

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1382

Vienna, 14 July 2022

STATEMENT

delivered by Ambassador Emilia Krалеva, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna

Chair,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and with the statement of the group of 46 countries invoking the Moscow Mechanism. I will also add a few remarks in our national capacity.

Let me extend gratitude to the mission of independent experts for their report on violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine between 1 April and 25 June 2022, prepared under the OSCE Moscow Mechanism. This effort has been supported from the very beginning by Bulgaria and we will continue to do so.

We learn with regret that the findings of the initial report are confirmed and there are shocking gross human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law, committed by the Russian Armed Forces.

Like other speakers before me, I would like to express growing concern about the new worrisome trends identified in the report which require attention. These include the use of the so-called "filtration" centres by Russia and the handing of detained persons over to illegal paramilitary organizations in the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

We urge Russia to fully respect the rights and the dignity of the prisoners of war and treat them in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law. The perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and those responsible for them must be held accountable and brought to justice.

Bulgaria firmly rejects Russia's ongoing attempts to consolidate and legitimize its control over the temporarily occupied territories in southern and eastern Ukraine. We call on Russia to unconditionally withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine.

We reiterate our full solidarity with the Ukrainian people and our determination to continue to support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you.