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Delegation of Italy

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. GIORGIO SILLI, UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE AT THE MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION OF ITALY, AT  
THE 1443rd (REINFORCED) MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 September 2023

**On critical challenges to the functioning of the Organization**

Mr. Chairperson,

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

This special meeting was made necessary by the fact that peace and stability on our continent, to which the OSCE has contributed over the past 50 years, have been called into question by Russia's illegal and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine, which we continue to vehemently condemn.

Our priority today must be to ensure the orderly and effective functioning of the Organization, in defence of the principles and values that underpin it and that remain forever valid.

By vetoing the only official candidature for the 2024 Chairmanship-in-Office, Russia is preventing Estonia from being elected. Italy, together with the Member States of the European Union, continues to support that solution and reiterates its urgency.

Russia has so far taken a non-constructive approach, hindering the adoption of the budget for 2023, just as was the case in 2022. The OSCE must be able to count on adequate financial resources. Italy, which is among the leading contributors to the Organization in financial terms and in terms of personnel, will support all the solutions that would enable the Organization to function properly.

Over the past three difficult years, the Organization's current four senior officials have done an excellent job. We reaffirm our complete faith in them and are convinced of the need to extend their mandate.

On each of these key decisions for the OSCE's functionality it is necessary to find urgent solutions, and we urge Russia to do what is right and to demonstrate by actions, and not by mere words, that it has the Organization's fate at heart.