



Chairmanship: Finland

1535th PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 25 September 2025 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 12.10 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 5.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. M. Neuvonen
Ms. L. Saarikoski
Mr. K. Laukkanen

Russian Federation (Annex 1)

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

Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION
AGAINST UKRAINE

Chairperson, Ukraine (PC.DEL/998/25), United Kingdom, United States of America (PC.DEL/985/25), Denmark (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine) (PC.DEL/990/25 OSCE+), Türkiye (PC.DEL/999/25 OSCE+), Canada (PC.DEL/1010/25), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1017/25 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: ADDRESS BY THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE GENEVA
INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS

Chairperson, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus, European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, Deputy United Nations Representative to

the Geneva International Discussions, United States of America (PC.DEL/986/25), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/987/25), Denmark-European Union (with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, the United Kingdom and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1014/25), Türkiye (PC.DEL/1000/25 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1015/25 OSCE+), Georgia (PC.DEL/1020/25 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE OSCE PROGRAMME
OFFICE IN ASTANA

Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana (PC.FR/11/25), United States of America (PC.DEL/994/25), Russian Federation (PC.DEL/993/25), Denmark-European Union (with Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, the United Kingdom and Ukraine, in alignment) (PC.DEL/1013/25), Türkiye (PC.DEL/1001/25 OSCE+), Switzerland (PC.DEL/1016/25 OSCE+), Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan (PC.DEL/1011/25 OSCE+)

Agenda item 4: MOSCOW MECHANISM INVOKED BY
41 PARTICIPATING STATES, FOLLOWING
CONSULTATIONS WITH UKRAINE, TO ADDRESS
TREATMENT OF UKRAINIAN PRISONERS OF WAR BY
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Chairperson, Mr. H. Ascensio (Rapporteur under the Moscow Mechanism), Ms. V. Bílková (Rapporteur under the Moscow Mechanism), Mr. M. Klamberg (Rapporteur under the Moscow Mechanism), Netherlands (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) (PC.DEL/996/25 OSCE+), Ukraine (Annex 2), United Kingdom, Canada (PC.DEL/1012/25), Luxembourg (also on behalf of Belgium and the Netherlands) (PC.DEL/1003/25 OSCE+), Czechia (PC.DEL/1004/25 OSCE+), Denmark (also on behalf of Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden) (PC.DEL/1002/25), Poland (also on behalf of France and Germany) (PC.DEL/1018/25 OSCE+), Lithuania, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/995/25 Restr.), Belarus (PC.DEL/1006/25 OSCE+), Australia (Partner for Co-operation) (PC.DEL/1021/25 OSCE+)

Agenda item 5: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

- (a) *Increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in yet more confrontation in and around Ukraine:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/988/25)

- (b) *The appalling pre-election situation in Moldova and its fallout for stability in the region:* Russian Federation (PC.DEL/992/25 OSCE+), Moldova, Denmark-European Union

Agenda item 6: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the OSCE Troika with the UN Secretary General, held in New York on 23 September 2025: Chairperson

Agenda item 7: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Announcement of the distribution of a written report of the Secretary General (SEC.GAL/100/25 OSCE+): Director of the Office of the Secretary General

Agenda item 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 2 October 2025, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1535
25 September 2025
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1535th Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1535, Point 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

It remains deeply disappointing that the Finnish Chairmanship is openly violating the rules of our Organization and wilfully continuing the fruitless discussions of the Ukraine topic at an OSCE decision-making body. The inclusion of a separate confrontational item on “Russian aggression against Ukraine” in the Permanent Council’s agenda is quite unacceptable.

Such actions are directly incompatible with standing agenda items as established by the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE (chapter IV.1(C)) and must stop. The agenda circulated by the Chairmanship for today’s meeting has an overtly aggressive thrust as regards the Ukraine issue, is incompatible with the principles of the OSCE and does not give all participating States the opportunity to take part on an equal and non-discriminatory basis in a discussion of the developments in and around Ukraine.

The convening of Permanent Council meetings must be fully in line with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE by involving consultations with all the participating States (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3) and may not run counter to the provisions of the mandate of the Chairmanship-in-Office, which unambiguously obligates the Chairmanship to take the whole spectrum of opinions into account in its actions (Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002).

This is clearly an abuse of authority by the Chairmanship, which is duty-bound to act for all 57 participating States and not for a group of countries that are aggressively imposing their views on everyone else.

We request that this formal reservation be reflected in the journal of today’s meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in accordance with paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.JOUR/1535
25 September 2025
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1535th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1535, Agenda item 4

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Ukraine expresses its deep gratitude to the independent experts – Mr. H. Ascensio, Ms. V. Bílková and Mr. M. Klamberg – for their diligent work under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism. We highly appreciate their comprehensive report, as well as the experts' visit to Ukraine that allowed them to meet with our authorities, civil society, victims and witnesses.

The mission's findings shine a much-needed light on the horrific realities that Ukrainian prisoners of war have faced in Russian captivity. We note that the Russian Federation refused to co-operate with this expert mission – a telling decision that underscores its awareness of its own culpability.

Distinguished colleagues,

The facts established in the mission's report are as shocking as they are well documented. According to the findings, at least 13,500 members of Ukraine's armed forces have been detained by Russia as prisoners of war since the start of its full-scale invasion in February 2022. We know that approximately 169 Ukrainian prisoners of war have died in Russian captivity – a staggering number of deaths that testifies to the brutality of their conditions. Unfortunately, the exact number of tortured Ukrainian defenders is unknown to us today. Nearly 6,800 of our prisoners of war have been released and repatriated in prisoner exchanges, yet an estimated 6,300 Ukrainian servicemen remain imprisoned by Russia to this day.

The expert mission confirmed that torture and ill-treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war by the Russian Federation is widespread and systematic. Abuse occurs at every stage of captivity – from the moment of capture through transfer to camps and during internment. The report documents harrowing methods of torture used against our prisoners of war: savage beatings with fists, rifle butts, batons and even shovels; electric shocks, including to the genital area; forced stress positions and exhaustive physical exercise; attacks by dogs; mock executions; death threats; sexual violence, including rape and threats of rape or castration; forced nudity and other forms of humiliation. These cruel practices have been applied systematically across numerous detention facilities. Evidence suggests that torture and

ill-treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war is a deliberate and systematic practice of the Russian Federation.

Please note that under the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Article 12): “prisoners of war are in the hands of the enemy Power, but not of the individuals or military units who have captured them. Irrespective of the individual responsibilities that may exist, the Detaining Power is responsible for the treatment given them”.

The mission documented a horrific number of arbitrary killings and executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war by Russia. This includes summary executions on the battlefield after Ukrainian soldiers had laid down arms, as well as killings of prisoners of war inside detention facilities. Russian officials have even publicly encouraged such war crimes – including statements that “no quarter will be given” – effectively inciting the murder of prisoners of war who had surrendered. One particularly egregious case examined by the mission is the tragedy at the Olenivka penal colony in the temporarily occupied Donetsk oblast. In July 2022, an explosion tore through a barracks in Olenivka, killing 53 Ukrainian prisoners of war and injuring over 100 – most of them defenders of Mariupol’s Azovstal plant. The totality of available evidence and survivor testimonies points to Russia’s responsibility for the massacre.

Furthermore, the mission found that the Russian Federation is systematically and unlawfully depriving captured Ukrainian servicemen of their legitimate status as prisoners of war. Instead of respecting their status as combatants, Moscow cynically refers to them as “persons detained for opposing a special military operation”. Such actions by the aggressor State once again highlight the cynical violation of international humanitarian law. Certain categories of fighters, such as foreign volunteers and members of units like the Azov Regiment, have been explicitly deprived of prisoner-of-war status to facilitate false criminal prosecutions, in brazen violation of the Geneva Conventions.

Once taken into custody, Ukrainian prisoners of war are subjected to sham trials to justify unprovoked and unlawful aggression and to disseminate violent propaganda. Soldiers are forced to make false “confessions” under duress and have no access to effective legal protection. They are unjustly accused of crimes such as “terrorism” or participation in “illegal armed formations” for defending their homeland. Such travesties of justice are incompatible with Russia’s obligations and constitute systematic violations of the right to a fair trial under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Distinguished colleagues,

The pattern emerging from this report is clear: the abuses committed by the Russian Federation against Ukrainian prisoners are systematic and consistent. The widespread and uniform nature of torture in all places of detention of Ukrainian prisoners of war in Russia and in the temporarily occupied territories indicates a deliberate, centralized, barbaric policy by the aggressor State, which violates every provision of international humanitarian law. The mission’s findings emphasize that violations by Russia are “widespread and systematic,” indicating criminal actions by the aggressor State.

The expert mission rightly qualified such acts as the most serious international crimes. Torture, inhuman treatment, denial of medical care, wilful killing of prisoners of war, denial of a fair trial and unlawful imprisonment are all grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and war crimes under the Rome Statute. Moreover, when such abuses are committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack, they qualify as crimes against humanity.

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine is determined to ensure international accountability for all perpetrators of these heinous crimes against our prisoners of war. Avenues for accountability include domestic prosecutions in Ukraine, proceedings under universal jurisdiction in third countries, and prosecution by the International Criminal Court. We call on all parties to prosecute the crimes against our prisoners of war detailed in this report with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice.

At the same time, justice must also be reparative. Victims of torture and their families must receive compensation, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-repetition. We stress the importance of accountability with a broader process of reparation for Ukraine, including through the Register of Damage established by the Council of Europe.

We call on the Russian Federation to implement the mission's recommendations without delay: to grant all Ukrainian servicemen the right to prisoner-of-war status; to cease torture, executions and reprisals; to ensure humane conditions of detention; and to grant full and unfettered access to all Ukrainian prisoners of war for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Finally, we urge all OSCE participating States and institutions to remain seized of this matter and to support accountability efforts. The Moscow Mechanism report should not be an end but a call to further action. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and other OSCE structures should continue to monitor and share these findings across international accountability processes.

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Ukraine once again thanks the esteemed experts for their crucial work. This report is a landmark document – the first of its kind to systematically document Russia's crimes against Ukrainian prisoners of war. Its conclusions will serve as a road map for justice. We owe it to the memory of all the prisoners of war who did not return alive, to the thousands who have survived and are still suffering unspeakable torture and abuse, and to their suffering families to ensure publicity, justice and accountability.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.