal Court Prosecutor into war crimes and crimes against humanity as well as the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Commission of Inquiry. The European Union is assisting the Ukrainian Prosecutor General and civil society focused on collection and preservation of the evidence of the war crimes.

We also reiterate our full support for, and look forward to, the imminent report of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism expert mission, which is mandated to establish facts surrounding

violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, in the context of Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine. We also highly appreciate the Ukraine Human Rights Monitoring Initiative, through which the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights documents the most serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law standards, from day one of Russia's illegal war of aggression. The information collected about the potential crimes committed by the Russian armed forces, including against civilians, will be presented to accountability mechanisms that have, or may have in the future, jurisdiction.

We stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in these sombre hours for the whole world. We repeat our call on Russia to fully respect Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and its territorial waters. The European Union will continue to firmly support Ukraine and will advance, as a matter of urgency, work on further sanctions against Russia.

President Putin must stop this war immediately and unconditionally.

I kindly ask that this statement be appended to the journal of the day.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra, Monaco, and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

The liberation of the Kyiv region from the Russian gang of murderers and looters – I cannot call them an army – has revealed the scale of the atrocities committed by Russia against Ukrainians.

The evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity is devastating and has left us speechless.

The massacre in the Kyiv region proves that the “Russists” know no limits to their cruelty – they transgress all moral boundaries and respect no values.

Even the preliminary findings are appalling and heartbreaking.

Bodies were lying on the streets.

Dozens of them were found with their hands tied behind their backs and had been shot through the back of the head.

This is how one such case was described by Human Rights Watch:

“On March 4, Russian forces in Bucha [...] forced the five men to kneel on the side of the road, pulled their T-shirts over their heads, and shot one of the men in the back of the head.”

This is the deliberate and arbitrary execution of civilians.

Another case was reported by Human Rights Watch as follows: “On March 6, Russian soldiers in the village of Vorzel, about 50 kilometers northwest of Kyiv, threw a smoke grenade into a basement, then shot a woman and a 14-year-old child as they emerged from the basement, where they had been sheltering.”

These testimonies are chilling.

A torture chamber had been set up in the basement of a building on the premises of a children's summer camp in Bucha.

Ukrainian women and girls were raped for hours, tortured and then killed.

There were attempts to burn the corpses of some raped women alongside a road.

Already lifeless bodies were crushed by tanks.

An entire family, including several children, were burned alive.

About three hundred people were found buried in mass graves in Bucha.

The remains of more than 400 civilians killed by "Russist" murderers have already been removed from the territory of the Kyiv region.

The existence of "execution lists", about which Ukraine was warned before the war, seems to be all too real.

The coming days will shed more light on this massacre and the crimes committed.

According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, the situation in Borodianka is already proving to be even worse than that in Bucha.

However, further horrifying images and accounts are expected to emerge from other liberated areas in the future – especially from Mariupol.

I can ultimately only repeat President Zelenskyy's appeal to Russian mothers:

"Even if you raised looters, how did they also become butchers? You couldn't be unaware of what's inside your children. You couldn't overlook that they are deprived of everything human. No soul. No heart. They killed deliberately and with pleasure."

But that is what "Russism" means, and it is necessary to ask ourselves how to cure Russian society of this disease.

Esteemed colleagues,

Every war starts with dehumanization.

And it is what was systematically done by the Russian leadership and its propagandists over many years.

They were breeding hatred within Russian society towards Ukrainians.

The individuals sitting here behind the nameplate that reads "Russian Federation" have become part of this network of lies, propaganda and hatred.

Words kill – literally. We have been seeing this with our own eyes since 2014. In Crimea, in Donbas and now across the whole of Ukraine.

It is another story, though, when diplomats' statements start to be delivered exclusively for the whitewashing of crimes.

I know that it is pointless to appeal to these Russian diplomats not to repeat all the nonsense and instructions that they received from Moscow for today's meeting.

It is their choice if they want to do that. And they will have to answer for it – before future generations, before future tribunals and before God.

At least they should be “professional” enough – a word that the Russian representative keeps repeating at each and every meeting – to see how their version is inconsistent with reality.

Your Defence Ministry cannot claim that Russian so-called soldiers left the Kyiv region on 30 March given that your television channel Zvezda reported on 1 April that Russian marines under the command of Aleksei Shabulin were conducting a military operation in the Bucha-Hostomel-Ozera sector.

After 40 days of the Russian aggression the scale of the atrocities cannot be described as a mere provocation.

You also cannot simply claim that these atrocities are a staged production given that Ukraine has invited all existing independent mechanisms and all possible fact-finding missions to document every murder.

Moreover, the Russian diplomats cannot count any more on the notion that a victory will somehow justify everything.

But I would not be surprised by any obnoxious statement made on Russia's behalf – not any more.

On the very same day as photographs of the crimes in Bucha were coming to light, the Russian State-run news agency RIA Novosti published an article entitled “What Russia should do with Ukraine”.

Given the level of censorship in Russia, the green light for this article was clearly not given by mistake.

The article is a manifestation of, and an apologia for, Russia's policy towards the Ukrainians.

It is also a manifestation of how Russia has become a Nazi State that is a threat to European and global security.

It sets out Putin's plans in detail, as he himself has announced them on numerous occasions, including his address on 24 February.

The article states that “the Bandera elite must be liquidated, for it is impossible to re-educate it. The social ‘swamp’, which actively and passively supported it through action and inaction, must endure the hardships of war and assimilate this experience as a historical lesson and as atonement for its guilt.”

Is this not a way of endorsing further extermination of Ukrainians?

They do not even try to hide their intentions. So there should be no illusions about their further plans for the Ukrainian people and our statehood. “De-Europeanization” and “De-Ukrainization”. They wish to erase even the name of our country.

But whatever the intention behind its publication, this manifesto of “Russism” will serve as evidence in a future tribunal established to try the war criminals and propagandists.

There should be no hesitation about our further actions to stop this evil, because impunity merely breeds more violence.

That is why bringing all those responsible to justice will break this vicious circle.

Ukraine has already drawn up a list of the personnel of the 64th Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade of the 35th Combined Arms Army, which was stationed in Bucha.

I hope that the Russian note-taker has carefully written down this information. Because your President has turned those men into murderers and rapists, and some of them may already be back in Russia by now. It is time for you to acknowledge that your own President has brought a curse on your country.

Esteemed colleagues,

“The world has already seen many war crimes. At different times. On different continents. But it is time to do everything possible to make the war crimes of the Russian military the last manifestation of such evil on earth.”

This is President Zelenskyy’s appeal to the world.

It is why he decided to establish a special judicial mechanism in Ukraine to investigate and prosecute all crimes committed by the invaders.

Ukraine has also urged the International Criminal Court and international organizations to send missions to Bucha and other liberated towns and villages of the Kyiv region with a view to thoroughly collecting all evidence of Russian war crimes in co-operation with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

We expect the OSCE, especially its relevant autonomous institutions, to join in these endeavours.

We believe that the OSCE has the expertise and capacity to make a significant contribution to our common efforts aimed at bringing those responsible to justice, restoring

peace and the rule of law in Europe, and preventing the repetition of such atrocities in the future.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

In the face of such appalling evil as the world has witnessed in the last few days, I would like to recall the words of the great American writer John Steinbeck, who wrote:

“I believe that there is one story in the world, and only one, that has frightened and inspired us ... Humans are caught – in their lives, in their thoughts, in their hungers and ambitions, in their avarice and cruelty, and in their kindness and generosity too – in a net of good and evil ... I think this is the only story we have and that it occurs on all levels of feeling and intelligence ... There is no other story. A man, after he has brushed off the dust and chips of his life, will have left only the hard, clean questions: Was it good or was it evil?”

Was it good or was it evil? That is a question we may ask of the townsfolk of Bucha. Of their lives in this quiet and tranquil suburb.

And it is a question that we may ask of their executioners, who rode into town with their hungers and ambitions, their avarice and their cruelty, leaving behind the enduring stain of evil.

Dear colleagues, war crimes do not merely happen. They are committed. They are intentional. And as all the participating States represented here know well, the conduct of war is governed by clearly defined rules, including rules to protect civilians from violence. These rules apply even to wars launched by a State against its neighbour without any provocation or justification. These rules are clear under international law.

Mr. Chairperson, the world is demanding justice following the shocking images of carnage discovered when Ukraine liberated Bucha on 2 April. Video footage shows the bodies of scores of people, including families and children, lying strewn across the streets and in ruined homes of this once obscure suburb of Kyiv, some with their hands tied behind their backs. An eyewitness account tells of Russia’s forces rounding up five men on 4 March, forcing them to kneel on the side of the road, pulling their T-shirts up over their heads, and then shooting them in the back of the head point blank – execution style. There are other graphic reports of rape and indiscriminate killing. The mayor of Bucha, Anatoly Fedoruk,

estimates some 300 of his townspeople were shot while Russian forces held the area, with the majority dumped in a mass grave on the outskirts of town.

It's not just in Bucha. Accounts of civilian killings in other areas that were once held by the Russian Federation correspond closely to what we are seeing in Bucha. As more areas are liberated, we are likely to encounter similar scenes of utter depravity and monstrous brutality. We continue to see credible reports that Russian forces continue to kill civilians and kidnap and kill local leaders in areas in Ukraine they hold. We are seeing credible reports of torture and civilians executed alongside their families as well as booby traps left behind by Putin's forces to injure even more civilians.

I cannot even begin to imagine the terror that these civilians have faced and continue to endure. Imagine, just imagine, what Mariupol looks like today.

Mr. Chairperson, we have all watched Russia kill civilians on a daily basis. Russia's forces have levelled entire Ukrainian cities to the ground, have hit hospitals, apartment blocks, schools, orphanages, and other buildings known to be sheltering civilians. They have shelled humanitarian corridors and there are now many reports that they have forcibly transferred the local population out of these areas held by Russia. Every single last one of these acts should be investigated and its perpetrators held to account. War crimes cannot be committed with impunity.

The callousness with which Russia's authorities have treated the news from Bucha is also worth dwelling on briefly. As photos of bloodied civilian corpses with hands tied behind their backs emerged on Saturday, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Maria Zakharova tweeted about the injustice of being turned away from a Chanel store. Russian authorities also claimed – as they have on previous occasions – that Ukraine had faked the scenes in Bucha using “crisis actors.” Eventually they settled on their favourite narrative, saying the United States had ordered the footage of atrocities in Bucha in order to frame Russia. I know I don't need to say it, but that “claim” is both offensive and ridiculous. It brings to mind Hannah Arendt's term the “banality of evil.”

Mr. Chairperson, the United States has long warned that Putin's forces were likely to commit atrocities as part of this war of aggression. We have seen the catastrophic images of devastation from Mariupol, reports of tens of thousands abducted or deported by Russia's forces, and shocking descriptions of rape and assault in the towns and cities the Kremlin cynically claimed Russia's forces have “liberated.” The reports and images we have seen, including the recent terrible footage from Bucha, suggest these are not the acts of a rogue soldier or two. They are part of a broader troubling pattern of reports of atrocities. All of Russia's forces – from the soldiers on the ground to the generals giving orders – must be held accountable for their actions.

Colleagues, as Secretary Blinken said, “We can't become numb to this. We can't normalize this. This is the reality of what's going on every single day as long as Russia's brutality against Ukraine continues. That's why it needs to come to an end.”

Those responsible for any war crimes and other atrocities committed in Ukraine – including political and military superiors – must be held accountable. That is why, together with other participating States in this Council, we are calling for a thorough investigation of

what took place in Bucha, what took place in Irpin and Hostomel, and what is taking place across Russian-held territory in Ukraine. Those responsible for acts of this nature should have no doubt that every atrocity they commit will be exposed, and the international community will hold them to account. These acts must stop, and they must stop now.

Mr. Chairperson, the evil that has transpired in Bucha will forever live in infamy. Let us never forget it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Each occasion we have met in special Permanent Council has marked a further appalling development as President Putin pursues his brutal war of choice in Ukraine. But today we reflect on a new and deeply disturbing low – apparent executions in cold blood on a shocking scale.

As Russian troops have been forced into retreat, we are seeing increasing evidence of appalling acts perpetrated by those invading forces in towns such as Irpin and Bucha. Hundreds of bodies have been discovered as towns have been liberated.

We have watched in horror as reports have emerged of men, women and children killed and mutilated. Of mass graves. And of footage showing people shot at close range, with their hands and feet bound and their bodies left to lie in the street. What further horrors await discovery? This is a great moral stain upon the Russian army, and one which will never be forgotten.

The perpetrators of these appalling acts must be held to account. Deliberate killings of civilians during Russia's illegal and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine must be investigated as war crimes. We will not allow Russia to cover up their involvement in these atrocities through cynical disinformation, and we will ensure that the reality of Russia's actions is brought to light. We will not rest until those responsible for atrocities, including military commanders and individuals in the Russian Government have faced justice. The United Kingdom has been at the forefront of supporting the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s investigation into the situation in Ukraine. We led the largest State referral to the ICC in its history. The OSCE Moscow Mechanism has an important role to play in contributing to this process, and it will continue to have the United Kingdom's full support. Nothing is forgotten, and nobody will be forgotten.

Mr. Chairperson, in this room Russian colleagues have told us they had no intention of invading Ukraine – a lie. They told us Ukraine was bombing their own schools and hospitals – a lie. Now they tell us Ukraine is executing their own civilian population. Have they no shame? There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people.

Mr. Chairperson, the Russian Government still has the chance to stop this senseless war. But while Russia continues instead with its senseless barbarity, it is essential that the

international community continues to provide Ukraine with the humanitarian and military support it so dearly needs, and that we step up sanctions to cut off funding for President Putin's war machine at source. The world is watching, and we will not forget.

I kindly ask that you attach this statement to the journal of the day. Thank you
Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1366
5 April 2022
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

The unprovoked, unjustified, illegal and illegitimate attack of the Russian Federation against Ukraine unfortunately continues.

As a result, the humanitarian situation on the ground is worsening day by day.

Yet, the solution to the ongoing humanitarian tragedy is political and it is urgent.

Each and every day, we witness grim reports about military developments on the ground that cost human lives.

This weekend, we followed the media reports regarding Bucha and some other cities with great sorrow.

These claims about the killings of civilians must be thoroughly investigated and enlightened.

We strongly and sincerely call for an urgent and permanent declaration of a ceasefire in Ukraine.

Our country will continue to lend every kind of support regarding the process to enable immediate establishment of just and lasting peace.

The meaningful momentum at the recent Istanbul meeting should urgently be sustained.

We repeat to underline the importance of acting with common sense and maintaining dialogue.

Taking this opportunity, let me also reiterate that we reject the ongoing assault against Ukraine.

We strongly support the preservation of the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters.

The humanitarian assistance provided by the Turkish Government will also continue unabatedly.

We will never give up our efforts to support the people of Ukraine.

My country wants peace, stability and prosperity in its region. We will sustain to sincerely contribute to any effort in any format in the direction of a peaceful way out of this situation.

We kindly ask that our statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are appalled by the reports coming out of the liberated areas around Kyiv and other regions. We are deeply shocked by the atrocities committed against civilians in Bucha and other places that have been held by Russian forces. In addition, Russian forces have indiscriminately destroyed homes, schools, hospitals and other civilian infrastructure facilities, and have reportedly left areas mined.

These and the other atrocities which have been reported since the beginning of the Russian invasion on 24 February will be investigated, and those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law must be brought to justice. We welcome the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine by the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) on 4 March “to investigate all alleged violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and related crimes in the context of the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation”. We are also pleased that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has opened an investigation into the situation in Ukraine.

As a supplement to the work of the HRC and the ICC, the expert mission sent to Ukraine under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism will deliver its report in a few days’ time. The report is expected to shed light on possible war crimes and crimes against humanity, including any such crimes due to deliberate and indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure.

The world is watching. There cannot be impunity for the war crimes being committed in Ukraine.

Russia’s unprovoked and illegal war against Ukraine – a free and sovereign country – is also an attack on democratic values, on freedom.

Norway once again urges Russia to abide by international law. This includes complying with the order of the International Court of Justice to immediately suspend its military operations and withdraw its troops from Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me also stress how much better it would have been if the Russian delegation had chosen to take part in our discussions under this agenda item. Instead, they put forward a current issue on what is in fact the same matter, albeit using wording that can only be interpreted as a provocation. I therefore urge our esteemed Russian colleagues to reconsider their modus operandi for future meetings.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1366
5 April 2022
Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for convening this special meeting of the Permanent Council. We also wish to thank you personally, and the Polish Chairmanship, for the principled and firm manner in which you are leading our Organization at this very difficult time.

Today we are called upon once again to express, clearly and loudly, where we stand as participating States, as human beings – individually and collectively.

Our position has already been made clear. But we will not tire of repeating our condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of Russia's unprovoked and unacceptable aggression against Ukraine – a flagrant and arrogant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and OSCE principles and commitments.

For almost six weeks now, Russia has been carrying out brutal, indiscriminate and deliberate attacks, targeting and killing civilians, many of them children, destroying their property and civilian infrastructure, and causing waves of refugees.

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

We are appalled by the evidence and reports of atrocities by the Russian army that are coming in from the Kyiv region and other parts of Ukraine. The bodies of civilians lying scattered on the streets and the utter destruction of towns are the clearest indictment yet of the true criminal nature of Russia's aggression. Particularly disturbing are also reports of rape and other conflict-related sexual violence.

We feel deep sorrow for the lives lost and for all this suffering. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the people of Ukraine. They deserve our respect and admiration for their endurance and dignity. And we support their legitimate right to self-defence.

The atrocities we have found out about so far fill us with apprehension about possible crimes in areas of Ukraine still under Russian control. The arbitrary detention and persecution

of civilians, elected officials and journalists have become widespread there, as have allegations of conflict-related sexual violence.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the Western Balkans, we know all too well the long-term pain and consequences of war and genocide, and we are familiar with the long journey towards justice and healing. Then, we said never again. Sadly, today, here we are, again.

We must act now. Nothing can ever excuse the cruelty and potential war crimes that we are seeing in Ukraine. Everything must be done to undertake an independent investigation, not least here at the OSCE, which has relevant mechanisms for that purpose. We reiterate our deep regret over Russia's refusal to support an extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). If the SMM still had a mandate, even though it has been temporarily evacuated, arrangements could be made for SMM monitors to reach the sites of the reported atrocities, where they could help to establish the facts.

As a member of the United Nations Security Council and of the recently established Group of Friends on Accountability for Ukraine, Albania will work with other countries and with international organizations to ensure that these crimes are properly documented and investigated. There should and there will be personal accountability for all these crimes.

Mr. Chairperson,

The madness of this war has gone too far. We call on Russia to immediately cease its acts of war and unconditionally withdraw all its forces from the entire territory of Ukraine, and also to urgently allow humanitarian assistance to reach those in need, especially older people, women and children.

I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day. Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1366
5 April 2022
Annex 9

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

Mr. Chairperson,

France aligns itself with the statement by the European Union and wishes to add a few words in a national capacity.

In recent days, the war of aggression being waged by Russia against Ukraine has reached a new level of horror.

The images of mass graves and abuses against civilians in the areas in the north of Ukraine, in particular Bucha and other liberated towns near Kyiv, are unbearable and will remain etched into our memories. The ones that reach us. We express our deepest sympathy for the victims and our complete solidarity with the Ukrainians.

The tactics used by Russia to conceal these crimes unfortunately come as a surprise to no one.

Once again, the indignity of the murder of civilians and the massacring of children has been compounded by the Russian Government's lies and denials.

At the same time as taking innocent lives in Ukraine and violating human rights in Russia, the authorities in Moscow are sullyng the honour and dignity of the Russian people.

But the world is not fooled. France condemns in the strongest possible terms the massive abuses committed by the Russian forces. These abuses could constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. We will work with the relevant courts and our partners to bring those responsible to justice. The Russian authorities will have to answer for these crimes and we will ensure that those responsible for these atrocities are prosecuted in the name of the indispensable fight against impunity. The truth about what happened in Bucha and about what has been happening for several weeks on Ukrainian territory will be revealed before long.

As the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, reminded us two days ago, France remains fully committed, also with its European partners,

to putting an end to this war of aggression, the human cost and humanitarian impact of which are becoming more serious each day, and will continue to provide resolute support in all its forms to the Ukrainian authorities.

I request that this statement be included in the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1366
5 April 2022
Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Although Iceland aligns itself with the statement by the European Union, I should like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

Iceland condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's war on Ukraine and the atrocities that Russian soldiers have committed in Ukraine against its people – in particular, the unspeakable killings in Bucha and other Ukrainian towns.

The wide-ranging consequences of this brutal war by Russia, which continue to unfold and come to light, are tragic for Ukraine, but also for the Russian people, the whole of the OSCE area and the entire world. Russia is waging war on the international community's most important principles, that is, on peace, human dignity and human rights, truth, the rule of law and democracy.

Furthermore, civilians are being killed in indiscriminate attacks by Russian troops, including attacks involving the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects and cluster munitions. Such indiscriminate attacks are a violation of international humanitarian law.

The humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine is horrifying. Over 4.2 million people have already fled the country, most of them women and children. Many of these are as a result exposed to the horrors of trafficking and gender-based and sexual violence – notwithstanding the growing reports of patterns of sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated on Ukrainian territory by Russian troops against Ukrainian women, including those internally displaced.

Conflict-related sexual violence constitutes a war crime and is an unacceptable violation of human rights: it must never be used as a weapon of war.

As we know and as we heard yesterday during the opening day of the 22nd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, violent conflict increases vulnerabilities and the risk of trafficking. We must respond adequately to this reality.

Dear colleagues,

We note with great satisfaction the way in which individual countries are demonstrating their solidarity and extending hospitality to Ukrainian refugees. We also express our profound gratitude for the efforts of the Polish Chairmanship within our Organization.

Let us be clear. Respect for international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, is not optional but essential.

We call on Russia to withdraw its troops immediately, and to cease its attacks and the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure. We urge Russia to adhere to its international commitments.

The only way to end this brutal war is through diplomatic efforts, carried out honestly and in good faith.

We express our full and unwavering support for Ukraine and its people.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I kindly ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1366
5 April 2022
Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Words cannot fully express the extent of our horror and revulsion at the targeted killings of civilians in Bucha by the Russian armed forces.

On behalf of Canada, I extend my most heartfelt condolences to the people of Ukraine for these unbearable losses.

The full extent of Russian atrocities committed in Bucha, in Irpin, and in Motyzhyn is becoming clear. As Ukrainian security services and the local and international media were able to move into liberated areas, the whole world saw the gruesome consequences of Russia's occupation.

The atrocities witnessed are barbaric and inhumane.

The atrocity of shooting unarmed, innocent civilians at close range in Bucha.

The atrocity of body parts in the streets of post-apocalyptic Irpin.

The atrocity of murdering the mayor of Motyzhyn, her son, and her husband while bound and blindfolded.

The atrocity of killing both the elderly and children.

Mr. Chairperson,

Satellite images from Bucha as early as 10 March showed evidence of possible mass graves. This was only a small sign of the true extent of the death and destruction in these areas. Even yesterday, the Russian Federation still claimed that during their occupation "not a single local resident has suffered from any violent action." This is clearly a lie.

We already know, without a doubt, that Russian soldiers killed civilians as they retreated from areas surrounding Kyiv, with the bodies of 450 civilians already identified. Russian forces have demonstrated that they are unprofessional, undisciplined, willing and

able to commit atrocities that indicate evidence of war crimes. These continued breaches of international humanitarian law show Russia's failures to live up to its role as a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council. The devastation we have all seen clearly brings down Russia's false narrative of a "special military operation" to protect those in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since 24 February, and before, we have heard publicly and in this Council Russia's shameful attempts to justify and rationalize their actions. Russia has again tried to spin a story that this, what has happened in Bucha, is "fake news". With zero evidence. Despite all the reports. All the photos. All the eye witnesses including many international media who travelled to Bucha after its liberation. There was no denying that these people slaughtered in the streets, in their homes, had been there for some time. Satellite imagery of Yabluska street showed exactly this with the same bodies on the same street in the same positions on both 18 March and 31 March.

I strongly caution against any such attempts to try and deflect the blame or pretend reports are "fake" or created as propaganda today, here in this Council. The Russian delegation should withdraw its abhorrently titled current issue. We see right through these attempts to justify what can never be justified. The world knows the truth and Russia will have to live with this shame.

Our hearts, minds, and condolences are with the thousands of Ukrainians who lost family members and friends this past week, and in the weeks previous, at the hands of the Russian invaders. The longer the conflict continues, the more Ukrainians will needlessly suffer these unprovoked and unwarranted atrocities. We call for an unconditional ceasefire and the immediate removal of all Russian troops from Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I would ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1366
5 April 2022
Annex 12

ENGLISH
Original: ITALIAN

1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ITALY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy aligns itself fully with the statement by the European Union and wishes to add some observations in a national capacity.

The images of the crimes committed in Bucha and other areas liberated by the Ukrainian army are appalling. The savagery of the massacres of unarmed civilians is horrific and intolerable. Our hearts are filled with deep sadness for these innocent victims of an unjustified and unjustifiable conflict. Italy condemns these horrors in the strongest possible terms and expresses its full sympathy for and solidarity with Ukraine and its citizens.

Once again, we strongly urge Russia to immediately stop this war, cease the violence against civilians and withdraw its armed forces from Ukraine. Russia will be held accountable for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy has strongly supported international initiatives to identify and punish those responsible for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. In particular, we supported the establishment by the Human Rights Council in Geneva of an International Commission of Inquiry and the initiation of proceedings in the International Criminal Court regarding war crimes committed in Ukraine. We are working to provide the International Criminal Court with all the evidence it needs to punish those responsible for these heinous crimes, including those committed in Bucha.

Within the framework of its mandate and the existing mechanisms, the OSCE can also contribute to international efforts to bring to justice those responsible for the violations and abuses committed during the conflict.

We are grateful to the Polish Chairmanship for convening the First Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting last week and today's special meeting of the Permanent Council, in order to keep the focus on the situation of civilians in Ukraine.

We express our appreciation for the continued work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Secretariat and the other autonomous institutions in upholding the shared commitments and core values of the OSCE. In particular, Italy supports the monitoring of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Ukraine that the ODIHR has been carrying out since the first day of the conflict.

We await the publication in the coming days of the results of the investigations by the Moscow Mechanism experts, initiated by 45 participating States including Italy, and we will work to ensure an appropriate follow-up.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of this meeting. Thank you.



1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank you for convening this special meeting of the Permanent Council. It is much needed.

Romania fully subscribes to the statement by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Romania's condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the Russian military aggression has been made clear on numerous occasions, as has its appeal to the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally stop this aggression and withdraw all Russian military forces and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is having terrible, unspeakable consequences and it must stop immediately. We firmly condemn the atrocities committed by Russian troops in Bucha and in other Ukrainian towns and cities. These crimes are unbearable and unacceptable and they are part of a wider pattern of behaviour of the Russian forces. In over a month now of Russia's war of aggression, we have been witnessing continuous and deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, maternity wards, kindergartens, schools and residential areas. We remind Russia that, in line with international humanitarian law, civilians must be protected against the dangers arising from military operations, and we deplore the loss of life and human suffering.

In addition, we are concerned about the reports of individuals being subjected to forced displacement, of women becoming the victims of rape and other forms of gender-based violence, and of hostages being taken. In accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949, Russia must allow safe passage for civilians wishing to leave, and it must ensure safe and unimpeded access for those delivering humanitarian assistance.

The perpetrators of these serious violations of humanitarian law and war crimes must be held accountable by international justice. Romania has joined other like-minded States in referring the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court, asking it to investigate alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide, occurred in the current

context of the Russian aggression. Romania also supports the efforts to document and gather evidence on the atrocities of the war inflicted by Russia undertaken by the Commission of Inquiry established last month by the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the similar efforts within the OSCE through the Moscow Mechanism and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. We look forward to the report of the fact-finding mission under the Moscow Mechanism as the first impartial report assessing the situation on the ground. All these actions, taken across different international organizations, show that the international community stands united and that the Russian Federation will be held accountable for its actions.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia's military aggression is having a huge, wide impact on the lives of the citizens and residents of Ukraine, who find themselves forced to flee the country in search of refuge and safety. The Romanian authorities, together with civil society and the private sector, are providing immediate assistance to all those crossing the border to Romania and seeking shelter in our country.

In these tragic times, it is important to respond to Ukraine's need for humanitarian assistance. Romania has already helped bilaterally and through the Civil Protection Mechanism of the European Union, and it has set up an international humanitarian hub close to its border with Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

The horrifying images from Bucha and other towns in Ukraine are a reminder to the whole world that we must stop this aggression immediately and that we must continue to support Ukraine.

We stand with Ukraine.

I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Moldova aligned with the statement delivered by the delegation of the European Union. In addition, I would like to add the following in my national capacity.

Together with the entire world, we have been deeply shocked by the terrible images of civilians killed in Bucha and other liberated Ukrainian towns. We are appalled by the brutality of these atrocities and by the numerous reports of mass graves.

Innocent civilians, including children, the elderly, and women, have been killed, some with their hands tied behind their backs.

The Republic of Moldova strongly condemns these inconceivable crimes against humanity that represent a horrible consequence of the unprovoked and unjustified aggression launched by Russia against Ukraine. These atrocities represent grave violations of international humanitarian law. Moldova supports their thorough investigation. All perpetrators of these crimes must be held accountable.

Yesterday, Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova, as a sign of profound compassion and solidarity with the people of Ukraine, by a special decree, declared 4 April as a National Day of Mourning to commemorate all victims of the war that was launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. In her public declaration, the Moldovan President also mentioned that it is important that these horrible images have to be seen by all citizens of Moldova, and especially by those who still don't condemn the war or try to find justifications. From the first day of the war, Moldova condemned the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and called on Russia to immediately stop the use of military force and engage in dialogue and diplomacy.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are horrified by the humanitarian crisis that forced millions of Ukrainians to flee from their homes to seek safety from military aggression. Moldova will continue to provide all support to refugees, as long as it will be necessary.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the Republic of Moldova's strong and unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

I kindly ask, Mr. Chairperson, that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1366
5 April 2022
Annex 15

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. I should like to add the following in a national capacity.

The terrible images of the atrocities committed against the civilian population in Bucha are almost unbearable. The discovery of the corpses of hundreds of defenceless civilians, including entire families, after the withdrawal of the Russian troops is indication of the brutal truth of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The pictures bear witness to unbridled violence that knows no boundaries. They show gruesomely that the Russian armed forces have lost all respect for the rules of international humanitarian law and trample on the most fundamental human rights.

The terrible images from Bucha are the latest in a series of similar reports of barbaric attacks on the civilian population and on civilian objects in Ukraine.

Our thoughts are with the countless innocent victims of the brutal Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and with the relatives of the victims.

When one sees how civilian infrastructure is selectively bombarded, how hospitals and theatres are deliberately fired on, when one knows that civilians and families have sought refuge there from the merciless Russian bombardment, the actions of the Russian armed forces can only be described as cynical and inhumane.

It is the task of courts to decide but for me these are quite clear examples of war crimes.

Dear colleagues,

There are reports of the deliberate kidnapping by Russian security forces of representatives of local authorities, journalists or people who openly support Ukraine. We know that large numbers of Ukrainian inhabitants of Russian-controlled areas have been

forcibly moved to Russia or other areas controlled by it. Forced resettlement is a serious violation of international humanitarian law.

It is now vital for all human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity to be thoroughly investigated and documented and the perpetrators brought to justice. It is right and important that the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has started investigation of the accusations of the extremely serious violations of international humanitarian law by Russia. Germany supports this investigation, and we will do everything to ensure that the crimes by the Russian Government and armed forces in Ukraine do not go unpunished.

The terrible atrocities that have been revealed cannot be described in words.

Foreign Minister Baerbock demanded the day before yesterday that all those responsible for these crimes be brought to justice. I have nothing to add to this demand.

Slava Ukraini!

Thank you, and I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1366
5 April 2022
Annex 16

Original: ENGLISH

1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF JAPAN (PARTNER FOR CO-OPERATION)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Russia's military actions in Ukraine clearly infringe upon the Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, constitute a serious violation of international law prohibiting use of force, and are a grave breach of the United Nations Charter.

Any unilateral change of the status quo by force is totally unacceptable. This is an extremely serious situation that shakes the foundation of international order not only in Europe but also in Asia.

The Ukrainian Government and various media reports have recently revealed that atrocities, including the mass killing of innocent civilians, were committed in the area near Kyiv, which was occupied by the Russian military forces. Japan takes extremely seriously the fact that a large number of civilians in Ukraine have been killed as a result of the acts of the Russian forces and is deeply shocked by this revelation. The killing of innocent civilians is a grave breach of international humanitarian law and is absolutely unacceptable. Japan vehemently condemns it.

The truth about these atrocities must be uncovered and Russia must be held strictly accountable. Japan has referred the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court on the grounds that war crimes appear to have been committed, and counts on progress in the thorough investigation by the Court's Prosecutor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Please attach my statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you again.



1366th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1366, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

We categorically disagree with the Polish Chairmanship's assessments regarding the situation in the town of Bucha in the Kyiv region. They are based solely on the Kyiv regime's fake propagandistic stories, which have also been picked up by a number of OSCE participating States.

We declare conclusively that the photographs and video footage published by the Ukrainian Government attesting to various alleged "crimes" by Russian military personnel in Bucha are a staged provocation and have nothing to do with reality. The aim is obvious – to malign the Russian armed forces in order to achieve the Kyiv regime's practical goals in the international arena. The Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba, has already spoken openly about these goals: severing Europe's trade and economic ties with Russia and ensuring new supplies of lethal weapons to Ukraine – in short, once again making relations between Russia and European countries hostage to a cynically fabricated untruth.

We urge you now to put aside your emotions and knee-jerk reactions and to analyse the facts rationally.

And they are as follows. The day after the Russian-Ukrainian consultations in Istanbul on 29 March, the units of the Russian armed forces withdrew from Bucha. This was announced at the same time on 30 March during a briefing by the Russian Ministry of Defence.¹ Bucha mayor Anatolii Fedoruk returned a day later, after having earlier fled the town and abandoned its residents. Standing in front of the town hall, he recorded a video message² stating that he had inspected the entire town but saying nothing about any dead bodies in the streets. He also confirmed that all Russian soldiers had left Bucha. On the same day, Zhan Beleniuk, a member of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament), visited this

1 https://z.mil.ru/spec_mil_oper/news/more.htm?id=12415372.

2 <https://t.me/vityzeva/52988>.

town and posted photos of its streets on his social media pages, with no mention of bodies in the streets in his comments. So, what actually happened?

On 2 April, the National Police of Ukraine published video footage³ on its official websites of special units of the Ukrainian armed forces entering Bucha. No civilian casualties can be seen in the footage. It was emphasized that Ukrainian armed formations had embarked on a mopping-up operation. In another video, published by Serhii “Boatswain” Korotkikh, leader of the territorial defence units who had entered the town, members of a territorial defence battalion can clearly be heard consulting with each other as to whether or not they could shoot at people who were not wearing blue armbands. An affirmative answer is also heard, in other words, shooting was allowed. Korotkikh subsequently removed the video, but copies remain in the public domain.⁴

We are not surprised that all the so-called evidence of Russian war crimes in Bucha appeared a few days after this mopping-up operation when Ukrainian Security Service officers and representatives of Ukrainian television arrived in the town. Blatantly staged reports were also produced. For example, the Espresso TV television channel broadcast a video report at 7.03 p.m. on 2 April in which a body can be seen getting up again immediately after the car with a cameraman passes by it (this is visible in the car’s rear-view mirror).⁵ A blatant and obvious slip-up in Ukraine’s propaganda.

Other staged videos show people supposedly shot “in the basement of a house” in Bucha.⁶ At least four bodies who appear to have been shot in the back of the head in the same basement are shown. They are on their knees facing the wall. Yet there is no trace of blood anywhere nearby – neither on the wall nor on the floor. How is that possible? Once again, this is a fake story for Ukrainian propaganda.

In addition to these images, there are images of people allegedly killed in the streets or tortured, stripped and dumped in wells. These photos were published by the Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kuleba. Of particular concern is the fact that in all the images published by the Kyiv regime the bodies had not stiffened after several days and do not have the characteristic signs of livor mortis, and the wounds are filled with uncoagulated blood.

At the same time, articles about Bucha appeared in several foreign media outlets – primarily British and US publications – pointing to the prepared, planned and co-ordinated nature of this propaganda action. Moreover, there were no such articles immediately after the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Bucha or the entry of Ukrainian armed formations there.

The media provocation in the form of a staged massacre in Bucha allegedly carried out by the Russian military poses a direct threat to international peace and security. We would point out that, following the launch of a co-ordinated media campaign in the Western media regarding the alleged “massacre in Bucha”, the Russian Federation twice requested

3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7ylyNBMpQY> and https://t.me/UA_National_Police/2932.

4 <https://t.me/vityzeva/53030>.

5 https://youtu.be/Mx9JINu_H1Y.

6 <https://t.me/sashakots/30762?single>.

that an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council be convened on the situation in this settlement in the Kyiv region. However, the Russian request was refused by the United Kingdom, which recently took over the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council. What were they afraid of? The truth and the revelation of fake videos? By the way, we recommend reading the content of the press conference held by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, in New York on 4 April – there is video evidence of the staged nature of the Ukrainian Government’s information provocation.

It is worth noting several important things. While Bucha was under the control of the Russian armed forces, no roads out of the town were blocked. All local residents were free to leave the settlement in a northerly direction, also to neighbouring States. At the same time, the southern outskirts of the town, including residential areas, were shelled day and night by Ukrainian armed formations using large-calibre artillery, tanks and multiple-launch rocket systems.

During the time that Bucha was controlled by the Russian armed forces, not a single local resident suffered as a result of any violent actions on their part. On the contrary, over 452 tonnes of humanitarian aid were delivered to settlements in the Kyiv region by the Russian military and distributed to civilians. The residents were able to move freely around the town.

Incidentally, similarly staged fake stories about “Russian war crimes” can also be seen in the description by Ukrainian and Western media of the situation in other places in the Kyiv region from which Russian troops have withdrawn. Reports of “mass graves of executed civilians” in the towns of Irpin and Borodyanka and the villages of Motyzhyn and Moshchun followed the same pattern.

These fake stories are not the first attempt by Ukrainian propaganda to demonize the actions of the Russian military and create the necessary emotional background for adopting anti-Russian political decisions. We do not rule out the possibility that the purpose of such information provocation is to try to frustrate the diplomatic efforts being made by Russia as part of bilateral dialogue with the Ukrainian Government’s representatives.

Suffice it to recall the so-called Russian air strike on a maternity hospital in Mariupol, which the representatives of Ukraine and their foreign patrons told us about in this room on 10 March. Do you remember how the Western press was full of photographs of a young woman who was near that maternity hospital?

The other day independent media interviewed⁷ the very same young woman – her name is Marianna Vyshemirskaya. Her account confirms that the story, as presented by the representatives of Ukraine, has the hallmarks of planned information provocation. She said that there was no air strike on the maternity hospital, but that members of Ukrainian armed formations set up a stronghold right inside the hospital building, forced most of the patients to leave and seized food from those who remained. After the young woman heard the explosions, an Associated Press photographer (who later turned out to be Evgeniy Maloletka) was waiting for her right outside the building. A coincidence? Moreover, the young woman

7 https://t.me/smotri_media/11188 or <https://youtu.be/UNVPBGyKmzE>.

made an open appeal to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to order the Ukrainian armed formations to stop using civilians as human shields.

By the way, Oleksii Arestovych, adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, also contributed to the dissemination of fake stories about “atrocities in the Russian military” when he posted a photo of a “tortured girl from Hostomel” with a swastika burned into her back. In fact, it turned out that he had used a photo of a Mariupol resident with signs of the torture she had been subjected to at a stronghold of the Ukrainian armed formations in the basement of a Mariupol school. The video of this murdered girl was published back on 27 March by US journalist Patrick Lancaster on his YouTube channel. Interestingly, Arestovych deleted his post after Ukrainian journalists from the UNIAN news agency themselves pointed this out to him but he did not apologize for spreading disinformation.

We have seen similar hoaxes and manipulations over the years in Syria. Remember the White Helmets, who diligently exploited foreign funding, or the radical fundamentalists who were not afraid to use terrorist methods and who were regularly portrayed as “fighters for freedom and democracy”? There is a persistent feeling that all these information campaigns have the same directors and producers.

Cynical and misleading provocations are used by unscrupulous politicians in Ukraine and a number of Western countries primarily to ramp up Russophobia. The method is not new. It has already been used in the past. We may recall the worst examples of Nazi propaganda – for example, the claims advanced, using these same methods, of “rape and mass murder” by the Red Army of civilians in the village of Nemmersdorf on 21 October 1944, or in other places liberated from the Nazis. It is well known that the false accusations against Soviet soldiers were used by Nazi propaganda to mobilize against the “Red Russian beasts”.

And today, in the same spirit, we hear of intentions to destroy all things Russian. For example, on 3 April, on his official social media site, the mayor of Dnipropetrovsk, Borys Filatov, stated that from now on “the time for cold rage has come” and called for Russians to be killed “all over the world, for an indefinite period of time and in the largest possible numbers”.

We note that calls for violence against ethnic Russians and Russian nationals, also on Ukrainian nationwide television channels – including promises to kill all Russian children – meet with no condemnation in the OSCE, neither from the Polish Chairmanship nor from the relevant executive structures of our Organization.

On the contrary, Polish officials, in addition to relaying Nazi-style fake stories for Ukrainian propaganda, have become involved in Russophobic actions. Not so long ago, Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister of Poland, stated that Russophobia was becoming “mainstream in Europe”, and the other day Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture Piotr Gliński issued a statement that “Russian culture should disappear from the public space”. We regret that irresponsible politicking prevails over common sense, and also that factual analysis is giving way to a contest in Russophobia.

Let us be clear: the truth about the events in Ukraine will make itself known. Fake stories will be debunked. Justice will surely prevail.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's special meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.