



**Buantoscáireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Comhoibriú agus Slándáil san Eoraip**
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe

Rotenturmstrasse 16-18
1010 Vienna
Austria

**Statement by Ireland
Special PC 24 August 2023
The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine**

Mr Chair

Ireland fully aligns with the statement made by the EU and I would like to add some comments in our national capacity.

18 months ago today, a terrible decision was made. It resulted in the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

As we know, appalling consequences ensued and continue to ensue. Death, injury, abduction, imprisonment, torture, sexual violence - pain and suffering on a colossal scale.

In the course of this terrible war against Ukraine, children, the elderly and the vulnerable have not been spared.

Widespread trauma, wanton destruction of civilian infrastructure, environmental degradation and the mining of Ukrainian land means that the horror of war will continue to be felt into the future.

Having wilfully decided to commence a full-scale war against Ukraine, the Russian Federation and only the Russian Federation is responsible for the entirety of this devastation.

On Ukraine's Independence Day, Ireland commends the bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people and stands firmly with them.

Speaking on a visit to Ukraine in July, Ireland's Prime Minister, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, said: 'This is the 21st century, national borders cannot be changed through violence, and democratically elected Governments should not be overthrown by foreign invasion. We have to draw a line in the sand here and stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes.'



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The Russian Federation can turn away from the path of destruction and reverse the terrible decision made on 24 February 2022.

Ireland calls on the Russian Federation to uphold its obligations under international law and its international commitments, including those set out in the Helsinki Final Act, to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces from within Ukraine's internationally recognised borders, and to release all prisoners captured in Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr Chair.