

**Buantoscaireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Shlándaíl agus Comhar san Eoraip**
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



**Statement by Ireland at the 1516th Special Meeting of the Permanent Council
The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine
8 April 2025**

Thank you Mr Chair,

Ireland fully aligns with the statement delivered by Poland on behalf of 26 EU Member States and I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Mr Chair,

Ireland stands in full solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they mourn yet more tragic loss of life resulting from Russia's unprovoked aggression. Last Friday's strike on the city of Kryvyi Rih marked one of the deadliest in Russia's war so far, resulting in the deaths of 20 people, including nine children. We extend heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims.

As underlined by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, Russia's use of an explosive weapon with wide area effects in a densely populated area demonstrates a reckless disregard for human life. Evidence collected by the UN Human Rights Office documents widespread damage from shrapnel, including to residential buildings and a playground. Large-scale assaults on civilians and civilian infrastructure have been a systematic tactic of Russia's full-scale invasion, and continue to cause immense suffering. We recall that targeting civilians is a violation of international humanitarian law. It must stop.

Mr Chair,

This attack comes nearly a month after Ukraine accepted US proposals for a partial ceasefire. Rather than working constructively for peace, Russia has continued to attack Ukrainian towns and cities, and has delayed meaningful progress towards a lasting peace agreement.

Not only does Friday's attack demonstrate yet again the urgent need for peace, it also underlines the importance of a just peace, with full accountability for all of Russia's crimes. Acts of aggression, the targeting of civilians, and the systematic violation of principles to which all around this table have agreed cannot be met with impunity. Ireland is committed to ensuring accountability for Russia's actions in Ukraine.

As stated by the Tánaiste, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Harris at February's Reinforced PC, "Ukraine must determine its own future including the terms, the conditions and the timelines. There can be nothing about Ukraine, without Ukraine."

Together with partners, Ireland will continue to work towards a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace for Ukraine. Russia's aggression must end.

Thank you.