

Chairmanship: Poland

1363rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1. Date: Thursday, 17 March 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 12.40 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 4.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Hałaciński

The Chairperson welcomed the new Permanent Representative of Albania to the OSCE, Ambassador Eglantina Gjermeni.

Chairperson, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Operations (PC.DEL/397/22), Secretary General, Russian Federation (Annex 1), Canada (Annex 2), Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme

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

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

Chairperson, Ukraine (Annex 3), 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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 4), Switzerland (PC.DEL/399/22 OSCE+), United Kingdom (Annex 5), United States of America (Annex 6), Canada (Annex 7) (Annex 8), Turkey (Annex 9), Georgia (Annex 10), Norway (Annex 11), Moldova (Annex 12), Belarus (PC.DEL/396/22 OSCE+), Australia (Partner for Co-operation) (Annex 13), Lithuania (Annex 14), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/13/22 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

Ongoing crimes by Ukraine with the support of a number of OSCE participating States: Russian Federation (Annex 15), France-European Union, Ukraine (Annex 16), Germany (Annex 17) (Annex 18), Italy (Annex 19), Norway (Annex 20), Canada (Annex 21), France (Annex 22)

Agenda item 3: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

- (a) *Address by the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, to the United Nations Security Council on the priorities of the Polish OSCE Chairmanship, delivered in New York on 14 March 2022: Chairperson*
- (b) *Meeting of the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, with the President of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. A. Shahid and with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Mission to the UN holding the UN Council presidency in March 2022, held in New York on 14 March 2022: Chairperson*
- (c) *Meeting of the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. A. Guterres, held in New York on 15 March 2022: Chairperson*
- (d) *Phone call between the Chairman-in-Office, H.E. Mr. Z. Rau, with the Secretary of State of the United States of America, H.E. Mr. A. Blinken, on 11 March 2022: Chairperson*
- (e) *Special meeting of the Human Dimension Committee on the topic of violence against women in conflict, to be held via video teleconference on 22 March 2022 (PC.GAL/26/22 OSCE+): Chairperson*
- (f) *First Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2022, entitled “International co-operation to address violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law”, to be held in Vienna on 28 and 29 March 2022 (CIO.GAL/27/22 OSCE+): Chairperson*

Agenda item 4: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

None

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Presidential election in Turkmenistan, held on 12 March 2022: Turkmenistan, Russian Federation (PC.DEL/401/22), France-European Union, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, United Kingdom, Azerbaijan (PC.DEL/447/22 OSCE+), Turkey (PC.DEL/411/22 OSCE+), United States of America, Kyrgyzstan*

- (b) *2nd Antalya Diplomacy Forum, held from 11 to 13 March 2022: Turkey (PC.DEL/412/22 OSCE+), Azerbaijan*

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 24 March 2022, in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

PC.JOUR/1363
17 March 2022
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Point 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Once again, we strongly disagree with the first agenda item of today's meeting of the Permanent Council announced by the Chairmanship. We note the persistent reluctance of the Chairmanship to comply with the requirements of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE regarding the preparation of the agendas of Permanent Council meetings (paragraphs IV.1(C)1 and IV.1(C)3).

We recall that, in accordance with the mandate adopted by the Ministerial Council in Porto in 2002, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office is obliged to express the collective position of all the participating States of our Organization, taking into account the whole spectrum of their approaches, rather than individual countries or groups of them. Again we urge the Polish representatives to revert to compliance with OSCE rules and procedures.

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

Thank you for your attention.



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

PC.JOUR/1363

17 March 2022

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Point 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Canada also does not see the title of this item aligning with our preference. We would prefer that it be titled “Atrocious, unprovoked and continued illegal attacks by the Russian armed forces against the civilian population of Ukraine”. However, we accept that the title that you have proposed may represent the closest thing possible to representing the views of all participating States, due to the views of one participating State being completely out of sync with reality.



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

PC.JOUR/1363
17 March 2022
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

Yesterday Vladimir Putin said that Russian soldiers are doing their best to avoid casualties among the civilians in Ukrainian cities.

And at that moment I was asking myself.

Who is more a war criminal – those who give orders to kill innocent people or those who fulfil these orders?

How immoral one has to be to drop a bomb on a theatre in the very heart of Mariupol where hundreds of civilians, including children, tried to find a shelter against Russia's indiscriminate attacks?

To justify itself, Moscow used its usual playbook.

Ukrainians were blamed in blowing up the theatre. Not surprisingly.

We all remember that just a few days ago they, including the Russian representative here, were lying to the whole world that Russian forces destroyed a maternity hospital in the same Mariupol because it was a military headquarters of Ukrainian nationalists according to Moscow's fantasies.

What a shameful lie.

It is impossible to imagine what a level of degradation one has to pass in order to commit all these crimes.

And how immoral one has to be to whitewash all these inhuman deeds.

It is impossible to count the exact number of victims in Mariupol – it could be dozens of thousands for weeks of siege.

But the cruelty of the Russian occupiers towards civilians knows no limits.

Every day Russia bombs Ukrainian cities, destroys them, hits residential areas, kills civilians.

Deliberately. Systematically. With no regret.

Yesterday Russian soldiers killed ten people who were just standing in line for bread in Chernihiv.

Civilians were shelled by a Grad system on their route from Mariupol to Zaporizhzhia. A child was heavily injured.

Russian forces are taking civilians, including doctors and patients, hostage.

So far, more than hundred children were killed during 22 days of the Russian war against Ukraine.

This is the real face of the second strongest army. The fascist face.

The Russian president also likes bravado about Russia's "precision strikes" against Ukraine military infrastructure.

In reality, Russia destroyed 3,500 civilian infrastructure objects in Ukraine.

Kindergartens and schools, universities and hospitals, airports and fuel stations, bridges and water reservoirs are among key targets.

More than 400 educational institutions, 111 hospitals, more than 2,700 residential buildings were damaged. And this is not the complete list. The count goes on and on.

All these objects have no military value. But they have value if we keep in mind Russia's goal to "denazify Ukraine", or in other words, to finally solve the "Ukrainian issue", as stated by their leader.

The truth is that Russian troops continue to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

They are doing this systematically, thus, erasing any difference with their Nazi predecessors 80 years ago.

Unfortunately, history repeats itself in an unexpected way.

One can find a lot of similarities with current Russian policy towards Ukraine in the speech delivered by infamous war criminal on 1 September 1939.

And I am grateful to the Representative on Freedom of the Media for her yesterday's statement where she warns about dangerous processes in Russia. Namely about complete censorship and isolation of the Russian citizens from independent information.

We all understand what the creation of the Orwellian society in Russia means.

While the aggressive war against Ukraine is facing a failure, the Russian leadership has already switched to a campaign against so-called national traitors. Very predictable developments.

Well, it would be interesting to hear from the Russian diplomats how proud they are about “successes” of their country.

After years they were pretending to be a champion in fighting against neo-Nazism.

Distinguished colleagues,

Today it is more than clear than ever that a weak response to an attempted annexation of Crimea in 2014 has become a trigger for today’s war.

As you remember, on 16 March 2014 a sham so-called referendum was held.

And two days later, on 18 March, the Kremlin decided that it had power to change borders in Europe by force. For the first time since the Second World War.

Eight years ago, Russia blatantly violated all fundamental principles of the OSCE that opened a Pandora’s box in Europe.

The occupation of Crimea was the first stage of Moscow’s plan aimed at destroying Ukrainian statehood and expanding Russia’s influence in the region.

These days Russia is trying to repeat the Crimean scenario and to organize new sham referendums in temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Having no popular support, Russia is terrorizing the local population.

It carries out abductions and executions of Ukrainian activists, human rights defenders, volunteers, journalists, representatives of local self-government bodies living in the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Luhansk, and Kherson regions partially occupied by the Russian army.

In this regard, we are grateful for yesterday’s statement by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights’ calling for the immediate release and safety of democratically elected mayors of Ukrainian cities.

It is also very symbolic that precisely eight years after the Crimean so-called referendum, on 16 March, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) decided that the Russian Federation shall immediately suspend the aggressive war it has unleashed against Ukraine.

This order is binding under international law. And we demand Russia to comply with this order immediately.

Ignoring the order would mean further isolation of the current Russia’s regime.

Distinguished colleagues,

Yesterday's ICJ decision also clearly stated that the Court found no signs of what Putin called a "genocide" in Ukraine as one of the excuses for his aggressive war.

Thus, Russian aggression is unprovoked and based on a fake.

Not surprisingly, Russian officials started falsely to accuse Ukraine of non-existent biological or chemical weapons.

All this nonsense was already disproved and refuted, including by the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs at the United Nations Security Council briefing on 11 March.

But we all understand the goal of these fakes. That it is a smoking screen for a possible use by Russia of non-conventional weapons.

I want to ask the Russian diplomats to report back to Moscow that these fakes would not help Russia to cover up its crimes. International accountability sooner or later would be inevitable.

Instead of fabricating fakes, Russia just has to stop its war, withdraw its troops, restore Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and, of course, assume the responsibility for all its internationally wrongful acts and crimes committed against international peace and the Ukrainian people, as well as to provide assurance of non-repetition of the aggression and return to the tenets of international law.

This would be in interests of Russia itself.

And we call on the international community to maintain and build up pressure on Russia through sanctions in order to stop the atrocities perpetrated by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine, as well as to continue providing our country with support towards defence of the Ukrainian people.

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

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, 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:

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union condemns in the strongest possible terms President Putin's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal invasion of an independent and sovereign State. Russia's illegal war of aggression must stop immediately. We stand with Ukraine. This message of support was also conveyed, earlier this week, by the Prime Ministers of three European Union Member States, the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia, who, in a sign of European solidarity, went to Kyiv to meet President Zelenskyy and Prime Minister Shmyhal.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is entering today its fourth week. Three long weeks of terror, devastation and unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe for Ukraine and its people. This week, the Kremlin claimed that "the operation is proceeding in accordance with the original plan and will be completed on time and in full". Despite the fact that, since the start of their military build-up along the Ukrainian border in April 2021, Russian authorities have been lying to the international community that this was not a preparation for an invasion of Ukraine.

Since the beginning of President Putin's deliberate war, civilians have been killed daily in indiscriminate attacks conducted by Russian forces, including in and near populated areas. These deliberate attacks directed against civilians and civilian objects, including the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of explosive weapons in populated areas, constitute unacceptable breaches of international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has also confirmed the reports of the indiscriminate use by Russia of cluster munitions affecting the civilian population.

The humanitarian situation in Ukraine continues to deteriorate rapidly, and in some cities, it is catastrophic. Mariupol remains encircled and under heavy shelling. To date, at least 2,187 residents are reported killed by the bombings of the Russian forces, including in residential areas. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, hundreds of thousands of the city's residents are facing extreme shortages of basic necessities like food, water and medicine. They also lack heating and electricity. We strongly condemn the recent

mortar strikes, also near the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) premises. We reiterate our call for the safe evacuation of all people inside the premises, including the SMM's local staff and the Greek Consul General.

Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr and many other cities remain under non-stop artillery, mortar, and rocket shelling. Russian troops even bombed a train heading to Kramatorsk to evacuate civilians, killing a train attendant. Last Sunday, Russia, in a further provocative escalation, launched an air strike on the International Center for Peacekeeping in Lviv, 25 kilometres from the Polish border, which killed 35 people and injured at least 134 people.

We call on Russia to fully abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law. It must ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access to the victims and internally displaced persons in Ukraine, and allow safe passage for those civilians who want to leave. In addition, we deplore that many media actors, from national and international media, have been killed or injured due to the Russian aggression, and we echo the call of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to ensure their safety.

We deplore the indiscriminate attacks of the Russian armed forces on several nuclear sites, which put at risk nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities, posing a serious threat of a major nuclear accident. This is completely unacceptable and extremely worrying. Moreover, because of the infrastructure damage in the country, there is pollution of groundwater and surface water. We also took note of alarming reports regarding a high risk for environmental disaster in the Black Sea.

People continue to flee Russia's aggression every minute. As of today, more than three million people have fled to neighbouring countries and more than two million are already internally displaced. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 1.5 million children have been forced to flee Ukraine, which means that every second, one Ukrainian child becomes a refugee. The European Union and its Member States are working at all levels to provide humanitarian, medical and financial aid to all refugees and the countries hosting them. We would like to convey our special gratitude to the Republic of Moldova for all its efforts and underscore our readiness to provide continued support in this regard.

We strongly condemn that the Russian armed forces have kidnapped democratically elected mayors and other local representatives, including in Dniprorudne, and demand their immediate release. We have also seen reports that Russia may also be planning another fake "referendum" at gunpoint in Kherson as well as in other places in Ukraine. It would follow the well-known Russian pattern of persecutions of legitimate authorities' representatives. Let us be clear: the European Union has never recognized the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula nor the two illegally self-proclaimed entities of Ukraine. Nor will we ever recognize any other attempt to take over a sovereign State's territory by force. Russia will be held accountable for its blatant violations of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

Mr. Chairperson,

These are only a few examples of the consequences of President Putin's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and brutal invasion of an independent and sovereign State. The

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food Programme guest speakers further illustrated in their interventions those dramatic consequences for Ukraine and at a global scale. This is a war. A planned war. A plan to destroy a sovereign, independent and democratic nation – this is the plan that the Kremlin shamelessly dares to declare that will be completed “on time and in full”. This will not remain without a proper response. Yesterday, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a decision to expel Russia from the organization. In addition, the European Union welcomes the order of the International Court of Justice, issued yesterday, and the provisional measures approved by the Court. This order confirms that the Russian aggression against Ukraine is illegal. We also welcome the decision of the International Criminal Court’s prosecutor to open an investigation into the possible war crimes by Russia in Ukraine. All those responsible will be held accountable.

Moreover, Putin’s regime is qualifying as “Russophobia” any public disagreement with, condemnation of or protest against its war of aggression in Ukraine. We note with deep concern that the Russian external aggression is accompanied by ever-increasing repression of Russia’s own citizens. We strongly condemn the unprecedented institutional and judicial crackdown on human rights and fundamental freedoms, and outright censorship in Russia. Throughout this period, we have witnessed how Russia is dismantling the last remnants of its democratic façade. By threatening with up to 15 years in prison for calling a war, the war has led to a situation where media cannot perform its watchdog function, exposing the actions of the government and helping citizens to hold their government to account. To date, more than 15,000 people have been detained in peaceful anti-war protests. We applaud Russian independent media, non-governmental organizations and brave individuals such as Marina Oysyannikova, who aspire to end this war and continue to defend, at a great personal risk, the values of democracy, rule of law and freedom, and strive to inform the Russian people of the true situation on the ground in Ukraine.

And the truth is that Russia, with the participation of the Lukashenka regime in Belarus as co-aggressor, bears full responsibility for the loss of life, injuries and destruction. The European Union demands that Russia immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and territorial waters. This demand was expressed by 141 States through the adoption of the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolution on 2 March 2022. We also reiterate our call on Belarus to stop enabling Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations. The European Union resolutely supports Ukraine’s inherent right to self-defence, and the Ukrainian armed forces’ efforts to defend Ukraine’s territorial integrity and population in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. The European Union will continue to provide co-ordinated political, financial, material and humanitarian support and we have just adopted a fourth package of restrictive measures against Russia. Ukraine belongs to our European family. We stand with Ukraine.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached 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, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, Georgia, Andorra, 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.



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

PC.JOUR/1363
17 March 2022
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I am grateful to the United Nations Assistant High Commissioner for Operations for briefing us today. As he has just said, this week we passed a terrible milestone – 3 million people have been forced to flee Ukraine. Forced to flee due to President Putin’s war of choice. We are grateful to Poland and other neighbouring countries for the generosity and the compassion that they have shown to fleeing Ukrainians.

Hundreds of thousands of people have also left their homes within Ukraine seeking places of safety elsewhere in the country.

We are grateful to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for their work to support those who have fled their homes.

Sadly, the numbers of those displaced is only likely to rise as we see Russia increasing the number of Ukrainian towns and cities that it targets with shelling. Last week there were attacks reported on Lutsk in north-western Ukraine and Ivano-Frankivsk.

As Martin Griffiths told us last week, it is vital that civilians are afforded safe passage to leave areas of active hostilities in the direction of their choosing. While we welcome reports that some civilians were able to depart from Mariupol on Tuesday, we continue to be concerned by evidence that Russia has targeted evacuation corridors. Russia’s continued attempts to force civilians to flee via Russia and Belarus are cynical and unacceptable.

Meanwhile 12.7 million people are stranded in conflict affected areas as the Russian Government resorts to ever more barbaric tactics. Russia is using cluster munitions and thermobaric rockets, weapons designed to inflict maximum damage wherever they are deployed.

For those civilians who have been unable to leave encircled cities like Mariupol and Volnovakha the situation is life-threatening. Not only have they been facing shelling daily, but hundreds of thousands of people are facing critical shortages of food, water and life-saving medicines. We are shocked by multiple reports that Russian forces shelled a theatre and a swimming pool in Mariupol where we understand people were sheltering. Mr. Chairperson, who can hear the harrowing testimonies coming from civilians in Mariupol

and not be moved? Moved by anger at the Russian Government's actions and moved by determination to bring those responsible for atrocities to justice.

Likewise, Mr. Chairperson who can not be moved by the bravery demonstrated by Ukrainians? Ukrainians protesting Russian military control in Kherson, Berdyansk and Melitopol. We are deeply concerned at reports of arrests of protestors being made by Russian forces in those cities, as well as reported abductions and abuse of Ukrainian activists, human rights defenders, volunteers, journalists, healthcare workers and government representatives in the areas of Ukraine under control of the Russian army. Russia must immediately release all illegally detained persons in Ukraine.

Sadly, as the esteemed United States Ambassador rightly pointed out last week, we know all too well the results of Russia's efforts to stamp out opposition to their presence in Ukraine. This week we mark eight years since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, which they attempted to seal with a sham referendum and enforce with brutal oppression. Our thoughts remain with all Ukrainians wrongfully detained simply for expressing the truth – that Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine.

Russia's attempts to subvert Ukrainian democracy is an unacceptable abuse of OSCE principles and commitments.

In the face of these appalling violations of fundamental freedoms by Russia, the work of human rights organizations is more important than ever. We welcome the appointment of three eminent experts to conduct an independent fact-finding mission under the Moscow Mechanism; a mission that is supported by Ukraine and 45 participating States.

This is important because, Mr. Chairperson, facts matter. Even the Russian Government knows that facts matter – otherwise they would not be going to such lengths to conceal them from the Russian people. As the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media has highlighted, Russia has blocked access to several media websites and introduced a law on the spread of so-called “fake” information about the brutal actions of the Russian armed forces. Several Russian media representatives have resigned in the face of overwhelming editorial interference. Those who, like Marina Ovsyannikova, dare to defend the truth, those individuals face arrest.

Mr. Chairperson, we will not stand by as President Putin wages his campaign against the Ukrainian people. We will hold him accountable for his crimes. We will work with prosecutors at the International Criminal Court to help them get the information they need. And we will not relent in our mission to see justice done. This hideous and barbaric venture must end in failure. However long it takes, that will be the steadfast and unflinching goal of the United Kingdom.

I 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/1363

17 March 2022

Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

1363rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Today is the 22nd day of President Putin's unprovoked war on Ukraine. I want to start by taking a moment to pay tribute to the heroic journalists risking their lives every day to tell the truth about this hideous war. A truth that Russia desperately seeks to hide. I note with sadness the death on 13 March of American journalist Brent Renaud, who was killed near Irpin while making a documentary on the plight of refugees for TIME Studios. On 14 March, Fox News cameraman Pierre Zakrzewski was killed by incoming fire near Horenka. Oleksandra Kurshynova, a Ukrainian, was also killed in this attack and Benjamin Hall, another journalist for Fox, was injured. At least two other Ukrainian journalists have been reported killed in these last three weeks: Evgeny Sakun, who died in Russia's attack on the Kyiv TV tower, and Viktor Dudar, who was killed near Mykolaiv.

Let us remember their courage and pay homage to all the other victims of this barbaric war.

The human and humanitarian tragedy is growing every day, every hour. We have all heard the alarming tallies of refugees, internally displaced, hungry, sick, homeless, killed, and wounded. But the numbers do not do justice to the horror and grief of what is happening inside Ukraine. We need to process these raw human costs in a different way.

Mr. Chairperson,

Last week I and many other colleagues spoke in this Council about the horrific situation in Mariupol. A bustling port city of just under 450,000, nestled on the shores of the Sea of Azov, Mariupol is a diverse city, with Ukrainians, Russians, Greeks, Armenians, Jews and members of many other ethnic groups living side by side in peace. Regardless of ethnic origin, they are all proud citizens of Ukraine – unwilling to be subjected to one man's delusional dreams of conquest.

But in the span of just a few weeks, Russia's marauding forces have besieged this peaceful city and laid waste to its tree-lined boulevards and apartment buildings. Ukrainian officials estimate as many as 2,500 civilians have died in Mariupol and 350,000 remain trapped without electricity, water, or heat. Heartbreaking aerial footage shows the utter

devastation of Mariupol's basic civilian infrastructure including residential buildings, supermarkets, hospitals, and municipal buildings. And just yesterday we saw the heartbreaking bombing of the Mariupol theatre, where hundreds of people had taken shelter, including children. Indeed, the building was clearly marked as having children inside, but Russia bombed it anyway. It is impossible to find words to describe this cruelty and evil.

As I noted last week in this Council, Foreign Minister Lavrov actually, incredibly, had the audacity to publicly say that Russia had purposefully bombed this children's and maternity hospital in Mariupol because – as he claimed – there were “nationalists” hiding inside of it.

Colleagues, I am sure you have all seen the horrific image of a pregnant woman lying on a stretcher draped with a red blanket with black polka dots. She was photographed outside the smouldering ruins of that Mariupol children's and maternity hospital. The surgeon who tried to save her life, Dr. Timur Marin, told the Associated Press that the woman's pelvis had been crushed and her hip detached. Medics said that when she realized she was losing her baby she shouted, “Kill me now!” When it was clear to the attending medics that the child was stillborn, they tried to resuscitate the mother, but after 30 minutes they realized it was hopeless and stopped.

Last week the Russian representative in this Council expressed outrage at the sheer mention of civilian casualties at the Mariupol children's and maternity hospital. His colleagues at the Russian Embassy in the United Kingdom went even a step further. They tweeted that the woman in that horrific and now viral photograph, and the countless other patients who were photographed or filmed at the hospital, were “crisis actors” who had been “made up” to look like victims.

Mr. Chairperson,

What a sick disgrace. To try to justify the bombing of a children's and maternity hospital. What abject debasement. But make no mistake, no amount of cynicism can whitewash the blood that stains the conscience of Russia's representatives in this Council and everywhere.

Over the last few days, we have also seen reports of Russian forces holding hundreds of doctors and patients hostage in another hospital in Mariupol, the city's largest. These are atrocities, pure and simple. As President Biden said, they are an outrage to the world.

Mr. Chairperson,

It appears that the Russian Federation has so completely lost touch with reality that its only recourse now is to attempt to eliminate all facts and replace them with fabricated falsehoods. Joseph Goebbels is alleged to have said that “If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it.” Goebbels was wrong, of course. The truth will eventually percolate into Russian consciousness, as we saw with the brave actions of Marina Ovsyannikova at Channel One, who held up a handmade sign warning viewers that they were being told the “big lie”. I am sure we will see more of these brave actions in the coming days as the truth inevitably gets out.

Now we hear the Kremlin spreading outright lies about alleged chemical and biological weapons activities in Ukraine. As Secretary Blinken clearly laid out for the United Nations Security Council last month, Russia is simply inventing false pretexts in an attempt to justify its own horrific actions in Ukraine; what I previously described in this Council as textbook “projection.” Because, in fact, it is Russia that has long maintained a biological and chemical weapons programme, in violation of international law. It was Russian operatives who used the Novichok nerve agent. No one else. So, dear colleagues, we must all be vigilant because it is quite clear that Russia may be planning to use chemical and/or biological agents against the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Chairperson,

This week marks the eighth anniversary of Moscow’s orchestrated, sham, so-called “referendum” in occupied Crimea. We see this playbook also being used again, with the deputy chief of the Kherson regional council reporting efforts by Russian forces to hold sham elections. No one will ever believe these lies. They will never stand. We will never countenance such fabrications.

So, here is what we are doing to support Ukraine in the face of this unprovoked war. Together with our allies and partners, many of you here in the room, we are going to stay the course. We will do everything we can to push for an end to this tragic, unnecessary war. As President Biden put it yesterday, it is “a struggle that pits the appetites of an autocrat against humankind’s desire to be free.”

Yesterday President Biden announced an additional 800 million dollars in security assistance in the form of direct transfers of equipment – to include 800 Stingers and 2,000 Javelin missiles – to the Ukrainian military to help them defend their country against Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified invasion. This brings US security assistance to 1 billion dollars in just the last week, and 2 billion dollars since January 2021. Our humanitarian assistance totals almost 300 million dollars since the end of February, and we will support internally displaced Ukrainians and the more than 3 million refugees outside its borders as well.

Mr. Chairperson,

I want to conclude with a quote from a different speech by Foreign Minister Lavrov, on 10 March, in which he said: “We were told Ukraine was ours, and we will deal with and resolve the future of Ukraine.” To him I say, Ukraine is not yours. It does not belong to Russia or any other country; it belongs to the Ukrainian people. Ukraine is a sovereign nation, and it will not bend to foreign tyranny. We will support the forces of freedom, and we are confident they will ultimately prevail.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, 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/1363
17 March 2022
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to exercise my right of reply in response to the statement of Belarus.

Our Belarusian colleague has just painted a picture of a Belarus that is concerned for and looking to help Ukrainian citizens. If Belarus wanted to help Ukrainian civilians, it should not have allowed Russia to launch this war from its territory. By doing so, it has facilitated an attack on Ukraine's sovereignty and the atrocious onslaught of attacks against its civilians. And if I can offer the perspective of what this looks like to the outside world, it appears that Lukashenko has allowed this in exchange for guarantees from Putin that he will support Lukashenko remaining in power against the will of the Belarusian people, as expressed since August 2020 through peaceful protests against the current government.

Our Belarusian colleague has also stated that they are willing to welcome Ukrainian refugees fleeing the conflict launched in part from their territory. But I ask this: what would give Ukrainian civilians, who are looking to flee Russia's aggression and looking for protection of their human rights, any confidence that Belarus would be a place they could achieve either?

I would also echo the comments of the Lithuanian Ambassador, that the only way that Belarus can help Ukrainian civilians is to disassociate itself from President Putin.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1363

17 March 2022

Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

1363rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Thank you.

I would like to request at the outset that this statement be added to the journal of the day, as well as my earlier intervention on the title of this agenda item.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would also like to thank Assistant High Commissioner Mazou for his timely brief this morning, and ask that he pass our thanks to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) staff for their dedicated and critical work to alleviate the dire situation caused by Russia's continued unprovoked and unjustifiable attacks on Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

During an evening news broadcast on 14 March, Russian Channel One editor Marina Ovsyannikova ran into the live shot with a banner that read: "Stop the war. Don't believe the propaganda. They are lying to you here." Ms. Ovsyannikova had but a few seconds to share this message with viewers before the broadcast cut away and she was arrested. Those in Russia now reporting on her brave demonstration are of course not able to share what Marina's banner had said, for mentioning the war in Russia is prohibited. We saw striking images this weekend of Russian citizens being detained, one for simply holding up a blank placard. They are amongst the over 15,000 people arrested thus far for exercising their right to freedom of speech and freedom of peaceful assembly in questioning Russia's unprovoked and barbaric war on Ukraine. This is how Russia responds to the truth.

Mr. Chairperson,

We heard Mr. Lavrov say last week that the Mariupol hospital bombing was legitimate. He claimed it had been taken over by Ukrainian nationalist forces and that there were no patients present at the time of the air strikes. The human tragedy and suffering of the victims of Russia's horrendous attack tells the world differently. No military targets were destroyed by this attack; no soldiers were harmed by this attack. The only victims were

innocent civilians, including pregnant women, children, and the hospital staff who provided aid to those experiencing the most vulnerable of situations.

Despite Russia's attempts at disinformation and propaganda, we know the true extent of shelling by Russian armed forces on medical infrastructure and civilian neighbourhoods, and of their blockades of humanitarian corridors. Since we spoke here about the bombing of the maternity hospital last week in Mariupol, there has been a stream of tragic and horrific reports coming every day from international humanitarian actors and from citizens under siege in that city. Just yesterday, Russia perpetrated another senseless attack on civilians by bombing the Drama Theatre in the heart of Mariupol where hundreds of women and children had taken shelter. They did this despite the huge, clearly written sign "дети" – "children" – marking the grounds outside the theatre to alert pilots above that this was anything but a military target. Soon we'll hear more egregious claims that this was somehow a legitimate target. Mr. Chairperson, I'll just add that, fortunately, we learned this morning that it seems the shelter survived Russia's bombing and that people are emerging alive.

Mr. Chairperson,

Mariupol is but one target of Russian missiles, cluster munitions, and humanitarian blockades, seemingly designed to inflict maximum human suffering. Russia will be held to account for any war crimes committed there, and in Kyiv, in Kharkiv, in Chernihiv, in Sumy, in Okhtyrka, in Hostomel, in Irpin, and everywhere else that it is illegally targeting civilian infrastructure, bombing hospitals, kidnapping politicians, or causing Ukrainian civilians to die of dehydration or starvation.

This week, the International Court of Justice expressed profound concern about Russia's use of force in Ukraine, which raises very serious issues of international law. The Court emphasized that all States must act in conformity with their obligations under the United Nations Charter and other rules of international law, including international humanitarian law. The Court ordered that Russia immediately suspend its military operations in Ukraine. Canada welcomes the activation of the OSCE Moscow Mechanism's Mission of Experts this week to address the human rights and humanitarian impacts of Russia's invasion and acts of war, supported by Belarus, as well as the creation by the UN Human Rights Council of a Commission of Inquiry into Russian violations of international law in Ukraine.

President Putin's war had no justification before the invasion, and now we are subject to a string of clumsy and implausible after-the-fact attempts to justify this unjustifiable war. The latest are the absurd claims about biological labs and chemical weapons in Ukraine, and even suggestions that Ukraine is developing nuclear weapons. These are further transparent fabrications, which we fear are in fact a precursor to Russia staging a false-flag operation, possibly including chemical weapons or "dirty weapons". As our US colleague just noted, and as I noted in my right of reply last Monday, it is Russia that has a history of illegal use of chemical weapons. There should be no doubt that if chemical or biological weapons are used against the Ukrainian population, it will be by Russian forces.

We have all seen the destruction wrought by Russia, but I would remind this Council that the Russian delegation claimed to us that "no missile, air or artillery strikes are being carried out on the cities of Ukraine or on the civilian population." At the following week's Council, they claimed again that "Russian troops are not threatening civilians in Ukraine, nor

are they shelling civilian infrastructure”. President Putin claimed before launching his war that “we do not intend to impose anything on anyone by force.”

Every statement that the Russian delegation delivers has, shortly thereafter, been shown for what it is, a lie. This recalls a line from the late author Elena Gorokhova’s memoir of Soviet times: “The rules are simple: they lie to us, we know they are lying, they know we know they are lying. But they keep lying to us.”

Freedom of speech has seen a sharp decline in Russia since the launch of Putin’s war, but we demand of the Russian delegation to respect the norms of this Council, and to refrain from using it to spread disinformation and propaganda. If the Russian Ambassador wants a dialogue, then it must be one based on facts and reality. He must engage in genuine dialogue here rather than using the OSCE as a platform to disseminate disinformation for a domestic audience.

Mr. Chairperson,

The brutal targeting of civilian infrastructure and the senseless death of innocent Ukrainians is atrocious. Canada urges Russia, in the strongest terms, to immediately cease its attack, withdraw its troops from Ukraine, and commit to solving disagreement through diplomacy.

Thank you.



1363rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to the comprehensive presentation of Mr. Raouf Mazou, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Mr. Mazou's presentation is complementary to the briefing of Mr. Martin Griffiths, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, in the last Permanent Council meeting. Any first-hand information from the ground by expert international organizations such as UNHCR is valuable.

Unfortunately, the humanitarian tragedy has increasingly continued since the last Permanent Council meeting.

As the UNHCR reported, more than three million people have fled Ukraine so far. Three million lives uprooted. Three million people left everything behind. Moreover, there are now at least two million internally displaced people. An additional 12.6 million people have directly been affected. They are contending with freezing temperatures and hunger.

According to the estimates of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 60 per cent of all refugees are children who fled with their elderly relatives. Families are torn apart. Nearly 100,000 children, half of them with disabilities, living in institutional care and boarding schools in Ukraine, is another great concern.

As expressed by Mr. Mazou too, this is also a "child protection crisis" as well as being a "human trafficking crisis" for women. The dangers that all those women and children are facing right now cannot be justified by any reason.

We reject the ongoing assault of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which is illegal and illegitimate, as we rejected the decision to recognize the so-called breakaway republics of Donetsk and Luhansk.

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

Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate our strong and sincere call for the urgent and permanent declaration of a ceasefire.

My country is tirelessly working with all parties to facilitate a peaceful resolution of this crisis, including facilitating last week's high-level trilateral meeting in the margins of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

Our Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu was in Moscow yesterday and will also visit Ukraine today. As Minister Çavuşoğlu said when he was in Moscow, "the bloodshed and tears must be stopped. There are no winners in wars and no losers in peace". We hope that all ongoing talks will pave the way of returning to dialogue and diplomacy.

On the other hand, humanitarian assistance operations are carried out by Turkish institutions and organizations, including the Turkish Red Crescent, under the co-ordination of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). So far, 21 truckloads of humanitarian assistance were delivered to Ukraine. Twelve more trucks are on their way. Three truckloads of humanitarian assistance were also delivered to Moldova.

An AFAD team is stationed at the Siret border gate (Ukraine-Romania border) in order to assess the increasing humanitarian needs in Ukraine and to co-ordinate the ongoing aid operations. A team of health workers from the Turkish Ministry of Health are also at this border gate in order to provide health services for those in need. Food assistance is also provided by the Turkish Red Crescent at the Porubnoe border gate between Ukraine and Romania. Planning for further assistance is ongoing.

Mr. Chairperson,

My country wants peace, serenity and prosperity in its region. We will continue to resolutely press for peace and stand by international law. We are ready to facilitate any effort in any format in the direction of a peaceful way out of this situation.

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

Thank you.



1363rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

We align with the statement delivered by the delegation of the European Union (EU). In addition, allow me to add the following remarks, in my national capacity.

Georgia strongly condemns Russia's continued, unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine, in blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. We call on Russia to comply with the provisional measures of the International Court of Justice of 16 March binding Russia to "immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine".

The human and humanitarian toll of this aggression is devastating. We heard this morning the report of Mr. Mazou, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative, that time and again confirms the increasing tragic consequences of this war of aggression. Following three weeks, over three million Ukrainians, mostly children and women, were forced to flee and seek shelter in neighbouring countries. In violation of international humanitarian law the occupying forces continue direct, massive and indiscriminate bombing and shelling of Ukrainian cities, towns and settlements, civilian objects like the theatre in Mariupol. It is mind-blowing that these attacks claim hundreds of innocent lives.

According to the United Nations, most of the civilian casualties recorded were caused by the use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area, including air strikes, shelling from heavy artillery, multi-launch rocket systems and missiles.

We are appalled by the attacks on journalists and medical staff and by the reports of rape, abductions and executions. There are also numerous reports of the Russian forces carrying out lootings and robberies in the temporarily occupied territories, involving acts of violence against local residents, and seizure of civilian housing.

Once again, we stress: these attacks must stop immediately. Humanitarian corridors and delivery of aid must be guaranteed for every civilian – for those who decide to stay and for those who are urged to leave.

Dear colleagues,

The scenario and the patterns of Russia's actions against its neighbours are the same. In light of Russia's plans to hold a fake referendum in Kherson of Ukraine and also against the background of the bitter eight-year anniversary of the sham referendum organized in the Crimean peninsula – that just served as a false pretext for Russia to illegally annex the region, just a few days ago, on 12 March, yet other so-called “parliamentary elections” were carried out in the occupied Abkhazia region of Georgia. Next month, on 10 April, a similar illegal venture is planned in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, in blatant violation of the norms and principles of international law. These so-called “elections” are indeed null and void, in legal terms, yet represent another, futile attempt of Russia to legitimize the occupation of another State's territories.

Mr. Chairperson,

We call on Russia to respect its international obligations, to comply with the EU-brokered ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 and reverse its illegal decision on recognition of the so-called independence of the occupied territories of Georgia.

We urge Russia to cease aggression in Ukraine immediately, completely and without preconditions, to withdraw all its forces and armaments from the whole territory of the country, and to allow immediate, safe and unfettered access for all international humanitarian and human rights mechanisms.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Georgia's unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and Donbas, and Ukraine's navigational rights in its territorial waters.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1363
17 March 2022
Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Norway has aligned with the statement made by the European Union, but allow me some remarks in my national capacity.

I thank Raouf Mazou, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, for the briefing to the Permanent Council. He put the dire consequences of Russia's war in Ukraine in an even bigger perspective.

Three weeks ago, the Russian President chose to wage an outright war against its peaceful neighbour Ukraine. Norway reiterates its condemnation of this act of aggression, which we find to be in blatant violation of international law.

The Russian invasion was preceded by fabricated claims and unfounded allegations. New lies come out of Moscow by the day.

Russia has now made the unsubstantiated claim that Ukraine was preparing aggressive action with the use of biological weapons. Similar allegations have also been made regarding chemical weapons production. We fear that these allegations are put forward because the Kremlin may be preparing to use chemical weapons as part of a false flag attack.

Norway remains a staunch supporter of the Biological Weapons Convention. It remains one of the pillars of disarmament, and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction – together with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We would like to remind that Russia must – as a party to both conventions – uphold its international obligations just like all States Parties must. Chemical and biological weapons cannot, and must not, be used in war.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are deeply concerned by the growing humanitarian consequences of the war in Ukraine. And we are appalled by the lack of respect for international humanitarian law displayed by the Russian military forces.

They totally disregard their obligation to protect the Ukrainian civilian population. Every day there are reports of hospitals, maternity wards, schools, water and sanitation facilities, and orphanages being under fire. There are several reported cases of shelling of educational facilities and other critical civilian infrastructure. The attack on the theatre in Mariupol is yet another example.

This is unacceptable and must stop.

According to the information of the UN Human Rights Office from Tuesday (15 March), more than 691 civilian deaths in Ukraine have been confirmed since the Russian invasion began on 24 February, and more than 1,143 civilians have been injured. These numbers are appalling, but we are afraid that the reality is much worse.

Norway strongly condemns any breaches of humanitarian ceasefires. We are shocked by reports of targeted attacks on civilians fleeing war.

We urge Russia to assure safe and immediate passage for those who want to escape Mariupol and other war-affected areas inside Ukraine.

The space for humanitarian action must be restored, and it must be protected in a way that ensures continuous and sustained humanitarian access.

Russia must end this war now. Russia must withdraw all forces. And engage in good faith towards a political solution.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to see that the mission of experts under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism has started its work. Our Organization is now contributing to documenting and gathering evidence of possible human rights abuses or violations, breaches of international humanitarian law, and possible war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russian forces, with the support of Belarus, on the territory of Ukraine. Russia and Belarus should take note that this mechanism will meticulously establish facts and result in a written report so that cases can be brought before other international institutions with the aim of holding individuals at all levels to account.

Finally, let me also thank the Secretary General and other staff of the OSCE structures and institutions for the efforts to meet this situation. We should make all relevant competence within our Organization available to meet this situation.

The OSCE is as good as its participating States allow it to be. Let us – all of us – use this Organization the way it was meant. It is not acceptable that one participating State in

particular seems only to want to hamper and limit the OSCE Chairmanship and structures. This Council is not a channel of propaganda.

Let us all contribute to restoring peace and stability in the whole OSCE area.

Thank you.



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

PC.JOUR/1363

17 March 2022

Annex 12

Original: ENGLISH

1363rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of Moldova strongly condemns the act of war launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. This act constitutes a blatant breach of international law and a serious violation of the fundamental principles of our Organization. The war in Ukraine is taking place right on the border of my country.

We have urged the Russian Federation to immediately stop the use of military force and to return to dialogue and diplomacy as the only means for ensuring peace and stability on our continent. The ongoing military actions do not and cannot help the discussions and negotiations between Kiev and Moscow.

In the last weeks we all have witnessed a violent shelling on civil infrastructure resulting in the loss of innocent lives. Let us put it clear, there could be no excuses for such actions which represent an obvious violation of international humanitarian law.

As a neutral country, the Republic of Moldova has focused all its efforts to help people who are directly affected by the armed attack on Ukraine and are seeking a refuge.

More than 340,000 people have crossed our border since the beginning of the war. About 104,000 decided to remain in Moldova. The absolute majority of them are women and children.

It is a significant effort for a country with a population of less than 3 million people. Despite the great challenges, we are determined to help them – and we will do so as long as will be necessary.

At the same time, the support of the international community to deal with these challenges is still needed, and we are grateful for the humanitarian aid that we receive from our partners, as well as the assistance in redirecting the flow of refugees who want to go to other countries.

But first and foremost, urgent help and the involvement of the international community is needed to end the military actions and restore peace.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE field presence continues to be one of the most important tools of the OSCE, which offers participating States to receive impartial information from the ground. And the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) proved its value. Considering discussions within the OSCE, we use this opportunity to express our strong support for the extension of the SMM mandate.

In conclusion, we would like to express our full solidarity with Ukraine, its people, and its democratically elected authorities. The Republic of Moldova reconfirms its strong and unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Moldova has never recognized the illegal annexation of Crimea that took place eight years ago, nor last month's so-called declaration of independence of the two self-proclaimed entities of Ukraine.

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



1363rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Australia is taking the floor today to contribute its voice in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the Russian Federation's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

The Australian Government stands in solidarity with Ukraine, and with our allies and partners, in holding Russia to account.

The actions of the Russian Federation are a flagrant breach of the UN Charter and its prohibition on the use of force. They have unlawfully attacked the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Russia's invasion has no validity or justification under international law.

Mr. Chairperson, Russia's invasion has rightly enlivened a very strong – and ongoing – response from countries across the Indo-Pacific region.

The Russian Federation's list of so-called "unfriendly" countries illustrates the point: alongside a host of European and other countries, you will also find listed Australia, Japan, the Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Singapore.

Mr. Chairperson, Russia's unlawful actions pose a grave threat to international stability and the fundamental respect for sovereign independence and territorial integrity – the bedrock principles of a rules-based world order.

Under President Putin, Russia has fabricated pretexts for its unprovoked aggression against its democratic neighbour.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is being accompanied by a widespread Russian disinformation and propaganda campaign – both within Russia itself and internationally. Everyday Russians must navigate a world characterized by lies and disinformation generated by their own government, as independent voices are shut down.

Australia stands with our international partners in challenging these false narratives.

Australia believes the OSCE membership has a crucial role to play in calling out Russian disinformation and propaganda.

Mr. Chairperson, Australia is co-ordinating with governments around the world to ensure that Russia pays a high price for its invasion of Ukraine.

Along with our partners, we have initiated swift and severe sanctions that target over 450 key Russian individuals and entities responsible for seeking to undermine Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Australia has also committed 70 million Australian dollars in defensive military assistance to support Ukraine's determined defence of its sovereignty and territory.

And we have committed an initial 35 million Australian dollars in immediate humanitarian assistance to meet the urgent needs of the Ukrainian people.

Globally, sanctions are imposing a sharp cost on Russia for its unprovoked and unacceptable aggression against Ukraine.

Australia will continue to play our part to ensure Russia is accountable for its war of aggression in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson, I would also like to underscore Australia's strong support for the invocation of the Moscow Mechanism. As we see and grieve daily the indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians by Russian forces, it is vitally important to establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the human rights and humanitarian legal impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. For the same reason, the Australian Government joined 38 other countries in referring the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court.

We must ensure that Russia's crimes do not go unpunished.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, Australia reiterates its staunch support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and for the people of Ukraine.

We stand with Ukraine.

We call on Russia to cease all hostile actions and withdraw all its forces immediately from Ukraine.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1363

17 March 2022

Annex 14

Original: ENGLISH

1363rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

While fully aligning with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, I wish to exercise my right of reply to the delegation of Belarus.

No one responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity, perpetrated by Russia, assisted by Belarus, in Ukraine, will escape responsibility, including his/her personal responsibility – be it masterminds of these horrific crimes, be it military commanders or regular soldiers, be it factory workers who make bombs to be dropped on Ukrainian cities, be it propagandists or diplomats.

The best way to avoid this is to disassociate yourselves from all these war crimes, condemn them, join the international community in stopping this bloodshed. Do not be accomplices to it.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

PC.JOUR/1363
17 March 2022
Annex 15

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We once again note that the representatives of Poland are abusing the powers of the OSCE Chairmanship in an attempt to impose on the Organization a one-sided interpretation of the events taking place in Ukraine. Well, let us give you the full picture of what is happening.

Let us begin with the heinous crime committed on 14 March by Ukrainian armed formations, which launched a Tochka-U tactical missile from near the settlement of Krasnoarmiisk against a densely populated central district of Donetsk. The air defence forces of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) managed to shoot it down, thus preventing tragic consequences on a larger scale. Nevertheless, the deadly fragments of the falling missile claimed the lives of 21 people and injured more than 30. Young children were among the victims. The missile used by the Ukrainian armed formations contained cluster munitions, the use of which is prohibited by humanitarian law.

The gruesome video footage published by the Donetsk media shows the aftermath of that rocket attack – civilians caught during the rush hour on a busy street near a bank branch. There were no firing positions of the armed forces in the vicinity and the strike was deliberately aimed at the civilian population. There is no way one can remain dry-eyed looking at the image of an elderly couple who have lost their legs and are lying on the pavement, hand in hand, waiting for an ambulance. It is impossible to see the other victims without shuddering – the bloodied bodies of the dead without heads, arms or legs.

We are outraged that the OSCE Chairmanship and the majority of participating States have deliberately overlooked this horribly tragic incident. There were no condolences or lamenting in connection with the war crime committed by Ukrainian formations against innocent civilians. Nor did the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland Zbigniew Rau, who was addressing the United Nations Security Council that day, recall the incident in any way. He then stressed that “impartiality ends where blatant violations of international and humanitarian law start”. As we can see, these words mean nothing to him with regard to the residents of Donetsk – it is as if these people do not exist at all – not to mention to those who openly took the side of the Ukrainian armed formations and

showed *de facto* solidarity with their atrocities, in violation of international and humanitarian law. Otherwise there is no way to explain the complete lack of a reaction to this incident on the part of the OSCE leadership.

It is noteworthy that the heartbreaking footage of the consequences of this despicable inhumane attack was widely used by Ukrainian Government and Western propaganda to illustrate the alleged strikes by the Russian armed forces against Kyiv. Part of their repertoire of lies.

The use of a Tochka-U missile was recorded again the next day against the settlement of Makiivka in the DPR. According to the authorities, an attack by Ukrainian armed formations on the evening of 15 March on the Solnechny residential district resulted in four casualties, including a child. Fortunately, this “greeting” to civilians from the Kyiv regime was also shot down, otherwise a far greater disaster could not have been avoided.

In addition, shelling using other weapon types on 12 March destroyed many houses in Donetsk, along with a mosque in the Kuibyshevskiy district of the city. All this once again confirms that the nationalist Government of Ukraine is determined to continue to wage a war on the civilian population of the DPR and the Luhansk People’s Republic (LPR), as it has been doing for the past eight years during its punitive operation in Donbas.

The Russian special military operation in Ukraine is intended to stop the armed violence. Targeted strikes are carried out exclusively against military facilities, of which around 4,000 have been destroyed since the start of the military operation.

In addition, gathering points for foreign mercenaries and their transit bases, including arms depots, have been eliminated. On 13 March, a high-precision strike neutralized military training centres in the settlement of Starichi and at the Yavoriv military training ground in the Lviv region. Training and combat co-ordination facilities for foreigners were provided there prior to their deployment to areas of combat operations against Russian troops. Even earlier, a sizeable group of mercenaries had been eliminated in Chernihiv. We note that a number of countries consciously support sending “soldiers of fortune” to take part in combat operations in Ukraine. We emphasize that all responsibility for the deaths of this category of foreign citizens in Ukraine lies solely with the leadership of the States that condone this kind of “military tourism”. We also draw attention to the fact that in a number of NATO countries these mercenaries are screened, interviewed and recruited at Ukrainian diplomatic missions and the logistics of their transfer across the border are ensured.

In addition, quite a few countries of the Alliance continue to supply Ukrainian formations with lethal weapons, and it is civilians and the civilian infrastructure that suffer as a result. Just the other day, the United States Congress approved the parameters of the country’s budget for the next fiscal year. It provides for the allocation of around 3 billion US dollars for the supply of lethal weapons to Ukraine. Yesterday, the United States of America announced its intention to transfer 800 man-portable air defence systems, thousands of anti-tank systems, small arms and grenade launchers, and up to 20 million rounds of ammunition to the Kyiv regime in the near future. Furthermore, it is planned to allocate 500 million euros from European Union funds for weapons and military goods, a substantial part of which will be financed by the European Peace Facility. What wicked irony. According to Orwell: “War is peace.”

It is already clear that the West is not interested in the specificities of the close historical ties between the peoples of Russia and Ukraine in all their complexity and views the territory of our neighbouring country exclusively as an arena of geopolitical confrontation with the Russian Government through military support for Ukrainian armed formations, including neo-Nazi thugs. This has nothing to do with concern for the fate of the Ukrainians themselves. We would point out that the decisions by the West to “beef up” Ukraine militarily are deliberately aimed at prolonging the hostilities, exacerbating the situation of the civilian population and deepening the humanitarian crisis in the region.

Moreover, facts are coming to light about weapons being sent to Ukraine under the guise of humanitarian aid. For example, on 15 March, the Italian media reported that employees at Galileo Galilei Airport in Pisa had discovered various types of weapons, plus uniforms and explosives in boxes marked as humanitarian cargo and destined for the Polish border city of Rzeszów from where they would be transferred to Ukraine. Things got to the point that the outraged airport workers’ union refused to load the cargo on to the aircraft. In another case, Latvian citizen Mārtiņš Viļums was “exposed”. According to Ukrainian media, he regularly delivers military goods to the Vinnytsia region via Poland in a minibus marked “Humanitarian Aid”.

Using the weapons handed over to them, the Ukrainian formations trained by so-called “instructors” from NATO countries in urban terrain operations do not shy away from employing methods and forms of combat previously “tested” in the Middle East with the support of the same Western countries. By taking cover behind civilians as “human shields” and placing firing positions in densely populated residential areas, near and inside public facilities, schools and hospitals, the armed nationalists are causing numerous innocent casualties through their actions.

For example, in the liberated town of Volnovakha in the DPR, Ukrainian formations used the municipal hospital building as a firing position. A doctor at the hospital confirmed this in a (publicly available) video interview with the media. He said that grenade launchers and small arms had been positioned on the floors of the building, and the maternity ward had been rigged with explosives. While the nationalists were firing from the hospital windows, doctors and patients (there were about five hundred of them) were taking cover in the basement. Then, while retreating, the Ukrainian formations shelled the hospital building from a tank and a Grad multiple-launch rocket system. On 13 March, the Investigative Committee of Russia opened a criminal case into the events at Volnovakha hospital.

Here is another example. During the liberation of the city of Popasna in the Luhansk People’s Republic, people’s militia units from the LPR discovered sites where civilians had been massacred near the city’s railway line. The retreating Ukrainian forces reportedly drove people out of the basements and took cover behind them as “human shields”. Those who resisted or tried to flee were shot.

The most critical situation developed this week in Mariupol, where hundreds of thousands of civilians were taken hostage in this way. Ukrainian nationalists there mined all the approach roads to the city, blew up bridges and turned residential areas, kindergartens and schools, medical facilities and other civilian infrastructure into military strongpoints. All appeals by the Russian side calling on the Kyiv authorities to ensure that civilians can move

to safe areas have been completely ignored. On 14 March, as part of their active operations, special operations units of the Russian armed forces managed to destroy firing points set up by the nationalists on the outskirts of the city. The operation to break through to Mariupol made it possible to open humanitarian corridors and begin the evacuation of its residents, for whom more than 200 buses were organized. Along with the convoy of private vehicles, national staff from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) also left the city.

Incidentally, according to reliable information at our disposal received directly from Mariupol, several SMM vehicles along with their keys were handed over to Azov nationalist battalion fighters back in February. However, during her remarks to the Permanent Council on 3 and 7 March, the OSCE Secretary General, Ms. Helga Schmid, asserted that “[n]ational mission members continue to use ... [SMM] vehicles to relocate” and that “[u]nsubstantiated suggestions that military forces commandeered them are dangerous. It endangers the lives of ... people who continue to evacuate and relocate ... using OSCE-badged vehicles.” This begs the question for Ms. Schmid: were you misinformed about the fate of the SMM-badged vehicles in Mariupol or did you deliberately conceal the fact that they had fallen into the hands of the Ukrainian nationalist Azov battalion? And why did you not disclose the fact that Azov fighters had threatened national SMM staff with violence? Can you confirm this now that the Mission staff have left Mariupol?

On 16 March, another horrific bloody provocation took place in that city. A few days earlier, Azov fighters had gathered hundreds of civilians, including women, children and the elderly, in the building of the Mariupol Drama Theatre. The inside of the building was rigged with explosives, as Mariupol residents who had managed to evacuate the city reported beforehand. A woman from the city spoke about this on video (available in the media). Moreover, on 13 March, eyewitness accounts of such a provocation being prepared by Ukrainian nationalists had appeared on social media. Yesterday, the building was blown up – along with the civilians who had taken refuge inside it. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, no air strike was carried out by the Russian military, and the building was never considered a target. The Ukrainian nationalists have committed yet another bloody crime, in fact an act of terrorism, against the residents of Mariupol.

Let us now turn to the subject of the evacuation of the civilian population. Guided primarily by humanitarian considerations and in order to ensure the safety of civilians, the Russian Federation has been opening a number of humanitarian corridors every day in the Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy and Kharkiv areas (at least thirteen times already). The Russian side has also been agreeing every day to all additional humanitarian corridors proposed by the Ukrainian Government. At the same time, not a single corridor to the Russian Federation has ever been confirmed by the authorities in Kyiv. This is despite the fact that Russia has already received over 2.6 million requests from almost 2,000 settlements in Ukraine with names and addresses of persons wishing specifically to travel to the territory of our country.

And yet they are directly prevented from travelling to Russia. In the Sumy region the other day, for example, Ukrainian nationalists detained some 450 civilians who wanted to leave for the Kursk region of the Russian Federation and forced them to turn back. Yesterday, near Kharkiv, Ukrainian nationalists shelled a convoy of refugees, killing four people and injuring several others. In addition, more than 6,000 people from 22 countries continue to be held hostage by the nationalists throughout the zone of hostilities, as do the crews of

70 foreign vessels trapped in Ukrainian seaports because of the extreme threat of mines created by the Kyiv regime in Ukraine's internal waters and territorial sea, along with possible provocations by the Ukrainian armed forces from the shore.

The Ukrainian Government's actions in denying its citizens the right to safely evacuate to Russia appear to be aimed at creating a humanitarian crisis in Europe. Thus, people from Ukraine continue to arrive in EU countries in large numbers. Despite all the obstacles, since the start of the special military operation, the Russian Federation has provided safe passage to its territory for more than 258,000 people, 56,100 of whom are children. More than 9,500 temporary accommodation facilities continue to operate in our country.

At the same time, all the necessary conditions for a peaceful and safe life are being created in the territories liberated from the Ukrainian nationalists, and unhindered access to humanitarian aid is being ensured for the population. There have already been 349 humanitarian actions delivering some 3,000 tonnes of humanitarian supplies.

We draw attention to attempts to instrumentalize the death on 13 March of a US citizen, Brent Reno, who was carrying a *New York Times* identity card. According to his colleague, who was standing next to him at the time of the shelling on the outskirts of the town of Irpin in the Kyiv region, the US citizen was killed by shelling from a checkpoint belonging to Ukrainian formations, who had complete control over this town. Nevertheless, all this time we have heard unfounded accusations regarding Mr. Reno's death, including on the part of official representatives of a number of countries, directed at the Russian military.

As for the allegations heard in this room regarding the nature of Russia's special military operation, as we can see, a number of participating States are stubbornly trying to overlook the manifestations of aggressive nationalism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia in Ukraine. The supporters of these ideas among the residents of Ukraine, nurtured after the coup d'état in February 2014 and cultivating ideas of hatred and violence against Russia and all things Russian, do not meet with condemnation in the West. We are also extremely surprised that the OSCE leadership and functionaries prefer not to respond to them.

On 15 March, during a telethon broadcast to a very wide audience on the nationwide Ukrainian television channel 24, news presenter Fahrudin Sharafmal called live on air for Russians to be killed together with their children. In particular, he quoted one of the organizers and overseers of the Holocaust, Nazi and war criminal Adolf Eichmann: "In order to destroy a nation, you must first of all destroy its children." Addressing Russians in Ukraine, the Ukrainian television presenter said that he adhered to Eichmann's doctrine and would do everything in his power to ensure that Russians and their children never live on this earth. He stressed that when he got a chance to take out the Russians, he would "definitely do it", promising to be "one of the first" to slaughter Russian families. Video footage of that broadcast is publicly available. I should like to hear the reaction of the Chairmanship and also of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Teresa Ribeiro, to this. Or will you once again remain shamefacedly silent? Let us emphasize: the rehabilitation and promotion of the ideology of Nazism, which has no place and should have no place on the European continent or anywhere else, has long been very active in Ukraine.

Incidentally, speaking of European countries, we draw attention to the manifestations of Russophobia – absolutely inadmissible for civilized States – expressed in harassment of ordinary people and in politically motivated rejection of the professional activities of Russian personalities in science, culture and art. Russians are being “erased” from the history of Europe. In this room, too, there have been many occasions when offensive language about Russia, unacceptable for professional diplomacy, has been used, relegating the colleagues who voiced it to the level, to put it mildly, of newspaper sellers. I have only one thing to say to that: beware. Europe has been through this many times before in its relations with Russia – it has never had a good outcome. Nor will it now, even if the leaders of Western countries are not too concerned that their populations will have to pay for the short-sightedness of Russophobic policies, once again subordinated – as has already happened more than once – to transoceanic interests.

In closing, we once again express our disappointment at the attempts by a group of participating States to pressure the OSCE into serving the interests of the geopolitical confrontation with Russia. We urge the Polish Chairmanship to come to its senses, not to destroy the opportunities for constructive dialogue within our Organization and to stop curtailing all the thematic areas of the OSCE’s work. In order to find a way out of the current crisis, we need to abandon the fragmented view of what is happening and take due account of the cause-and-effect relationship with an understanding of the full extent of the historical circumstances of the development of States.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to use my right of reply to the statement of the Russian delegation.

The Russian representative once again delivered a blend of propaganda and fakes.

I was always wondering about the enthusiasm and creativity the Russian diplomats demonstrate while delivering talking points and instructions from the capital.

But yesterday Vladimir Putin replied the best to my question. And I quote: “Any people, and especially the Russian people, will always be able to distinguish the true patriots from the scum and the traitors, and just to spit them out like a midge that accidentally flew into their mouths.” End of quote.

The current Russian regime has just passed a point of no return. Now in Russia everything is only about loyalty to the State. And all people, especially those in service, have to prove their loyalty. And one day they will complete their duties here and will need to return to Russia, a new Russia.

But nevertheless, as I repeated on numerous occasions, if you have evidence, so please bring it to court.

Ukraine has already initiated a number of proceedings where this evidence can be present.

And we will step up our work on the legal frontline. In order to bring all responsible to justice. For everything they did against Ukraine.

Against our people. For every act of terrorism of Russian troops on the territory of our State.

As I mentioned in my statement, yesterday the International Court of Justice issued its decision demanding Russia cease its hostilities.

Yesterday the President of Ukraine spoke with Karim Khan, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague.

He is already in Ukraine and he has already started working.

The ICC Prosecutor has also transmitted a formal request to the Russian Federation asking Moscow to actively engage in this investigation.

But I have strong doubts that Moscow will co-operate.

Because modern Russia is only about fakes.

Its army. Its economy. Its history – everything is fake.

They need these fakes just to continue destruction and to bring new suffering to innocent people.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

PC.JOUR/1363

17 March 2022

Annex 17

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

1363rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

This Permanent Council is a remarkable one. It will go down in the history of this Organization, in the history of the OSCE.

When this Permanent Council adjourned at lunchtime today, all of us – the colleagues in the room and those following us online – left the meeting under threat. I have been a diplomat for over 25 years and in all my career have never before experienced anything like today's meeting.

The representative of the Russian OSCE delegation openly threatened us all. He openly and directly threatened his colleagues here. He openly and directly threatened the populations of the OSCE States.

Over the past few weeks in this body, we have all heard many completely unacceptable claims, distortions of history and lies by the Russian OSCE delegation. And we have responded to these utterances. This was again the case today – and it was no surprise.

But the threats here today by the representative of the Russian OSCE delegation in the name of the Russian Government take these utterances by the Russian delegation to a completely new and hitherto unseen level.

The Russian delegation decided to participate in today's Permanent Council meeting only via Zoom. It did not have the courage to make its threats in person.

But that is neither here nor there.

I will not discuss the countless lies and absurd distortions of history by the Russian delegation that it has once again uttered here today. But you can rest assured that we will take note of everything you have said today.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1363

17 March 2022

Annex 18

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

1363rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

In his new intervention just now, the Russian representative said that there is a difference between warnings and threats and referred to history in doing so.

I should like to reply to the representative of the Russian Federation. If you warn us of something over which you have influence, this is a threat.



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

PC.JOUR/1363
17 March 2022
Annex 19

ENGLISH
Original: ITALIAN

1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ITALY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to exercise my right of reply.

I refer to the statement by the Russian delegate, in particular to what he said happened at Pisa airport in Italy. In that regard, I fear that the Russian Federation has failed to take into account the full content of the reports in the Italian press and has chosen instead to make selective references.

I am sure that the Russian delegation will have read in the same press that the competent authority, the Joint Operations Command (COVI), provided all the information on the equipment destined for Ukraine, which was duly loaded on to the civilian flight.

We believe that it is very important to quote a news item in its entirety and not in a partial and misleading way.

I formally request that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.



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

PC.JOUR/1363
17 March 2022
Annex 20

Original: ENGLISH

1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me exercise my right of reply.

Every week in this Council, we are seeing attempts by the delegation of the Russian Federation, the very aggressor, to create an alibi for its military invasion of Ukraine, which is in fact a clear violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and of the fundamental obligations and principles of international law.

If Russia cared about war crimes, civilian losses, and the overall humanitarian situation in Ukraine, it would stop the war and withdraw its troops, and it would stop bombing, homes, hospitals, and schools throughout Ukraine.

Again, I would like to urge Russian colleagues to stop the false accusations, and to convey to Moscow that this war needs to be stopped immediately.

Mr. Chairperson,

For the record, we would have preferred it if Russia would also take part in the discussions in this Council under today's agenda item 1, as carefully formulated by the Chairmanship. As stated by the Canadian colleague this morning, I think the wording of that agenda item is as close to a compromise that we can come.

Thank you.

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



1363rd Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

I was not intending to speak under this item, whose deceitful title is abhorrent to Canada. However, I would like to exercise my right of reply in response to the statement made by Mr. Buyakevich. I would ask that this reply be attached to the journal of the day, together with my earlier right of reply to Belarus under the main agenda item.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Ambassador, Aleksander Lukashevich, is not here to represent his country today. I deeply regret that he does not see this humanitarian catastrophe as worthy of his engagement, either in person or even virtually, let alone worthy of any evidence of remorse or empathy, as our Icelandic colleague noted last week. And yet, despite his lack of engagement, I am sure, as we have seen before, that the comments made today by Maxim Buyakevich will show up later today on mid.ru as having been delivered by Ambassador Lukashevich. That will be just another small lie, in many ways inconsequential compared to the list of lies we have just heard, but still symbolic in terms of the value that the Russian Government places on the truth. As we are seeing ever more regularly, the Russian Federation is using this Council to perpetuate its false narrative to its domestic audience.

Mr. Chairperson,

For eight years, we saw an uneasy but broadly stable ceasefire along the line of contact in Donbas. For eight years, there was no attempt by Ukraine to attack or retake the occupied areas of Donbas by force.

And yet, Russia would have us believe that somehow, at the moment when 200,000 Russian troops were finally fully in place, after a year of preparation and build-up, Russia would have us believe that somehow Ukraine decided that that was the moment for Ukraine to launch an attack against these areas. And Russia would have us believe that it was for this reason that Russia invaded Ukraine. This is ludicrous, and this is not why Russia invaded Ukraine. This is one of the fundamental lies upon which Russia has attempted to justify its unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine. Everything else following that has been further lies to attempt to create more retroactive justification for Russia's decision to

launch a war against Ukraine, and for its subsequent daily decisions to target civilians, hospitals, schools, medical centres, buildings like the Mariupol Drama Theatre being used to shelter civilians from Russia's bombing.

But all of these lies are built on an even more fundamental lie, and that lie is the real reason that Russia has launched this war. It is a lie that exists only in the mind of authoritarians like Vladimir Putin: it is the lie that Ukraine is not a real nation, that a Ukrainian people does not really exist. But the Ukrainian people do exist, as a nation united across ethnic, religious and linguistic lines, united more than ever since Russia's aggression against its sovereignty in 2014. And the Ukrainian people have risen up in response to Putin's invasion of their country. They have demonstrated unequivocally their commitment to their nation's sovereignty, to their right to elect their own leaders, to make their own choices. They have demonstrated their commitment to human rights, to strengthening the rule of law, to raising their children and building their country in peace and free from Russian aggression.

The loss of civilian lives across all of Ukraine is deeply tragic. If only Russia had not started this war against Ukraine, all of this heart-wrenching human suffering by the Ukrainian people would have been avoided.



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

PC.JOUR/1363
17 March 2022
Annex 22

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

1363rd Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1363, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

As the Russian representative, not satisfied with using this platform as an internal propaganda tool, has had the audacity to threaten certain participating States, including mine, allow me to avail myself of the right of reply.

I align myself with the comments made by the ambassador of the European Union. Moreover, I should like to pay emphatic tribute to the Chairmanship and the Secretary General of this Organization and their teams, whose measured and pertinent actions in this tragedy are to be noted. To the extent that the Russian and Belarusian aggression against Ukraine allow it, they are protecting the Organization and its consensus.

As for the propaganda, there is only one underlying cause of the tragedies and destruction we are seeing every day in Ukraine: the aggression by Russia with the aid of Belarus against Ukraine.

And as for the threats, we know that they are the weapon of the cowardly and weak. When they are delivered on a screen by someone who is not even the official representative of the Russian Federation to the OSCE, this borders on the grotesque, not to mention being contrary to basic diplomatic customs.

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