

**Chairmanship: Poland**

**REINFORCED MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
(1357th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Monday, 22 February 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)  
  
Opened: 3.05 p.m.  
Closed: 6.20 p.m.
  
2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Hałaciński  
  
Chairperson, Russian Federation (Annex 1)
  
3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:  
  
Agenda item 1: THE SITUATION IN AND AROUND UKRAINE,  
INCLUDING THE RECENT NON-COMPLIANCE WITH  
OSCE COMMITMENTS

Chairperson, Ukraine (Annex 2), Poland (Annex 3), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 4), Austria (Annex 5), France (Annex 6), United States of America (Annex 7), Canada (Annex 8), United Kingdom (Annex 9), Germany (Annex 10), Georgia (PC.DEL/264/22 OSCE+), Lithuania (Annex 11), Sweden (Annex 12), North Macedonia (Annex 13), Moldova (Annex 14), Liechtenstein (PC.DEL/241/22 OSCE+), Iceland (Annex 15), Switzerland (Annex 16), Croatia (Annex 17), Albania (Annex 18), Slovenia (Annex 19), Romania (Annex 20), Bulgaria (Annex 21), Montenegro (Annex 22), Finland (Annex 23), Latvia (Annex 24), Estonia (Annex 25), Italy (Annex 26), Czech Republic (Annex 27), Norway (Annex 28), Hungary (Annex 29), Malta (Annex 30), Cyprus (Annex 31), Denmark (Annex 32), Turkey (Annex 33), Belgium (Annex 34), Luxembourg (Annex 35), Holy See (PC.DEL/251/22 OSCE+), Netherlands (Annex 36), Ireland (Annex 37), Greece (Annex 38), Portugal (Annex 39), Slovakia (Annex 40), Spain (Annex 41), Secretary

General (SEC.GAL/33/22 OSCE+), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly  
(PA.GAL/7/22 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2:           REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

*Total failure by Ukraine to implement the Minsk agreements and consequent developments:* Russian Federation (Annex 42), Germany (also on behalf of France) (Annex 43), Belarus (Annex 44), Ukraine, Canada

Agenda item 3:           ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4.    Next meeting:

Thursday, 3 March 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1357  
22 February 2022  
Annex 1

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357, Point 2

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

Yesterday, at the special meeting of the Permanent Council, we already highlighted our considerations concerning the preparation of the agenda of the Permanent Council by the Chairmanship.

I will repeat again: Under paragraph IV.1(C)3 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, draft agendas of the meetings of the Permanent Council shall be prepared and issued in advance by the Chairmanship, taking into account views expressed by participating States.

This is why the Russian side once again cannot support the wording of the first item on today's agenda. It clearly does not reflect the whole spectrum of opinions in the OSCE. For this reason, the Russian Federation does not consider it possible to take the floor on this item and has submitted its own separate current issue.

I should like once again to urge the Polish Chairmanship to adhere strictly to the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council decision (Role of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office) and OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 485 (OSCE Statements and Public Information) on the role of the OSCE Chairmanship.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council.



**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful for your efforts in convening this meeting.

The situation is extremely fragile and demands our closest attention.

The war is not at the front door of Europe.

The war is already here.

It has been here since 2008 when Russia attacked Georgia.

It has shown its ugly face in 2014.

Now it has revealed itself with an even more vengeance.

With the recognition of the so-called “LPR/DPR”, which essentially represent Russia’s occupation administrations in the occupied parts of Donbas, the Russian side has again blatantly defied the fundamental norms and principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, further violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Obviously, the Kremlin’s decision is null and void, with no legal implications from the point of view of international law. The non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, occupied by the Russian Federation since 2014, are and will remain an inalienable part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine.

The decision taken by the authorities in Moscow represents a culmination of a scenario developing throughout the past days, clearly indicating preparations for a military escalation.

Against the backdrop of these malign Kremlin actions, Ukraine is currently employing the entire arsenal of instruments to avert expansion of the armed conflict.

Just a few hours ago, the United Nations Security Council concluded its urgent meeting held upon Ukraine's request.

Ukraine's leadership continues contacting counterparts all over the world. Support of Ukraine by friends, allies and partners is unprecedented. We are grateful for that.

We are on the same page with the majority of the world in assessing the decision by the Russian President.

Our common principles, norms and values are at stake. The attack on Ukraine is attack on common security.

So, is it not Russia that committed within the OSCE to respect participating States' sovereign equality? To respect the right of every State to territorial integrity, freedom of choice and political independence?

And how many times did Russia give reassurances for the whole world to hear that it has no plans to invade Ukraine? A little bit than a week ago, we heard these assurances.

The so-called "recognition" may in effect constitute Russia's unilateral withdrawal from the Minsk agreements and disregard for the decisions taken within the Normandy format.

Such a move undermines the efforts aimed at the politico-diplomatic settlement that Ukraine and its partners have been actively pursuing for many years.

The attempt to legalize Russia's occupation forces on Ukrainian soil, which in fact have been present there since 2014, sharply escalates the situation on the ground.

We all understand what the official deployment of Russian troops to the occupied areas in order to, as they say, "guarantee peace" means, it means war. It is nothing else but a new stage of the armed aggression against Ukraine.

Regular targeted fire continues along the contact line. Only yesterday, two Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 12 sustained injuries.

And what we observe now is the movement of the Russian regular forces to the line of contact.

As the President of Ukraine said yesterday, "a country that has supported the war for eight years cannot support peace, as it claims".

But whatever Russia's goals, it will not succeed in masking its own involvement as a party to the armed conflict in Donbas.

Distinguished colleagues,

Ukraine remains committed to politico-diplomatic settlement of the Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict.

We met the recent Russian decision with coldblooded posture.

We are ready to engage into a diplomatic process should Russia decide to revoke its decisions.

All possible options for the dialogue are already on the table. It is up to Russia to choose the path.

An emergency summit of the Normandy format has been requested.

We also requested the guarantors of security of Ukraine for immediate consultations on the basis of the Budapest Memorandum. And Russia is a party to this document too.

And the full-fledged work of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) on the ground would be another instrument for the de-escalation. In that context I request the participating States to do their best that the SMM has sufficient resources.

No doubt, diplomacy and dialogue remain the most responsible way out this crisis, and the OSCE is the most relevant platform for that.

However, it is also time for a frank and open discussion.

Europe has entered a new, tragic reality. And yesterday's decision was a game-changer.

It was not our choice – it is the choice made by Russia. This reality has been shaped for years starting with an attack against Georgia back in 2008 and continued with an armed aggression against Ukraine since 2014. I am afraid it will not be the end of this story.

Let's be frank, the Kremlin's intentions and plans were underestimated by the international community. And now masks are off. Now it is clear what kind of plans they have.

Yesterday, in his hour-long speech President Putin was straightforward about new territorial claims and the denial of Ukraine's right to exist.

In real life it means more hybrid and armed attacks, more destabilization actions and threats of use force, more shelling and provocations along the contact line. With respective implications to our common security.

And yes, impunity feeds appetite.

Yesterday's speech, a blend of distorted history, manipulative arguments and propaganda, has clearly revealed that interests of the Russian President go far beyond than merely the status quo as of 1997. These intentions should be acknowledged by all of us.

The lack of political will in the Kremlin to respect the right of people to freely choose their future remains a key obstacle for the restoration of peace and stability in Europe.

But it depends on our unity and determination to act how long this security crisis will last and what implications it will have for Europe and for the world at large. Russia's further actions totally depend on how the world reacts and on the integrity of measures we are going to apply.

To conclude, we call upon the Russian Federation to revoke its decisions, to withdraw its troops in a verified and transparent manner from Ukraine's territory and its border, as well as to engage constructively as a party to the conflict into a diplomatic dialogue and faithfully implement its obligations in order to restore peace, respect for international law and Ukraine's territorial integrity within internationally recognized border.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly request that our statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1357  
22 February 2022  
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF POLAND**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished colleagues,

I would like to start by thanking Ambassador Hałaciński for convening this important and timely meeting. Amid intensive diplomatic efforts of recent months and weeks to ensure peaceful resolution of tensions and conflicts, decisions announced yesterday bring us further on the brink of war that may lead to unforeseeable consequences.

The Polish OSCE Chairmanship strongly condemns the decision of the Russian Federation to recognize certain areas of Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts as independent entities.

This decision, including its foreseen deployment of Russian military forces on the Ukrainian territory, represents a flagrant breach of the fundamental principles of international law, as well as the OSCE commitments that Russia has agreed to and is bound to respect.

It constitutes a blatant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Russia's unlawful action is being taken amid already escalating and volatile security situation.

Taking this opportunity, I want to underline that we express solidarity and full support to Ukraine, its territorial integrity and sovereignty, within its internationally recognized borders.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The decision of President Putin constitutes a rejection of Russian commitments under the Minsk agreements. It undermines all the OSCE efforts to settle the conflict in and around Ukraine, particularly within existing negotiation formats, with the leading role of the Trilateral Contact Group.



Russia's recent move runs counter to the Polish Chairmanship's initiative to engage in dialogue on security issues, which was strongly supported by the robust majority of the OSCE participating States.

In face of Russia's decision and progressing escalation of tensions in and around Ukraine we are seriously concerned about the safety and security of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine's (SMM) staff.

At the same time we are convinced that the SMM's presence on the ground is even more important today, as an impartial, credible source of information which provides unbiased reporting, can contribute to de-escalation and assists conflict-affected population, whose well-being is at the heart of our priorities.

As the Polish Chairmanship I want to underline that there is no alternative for diplomacy. We should focus our diplomatic efforts to settle disputes peacefully, to restore the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and to prevent further bloodshed.

We urge Russia to de-escalate, withdraw its armed forces deployed along and within Ukrainian borders, and to refrain from taking any further military actions.

Thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of France, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

Mr. Chairperson, we would like to thank you for swiftly convening this urgently needed meeting at this critical moment for European peace and security.

The European Union strongly condemns the decision by President Putin to recognize the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine as independent entities and the ensuing decision to send Russian troops into these areas. This illegal act further undermines Ukraine's sovereignty and independence and is a severe breach of international law and international agreements, including the United Nations Charter, Helsinki Final Act, Paris Charter and Budapest Memorandum.

As a signatory of the Minsk agreements, Russia has a clear and direct responsibility to work to find a peaceful settlement of the conflict in line with these principles. With the decision to recognize the non-government controlled region of eastern Ukraine as "independent States", Russia is clearly violating the Minsk agreements, which stipulate the full return of these areas to the control of the Ukrainian Government.

Russia is therefore breaking its commitment to work within the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group in finding a peaceful settlement to this conflict, a commitment it has repeated on numerous occasions, including very recently. It is also violating United Nations Security Council resolution 2202, which requires full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

We urge Russia, as a party to the conflict, to reverse the recognition, uphold its commitments, abide by international law and return to the discussions within the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group. We call on other States not to follow Russia's illegal decision to recognize this proclaimed independence.

The European Union will respond to these latest violations as a matter of urgency with additional restrictive measures, including on all economic relations with the non-governmental controlled areas, as well as designations against individuals and entities

responsible for undermining the territorial integrity of Ukraine, in co-ordination with our partners.

We warn Russia against using the newly signed pacts with the self-proclaimed “republics” as a pretext for taking further military steps against Ukraine. The European Union stands ready to swiftly adopt more wide-ranging political and economic sanctions.

The European Union reiterates its unwavering support and commitment to Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The European Union reaffirms its commitment to strengthening its political and economic relations with Ukraine.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

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1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1357  
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Annex 5

ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357 Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Madam Secretary General,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Austria fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union.

Allow me to add some remarks in my national capacity as the Austrian Foreign Minister.

Yesterday, we clarified at this very same venue that we are standing at a crossroads of European history.

Despite numerous warnings, the Russian Federation has quite deliberately opted for the wrong path.

The recognition of the independence of the self-proclaimed People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk is a blatant and unacceptable violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

We reject it categorically.

With this unilateral step in breach of international law, Russia has put paid to the implementation of the Minsk agreements for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Today more than ever, we stand in solidarity with Ukraine.

Moreover, I offer my deeply felt respect to the Ukrainian Government for its circumspect and thoughtful attitude in this dramatic situation.

When red lines are crossed, the international community cannot and will not remain silent or look on passively.

As the European Union we will respond to this in a unanimous and united manner.

For Austria, too, as a neutral State – I would even say, especially as a neutral State – it is the case that there can be no political neutrality here. In this matter we must and will nail our colours to the mast.

For it is clear to us that the rule of law must take precedence over the rule of force.

It will not do for the rules of the game on our continent to be changed unilaterally.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In view of the rapidly unfolding events in eastern Ukraine and the massive disinformation campaign which we are faced with, it is more important than ever to have eyes and ears on the ground.

The monitors of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine are these very “antennae” of the international community.

I hope that we shall receive unequivocal assurances that our monitors will be neither threatened nor restricted further in their freedom of movement.

Austria’s commitment to the Mission is unbroken. Not only will we keep our personnel on the ground there: we also stand ready of course to make further monitors available to the OSCE, if necessary.

Mr. Chairperson,

In these difficult times, we will leave no stone unturned to defuse the situation in eastern Ukraine.

For one thing is clear: there would only be losers at the end of the current downward spiral.

This applies first and foremost to the people in Ukraine, but ultimately to us all as well.

I therefore urge Russia to stop and go back to the crossroads.

The point of no return has not been reached yet.

I am deeply convinced that diplomacy has not yet said its last word.

We have a common toolbox under the OSCE framework. So let us use it.

We must give diplomacy the space that it requires to resolve the conflict peacefully and sustainably.

My fundamental assessment has not changed one iota.

In Europe there can be no enduring stability and security in opposition to Russia, only together with Russia.

Conversely, for Russia, too, there can be no enduring stability and security in opposition to Europe, only together with Europe.

I therefore emphatically support the initiatives by my counterpart the Polish Foreign Minister and Chairperson-in-Office, Zbigniew Rau, by the Troika, and by our Secretary General, Helga Schmid, aimed at putting the OSCE front and centre in our diplomatic efforts.

Mr. Chairperson,

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1357  
22 February 2022  
Annex 6

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

France aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union on behalf of the Member States and would like to make the following statement in a national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Madam Secretary General,  
Dear colleagues,

France thanks the Polish Chairmanship for convening this special meeting of the Permanent Council without delay in view of the extreme gravity of the situation and welcomes Minister Kuleba, to whom it wishes to reaffirm its complete solidarity. We also thank the OSCE Secretary General, who is working tirelessly to find a solution to the current crisis. It is now a matter of maintaining and strengthening the OSCE's capacity to act.

France strongly condemns the announcement by Russia of its unilateral recognition of the separatist regions in eastern Ukraine. This unacceptable decision contravenes the Minsk agreements, to which Russia is after all a signatory. It constitutes a flagrant violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2202, the importance of which for resolving the conflict in eastern Ukraine was after all emphasized by Russia just yesterday in this very forum. Only four days ago, we also reached a consensus on this subject in the United Nations Security Council.

Furthermore, this decision constitutes a clear violation of the fundamental OSCE principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris and on which stability in Europe is based. Lastly, it contradicts the commitments undertaken by Russia in favour of a diplomatic resolution of the crisis, as confirmed at the highest level over the past few days.

Any peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine must be based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity recognized by international law, the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris. Russia is choosing a different path, that of calling into question these principles and that of confrontation, despite the ceaseless efforts for de-escalation in recent weeks and days, notably on the part of the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, in tandem with the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

We will continue these efforts and call on Russia to bring its actions into line with its words, when it claims to be in favour of dialogue, and to reconsider the decision to recognize the separatist entities of Donetsk and Luhansk.

In view of the high tensions on Ukraine's borders caused by increased Russian military activity, we are concerned about this new stage of destabilization on the part of Russia and the threat that it poses to Ukrainian and European security. At a time when the increase in ceasefire violations along the line of contact in recent days is of great concern, we condemn the use of heavy weapons and the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas, which are again clear violations of the Minsk agreements.

We call on Russia to contribute to de-escalation as a matter of urgency through a substantial withdrawal of the military forces stationed near Ukraine's borders and a complete and immediate withdrawal of the forces deployed since yesterday in the separatist territories, which can in no way be described as peacekeeping forces. This deployment constitutes another flagrant violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and one that France strongly condemns. I call on all OSCE participating States to join us in condemning Russia's actions.

We call on Russia to refrain from any further destabilizing actions, including those that may endanger the safety of the civilian population, and to:

- Immediately revoke the decisions of yesterday evening and revert to adherence to the Minsk agreements, as most recently agreed by the political advisers of the “Normandy format” States;
- Withdraw its troops from the Russian and Belarusian regions bordering Ukraine and ensure that its armed forces do not cross Ukraine's internationally recognized borders;
- Recommit to the rules-based security architecture in Europe built over decades by the 57 OSCE participating States, including Russia; and
- Participate in the initiative of the Polish Chairmanship to start an open in-depth dialogue on our common security architecture in Europe.

At the same time, we expect Russia to return to the table for discussions both in the Normandy format and in the Trilateral Contact Group.

We also call on Russia to ensure the safety and free access of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in the non-government controlled areas. Russia now has direct responsibility for this. The Mission is the only independent international presence on the ground and all sides need its reports more than ever.

The European Union is preparing to adopt, with the full support of France, sanctions against those who were involved in the illegal decision to recognize the separatist entities, along with economic measures. We are ready to intensify these measures over the coming days if necessary.



Lastly, France welcomes the restraint that Ukraine has shown for many months and continues to demonstrate in these difficult circumstances. It expresses its full solidarity with the people and Government of Ukraine.

Rest assured, Mr. Chairperson, Minister Kuleba and dear colleagues, that France will continue to tirelessly take action in support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

I kindly ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1357  
22 February 2022  
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

The United States condemns in the strongest possible terms President Putin's announcement yesterday that Russia recognizes the so-called "Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics" as quote, "independent," unquote.

This decision amounts to a complete repudiation of Russia's commitments under the Minsk agreements, directly contradicts Russia's claims that it is committed to diplomacy, and is a clear attack on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity – as well as the Charter of the United Nations.

Russia has since announced that Russian troops will now enter these regions of Ukraine. Moscow calls these troops "peacekeepers," but we all know this is a lie.

Make no mistake: Yesterday's actions are the beginning of the latest Russian invasion of Ukraine. They are utterly unprovoked and unjustified. And as we have promised, Russia will face severe, co-ordinated costs from the United States and our allies and partners as a result.

Yesterday in this Council, Russian Ambassador Lukashevich blasted Ukraine for all the steps that it has allegedly failed to take under the Minsk agreements.

I remind this Council and the Ambassador that Russia never fulfilled a single, solitary one of its obligations under the Minsk agreements. Russia has not supported a ceasefire. Russia has not removed its heavy weapons from proscribed zones. Russia has not granted unfettered access for the monitors of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

The ink was barely dry on the Minsk agreements before Moscow began to pretend that its guns, its artillery systems, and its anti-aircraft missiles had never been inside Ukraine at all. They attempted to gaslight the world into believing it was all a mirage, and that Russia had never been a party to this conflict.

Now Russia has showed the world its true intentions by once again violating Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and its internationally recognized borders.

We are on the precipice of a dark and dangerous era. Over the last three decades, Russia has repeatedly and consistently pledged to uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, and the Budapest Memorandum in fact require nothing less. Russia's decision yesterday is a flagrant violation of international law and norms, and of international agreements to which Russia has long been a party.

History tells us that we must stand firm and united against such an audacious attempt to upend the basic principles of the rules-based international order.

President Putin argued yesterday that Russia has a rightful claim to all the territories of the former Russian Empire as it existed over 100 years ago. We cannot dismiss this as nationalistic hyperbole. He is talking about many of the participating States seated around this table.

The Russian Federation apparently wants to take the world back to the age of empires, when guns and steel determined the rules of the international order – not citizens freely exercising their democratic rights to choose their own leaders, their own alliances, and their own futures.

That is a threat not only to European security, but to the security of people everywhere in the world.

As we have said from the beginning of this crisis, the United States will respond swiftly and decisively to these actions, and to further Russian aggression against Ukraine. That response is already underway.

Yesterday, President Biden signed an executive order that will prohibit all new investment, trade, and financing by US persons to, from, or in the so-called "Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics" regions of Ukraine.

In the coming hours, the United States will announce significant additional sanctions and other measures that will impose severe costs and consequences on the Russian Federation. We expect our Allies and partners will take additional, co-ordinated steps as well to respond to Russia's unprovoked and unacceptable aggression against Ukraine.

Colleagues, President Putin is testing our international system, he is testing our resolve. He wants to demonstrate that through force, he can make a farce of the international order.

In this moment, no one, not one of us, can stand on the sidelines. We must remain united in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity – and, indeed, of the right of all sovereign nations to choose their own paths, free from the threat of coercion, subversion, or invasion.

The United States continues to believe that the diplomatic path is the only way for responsible nations – for great powers – to resolve their legitimate differences. That path is

still available to Russia. It is still available to us all. But we can only make progress in the context of de-escalation, not invasion. Of peace, not war.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

PC.JOUR/1357  
22 February 2022  
Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

As stated last night by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Canada strongly condemns Russia's recognition of the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics as independent States. This is another blatant violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and international law.

Prime Minister Trudeau also clearly stated that Canada rejects and condemns the Russian decision to order military forces into Ukraine.

These decisions constitute a clear violation of the Minsk agreements and the Charter of the United Nations, and endanger the security and stability of the region.

Along with our partners, Canada is prepared to react firmly and impose economic sanctions for these actions.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since the beginning of Russia's military build-up, Canada has voiced repeatedly its concern that Russia's true intention was to further invade Ukraine. We called on Russia to de-escalate and to pursue diplomacy. We put forward proposals.

Russia dismissed our concerns but unfortunately, today Russia chose military action over diplomacy, and aggression over peace. Despite their claim, Russia is not a peacekeeper.

Canada, along with many others, has denounced the barrage of Russian disinformation as part of a broader effort to advance a false narrative that gives Russia the pretext for war. And we warned Russia of the severe consequences and costs it would face in response to its further violations of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Instead, Russia chose to recognize the independence of these separatist Ukrainian regions.

This illegitimate recognition by President Putin demonstrates once again that Russia has never believed in the implementation of the Minsk agreements, despite repeated claims to

the contrary. Russia will be held accountable for all suffering and devastation that these decisions cause.

There is still time for Russia to choose de-escalation and diplomacy, but the window to do so is closing fast. Canada will continue to work with our Allies and partners, including at the OSCE, the G7, the European Union, NATO and the United Nations, to respond to Russia's renegade actions.

Canada also recognizes the profound impact Russia's actions will have on the OSCE. We remain strongly supportive of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and thank the monitors for their timely and critical reporting.

Foreign Minister Kuleba, Canada will remain steadfast in its support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and self-determination. Ukraine has the right to be whole, free, and secure. And every Ukrainian deserves the right to dignity and peace. Canada stands by Ukraine.

I would ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for convening us at such a critical time.

Yesterday, Vladimir Putin recognized the so-called “Donetsk People’s Republic” and “Luhansk People’s Republic” as independent States. Overnight, he declared he would – again – send Russian troops into those areas – areas which are the sovereign territory of Ukraine.

This would be a violation of Russia’s commitments under the Minsk agreements. It violates the United Nations Charter. And repudiates core principles on which the OSCE was founded, of sovereign equality; of the inviolability of frontiers; respect for territorial integrity; and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. Chairperson, we condemn Russia’s actions. Russia must withdraw all forces from Ukraine immediately. They have no grounds to be there.

The Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) reported no unusual military activity by Ukraine. Russia’s claims of a Ukrainian threat to the Donbas region is a fabrication, an obvious pretext for their own aggressive action.

At every step, Ukraine has sought to reduce tension, whilst Russia’s response to requests for transparency has been to boycott meetings, to accuse others of hysteria, and to spread disinformation. Every step of the way, Russia has lied, obfuscated and delayed.

Ukraine has pursued diplomacy through the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group. It has enabled the SMM to carry out its work, unlike Russia’s proxies who systematically attempt to restrict the Mission’s movement. Ukraine has welcomed the Renewed European Security Dialogue. And Ukraine has used the Vienna Document for the purpose for which it was designed – to seek transparency and reduce tensions.

Russia, by contrast, has rejected the diplomatic efforts of Ukraine, of France, and of Germany in the Normandy format over the last eight years, as well as the OSCE’s Chairperson-in-Office and the SMM. Last time we met at this level in the OSCE, Russia said they would not engage in the proposed Renewed European Security Dialogue. They have boycotted every meeting that Ukraine has called under Chapter III of the Vienna Document.

How absurd that Russia should mount the biggest military manoeuvres since the end of the Cold War, and then claim that the Vienna Document does not apply.

We call again for Russia to abide by its commitments in this Organization, to engage seriously with the Renewed European Security Dialogue, and to respond to the offers of talks in the NATO-Russia Council and the United States-Russia strategic stability talks.

This is not the first time Russia has invaded Donbas. Let no one be fooled: it follows a military intervention in 2014, and eight years of barely disguised Russian control over these territories. It follows their invasion of Georgia in 2008, their illegal annexation of Crimea and agitation in the Donbas in 2014, their longstanding presence in Moldova, and their destabilizing activities right across Europe. We must be absolutely resolute in our response.

Only by following up our words with real action can we ensure no other sovereign nation faces the situation that Ukraine faces today. That responsibility now sits on all of our shoulders.

That is why the United Kingdom, in close co-ordination with the European Union and the United States of America, believes that Russia must pay a heavy price. The United Kingdom will be announcing later today tough new sanctions. These will be a first step, with more to follow if Russia does not pull back. I urge our partners around the table to take similar steps.

And we must remain vigilant. Russia continues to station troops around Ukraine – the largest force assembled in Europe since the Cold War, from 150,000 to 200,000 troops, and we have seen it fabricate a series of events, which do not stand up to any level of scrutiny, to justify the use of force against a fellow participating State. We again call on Russia to reverse this build-up.

Mr. Chairperson, I want to finish by assuring Foreign Minister Kuleba that our support for Ukraine will not waver. We commend the restraint of the Ukrainians on the line of control in the face of Russia's provocations and aggression. We will continue to provide economic, defence and political support. And we will stand by the people of Ukraine. I call on other participating States to do likewise. And Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day. Thank you.





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ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Madam Secretary General,  
Dear colleagues,

First of all, our thanks go to the Polish Chairmanship for convening this emergency meeting at such short notice. We also thank the OSCE Secretary General, who is working just as tirelessly to find a solution to the current crisis. It is now a matter of maintaining and strengthening the OSCE's capacity to act.

Dear colleagues,

Just one day after our last meeting, the Permanent Council is convening again to discuss the situation in and around Ukraine. We have discussed this crisis at hundreds of meetings over the past eight years. Until yesterday, we agreed that the Minsk agreements, which the United Nations Security Council unanimously endorsed with its resolution 2202 (2015), are the basis for resolving this conflict. The Russian Federation has also emphasized time and again, and most recently yesterday, that the Minsk agreements must be implemented. Only four days ago, we also had a consensus on this in the United Nations Security Council.

Since yesterday evening, we have been confronted with the opposite position by Russia: President Putin's decision to recognize the separatist, self-proclaimed "people's republics" in eastern Ukraine is not only a blatant violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 and the Minsk agreements, but also of our fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic OSCE documents such as the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris.

Now, in addition, President Putin has decided to send Russian soldiers to the so-called people's republics. After the illegal annexation of Crimea and the stoking of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine since 2014, these are two further blatant and deliberate violations of the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Russia has repeatedly stressed that it is not involved in the conflict. With yesterday's decisions, Russia is making it abundantly clear that it has always been a party to the conflict.

Germany condemns in the strongest terms Russia's violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. Together with our allies and partners, we will respond with decisive and appropriate measures to Russia's violation of international law. This aggression will have serious economic, political and geostrategic consequences for Russia. I call on all OSCE participating States to join us in condemning Russia's actions.

Yesterday's decision by Russia follows an unprecedented build-up of the Russian armed forces on the borders of Ukraine in recent weeks and months. Over the past few days, there has also been a flare-up of violence along the line of contact, together with actions that could create a pretext for a Russian attack. Russia's readiness to now deploy its troops in eastern Ukraine as well further increases the risk of a military confrontation.

Once again: the violation of the territorial integrity and political independence of States is unacceptable and prohibited by the Charter of the United Nations. The current Russian troop deployment in and around Ukraine can only be understood as a further threat to the territorial integrity of Ukraine as a whole.

We call on Russia to fulfil its commitments as an OSCE participating State and member of the United Nations Security Council and:

- Immediately revoke those decisions and revert to adherence to the Minsk agreements, as most recently agreed by the political advisers of the "Normandy format" States;
- Ensure that its armed forces do not cross Ukraine's internationally recognized borders;
- Immediately withdraw its troops from the regions in Russia and Belarus bordering Ukraine;
- Recommit to the rules-based security architecture in Europe built over decades by the 57 OSCE participating States, including Russia; and
- Take up the initiative of the Polish Chairmanship to start an open in-depth dialogue on our common security architecture in Europe.

We call on Russia to return to the path of diplomacy instead of provoking further bloodshed. We remain ready to talk with Russia in the established international forums.

We also call on Russia to ensure the safety and free access of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in the non-government controlled areas. Russia now has direct responsibility for this. The Mission is the only independent international presence on the ground and all sides need its reports more than ever.

Together with France, Germany will spare no diplomatic effort and will stand firmly with Ukraine, its territorial integrity and sovereignty, and the Ukrainian people.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,

Lithuania aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Lithuania strongly condemns the decision of the Russian Federation to recognize as independent two areas in Ukraine's Luhansk and Donetsk regions, which are held by formations armed, backed and led by Russia.

This decision constitutes a gross violation of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Helsinki Final Act, and the Charter of Paris.

After annexing Crimea in 2014, Russia continues to undermine Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, as well as its own commitments undertaken under the Budapest Memorandum.

By recognizing two areas in Ukraine's Luhansk and Donetsk regions and by sending its troops to the sovereign territory of Ukraine, Russia undermined the Minsk agreements, which it had signed, and which stipulate the process of restoring control over the territories to the Ukrainian Government.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine, that just entered into its ninth year, the decision taken yesterday, as well as Russia's disrespect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, pose a threat not only to the European security architecture, but also to global peace and security.

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/262, entitled territorial integrity of Ukraine, we once again urge the Russian Federation to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and its territorial integrity.

Russia must immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine, withdraw its troops from the territory of Ukraine and along its border, as well as from Belarus. Russia must also

return to diplomacy and demonstrate a genuine political will to settle the Russia-Ukraine conflict in a peaceful way, while fully respecting the OSCE principles and commitments.

Lithuania also notes that the recent escalation proves the need to reinforce NATO's deterrence in response to Russia's aggressive actions in the region.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine, including the decision taken yesterday, must receive a strong response from the international community, including co-ordinated restrictive measures by the European Union, the United States of America and other States, targeting specific economic sectors of the Russian Federation, as well as responsible persons and entities.

Lithuania strongly supports the free choice of the Ukrainian people to build their country based on the values of Western democracy and Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

Lithuania will continue to make every effort to support Ukraine's statehood and independence, and, together with our allies and partners, we will provide all necessary assistance to Ukraine in this regard.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson, and I kindly ask to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for initiating this meeting.

First of all, let me express Sweden's full support for the EU statement as read by Secretary-General Sannino. I wish to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

Sweden strongly condemns the decree by the President of the Russian Federation to recognize the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblast of Ukraine as independent entities.

The recognition is a clear violation of Russia's commitment to the Minsk agreements which stipulates the full return of these areas to the control of the Ukrainian Government. It is also a clear violation of international law and constitutes a further step in Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Through the so-called friendship treaties with the two areas, Russia has laid the foundation for further illegal military presence on Ukrainian territory. This requires our strongest condemnation. Russian forces in Donbas are nothing else than an invasion of a sovereign State. We note that these actions follow on Russian continuous violations of international law, including the illegal annexation of Crimea.

They are a clear breach of the fundamental principles laid down in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Istanbul Document and the Astana Declaration that we have all agreed on. These commitments and principles are based on international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

Sweden strongly urges Russia to reverse the recognition, uphold its commitments, abide by international law, adhere to the Minsk agreements and engage in the discussions within the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group. We recall the obligation of all States not to recognize as lawful any territorial acquisition or special advantage resulting from aggression and call on other States not to follow Russia's illegal decision.

A sustainable, peaceful solution sought through diplomatic means in accordance with international law and OSCE principles and commitments, including the respect for human rights, is the only way forward.

Sweden reiterates its firm support and commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Chairperson, I would like to ask you to add this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

North Macedonia has aligned itself with the statement of the European Union, but let me state a few words in my national capacity.

We remain deeply concerned by the rapidly deteriorating security situation in and around Ukraine.

The yesterday's decision of Russia to recognize the two areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, is violation of the international law and is contradicting the Minsk agreements which additionally aggravates the tense security situation in this region and wider.

The reported escalation of violence in eastern Ukraine accompanied by rise in ceasefire is a reason for further concern and poses serious distress, particularly for the population on the ground.

We continue to unequivocally support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The OSCE participating States have committed to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and we all must respect it.

We are convinced that de-escalation via peaceful means is the only way out of the current crisis.

Dialogue must remain the main tool for constructive engagements of all parties concerned and the use of diplomatic talks should prevail. The cost of human life is too high of a price to pay shall the situation further deteriorates and escalate. We call upon the utilization of existing tools and means such as our common OSCE commitments, the confidence-building measures as well as the established modalities such as the Trilateral Contact Group and the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) as a way of engagement towards de-escalation.

We reiterate that the Trilateral Contact Group and the SMM remain vital for the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. We support the convening of an extraordinary session of the Trilateral Contact Group, upon the OSCE Special Representative proposal in



order to try and facilitate grounds for further diplomatic discussions. The execution of the mandate of the OSCE's SMM should continue in order to provide impartial observation; any restrictions in this regard are not acceptable. The freedom of movement should be ensured without impediment and the SMM should fulfil its core mandate.

We are convinced that diplomacy and negotiations have no alternative and this is the only way out of the crisis and will lead towards immediate de-escalation of the situation.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to the Polish Chairmanship for convening this urgent meeting at this critical time for security and stability in Europe.

We share most of the messages expressed by the European External Action Service Secretary General Stefano Sannino on behalf of the European Union.

I would also like to state the following.

Over the last few weeks, we have been intensely discussing the importance of safeguarding the core principles of our Organization and the need of a reinforced security dialogue.

Despite all diplomatic efforts, we are witnessing a step which puts into question all the undertaken efforts and openly undermines the independence and sovereignty of an OSCE participating State – Ukraine.

This is a very difficult moment for our region and for our Organization.

The Republic of Moldova strongly condemns the yesterday's decision of the Russian authorities on so-called "recognition of independence" of the separatist entities of Donetsk and Luhansk. This is a clear and unacceptable violation of the norms and principles of the international law, of the Helsinki Final Act.

This violation has been preceded by the enormous politico-military pressure on Ukraine and destabilizing actions in the conflict zone.

Regretfully, the so-called recognition puts under question all prospects of the political and negotiated solution of the conflict in the Donbas area of Ukraine and will have deep and lasting negative consequences for their entire continent.

We are particularly concerned by the fact that Russian military forces will be now openly deployed to the non-governmental controlled areas of Ukraine. This creates a very high risk of military confrontation on Ukrainian soil. In this context we reiterate our strong support for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine whose presence on the ground is even more important now.

The Republic of Moldova reconfirms its strong and unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

We join the call on Russian authorities to reverse the yesterday's unilateral decision and return to the path of diplomacy, dialogue and co-operation as the only tool for ensuring peace and stability on our continent.

We also very much welcome the readiness and openness of Ukraine to continue search for diplomatic solutions in the existing formats.

Thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

Today is a dark day for the OSCE, our region, and the world.

Iceland joins other in condemning Russia's recognition of Donetsk and Luhansk independence under the threat of military incursion – an act that violates Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, an act that is inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the founding principles of the OSCE.

Russia's decision to move troops into these areas under the guise of peacekeeping is yet another deeply worrying escalation of events.

Iceland reiterates its unwavering support of the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders. We call on Russia to immediately revoke its recognition of Donetsk and Luhansk and take concrete steps to de-escalate the situation, including by pulling back its massive forces surrounding Ukraine.

Nobody wants a war and the human suffering it entails.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

I thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND**

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland thanks the Polish Chairmanship for reacting so swiftly to the latest developments and calling this special meeting of the Permanent Council this afternoon.

The situation is very alarming. Russia's recognition of certain areas of the Ukrainian Luhansk and Donetsk regions as independent States is a flagrant violation of international law, the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, and the Minsk agreements.

Moscow's decision is also in violation of the United Nations Charter's principles and OSCE commitments.

Switzerland condemns these violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine by Russia. Switzerland does not recognize the independence of these territories, which remain part of Ukrainian territory.

All participating States, including the Russian Federation, must fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other participating States. Switzerland urgently calls on Russia to uphold its international obligations, as well as its OSCE commitments, and immediately reverse its action.

As the Chairperson-in-Office, the Secretary General and the leadership of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly have pointed out, Moscow's decision will fuel further tensions and separate the populations living in these regions from the rest of their country, Ukraine.

Furthermore, Switzerland is gravely concerned by the deployment of Russian troops in the non-government controlled areas of Ukraine. We strongly condemn this step, as it will do nothing more than additionally destabilize the conflict-affected areas and Ukraine as a whole.

In this context, it is crucial that the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) can continue implementing its mandate without restriction. We reiterate our full support to the SMM.

We must resolve our differences peacefully and not militarily. It is crucial that we make use of all available formats and mechanisms. We remain convinced that the OSCE is the right forum to discuss the resolution of conflicts through dialogue. To conclude, we urge the Russian Federation to reverse its decision and to return to the negotiation table to find diplomatic solutions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF CROATIA**

Distinguished Chairperson,

Croatia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on the joint behalf of European Union Member States and I will give short further remarks in my national capacity.

We condemn the unilateral recognition by the Russian Federation of the self-proclaimed regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as a violation of international law and Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including the Minsk agreements. This gravely undermines all our efforts for a continuation of dialogue and diplomatic solution to the conflict.

Together with other like-minded participating States, we express our solidarity with the Ukrainian people and reiterate our constant and principled support to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

European security rests on international law and key principles and commitments contained in the Charter of the United Nations, the OSCE Helsinki Final Act and all other subsequent OSCE charters, documents and decisions. They are binding for all States assembled here and they must be fully honoured.

We urge Russia to rescind the recognition and uphold these commitments, and return to dialogue and discussions, including within the Trilateral Contact Group and the Normandy format in order to ensure a peaceful solution to the conflict.

In the meantime, we particularly ask Russia to ensure personal safety of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine monitors and to allow unhindered implementation of their duties under the agreed mandate.

Thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Polish Chairmanship for convening this meeting urgently and in such a format. Critical situations need urgent and determined reactions. The European security architecture has been shaken. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of one of our participating States, Ukraine, has been further violated, by another participating State of our Organization, the Russian Federation.

Albania condemns, in the strongest possible terms, Russia's decision to recognize non-government controlled areas of Ukraine, the so-called popular republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, as independent entities.

This is a breach of international law, an affront to the United Nations Charter, another blatant violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, a further disregard for fundamental OSCE principles and commitments, and a severe blow to the Minsk agreements.

We consider that this act of the Russian Federation is null and void, has no basis and has no international legal validity. We urge the other OSCE participating States and the international community, as a whole, to reject it and condemn it.

We reiterate our demand for immediate removal of the Russian military troops from the Ukrainian border and from the occupied territories of Ukraine. This includes troops disguised as "peacekeepers", which are in fact, simply, and clearly, aggressors. Albania reiterates its staunch support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and its territorial waters.

We firmly reject any false pretext or comparison of Russia's aggression on Ukraine to NATO's intervention to stop the genocide perpetrated by the brutal regime of Slobodan Milosevic on the population of Kosovo. And we deplore that the term "genocide" is thrown around so lightly by Russia, bringing renewed hurt and an affront on all those people around the world who have truly suffered from it.



Dear Chairperson,  
Colleagues,

This is yet another critical moment for Ukraine. It is yet another critical juncture for the OSCE and the road ahead. Despite this, our Organization is needed more than ever and should remain actively engaged. The Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine must be allowed to continue to implement its mandate throughout Ukraine.

We call again on Russia to engage constructively and in good faith, by making use of the full range of OSCE instruments to diffuse tension and to adhere to our common commitments and international law.

Together with our partners, we will continue to stand with Ukraine, in the OSCE, the European Union, NATO, the United Nations Security Council and all other international forums to protect the European security architecture and the internationally based order.

I kindly request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SLOVENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

First, I would like to thank you for putting this highly relevant and alarming issue on our reinforced Permanent Council agenda today.

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union, but please allow me to underline some remarks in my national capacity.

Slovenia strongly condemns the decision by President Putin to recognize the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine as independent entities, as well as the decision to send Russian troops into these areas. This are hostile measures and flagrant violations of international law, including United Nations Security Council resolution 2202, as well as obligations contained in the Minsk agreements and must not remain without consequences.

We call on other States not to follow Russia's illegal decision to recognize this proclaimed independence.

We urge Russia to reverse the recognition, uphold its commitments, abide by international law and return to the discussions within the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group.

Slovenia reiterates its unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and commends the Ukrainian Government's calm leadership in the face of these acts of aggression, entirely and unilaterally escalated by Russia.

Thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**

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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA**

Romania fully subscribes to the statement made on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like to make the following remarks, in my national capacity.

Let me start by thanking the Polish Chairmanship for convening this meeting following the condemnable events of yesterday. Romania strongly condemns the recognition by the Russian Federation of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine as independent, alongside the decision to send troops in these areas. This is a blatant violation of international law and of the fundamental principles of our Organization, as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, which must attract an adequate response from the international community. It is an act of aggression towards an independent, sovereign State. Romania firmly supports the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We call on Russia to abide by international law and immediately reverse its action, to de-escalate and to refrain from taking any further military steps, as well as to engage constructively in dialogue. We also call on other States not to recognize this self-proclaimed independence.

The Russian Federation's unilateral decision is a clear violation of the Minsk agreements. It is also a violation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 by a United Nations Security Council permanent member. As a signatory of the Minsk agreements, Russia has a clear and direct responsibility to work to find a peaceful settlement of the conflict, in line with the principles it freely signed up to. I want to reiterate Romania's strong support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in and around Ukraine, in line with OSCE principles and commitments. Full implementation of the Minsk agreements is the only way forward and dialogue remains vital, including within the OSCE.

The Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine should continue unobstructed to play its vital role by monitoring and reporting on the security situation on the ground including in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, in accordance with its mandate. In the current circumstances, the work of our monitors on the ground is much needed, and their safety and security must be ensured.

We have repeatedly expressed our concerns on Russia's unprecedented and threatening massive military build-up and troop movements near the border with Ukraine, as well as on Russia's increased military presence in Belarus, the Black and Azov Seas and in

the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula. We have strongly condemned the dramatic increase in ceasefire violations along the line of contact in eastern Ukraine during the last days, the use of heavy weaponry and the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas. With yesterday's unilateral act, Russia continues on an escalatory path and has an unacceptable behaviour challenging the international order.

This gross violation of international law by the Russian Federation justifies new, severe, wide-ranging sanctions. Romania will co-ordinate with our European and our transatlantic partners for a rapid and adequate response.

We stand in full solidarity with Ukraine. I would like to praise Ukraine's restraint during last weeks, in light of massive Russian military build-up and current aggression, which demonstrates its strong commitment to using dialogue to de-escalate and overcome the current situation. Romania reaffirms its commitment for Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

Distinguished Chairperson, I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF BULGARIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

Bulgaria aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and would like to add some remarks in a national capacity.

We condemn Russia's continued aggressive actions and threats against Ukraine. The decision of the Russian President to recognize the sovereign parts of Ukraine – Donetsk and Luhansk – as independent States, is a flagrant violation of international law, international agreements and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. By this act Russia denounced the Minsk agreements and officially confirmed that it is a party to the conflict.

We urge Russia to reverse the recognition, de-escalate, uphold its commitments, abide by international law and engage constructively in dialogue through the established international mechanisms.

Full implementation of the Minsk agreements is the only way forward. The Minsk agreements stipulate the full return of the non-government controlled region of eastern Ukraine to the control of the Ukrainian Government. With the decision to recognize them as independent States, Russia is also breaking its commitment to work within the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group in finding a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

We will not recognize this proclaimed independence and reconfirm our unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including within its territorial waters. We reiterate also our support for resolution of the conflict by diplomatic means and support all efforts in this regard.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

I thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF MONTENEGRO**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank you for swiftly organizing this reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council. Montenegro aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

The deterioration of the security situation in and around Ukraine is deeply worrying. We are gravely concerned by the Russian Federation's large-scale military build-up near the border with Ukraine. The reported indiscriminate shelling of civilian infrastructure and the ceasefire violations along the line of contact in recent days are also alarming. We condemn these acts and at the same time commend Ukraine for showing restraint.

We also deplore Russia's decision to recognize the self-proclaimed "People's Republics" of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent States. This does not contribute to easing the tensions. Instead, it constitutes a clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Minsk agreements and international law. It also undermines the efforts of the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Mr. Chairperson,

The only way to achieve lasting peace is through diplomatic means. There is no alternative to dialogue and diplomacy. We reiterate the need for all sides to engage constructively and implement the Minsk agreements fully. This must be accompanied by taking tangible steps on the ground to de-escalate, first and foremost by reversing military build-up and by refraining from the threat or use of force by Russia.

Alarming developments in and around Ukraine are putting in danger the European security architecture and pose a clear and present threat to peace and security in Europe and beyond. In order to improve the security situation in Europe, we must respect international law and uphold core OSCE values and commitments that we all subscribed to. We all need to demonstrate responsible behaviour and equal commitment towards agreed norms and principles, upon which we can further build upon for the benefit of sustainable European security. The OSCE is a valuable platform for addressing security concerns by any participating State. As such, it should be utilized fully, including through the Renewed

European Security Dialogue, to be able to contribute to strengthening of peace and security in Europe.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm Montenegro's firm support to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Chairperson, I would kindly ask you to include this statement in the official journal of the meeting.

Thank you.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF FINLAND**

Mr. Chairperson,

Finland fully aligns itself with the European Union statement, and would like to deliver a few additional remarks in her national capacity.

I would like to thank you, ambassador, for your swift action in calling today's reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council.

Finland strongly condemns Russia's unilateral acts that violate Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Recognition of the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine as independent entities is a serious breach of the Minsk agreements. Finland will respond to Russia's actions as part of the European Union.

Russia's unilateral act violates international law, including the UN Charter. It also goes against the common principles and commitments Russia has itself committed to, including the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

Finland would like to reiterate its support for resolving the conflict related to eastern Ukraine on the basis of the Minsk agreements, which call for a peaceful settlement of the conflict mediated by the OSCE and confirm that the separatist regions remain part of sovereign Ukraine. In this regard we fully support the work of the Trilateral Contact Group.

De-escalation of the situation is essential in order to restore trust in a diplomatic way forward. Russia has a responsibility to work to find a peaceful settlement. Finland calls on Russia to refrain from military actions.

Finland supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Last week, Finland announced that we will provide Ukraine with 4 million euros in additional support.

Finland continues its support for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). The SMM's main tasks are to observe and report in an impartial and objective way on the situation in Ukraine; and to facilitate dialogue among all parties to the crisis. This is now more important than ever.



Finland would like to call on all OSCE participating States to do their utmost to preserve the necessary pre-conditions for the Mission to continue its crucial work on the ground.

Mr. Chairperson,

We call on all participating States to continue discussions in the OSCE on European security. The Renewed European Security Dialogue provides a platform for this. The situation calls for restraint from violence and intense diplomatic efforts.

Mr. Chairperson, I would kindly request that you attach this statement to the journal of the day.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

I align myself with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union on behalf of its Member States.

We strongly condemn Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine that began in 2014 by unlawfully changing borders in Europe.

The decision to recognize the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine as independent entities is unacceptable and is an attack on Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We reject this illegal action by the Kremlin.

This is a gross violation of international law and the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter and the Budapest Memorandum. It also violates and scraps the Minsk agreements, to which Russia is party.

This decision will significantly aggravate the Russia-Ukraine conflict and undermine its settlement, including the negotiation process within the Normandy format, and the Trilateral Contact Group.

This decision creates a pretext for a further military invasion under the cover of so-called "peacekeeping". We already know such Russian invasion force called "peacekeepers" from experience in Moldova and Georgia and the annexation of Crimea.

We urge Russia, as the permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and instigator of this conflict, to abide by international law, to uphold its commitments and to renounce this illegal decision.

We call on Russia to stop immediately aggression against Ukraine and redeploy Russian military forces to their permanent peacetime locations.

We will not accept spheres of influence, as Russia prefers them. The international community is reacting with dismay. There will be serious consequences including robust economic sanctions and sanctions against those involved in yesterday's decision taking.

Despite of casualties of its people, Ukraine has so far exercised high level of restraint and ability to avoid Russia's staged provocations. We extend our respect to Ukraine for its commitment to peaceful solution.

Russia, in turn, evaded all attempts, including at the OSCE, to provide explanations about its ongoing unusual large-scale military build-up at Ukraine's borders and in the occupied and illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and in Belarus.

In the light of ongoing escalation, we call for a swift extension of the mandate of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. The ability to monitor and report on the ground is more relevant than ever.

We fully support the efforts of the OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretary General to use all diplomatic tools to de-escalate the conflict.

In conclusion, we reiterate our full support to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and request that this statement is attached to the journal of the day.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ESTONIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I thank the OSCE Chairmanship for convening this meeting at this critical time and for putting the topic into the agenda. We fully align with the European Union statement. Additionally, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Today we are witnessing Russia's further aggression against Ukraine. The decision taken by Russia to recognize the separatist regions in eastern Ukraine as independent States is a grave violation of the OSCE principles and of international law. It is also a clear violation of the terms of the Minsk agreements, thus amounting to a unilateral termination of the agreements. We condemn Moscow's decisions in the strongest possible terms, and call on the Russian Federation to reverse these unlawful acts and return to diplomacy.

This, yet another act of aggression was preceded by a build-up of Russian troops on Ukraine's borders, in Crimea and in Belarus; a threat of use of military force, as well as massive disinformation campaign, blaming others and simply telling lies. Russia did not provide any explanations to its activities and did not engage in OSCE confidence-building mechanisms, in particular under the Vienna Document. Furthermore – Russia did not even attend the meetings.

We are already seeing an overwhelming international condemnation of this act, which will lead to a clear response, including the introduction of further restrictive measures.

Ukraine's security is Europe's security. Estonia continues to support Ukraine, including through additional contributions to the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Our support to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity remains unwavering.

Mr. Chairperson, I would like to ask to add this statement to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you.



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Original: ITALIAN

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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ITALY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy endorses the statement made by the European Union and wishes to add some remarks in its national capacity.

The events of the past few hours are serious and worrying. Italy condemns without hesitation the decision of the Russian authorities to recognize the so-called separatist republics of Luhansk and Donetsk.

It represents a violation of international law. It contradicts the fundamental principles on which the OSCE itself is based. It is a unilateral decision that makes the prospect of a diplomatic solution more difficult and departs from the political track of dialogue in the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group. It violates the Minsk agreements.

We express our full support for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, whose work is of crucial importance. We greatly appreciate the contribution of our monitors, who remain on the ground to ensure that the Mission can continue its work and fulfil its mandate. The safety and security of the Mission's members must be safeguarded.

In its capacity as the Chairmanship of the Council of Europe, one of the international organizations founded on trust, co-operation and respect for international law and human rights, Italy issued a statement in which it made a strong appeal for the pursuit of diplomatic solutions.

Italy reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's full sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Reaffirming, in these difficult hours, its full solidarity with the Ukrainian people, Italy will continue its efforts to promote the search for peaceful solutions within the existing negotiation forums. It is never too late for diplomacy; it is never too late for peace.

Mr. Chairperson, I formally request that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic fully aligns with the European Union statement. In our national capacity we would like to stress the following:

We condemn in the strongest terms the steps taken by Russia in the latest days and hours.

We are witnessing again from the Russian side a flagrant disregard to the rules-based order and a flagrant breach of all fundamental principles of international law and OSCE principles and commitments.

Russia has chosen the path of aggression against its neighbour, blatantly ruining all diplomatic and negotiation efforts.

We urge Russia to reverse its illegal actions, to immediately retrieve its forces from the sovereign territory of Ukraine and reverse the unlawful unilateral acts towards the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which are integral parts of Ukraine.

On the specific issue of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), let me state the following:

- We remain committed to the role of the SMM, an essential element of the international presence on the ground.
- We express our utmost appreciation to all SMM personnel, working under extremely difficult conditions.
- It is in the interest of all the OSCE participating States to keep the SMM safe and functional and deliver its mandate. We call on Russia to facilitate the SMM's work.
- The safety of all SMM personnel must be our utmost priority.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly ask for this statement to be attached to the journal of the day.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Norway strongly condemns the decision by the Russian President to recognize the self-proclaimed “People’s Republic of Donetsk” and “People’s Republic of Luhansk” in eastern Ukraine as independent States.

This is a clear violation of international law and fundamental OSCE principles, and also of the Minsk agreements, under which Russia recognizes the non-government controlled areas in eastern Ukraine as part of Ukraine.

Norway urges Russia – as a party to the conflict – to fulfil its commitments, abide by international law, and return to the path of diplomacy. As all OSCE participating States, Russia has undertaken commitments to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other participating States.

Norway condemns Russia’s decision to deploy forces in eastern Ukraine. It is unjustified and irresponsible, as it further increases tension. Norway urges Russia to de-escalate by withdrawing its military forces from within Ukraine and from the vicinity of its borders.

Norway calls on Russia to act strictly in accordance with international humanitarian law.

By way of concluding, I want to reiterate Norway’s full support for the efforts of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). In the current situation, it is crucial to obtain objective and impartial information on developments on the ground. Norway calls on all parties to ensure the SMM’s free, safe, secure and unhindered access throughout all of Ukraine.

Norway’s reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Chairperson, I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF HUNGARY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

While we align ourselves with the statement of the European Union (EU), I wish to make a few observations in my national capacity and I wish to thank the Polish Chairmanship for convening this meeting.

Hungary reaffirms her unwavering and principled support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty within her internationally recognized borders.

We express our deep concern regarding the destabilizing security situation in and around Ukraine and we urge for immediate de-escalation.

We emphasize the importance of fully respecting international law and international agreements as well as basic principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter and the Budapest Memorandum.

Despite the current situation and the dramatic escalation of tensions, we remain convinced that diplomacy must still be given a chance and we must not cease our efforts at dialogue.

Hungary, as a Central European country is genuinely interested in East-West dialogue. Our region has always suffered the consequences of conflict between the two sides. We have not forgotten the experience of the Cold War, thus, a return to such practices must be avoided. There is no alternative to dialogue and diplomacy.

We express the importance of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and I voice our strong support for the Mission.

We support the Polish initiative on renewed dialogue on European security.

Hungary remains in close co-ordination with fellow EU Member States in order to formulate a strong consensus and unity on the next steps to be taken by the EU.



Finally, I request that this statement be attached to the official journal of the meeting.

Thank you for your attention.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF MALTA**

We thank the Polish Chairmanship for convening this reinforced Permanent Council meeting with participation from capitals.

Mr. Chairperson,

Malta subscribes with the statement delivered by the European Union. We would also like to take this opportunity to make some brief additional remarks under our national capacity.

We condemn the decision of the Russian Federation to formally recognize the independence of the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, violating the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, as well as breaching the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the agreements reached in the Minsk agreements.

Furthermore, we are also troubled by the increasing ceasefire violations and the increasing shelling reported at the contact line, leading to a number of casualties.

We express our strong support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, as well as its sovereign right to choose its own foreign and security policy path.

We staunchly support the work by the OSCE, particularly through the Trilateral Contact Group, in bringing all sides on the discussion table. Moreover, Malta also highly supports the work by the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, in particular its role of observing in an impartial manner the situation in the country, and its role in facilitating dialogue among all parties in the conflict. We reiterate that it is important that the Mission's role is safeguarded to be able to carry out its duties in an unhindered manner.

It is never too late for diplomacy. Diplomacy and dialogue must prevail, and should continue to be pursued by both sides. Failure to revert to dialogue will be at the detriment of the very foundations of the OSCE, to which we, as participating States, all agreed to back in 1975.

In conclusion, Malta again calls for the peaceful settlement of the conflict on eastern Ukraine, in accordance with the Minsk agreements as endorsed by the United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 (2015) and calls on all parties to uphold their commitments, abide by international law and return to the discussions within the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group.

I kindly request to have the statement attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF CYPRUS**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank the Polish Chairmanship for convening this meeting.

The Republic of Cyprus fully aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make some brief remarks in a national capacity.

In light of developments in Ukraine, the Republic of Cyprus reiterates its support to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Actions that undermine the territorial integrity of Ukraine are contrary to the fundamental principles of international law and violate the Minsk agreements, which constitute the only way to resolve the crisis.

The Republic of Cyprus reiterates its opposition to any secession, recognition or support of secession and any form of annexation.

I would like to request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF DENMARK**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I fully align myself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Allow me, however, to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

We are extremely concerned by the latest developments in and around Ukraine.

Denmark strongly condemns Russia's decision to recognize the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine and the ensuing decision to send Russian troops into these areas.

By these illegal actions, Russia further violates Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, in blatant breach of both the Charter of the United Nations and OSCE commitments, including the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter.

With this decision, Russia is also clearly violating its commitments under the Minsk agreements, which stipulate the full return of these areas to the control of the Ukrainian Government.

We call on Russia, as a party to the conflict, to reverse the recognition, to de-escalate, abide by international law and return to the discussion within the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group and to work for diplomatic solutions using the full toolbox of the OSCE and the efforts of the Chairmanship, rather than use military means and unilateral actions.

Finally, I would like to reiterate Denmark's unwavering support and commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula.

I kindly request that this statement will be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for convening this meeting.

The decision of the Russian Federation to recognize the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk Republics not only contradicts the Minsk agreements, but it also constitutes a clear violation of Ukraine's political unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Russian Federation's decision is unacceptable and we reject it.

We reiterate once again our commitment to the preservation of Ukraine's sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, and invite all concerned parties to act with common sense and to abide by international law.

We are at such a critical juncture that every step should be taken by utmost care.

Diplomacy should be the way out of this crisis. Our country will continue to engage in and constructively contribute to all diplomatic efforts. We will also continue our bilateral talks and contacts with all relevant sides at all levels and at every occasion available.

Let me also underline our unwavering support to the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), which conducts its work impartially and transparently. Particularly these days – under the current circumstances – the SMM's presence in Ukraine is crucial for objectively reporting the facts on the ground.

Thank you.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF BELGIUM**

Mr. Chairperson,

Belgium fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union, but I should also like to add a brief comment in my national capacity.

In recent weeks, reference has been made by Russia, in particular in the letter from Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, which many States received just 15 days ago, to the principle of the inviolability of European security, citing the Istanbul Charter for European Security. Russia insisted that, according to these principles, no State may adopt decisions or measures at the expense of the security of other States.

By recognizing the Ukrainian separatist territories, Russia has just done the following. By a unilateral decision it has flouted all the principles that Minister Lavrov and Russia have been talking about for weeks, it is attacking head-on the territorial integrity and security of Ukraine and the Minsk agreements. Russia is violating the entire OSCE *acquis*, and it is violating international law.

It goes without saying that we fully support the territorial sovereignty of Ukraine and the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. Impartial observation of the facts must be allowed to continue. This is essential in order to maintain an informed view of developments in Donbas.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day. Thank you.



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Original: FRENCH

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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LUXEMBOURG**

Mr. Chairperson,

Luxembourg aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union and, in view of the gravity of the situation, wishes to add a few words in a national capacity.

Luxembourg condemns the decision by the President of the Russian Federation to recognize the separatist regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent States.

This recognition is a flagrant violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine, of international law and of the Minsk agreements. It undermines the diplomatic efforts made so far.

Luxembourg calls on Russia to revoke this decision and expresses the hope that a diplomatic way forward can be found.

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the meeting.





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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE NETHERLANDS**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for convening this timely meeting. The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union (EU) but would like to add the following in a national capacity. The recognition of the separatist territories of Ukraine is a blatant violation of international law, OSCE principles and of the Minsk agreements. The Netherlands strongly condemns these aggressive acts and will respond firmly in close co-ordination with our EU and NATO partners. There is no justification whatsoever for these devious actions. The Netherlands joins those calling for immediate and full withdrawal of all Russian forces from these territories.

Mr. Chairperson,

As we meet here in Vienna, we hear reports about an urgent debate that just finished in the Federation Council of the Russian Federation approving a request by President Putin to authorize the use of Russian armed forces abroad. These reports only add to our grave concern. Maybe our Russian colleague would care to provide us with some information on this.

I respectfully ask for this statement to be added to the journal of the day.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF IRELAND**

Mr. Chairperson,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union, Secretary General Sannino, and we would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

The decision of the Russian Federation to recognize the independence of the non-government controlled areas of Ukraine is a violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and we condemn it. We underline, as we did at the United Nations Security Council on Monday, that this is the second time in less than ten years that the Russian Federation has violated Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in a flagrant violation of international law.

Ireland is and has always been a strong believer in multilateralism. As participating States, we have the responsibility to work to resolve conflict and not to yield to a grim new chapter, which will inflict further misery on Ukraine and its people.

Ireland believes in and is fully committed to OSCE principles and commitments. We entered into these commitments voluntarily and are accountable to one another for their implementation.

Ukraine has the same fundamental right as every other sovereign and independent State to choose its own foreign policy and to ensure the security and defence of its own territory. Ireland reaffirms our unwavering support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

Ireland underlines its commitment to the core principles on which European security is built as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the founding documents of the OSCE, including the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris. This includes notably the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States; the inviolability of frontiers; refraining from the threat or use of force; and the freedom of States to choose or change their own security arrangements. We re-affirm that these principles are neither negotiable nor subject to revision or re-interpretation.

The violation by Russia of each and every one of these principles is an obstacle to a common and indivisible security space in Europe. It threatens peace and stability on our continent. We urge Russia to pull back from the precipice and to return to dialogue and diplomacy.

I would be grateful, Mr. Chairperson, if this statement could be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF GREECE**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Further to the statement presented by the European Union, which we fully support, I would like on behalf of Greece to put emphasis on four key phrases describing clearly our position:

We condemn the violation: Russia's decision to recognize the separatist regions of Donetsk and Luhansk constitutes a blatant violation of fundamental principles of international law, of our OSCE commitments and of the Minsk agreements. Greece will always stand for the respect of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of all States, as clearly defined by international law and shall condemn any decision contravening them.

We are deeply concerned over the security situation that affects us directly because, among other things, in the region lives a long-established Greek community of 100,000 people. Protecting the region's inhabitants and meeting with their urgent needs is of the utmost importance. Conscious of the challenges, Greece took the difficult decision to reinforce its personnel in the Greek General Consulate in Mariupol, just a few kilometres away from the line of contact. It has also decided to maintain the Greek Embassy in Kiev, as a sign of its unwavering support to Ukraine's sovereignty. At the same time we call upon all parties involved in this conflict to abstain from any military actions that may lead to bloodshed.

We call for de-escalation and dialogue: Along with de-escalation, we urge all parties to give, above all, a real chance to dialogue. Greece considers diplomacy as the only option for reaching a sustainable solution to the conflict. If all sides prove with deeds that they realize that, we would have done the first essential step.

We should use all the means we possess: First of all, the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group. We should also make full use of the available tools, procedures and mechanisms within the OSCE, including the Renewed OSCE Dialogue on European Security. Finally, we should also express, all of us, our firm support to the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), which can play, especially now, a key role in the

de-escalation efforts. Greece is a consistent supporter of the Mission's proper functioning and to this effect Greek monitors continue exercising their duties.

I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for the floor. I will be very brief as I intend to deliver only a few remarks in addition to the European Union statement, which of course we fully endorse.

The erosion of trust, the non-compliance with key principles and the persistence of conflicts have regretfully led to the deterioration of the European security architecture.

We strongly condemn the recognition, by the Russian Federation of the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine as independent entities and the ensuing decision to send Russian troops into these areas. This decision violates the Minsk agreements and common agreed principles. We express our full solidarity with Ukraine and support its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE was created to prevent conflicts and ensure peace and stability. We have here a platform and instruments to address crisis situations and security concerns. The only and essential component lacking is the political will. We hope the window of dialogue offered by the OSCE will be properly used.

I kindly request this statement to be attached to the journal of the day.

I thank you.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SLOVAKIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement of the representative of the European Union.

Two weeks ago, in this very room, we discussed and supported initiative of the OSCE Chairmanship on the Renewed European Security Dialogue. We expressed firm belief that OSCE is the right forum to discuss security concerns of all participating States in accordance with the fundamental principles laid down in the OSCE key documents.

Regrettably, today we meet to respond to acts by Russia. We strongly condemn the decision by President Putin to recognize the non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine as independent entities and the ensuing decision to send Russian troops into these areas. This is a severe breach of international law and international agreements, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Budapest Memorandum.

Russia's decision is a new step in disrespecting the Minsk agreements, which Russia has been continually violating.

Slovakia reiterates its unwavering support to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We also stress the importance of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the work of its brave monitors, especially in today's turning point. It is extremely important that the Mission will continue its work in accordance with its existing mandate.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let us remind ourselves – diplomacy and dialogue are the way to improve the security situation and to safeguard peace and stability on our continent. Let us come back to diplomatic table. Thank you for your attention. Mr. Chairperson, I kindly ask to attach this statement to official journal of this meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Spain aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

In my national capacity, I should like to add the following. I will be brief.

Russian recognition of the separatist territories in eastern Ukraine is a flagrant violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity, the Minsk agreements and international law.

Spain will respond in close co-ordination with our partners.

What is at stake now is peace in Europe and an order based on respect for territorial integrity. Spain will continue to work towards these objectives.

The OSCE was established to prevent conflicts and ensure peace and stability in Europe. We must use all the opportunities for dialogue within our reach. Diplomacy is the only viable way out. We make an urgent appeal to Russia to follow this path.

Thank you.





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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 21 February 2022, the President of Russia signed decrees on the recognition of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR). Both chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation today ratified treaties with the DPR and LPR on friendship, co-operation and mutual assistance. This is a very difficult decision but one that we have been forced to take. It was dictated primarily by humanitarian considerations – that is, by the striving to protect the civilian population from the armed violence that the current Ukrainian authorities are continuing with in Donbas. The decision was adopted in the light of the free expression of will by the residents of Donbas, voiced through an official appeal by their representatives, on the basis of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act of the CSCE and other fundamental instruments that enshrine the right of peoples to self-determination and the obligation of other States to respect that right.

Just yesterday, at the special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, we heard reports by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG), Mikko Kinnunen, and the Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Yaşar Halit Çevik. They sounded the alarm regarding the sharp deterioration of the situation at the line of contact and the increased shelling of civilian objects. Mr. Çevik reported on new instances of casualties and destruction that the Mission had not yet had time to process.

Since the very beginning of the Ukrainian crisis, Russia has made persistent efforts to resolve it by peaceful, diplomatic means. Russian representatives have facilitated internal Ukrainian dialogue in the TCG and worked on a settlement in the Normandy format.

Let us recall our discussions in this room over the past few years. No one but us and our allies spoke about the need for strict implementation of the Minsk Package of Measures. Indeed, the representatives of the current regime in Kyiv and their foreign handlers vocally advocated quite the opposite, namely establishing control over the border and suppressing

dissent in Donbas without affording its population any political guarantees or special status, as provided for by the Minsk Package of Measures. Instead of reaching agreement with its fellow citizens through political means, the regime conducted a punitive operation against them, which, in effect, amounts to a civil war. The Ukrainian authorities have publicly stated, not least at the highest political level, that “no special status will be granted to Donbas”, that “there will be no direct dialogue with representatives of the DPR and LPR”, and that the Minsk agreements are allegedly “unworkable”. Today finally, ladies and gentlemen, you remembered these.

In parallel, the Ukrainian military continued to amass an armed group on the line of contact – foreign strike weapons, so-called instructors from NATO countries, and heavy weapons and equipment appeared there. A scenario involving the use of force was being prepared. Despite being prohibited under paragraph 10 of the Package of Measures, the Ukrainian nationalist paramilitary formations also stayed put there. We have repeatedly cited statements by the leaders of Right Sector squads to the effect that Ukrainian nationalists are not bound by any ceasefires. What is more, they publicly declared that “Donbas will be Ukrainian, or it will be emptied of its people”, and under the slogan “death to the Moskals [Muscovites]” fired at Donbas residents, whose native language is Russian. The population of the region faced the threat of physical annihilation. It has become abundantly clear that for the post-Maidan authorities of Ukraine, Donbas means first and foremost the territory, not the people living there. Now these people are leaving their homes, fleeing to Russia – not only to the southern but also to the central regions. To accuse us of having orchestrated this escalation is outrageous. Have you stopped to think about the people involved?

Our Western partners have not seen all this, or rather they pretend that they haven’t noticed. Not once have they said a single word about the need for the Ukrainian Government to immediately and unconditionally end its stranglehold on the region, for example, by lifting the socio-economic blockade. Instead, some NATO countries have embarked on an unprecedented and demonstrative pumping of lethal weapons into Ukraine and, in effect, have thereby given a carte blanche for the further killing of civilians and destruction of civilian objects.

Esteemed colleagues,

Have the conscience to acknowledge that for seven years, despite United Nations Security Council resolution 2202, despite the support of the Normandy format, despite the TCG mechanism established for this purpose, it was the Ukrainian Government that consistently worked to ensure that the Package of Measures would never be implemented. Otherwise, the relevant amendments to the Ukrainian Constitution would have been made back in 2015, Donetsk and Luhansk would have been part of Ukraine with a special status, and the Ukrainian State would have exercised control over the border. There would already have been more than one round of elections in these regions (possibly monitored by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights). All these are not obligations of Russia, but goals that we have been unable to secure from the Ukrainian Government for seven whole years.

I repeat that, from the moment the Package of Measures was signed, the Ukrainian Government had no intention of implementing it, and later even openly declared that the agreements reached in Minsk were null and void. There was constant belligerent rhetoric

from Ukrainian officials, who publicly spoke of their refusal to engage in direct dialogue with the authorities in Donbas and of their intention to resolve the crisis by military means. In fact, the Ukrainian Government did not simply withdraw from the Minsk agreements a long time ago – it has never been party to them, having added its signature as a mere formal gesture.

We have already seen this kind of behaviour from the Ukrainian Government's Western partners – giving all kinds of assurances and promises, even signing up to specific commitments, without any intention of fulfilling them. This is not how things work.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.



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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY (ALSO ON BEHALF OF FRANCE)**

France and Germany would like to speak briefly under this current issue raised by Russia. It must be clear – as has been repeated by all the speakers today: It is Russia that is violating international law, the Charter of the United Nations and not respecting the commitments made in the framework of the OSCE and the Minsk agreements.

The decision by the President of the Russian Federation today to recognize the self-proclaimed “peoples’ republics” in eastern Ukraine represents a fundamental breach of international law and a severe blow to all diplomatic efforts for the peaceful and political solution of the conflict. Several years of efforts in the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group, under the auspices of the OSCE, are wilfully undone for no comprehensible reason. Russia massively damages its commitment to a diplomatic solution.

The recognition constitutes a further violation of Ukraine’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, which we condemn in the strongest possible terms. France and Germany remain unwavering by Ukraine’s side within its internationally recognized borders. We will respond to this breach of international law. To this end, we are co-ordinating with our partners.

Since 2014, Russia has claimed to be committed to the full implementation of the Minsk agreements and the related negotiation formats, the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group mediated by the OSCE. Russia has also committed to the implementation of the Minsk agreements through United Nations Security Council resolution 2202 in its capacity as a permanent member of the Security Council. By the decision to recognize the self-proclaimed “peoples’ republics” in eastern Ukraine, Russia is breaking all these commitments.

We call on Russia to reverse its decision and to return to the path of diplomatic and political conflict resolution based on the Minsk agreements.

We reiterate our urgent call on Russia to dismantle the military threat on Ukraine’s border. We unequivocally warn against further military escalation by Russia.

We recall that the political advisers to the Heads of State or Government of the Normandy format met in January in Paris and in February in Berlin. They reconfirmed in writing that the Minsk agreements are the basis of the work of the Normandy format, and

they discussed the importance of the Trilateral Contact Group, of which Russia is a member, to intensify its work aiming at swift progress in the implementation of the Minsk agreements. This position has been reiterated by the Russian President and his Foreign Minister repeatedly in exchanges with both our Heads of State or Government and Foreign Ministers during the last week.

As mediators in this conflict, we see no justification for Russia's unilateral step. In particular, Ukraine has undertaken concrete steps to accelerate the implementation of the Minsk agreements in the last weeks and underscored its commitment to a diplomatic solution time and again. Ukraine, unlike Russia, always followed the invitation of Germany and France to negotiate a sustainable and peaceful solution for the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

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**1357th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1357, Agenda item 2

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS**

The delegation of Belarus has the honour to acquaint the Permanent Council with today's statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus:

“Belarus has repeatedly spoken of the danger of reckless behaviour by the leadership and politicians of a number of Western countries, who in recent years have increasingly preferred blatant pressure and threats as tools for solving their own problems and international ones. They have almost universally replaced consideration of the interests of other participants in the process with unilateral restrictive measures, hybrid influencing and aggressive rhetoric.

“As a direct consequence, tensions in the Eastern European region have surged and the international security system established over the decades has deteriorated, the authority of such key fountainheads of peace and security as the United Nations and the OSCE has been discredited and levelled, international treaties and agreements have been devalued, and direct obligations under them have likewise been abandoned. The guarantees offered to Belarus by the United Kingdom and the United States of America under the Budapest Memorandum, which have been trampled underfoot, are a case in point.

“In such a situation, we respect and understand the Russian side's decision to recognize the independence of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic.

“This step by Russia has not only a political but also a serious human and humanitarian dimension, given the number of Russian citizens living in these territories and experiencing deprivations for almost eight years now. Belarusians are more familiar than anyone else with the horrors of war, and the desire to live in peace and harmony between peoples is part of our genetic code.

“The Republic of Belarus has always actively and consistently advocated a peaceful settlement of the conflict in south-eastern Ukraine. We still consider diplomatic methods to be a priority and are ready to assist this process in every possible way.

“We welcome the statements by the Russian side about being open to diplomacy in this context. As we see it, the path of negotiation is the only sure way to prevent bloodshed between the fraternal Slavic peoples. We call on all parties to refrain from military escalation and any other actions that close the road to peace.

“We recall the particular responsibility of the United States and the European Union for exacerbating the situation in our region. It is essential to stop provoking violence, pumping Ukraine and the Baltic countries full of troops and weapons, and imposing illegal sanctions.

“In its further actions, the Belarusian side intends to be guided by the principles of a good-faith attitude of all parties to the fulfilment of their international obligations and by its strategic alliance with fraternal Russia, and also to take into account the further evolution of the situation.”

I request that the text of this statement be included in the journal of today’s meeting.