

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



Statement by Ireland at the 1529th Meeting of the Permanent Council
The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine
24 July 2025

Thank you Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of 26 EU Member States. Allow me to add following remarks.

As Russia wages its unprovoked and brutal war against Ukraine, civilians continue to suffer the consequences. Instead of heeding calls to stop the suffering, Russia has intensified aerial attacks on Ukraine's towns and cities in a cynical attempt to break the resolve of the Ukrainian people. Targeting civilians is not indicative of a desire for peace. It is a grave violation of international humanitarian law and it must stop.

The experiences of two Ukrainian citizens – Illia Shkliaruk and Bohdan Ziza - whose relatives I met earlier this year are amongst those that illustrate the plight of Ukrainian citizens at the hands of Russia.

In the early months of Russia's full-scale invasion, the systematic cruelty displayed by the invading forces began to become clear. Nowhere was this more evident than in the towns of Bucha and Irpin. After helping his family to evacuate, Illia returned to Irpin to help others. Contact with him was lost on 8 March 2022. From the lists of those killed, Illia's family learned that he had died from multiple bullet wounds and had been buried in a mass grave in a nearby forest. Illia's grieving family have one request of us— do not forget him.

Another case illustrating the harsh treatment meted out to ordinary civilians is that of Bohdan, a young artist from Crimea. In 2022, after Russia commenced its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Bohdan, put some yellow and blue paint on an administrative building. He is now serving a 15-year sentence in a high security penal colony on the territory of the Russian Federation and his family are unable to visit him. We call for the immediate release of Bohdan.

The plight of Illia and Bohdan and that of thousands of others in Ukraine who have suffered at the hands of Russia must remain at the centre of efforts to support Ukraine.

Many Ukrainian civilians have shown extraordinary resilience in very difficult situations. Amongst them are OSCE officials Dmytro Shabanov, Vadym Golda and Maxim Petrov. It is unconscionable that they have spent more than three years in arbitrary detention. We call on Russia to immediately release them and to reunite them with their families.



Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm Ireland's unwavering support for Ukraine and its territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. Ireland will continue to stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and its people and will continue to support efforts to ensure those responsible for violations of international law in Ukraine are held accountable.

Thank you