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**Chairmanship: Poland****REINFORCED MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
(1358th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Thursday, 24 February 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 4 p.m.

Closed: 7.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Hałaciński

Chairperson, Russian Federation (Annex 1)

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S MILITARY OPERATION AGAINST UKRAINE

Chairperson, Chairman-in-Office (Annex 2), Ukraine, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA.GAL/8/22 OSCE+), Secretary General (SEC.GAL/35/22 OSCE+), 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 3), France (Annex 4), Canada (Annex 5), United States of America (Annex 6), United Kingdom (Annex 7), Austria (Annex 8), Germany (Annex 9), Sweden (Annex 10), North Macedonia (Annex 11), Switzerland (Annex 12), Spain (Annex 13), Denmark (Annex 14), Romania (Annex 15), Luxembourg (Annex 16), Estonia (Annex 17), Moldova (Annex 18), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia (Annex 19), Iceland (Annex 20), Czech Republic (Annex 21), Finland (Annex 22), Albania (Annex 23), Belgium (Annex 24), Montenegro (Annex 25), Netherlands (Annex 26), Andorra (Annex 27), Norway (Annex 28), Slovenia (Annex 29), San Marino (Annex 30), Lithuania (Annex 31), Monaco (Annex 32), Latvia (Annex 33), Holy See, Azerbaijan (Annex 34), Malta (Annex 35), Italy (Annex 36), Portugal (Annex 37), Bulgaria (Annex 38), Cyprus (Annex 39), Slovakia (Annex 40), Turkey (Annex 41), Liechtenstein (Annex 42), Greece (Annex 43), Hungary (Annex 44), Croatia (Annex 45), Ireland (Annex 46)

Agenda item 2: REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

*Special military operation to protect people from genocide perpetrated by the Kiev regime: Russian Federation (Annex 47), Belarus (PC.DEL/293/22 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

PC.JOUR/1358  
24 February 2022  
Annex 1

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Point 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

At recent meetings of the Permanent Council we have already spoken in detail about procedural aspects of the Chairmanship's preparation of the Permanent Council's agenda. We note that in the planning of today's meeting these substantive issues were not taken into account by the Chairmanship. Such arbitrariness is unacceptable.

We are obliged to repeat the following. In accordance with paragraph IV.1(C)3 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, the Chairmanship should prepare and transmit in advance to participating States the draft agendas of Permanent Council meetings. This should be done taking into account the views expressed by all participating States. I stress – by all participating States. Failure to observe this rule is tantamount to undermining the foundations of our Organization's functioning. I would remind you that the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE were approved by the ministers of the participating States in 2006.

Given the current situation, the Russian delegation is once again unable to support the wording of the first item on the agenda for today's meeting – an agenda that does not reflect the full range of participating States' positions. We will deliver a statement on a current issue separately announced by us.

We once again urge our Polish colleagues to adhere strictly to the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council decision (Role of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office) and 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.



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

PC.JOUR/1358  
24 February 2022  
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE**

Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

This is not only a prerogative, but in fact an obligation of the OSCE Chairmanship, appointed by all participating States, to react immediately to a security challenge of the scale we see today.

24 February will go down in history as one of the darkest days for Europe and the world. A day of disgrace.

Russia has decided to attack Ukraine – its neighbouring peaceful country.

No words are strong enough to condemn this unacceptable act of aggression, blatant violation of international law and total disregard for the human values we hold so deeply.

It is an attack not only against Ukraine, but against the whole OSCE community.

It stands against the basic fundamentals on which the security of Europe is built.

I also condemn the involvement of Belarus in this aggression against Ukraine.

My thoughts today are with people of Ukraine, including the families of all those killed and injured. Their tremendous suffering is a desperate cry for justice and peace.

I express full solidarity with Ukrainians and their democratically elected authorities.

I strongly support the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

As the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, I call on Russia for the immediate cessation of all military activities against Ukraine.

All Russian forces must be immediately withdrawn from the territory of Ukraine.

The Russian unprovoked attack on Ukraine violates the core principles of international law. It puts the lives of millions of people at grave risk.

By this act of military aggression Russia broke virtually all international treaties, rules and commitments, including the fundamentals of this Organization – the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris.

This behaviour is proof that Russia has rejected all international efforts, including within the OSCE, to engage in dialogue.

Although in this dark moment hope seems to be lacking, I urge Russia to turn back from the path of violence and war.

As the Chairmanship, we express our grave concern about the safety of the OSCE personnel in Ukraine.

Appropriate OSCE structures are closely monitoring their situation and reacting accordingly.

The Secretary General will address this critical issue in more detail.

Dear colleagues,

We must pursue diplomatic solutions. However, currently, there is no way of going back to the spirit of trust and co-operation which was the cornerstone of this Organization.

Let me finish by asking Russia directly – what is your vision of further interaction at this forum? It has been created for peaceful co-operation, but currently it has been used by your representatives only to justify military aggression against the sovereign neighbour.

Thank you.



**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, 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, on behalf of the European Union, I would like to thank you for swiftly convening this extraordinary Permanent Council meeting. These are among the darkest hours for Europe since the Second World War.

The European Union condemns in the strongest possible terms the invasion of Ukraine by armed forces of the Russian Federation.

We demand President Putin to cease Russian military operations immediately and unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine. Russia bears full responsibility for this act of aggression and all the destruction and loss of life it will cause. It will be held accountable for its actions.

We also condemn the involvement of Belarus in this aggression against Ukraine and call on it to abide by its international obligations.

Russia's military attack against Ukraine – an independent and sovereign State – is a flagrant violation of international law and the core principles on which the international rules-based order is built.

The European Union together with transatlantic and like-minded partners have been united in their untiring efforts to achieve a diplomatic solution to the security crisis caused by Russia. Russia has not reciprocated these efforts and instead opted unilaterally for a grave and premeditated escalation.

The European Union has made clear from the outset and at the highest political level that any further military aggression against Ukraine will have massive consequences and severe costs.

The European Union's response will therefore include both sectoral and individual restrictive measures co-ordinated fully with our transatlantic and like-minded partners.

Russia should be in no doubt that the European Union will remain resolutely united as it takes the next steps in close co-ordination with partners.

The European Union calls on the international community to demand from Russia the immediate end of this aggression, which endangers international peace and security at a global scale.

We call on Russia to fully respect international humanitarian law, and to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access and assistance to all persons in need. We also call on Russia to ensure the safety of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

The European Union reiterates its unwavering support and commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We stand by the people of Ukraine and its democratically elected institutions and representatives.

The European Union also reiterates its unwavering support for, and commitment to, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and of the Republic of Moldova.

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

Thank you.

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.

**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

France aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union on behalf of the Member States and wishes 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 the fact that my counterpart Dmytro Kuleba is here with us – I wish to reiterate to him our complete solidarity.

As the President of the Republic stated this morning, France condemns in the strongest terms the military invasion launched by Russia against Ukraine in the early hours of today. It likewise condemns the use of Belarusian territory, as approved by the Lukashenko regime, for conducting this aggression against a sovereign State.

This attack, which is being carried out in an irresponsible manner and without any justification whatsoever, is endangering the lives of countless civilians. I call on Russia to stop its military operation immediately and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

This decision to go to war is a brutal violation of international law. It will entail massive consequences and a severe cost for Russia, as the Europeans have announced on several occasions together with their partners. The European response to be adopted will be unprecedented. It will comprise restrictive measures targeting both sectors and individuals, which will be fully co-ordinated with our transatlantic partners.

I express my complete solidarity with the democratically elected Ukrainian authorities and with the Ukrainian people at this difficult time. France will strengthen further its support for Ukraine, in all its forms.



Over these past weeks, we redoubled our efforts to persuade Russia to embark on de-escalation. On numerous occasions we called on Russia to bring its actions into line with its words when it claimed to be in favour of dialogue and of a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine based on full respect for the territorial integrity of that country.

Russia has chosen the path of aggression against a sovereign and independent country.

Through this decision and its actions, Russia is violating the Charter of the United Nations, the fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris on which stability in Europe is based, the Budapest Memorandum and the NATO-Russia Founding Act.

I call on all OSCE participating States to join us in condemning Russia's actions. Our Organization must draw all the lessons from this crisis, and from the destructive role played therein by Russia and its ally Belarus.

We express our complete solidarity with the Ukrainian people, who yearn for peace. France commends the restraint that Ukraine has been showing for several months, despite the provocations, and which it continues to display in these difficult circumstances. It expresses its complete solidarity with the people and Government of Ukraine. It likewise reiterates its full, unfailing support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and Moldova.

We call on Russia to ensure the safety of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, particularly in the areas not controlled by the Ukrainian Government. This is henceforth the direct responsibility of Russia, which will be held accountable for it as for everything else. The Mission is the only independent international presence on the ground, and all the sides need its reports more than ever.

We also thank the OSCE Secretary General, who has been working tirelessly on this issue.

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



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Early this morning, Russia launched an egregious attack on Ukraine.

Over the past several months, we have said in this chamber that Russia was positioning troops and equipment to invade Ukraine. Russia said that it was not, that there was nothing to worry about.

Russia lied.

We said troops along the border were continuing to grow. Russia said exercises were complete and it was withdrawing troops. This was a complete fabrication. We now know that reinforcements were continuing to move to the Ukrainian border.

We said that Russian troops in Belarus would stay beyond the end of exercise “Union Resolve 2022”, yet Russia told us all that the exercise would end on the 20 February. It refused to engage in Vienna Document discussions initiated by Ukraine last week.

Today, Russian forces are invading Ukraine from the territory of Belarus.

We said Russia would fabricate a pretext for military intervention in Ukraine. And Russia has tried to do that repeatedly, although in no way convincingly.

We have said all along that Russia did not want peace in Donbas or return of control of the border to the Government of Ukraine. Russia argued passionately that the Minsk agreements were the only road map to peace. Then this week Vladimir Putin recognized the so-called “LNR” and “DNR” and explicitly declared the Minsk process dead. The death of Minsk is on the hands of Moscow. And, we fear, soon many human deaths too.

For Russia, there was never any question of a diplomatic solution or an honest conversation about security in Europe. This was always about Russia taking control over Ukraine’s sovereignty.

Russia has chosen deception, intimidation and a manufactured crisis based on lies and false flag operations. And this has now culminated in an appalling and indefensible attack on a democratic neighbour, and participating State of the OSCE.

Mr. Chairperson,

It should be clear to every participating State in this Organization, and to every country in the world, that this Russian invasion of Ukraine – this current crisis, representing the largest threat to peace in Europe in decades – has been a carefully planned series of events by the Kremlin.

This is all deliberate. This is the continuation and escalation of a war of aggression provoked entirely by Vladimir Putin.

Russia presents itself as the champion of international law, the guardian of the Charter of the United Nations, the promoter of indivisible State security. Last year Russia loudly proclaimed here at the OSCE: “the UN Charter is our rules”.

Today, Russia has shattered every rule that it purports to defend. Russia’s hypocrisy will not stand up to the scrutiny of the community of nations; Russia has tried to make a mockery of our international system, to force a reversion to a “might-makes-right” world. We cannot and will not allow this to happen.

Canada reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have, and will be, forcefully and collectively responding to these reckless and dangerous acts.

In addition to Putin’s attempt to subjugate the free will of a sovereign nation by invading Ukraine, he has sought to sow division and discord amongst participating States. He has utterly failed. We are united in our condemnation of this horrific action, and in our support to Ukraine.

We call on Russia to abort its attack immediately and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. It is not too late to stop this madness.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I ask that my statement be added to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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Original: ENGLISH

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Thank you, Minister Rau, for convening this special Permanent Council meeting.

As we first said last night as the assault began, the United States strongly and unequivocally condemns Russia's premeditated, unprovoked and unjustified attack on Ukraine.

By attacking Ukraine, Russia has broken sacred principles of international law. It has violated the Charter of the United Nations. It has rejected the Helsinki Final Act and the principles upon which the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe was founded. It has shattered peace in Europe. And it has jeopardized the lives and safety of millions of Ukrainians who have done nothing – absolutely nothing – to provoke this horrifying assault on their homes and families.

Russia's actions are an affront to democracy, to human rights, to human decency. The world will hold Russia accountable. And we will hold Belarus accountable for the role it is playing in this invasion.

As we meet, Russia's forces are attacking Ukraine on several fronts. All evidence suggests that Russia intends to encircle and threaten Kyiv, and we believe Moscow has developed plans to inflict widespread human rights abuses – and potentially worse – on the Ukrainian people.

For months, the United States and our allies and partners have pursued a diplomatic solution and repeatedly reached out to Russia in good faith to discuss any legitimate security concerns. For months, this Organization made every effort to offer Russia a path to discuss steps to enhance collective European security. For months, Russia has engaged in the pretence of diplomacy while insisting that they had no intentions of invading Ukraine. All the while, the Kremlin has been preparing this cold-blooded attack, the scale of which has not been seen in Europe since the Second World War.

The members of this Organization and the entire international community now plainly see Russia's complete abandonment and abdication of the commitments it made to the world – and we will never forget.

President Putin seeks to eliminate Ukraine's right to exist as a free and independent country and its citizens' right to choose their own leaders, alliances and futures. You don't need to take our word for it; President Putin made that clear in his remarks to the Russian people. That makes Russia's actions a threat not only to Ukraine's security or to Europe's security, but to the security of people everywhere who are protected by the international laws and principles that President Putin is breaking asunder today.

In this moment, we must and will remain united in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the right of all sovereign nations to choose their own paths, free from coercion, subversion or invasion.

We remind Russia in this solemn moment of its obligations to ensure the safety of all civilians, including all the people of Ukraine and the members of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission – citizens of more than 40 participating States of this Organization. We will hold Russia accountable for its failure to do so.

We said from the beginning of this crisis that the United States will respond swiftly and decisively to further aggression against Ukraine. That response is under way. Earlier today, President Biden met with his G7 counterparts to discuss next steps. Later today, he will speak to the American people to announce additional consequences – which will be unprecedented in scope and scale – that the United States and our allies and partners will impose on Russia for its attack on Ukraine and assault on global peace and security. We will also speak to measures that the United States and NATO will take to reassure our allies on the Alliance's eastern flank.

The United States continues to believe that the diplomatic path is the only way for responsible nations to seek to resolve their concerns. As we have always done, we are prepared to leave no diplomatic stone unturned. But Russia has made clear its complete rejection of any and all diplomacy, and until it reverses its course, our focus will be on co-ordinating with allies and partners on imposing the consequences and costs Russia has brought on itself.

The American people – and freedom-loving people everywhere – stand with the people of Ukraine today, whose lives and futures are now in peril because of one man's war of choice.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Colleagues,

As I speak, Russia is conducting an unprovoked and premeditated invasion of a sovereign, democratic European country.

The United Kingdom and our international partners stand united in condemning this reprehensible attack on Ukraine.

It is an egregious violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and core principles of the OSCE.

President Putin's so-called "precision strikes" have already destroyed apartment blocks and killed, wounded and displaced innocent civilians.

We call on Russia to withdraw its forces completely from Ukrainian territory immediately, and to refrain from further aggression.

Over recent weeks, the Russian Government repeatedly denied their hostile intent towards their neighbour. At the same time, they massed troops, launched cyberattacks, and staged false pretexts and provocations.

When I visited Moscow on 10 February, Foreign Minister Lavrov looked me in the eye and said that Russia had no plans to invade Ukraine.

Last week they claimed they were withdrawing their troops.

Today, the Russian Government has shown that they lied to the world.

They were never serious about engaging in diplomacy.

Here at the OSCE they have repeatedly failed to fulfil their commitments, and failed to show up to meetings – and they have hidden away from the dialogue that they pretended to seek.

The OSCE treats all States as equals, with an equal responsibility to implement and to protect our shared commitments. The Kremlin has turned its back on those commitments, with devastating implications for Ukraine and the wider region.

Russia is now a pariah in the eyes of the world.

In contrast, Ukraine has shown dignity, restraint and fortitude. We are absolutely unwavering in our support for Ukraine and its people.

We are urgently convening discussions with our allies and partners to co-ordinate our collective response. Together we will hold the Russian Government to account and meet this illegal action through unity and strength.

We will continue to provide political, economic and military support to Ukraine to help them defend themselves in this fight that they did not choose.

And together with our allies we will continue to squeeze Putin and those around him.

Today we are announcing an unprecedented package of sanctions, imposing increasingly severe costs for Russia's aggression.

We will significantly degrade their economic and military development.

And we will continue to reinforce NATO's eastern flank.

Those around President Putin will soon realize – if they don't already – that his decisions this week were a colossal mistake.

In this critical moment, we must show absolute unity.

We must continue to support the Government and people of Ukraine in the face of this assault on their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

And we must continue to stand up for the rule of law and the stability and security of Europe, against those who would tear it apart.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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Annex 8

ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA**

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

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

Allow me to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Only the day before yesterday, I spoke to you here at the Permanent Council and appealed to you to leave no stone unturned to defuse the situation in eastern Ukraine.

I exhorted Russia to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue.

Since the early hours of today we know that the Russian Federation has chosen the path of violence.

Once again it has crossed boundaries: the physical borders of Ukrainian national territory and the bounds of international law.

Our worst expectations have come true: war is raging on the European continent.

Ukraine has become the victim of further military aggression by Russia.

The most elementary rules of the international order and international law have thus been broken.

It is an insult to Ukraine – nay, to the entire international community – to justify the Russian aggression by invoking Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Russia has attacked Ukraine, not the other way round. Russia has broken all treaties, pledges and agreements.



Yet, President Putin must surely know that in this way he is not creating greater security for himself, but greater insecurity.

Esteemed colleagues,

As in the past, we in Austria know very well where we stand, namely on the side of what is right. On the side of international law. On the side of peace.

Since last night, Europe has become a colder continent.

In this dark hour for us all, our unconditional solidarity is with Ukraine, the Ukrainian Government and the Ukrainian people.

Our response will be clear: where we are able to help Ukraine, we will do so with great commitment.

And where we as the European Union have to draw red lines vis-à-vis the Russian leadership, we shall once again act swiftly and in a united and determined manner.

This very evening, the Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States will meet in Brussels to deliberate a further expansion of the sanctions against Russia.

Tomorrow there will follow a meeting of the European Foreign Ministers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past few hours, our monitors in the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine have become witnesses to something horrible.

They have a special responsibility as our eyes and ears on the ground. However, that means that they must also be afforded the necessary protection.

I therefore unequivocally call on Russia and the representatives of the self-proclaimed People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk to neither imperil our monitors nor misuse them for political ends.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is our duty, precisely on this dark day for Europe, not to allow the channels of dialogue to be cut off. This is something for which the OSCE is eminently fitted.

Austria stands ready to support with all its might every negotiation initiative of the Polish Chairmanship, the Troika and our Secretary General, Helga Schmid.

Russia should not evade its responsibility in this respect.

Russia is a country with a great history and culture.

A country to which we are indebted for having given us the works of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky and many other artists.

A country that has also been closely bound up with Austria's history.

But it is a country that, on account of its current leadership, is going down the wrong path.

Not the path of lawfulness, co-operation and partnership, but that of violence and war.

My message to the Russian leadership is clear. Lay down your weapons. Withdraw your troops from Ukraine. Come back to the negotiating table.

Only when the guns are silent does diplomacy stand a chance.

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Madam Secretary General,  
Dear colleagues,  
And, above all, dear Dmytro Kuleba,

Your words and those of you all linger in the ear.

I support the statement by the EU High Representative and should like to add the following in my national capacity.

All of us woke up in a different world this morning, and today we are living through a dark day. This applies to the millions of people in Ukraine, to Europe, to the world and to the OSCE. At this difficult time, Germany stands in full solidarity with Ukraine and its citizens.

With its brutal and completely unprovoked military attack against Ukraine, the Russian Government is casting aside the most elementary rules of the international order in full view of the world. And it is destroying the Minsk agreements, as my Canadian counterpart, Ms. Joly, clearly stated.

I vehemently reject the Russian-manufactured narrative of a genocide in Donbas.

This war, the massive suffering of Ukrainians, of families and children – for all this responsibility lies with the Russian Government alone, which for weeks has been lying to the world and to this Organization, of which Russia is a participating State.

Russia is flagrantly violating international law. It is treading underfoot the fundamental OSCE principles. It is trampling upon the commitments that it undertook as an OSCE participating State as well as customary international law. This disregard for international law will have far-reaching consequences.

Germany condemns in the strongest terms Russia's brutal military attack against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. We also condemn the co-operation of Belarus

in this Russian aggression. I call on all OSCE participating States to support this condemnation.

Dear colleagues,

It is up to us. If we do not all now stand up – more resolutely than ever before – for peace and security in Europe on the basis of international law, we shall pay a very high price. Europe is our house: anyone who breaches the peace and sets fire to this house should feel the full force of our common resistance.

Over the past few months, we left no stone unturned – at the OSCE, NATO and the United Nations and in countless bilateral contacts with Russia – to find a diplomatic and peaceful solution to this crisis. While Russia officially agreed to our numerous proposals for talks, it never did so in substance.

Together with its allies and partners, Germany will respond resolutely to this flagrant violation of international law. This attack will entail grave economic, political and geostrategic consequences for Russia, as many colleagues have already emphasized. Responsibility for these consequences rests solely with the Russian Government and the Russian President.

I call on the Russian Government and the Russian President to stop the bloodshed immediately, halt all military operations against Ukraine, and withdraw all troops and military equipment from Ukraine.

I call on the Russian Government and the Russian President to fulfil at once Russia's commitments as an OSCE participating State and its particular responsibility as a member of the United Nations Security Council. Having a seat on the Security Council implies not only rights but also obligations.

I call on the Russian Government and the Russian President to guarantee the safety of the monitors at the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), the seconded staff from almost 40 countries and the SMM's local Ukrainian staff – in both the government-controlled and the non-government-controlled areas. It is the Russian Government and the Russian President who are now responsible for ensuring that all OSCE personnel in Ukraine are safe and come to no harm.

There remains only one right path for Russia to take, namely to return now to the negotiating table here at the OSCE and in other forums and to resume dialogue on our common security architecture in Europe. The path leading out of the international community and into complete international isolation chosen by the Russian Government and the Russian President offers no future for the people in Russia either.

Germany stands in full solidarity with Ukraine at this difficult time. Our thoughts are with the victims, those killed and injured and their relatives, with the people, families and children who must now flee the violence in Ukraine.

I should also like to express my appreciation and gratitude to you, Mr. Chairperson, to you, Madam Secretary General, and to all OSCE staff in Vienna and Kyiv and the whole of Ukraine, for your superb and important work. We will support you wherever we can.

Thank you.

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



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Sweden fully aligns with the EU statement as delivered by High Representative Borrell. I wish to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

Sweden condemns in the strongest terms possible the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. The invasion of an independent, peaceful and democratic country in the heart of Europe is a flagrant violation of international law and is not only an attack against Ukraine, but on the entire European security order. For this Russia bears full responsibility.

Europe has not experienced a similar large-scale aggression in Europe since the Second World War.

If Belarus has allowed its territory to be used by Russia for perpetrating acts of aggression against Ukraine, this would in itself constitute aggression by Belarus against Ukraine for which they must be held responsible.

Russia's military attack against Ukraine is a flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter's prohibition on the use of force. It also shows as a complete disregard for the commitments and obligations under the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and subsequent documents.

Sweden demands that Russia's military operations in Ukraine cease immediately and that they unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine.

In this extremely serious situation, Sweden calls on Russia to fully respect international humanitarian law, and to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access and assistance to all persons in need. Russia alone bears the responsibility for the human suffering that the invasion inevitably will lead to and will be held accountable for its actions.

I call on Russia to ensure the safety of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and its staff. The Mission is unique through its unbiased reporting on developments

on the ground and has been instrumental in contributing to de-escalation. We hope that patrolling can be resumed as soon as the security situation permits.

We fully support the actions taken by the Polish Chairmanship in this extremely serious situation. Russia has been offered plenty of opportunities for dialogue but has responded with aggression.

Sweden's support and commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders remains steadfast and unwavering. We are ramping up our support and stand by the people of Ukraine and its democratically elected institutions and representatives in this dark hour.

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



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

Dear Chairperson Rau,  
Dear Secretary General Schmid,  
Dear Minister Kuleba,

Today's Russian aggression against Ukraine is a blatant violation of international law, OSCE principles and commitments, and above all the values of humanity. Hearing the sirens of war in this day and age, in the heart of Europe, is still hard to believe. Once again, we are facing a narrative built on the ruins of the past, and its negative legacies, disrupting the freedom, values and gains of the modern, democratic and civilized world.

The narrative used by the Russian Federation is a brutal misinterpretation of the truth and a hypocrisy in the light of the lessons learned from the past. For decades, we have been investing in peace and prosperity. No one should abuse these foundations.

North Macedonia strongly condemns and renounces the decision of Moscow to opt for the path of war, a clear act of aggression against an independent country. This is a violent display of power, which curtails our joint efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis that seriously threatens the peace and stability of the overall OSCE area.

Despite numerous calls by the international community for de-escalation, peaceful resolution and above all reason, still, the people of Ukraine feel the real and devastating consequences of war. But not just Ukraine, the whole world is facing the ugly face of war.

Only yesterday, we hoped and aimed for a diplomatic resolution of the crisis. Today, these chances are shaken and in vain. The situation is escalating hourly, leading towards material devastation and human suffering.

Dialogue in these moments is critical. We call on the Russian Federation to stop the invasion and to refrain from further military actions. We call for immediate restoration of peace in order to give headway for diplomatic engagement.

We support the efforts of the Polish Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretary General in diffusing tensions through an action-oriented approach, relying on all the available tools of



our Organization. It is imperative to ensure the safety of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine personnel. The Russian Federation has a prime responsibility for this.

As a member of the OSCE Troika, we remain fully engaged in providing support to these efforts and still believe that multilateralism should overcome militarism.

Mr. Chairperson,

No matter how disturbing and discouraging the latest developments on the ground, we should continue to relentlessly work on a diplomatic solution avoiding further escalations. The OSCE could offer both resources and mechanisms to show the way out. It is a ripe and most appropriate time to fully utilize the potential of this platform.

Today the free world is renouncing the acts of aggression and we should stand united against this wrongdoing. We need to be persistent in finding a peaceful solution, because two wrongs do not make a right.

In these difficult times, we stand by Ukraine and its people, hopeful that reason will prevail and that life will be back to normalcy. Restoring peace should be an imperative.

I thank you.



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ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND**

Mr. Chairperson,

Today is a sad day, the likes of which we have not seen in a long time. The kind of day that we never wanted to see again. An armed conflict has begun on European soil. A situation that could not be prevented despite all diplomatic efforts. The current crisis affects not only Russia and Ukraine. It affects all of Europe. Our solidarity and support are with all Ukrainians and the democratically elected authorities.

Russia's large-scale military intervention against Ukraine is unprovoked and taking place despite repeated offers to engage in dialogue on the part of Ukraine and the international community.

Switzerland condemns in the strongest terms Russia's military intervention against Ukraine. This is a serious violation of international law that we cannot accept under any circumstances. With its actions, Russia has violated the prohibition of the use of force enshrined in international law, together with the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. In doing so, Russia is blatantly ignoring the principles and commitments of the Charter of the United Nations and the OSCE. The use of Belarusian territory for conducting this military operation is likewise to be condemned.

An immediate de-escalation of the conflict and the search for a political solution are of the highest priority for Switzerland. Switzerland is prepared to support any efforts on the part of the OSCE to that end.

We call on Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory immediately. Switzerland also calls on the parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law, reduce tensions, resolve the conflict by peaceful means and avoid further escalations. The civilian population and civilian infrastructure must be protected. We call on Russia to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Ukrainian population and to fully assume its responsibilities in that regard.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Madam Secretary General,

Russia's military intervention is in violation of international law and contravenes the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The international legal order must be preserved or history will come to haunt us again. A return to reason is more urgent than ever.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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Annex 13

ENGLISH  
Original: SPANISH

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation has not heeded the international community and has put its threats into effect. An unjustifiable military attack on Ukraine began this morning, which Spain condemns in categorical and unequivocal terms.

This is a flagrant violation of international law and a most grave aggression against Ukraine and its population which jeopardize European and global security in a manner that is unprecedented since the Second World War. They directly infringe on the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and all the OSCE commitments voluntarily undertaken by all the participating States, including the Russian Federation.

Spain demands that the aggression be halted immediately and unconditionally before the number of casualties increases; it likewise calls for the return of all military personnel to the internationally recognized territory of the Russian Federation.

The Spanish Government reaffirms its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and the entire Donbas region. We reject the illegal recognition of the independence of the so-called Republics of Luhansk and Donetsk.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are witnessing a historic event for which there is no precedent in the past decades, namely an attack on European security as a whole.

We find ourselves at a time of extreme gravity during which unity and resolve in the face of this intolerable aggression are more necessary than ever.

Together with its partners and allies, Spain is working intensively in all fields to respond in a united, co-ordinated and emphatic manner to this act of aggression.

Spain wishes to reiterate once again the importance of the OSCE as an ideal forum for laying the foundations of European security.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson, I would be grateful if this statement could be included in the journal of this meeting.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF DENMARK**

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.

Today, we mark one of the darkest days in European history since the end of the Second World War.

I condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine and the involvement of Belarus in these actions. By its unjustified military actions, Russia is grossly violating international law, breaching OSCE commitments and undermining European and global security.

This will not go unanswered.

Russia's military aggression against Ukraine not only puts the lives of millions at further severe risk. Russia's decision is also a severe blow to diplomacy. Multiple years of efforts within the OSCE, the Normandy format, the Trilateral Contact Group and elsewhere are deliberately undone for no justifiable reason.

Since the beginning of Russia's military build-up, Denmark has called on Russia to de-escalate and to pursue diplomacy. Together with our partners and allies, we have put forward proposals. And we have shown our readiness to listen to Russia's concerns.

We deeply regret that Russia has chosen military action over diplomacy, and aggression over peace. Let me be clear: Russia bears the full responsibility for the human suffering we are now witnessing. And it must have major consequences.

We also recognize the deep impact Russia's military actions against Ukraine will have on the OSCE and its activities in Ukraine. We remain a strong supporter of the Special Monitoring Mission, and urge Russia to ensure their safety and security.

We call on Russia to immediately cease the hostilities, withdraw its military from Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders.

Denmark stands firmly by Ukraine and its people as they face this unparalleled crisis. We will continue to support and assist Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, politically, financially and in humanitarian terms.

And we fully support the efforts of the Polish Chairmanship to engage OSCE formats and tools even in this dire situation.

Let me conclude by saying: Slava Ukraini! Glory to Ukraine!

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

While fully aligning to the European Union statement, I would like to make the following remarks, in my national capacity.

I join the previous speakers in thanking the Polish Chairmanship for convening this extraordinary and urgent meeting under these dire circumstances.

Minister Rau and his team spare no effort toward the diplomatic resolution of the current situation. Unfortunately, Russia refused this path.

Romania firmly condemned Russia's unjustified and unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine. Romania also strongly condemned the recognition of the so-called "independence" of the so-called "Donetsk and Luhansk Peoples' Republics".

These acts represent very serious breaches of international law, of Russia's own commitments, and of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as of the inviolability of its borders.

We call on the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine and to put an end to any pressure on Ukraine.

Let me recall that also in this venue, several times this year and last year, Romania, along with most of the OSCE participating States, has repeatedly expressed concerns on Russia's unprecedented and threatening massive military build-up and troops movement in proximity of Ukraine. We also drew attention on Russia's increased military presence in Belarus, the Black Sea and the Azov Sea, and in the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula. Further, we have strongly condemned the dramatic increase in ceasefire violations along the line of contact in east Ukraine during the last days, the use of heavy weaponry, and the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas.



These were signs of a continuous escalatory path decided by Russia in breach of the Charter of the United Nations, in spite of intense efforts from the transatlantic community towards de-escalation and dialogue.

In the current circumstances, the safety and security of our monitors in the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine must be ensured. The Mission plays a vital role by monitoring and reporting on the security situation on the ground and we trust the OSCE Secretary General and the Polish Chairmanship in taking the best decisions in this respect.

Romania, along with the entire democratic international community, strongly rejects such irresponsible behaviour that undermines the very foundation of international relations and the rules-based international order. The OSCE key concept of co-operative and comprehensive security continues to be of utmost importance, and so are the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and of the Charter of Paris. All these principles are equally important.

Today we witness an aggression towards an independent, sovereign State. Romania reiterates its firm support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

In these profoundly worrying circumstances, we also need to continue to support the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, who are also facing mounting pressure from Russia and are directly affected by the worsening security situation in the region. We stand firm in our support for their sovereignty and territorial integrity and for their right to make freely their own foreign policy decisions.

The Russian Federation must bear the consequences of this deeply illegal act. This will be met with the strongest reaction by the international community, inflicting massive consequences and the most severe cost. In full co-ordination with allies and partners, Romania will impose substantial response measures.

Thus, we strongly call for a responsible behaviour from Russia and a plea to avoid loss of life and preserve the safety of civilian population.

Romania reiterates its full solidarity with Ukraine and with the Ukrainian people. We stand ready to continue to support our neighbour, including by providing humanitarian assistance.

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

Thank you.



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ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LUXEMBOURG**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Luxembourg aligns itself of course with the statement made by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission on behalf of the European Union.

What a sad day – for Ukraine, for Europe, for us all.

Luxembourg condemns in the strongest terms the military offensive launched by Russia against Ukraine this morning.

It is an unprovoked and unjustified aggression and a flagrant violation of international law and all the principles on which our international system is built.

Through his barbaric acts against the Ukrainian people, President Putin wants to terrorize the world and impose a new world order based on the rule of force. We will not accept this.

Luxembourg expresses its full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

The European Union will remain resolutely united as it takes the next steps in close co-ordination with its partners.

We join those who firmly reject any responsibility on the part of NATO for the current situation. Over the past few weeks, NATO, the European Union and the OSCE Chairmanship have undertaken countless efforts at dialogue and diplomacy to contribute to de-escalation, but it is Russia that has chosen the path of aggression. The attack launched this morning against Ukraine poses an unprecedented danger to our security in the OSCE area.

We are deeply shocked by the words of President Putin this morning, threatening serious consequences for all those who might be tempted to intervene. Russia must immediately stop its military actions and withdraw its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine.

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

Thank you.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ESTONIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I thank the Polish Chairmanship for summoning this timely and important meeting at a very troubled and critical time. We fully align with the European Union statement. Additionally, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Estonia condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's overt and extensive military attack on Ukraine. Which I also experienced early morning today in Kyiv. There is simply no justification for Russia's actions. We also condemn the involvement of Belarus in this aggression against Ukraine. Russian aggression against Ukraine has lasted already eight years and now we see President Putin's true face when launching a full war against a sovereign country. The Russian claim that others – Ukraine and NATO – are somehow responsible for what has happened, is completely groundless. Russia's decision to attack its peaceful neighbour is the ultimate breach and greatest violation against the principles of international law and the commitments enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other basis documents.

It is evident that today's President Putin's decision to start a large-scale invasion of Ukraine has been well planned for some time already. Allies and partners, especially the United States, made significant diplomatic efforts to avert conflict, Russia continued to amass troops on Ukraine's border. Russia did not listen to the calls for diplomacy and today there can no longer be any doubt or ambiguity regarding Putin's intentions. This means that all the actions by Russia in the international arena, including its statements referring to international law, have been false from the very beginning. By justifying its steps, Russia has been telling and continues to tell lies both to the international community and to its own citizens.

Russia's actions completely run counter to humanity and the norms of peaceful diplomatic settlement of disputes. This attack is a crime against the people of Ukraine.

Ukraine's security is Europe's security. Russia's aggression cannot go unpunished. We must act immediately to impose massive and severe costs on Russia. We continue to stand with Ukraine and the people of Ukraine. We must lend Ukraine as much political and

practical support as possible, including providing Ukraine with the means to defend itself. The international community must send a strong and united political message – jointly condemning Russia’s illegal actions.

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

Thank you. Slava Ukraini!



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA**

Mr. Chairperson,

We deeply regret that today the principle of force of arms prevailed over diplomacy.

The Republic of Moldova joins the international community in condemning in the strongest possible terms the act of war that the Russian Federation has launched against Ukraine.

This act represents not only an attack against Ukraine. It constitutes a breach of international law and the serious violation of the fundamental documents and principles on which this Organization and international order are based.

These principles are well known and universally accepted – sovereign equality, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, refraining from the threat or use of force, non-interference in internal affairs, co-operation between States, and fulfilment of their commitments under international law. All States must uphold and respect these key principles, and by no means reinterpret or violate them.

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 have always called for continued dialogue in order to ease tensions along the borders of Ukraine.

We call on other States not to follow nor to allow their territory to be used in this unprecedented use of military force since the Second World War in Europe.

While being a neutral country, we call on the Russian Federation to immediately stop the use of military force and to return to the path of diplomacy, dialogue and co-operation as the only tools for ensuring peace and stability on our continent.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has just requested the Parliament to declare a state of emergency in the country. The citizens of the Republic of Moldova who are

located in Ukraine were asked to immediately return home. The airspace of the Republic of Moldova was closed and flights with the destination Chişinău have been rerouted.

At the border crossing points between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, there is a significant increase of the incoming flow of persons and the authorities are deploying migration centres. There are already more than 5,000 refugees who have entered the territory of Moldova from Ukraine over the last several hours. The Moldovan authorities are stepping up their efforts to accommodate the significantly increased flow of persons from Ukraine, but in order to cope with the situation we will need support from our partners.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate Moldova's unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

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

I thank you.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Dear Chairperson-in-Office,  
Dear Minister Kuleba,  
Dear colleagues,

Russia's attack on Ukraine in the early hours today, in blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, left us all appalled.

As we speak, Russia's military aggression against Ukraine is still under way. This action violates the key tenets of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, and is in breach with Russia's obligations under international law.

In fact, this repeats the scenario of full-scale invasion my country experienced. It started with inciting and backing up puppet regimes in Georgia's integral regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali, then came a full-scale military aggression in 2008 under fabricated pretexts, leading to their illegal occupation, and shortly after signing a ceasefire agreement, instead of fulfilling obligations undertaken, Russia recognized the occupied territories as sovereign entities, thus creating a launchpad for their factual annexation.

Dear colleagues,

It is no longer about Ukraine, or Georgia, or any other individual country. Peace and security in Europe and beyond, are at stake. If not stopped, the repercussions of this war will be felt far beyond Ukraine and even Europe with more appalling consequences.

We all should be united in defending the very fundamentals of the international rules-based system. With this in mind, we call on Russia to immediately cease its aggression and withdraw all troops from Ukraine and around it. We stand with the international community in our efforts to return Russia to the negotiating table and abide it by international law.

In view of alarming reports from Ukraine, we share the concerns expressed today about the security of the OSCE personnel in Ukraine, including dozens of Georgian nationals that serve in the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. Their safety and well-being is of the utmost importance for us all.



We reiterate our unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and Donbas.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I kindly ask for my statement to be attached to the journal of the day.



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Original: ENGLISH

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND**

Today we are witnessing what we all feared the most.

Despite the diplomatic path being clear and open, Russia has chosen a different path – a path of war, destruction and human suffering.

Iceland condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the brutal and unprovoked attack of Russia on Ukraine. Russia's action is a flagrant violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and is in full contradiction to the Helsinki Final Act.

Iceland reiterates its unwavering support of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We stand with the people of Ukraine. Russia must pay a heavy economic and political price for its actions. Iceland is firmly united with our friends and allies in this regard.

We request the Russian Federation to immediately pull back its military forces and cease its unjustified invasion of Ukraine. Innocent civilians that have done absolutely nothing wrong are already suffering, lives are already being lost and we are looking at consequences that will not only be horrific for Ukraine, but also tragic for the whole of Europe and the world.

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

I thank you.



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Original: ENGLISH

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

The Czech Republic strongly condemns Russia's unprovoked and unjustifiable act of aggression against Ukraine.

Russia has chosen the path of violence against a sovereign, independent and democratic country.

This attack represents a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and OSCE principles and commitments.

This is an attack on the rules-based order and a serious threat to Euro-Atlantic security.

We urge Russia to immediately stop its military aggression and respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We stand firmly with the people of Ukraine. Our Government will provide additional material and humanitarian help in the amount of 12 million euros to support Ukraine.

Russia will face the response of the international community and the most severe consequences of its acts and behaviour.

All OSCE personnel currently present on Ukrainian ground, as an impartial international element, must be granted safety and security and must be treated accordingly.

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

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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Original: ENGLISH

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF FINLAND**

Mr. Chairperson,

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

I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for your swift action in calling today's Permanent Council meeting.

Mr. Chairperson,

This has been a shocking morning for Europe and the world. Our thoughts are with Ukraine and Ukrainians.

Finland condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Federation. Russia's actions target Ukraine but are also an attack on the entire European security order. The attack threatens the life of civilians, and is a flagrant violation of international law and the core principles of the international rules-based order.

Russia should cease military operations immediately. Russia's aggression endangers international peace and security.

Finland firmly supports Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, self-determination and territorial integrity.

We feel deep compassion towards Ukrainians in this most grave situation. Finland will seek ways to further strengthen our bilateral support to Ukraine as well as working within the EU to do more as well.

Mr. Chairperson,

We call on Russia to fully respect international humanitarian law.

We also call on Russia to ensure the safety of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

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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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

We knew it would happen, and yet, the start of Russia's military attack on Ukraine today came as a surprise to many. Because although we knew, we still hoped that the Russian leadership would at the last moment find reason, it would at the last moment refrain from taking such a tragic, such a horrific step. We condemn this aggression in the strongest terms, but unfortunately words fail to convey the depth of our dismay, anger and pain.

But what words also fail to convey with the proper strength is our commitment, how united all of Europe and all the world is today against this act of illegal aggression against a sovereign State in the heart of Europe.

And make no mistake this is not just an attack on Ukraine, this is an attack on the security architecture of Europe, on the international rules-based order. That same rules-based order that is the foundation of the peaceful co-existence in Europe ever since the end of the Second World War. Ever since the end of another war that caused untold pain and suffering, initiated by yet another dictator bent on reversing perceived historical grievances and restoring former glory to his collapsed empire.

The world today stands on just such a moment. But I am happy to see that differently from then, there is to be no Munich moment this time and the democratic world is united as one against this illegal act of aggression against an independent sovereign country based on false pretences of genocide. False pretences, as shown by the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine whose findings are refuted by Russia today not because it has any arguments or facts to offer, but simply based on cooked up fake news and allegations.

The responsibility for this tragedy unfolding before our eyes lies with Russia's leadership, but unfortunately the consequences will impact the lives of millions of innocent people in Russia and Ukraine. The Russian leadership should take a moment to look at the terror in the eyes of ordinary citizens cowering in subway stations, in the eyes of Ukrainian children who are guilty of no more than being born in a country whose existence Russia's leadership cannot swallow, and try to understand the horrific consequences of their illegal actions.

The attack against Ukraine is a crime. There is no other word for it. Full stop.

That is why the response of the OSCE participating States and of the international community, as a whole, must be firm, co-ordinated and with immediate consequences. We cannot, must not and will not escape this international responsibility.

Our principal efforts, at this moment, should be to protect human life. Our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine, including OSCE personnel.

Albania reiterates its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and its territorial waters.

At this critical juncture, in close co-ordination with our partners, we will take all the necessary actions and continue to stand in solidarity with Ukraine, its people and its Government, in the OSCE, the European Union, NATO, the United Nations Security Council, and all other international forums.

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

Thank you.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF BELGIUM**

Mr. Chairperson,

Belgium fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Given the gravity of the situation, let me also speak in my national capacity.

Dear colleagues, we are going through one of the darkest hours in the history of Europe.

Let me first reiterate our unequivocal support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

It is in the strongest terms that I condemn Russia's aggression against Ukraine which occurred in the absence of any threat or even provocation from the Ukrainian part.

Through its actions, Russia is seriously violating the principles of international law and the commitments agreed within the framework of the OSCE. The international order that lays the ground for peace in Europe and in the world is deeply endangered.

In recent months, Russia appealed to the principle of the indivisibility of security asking that no State adopts decisions related to its security to the detriment of the security of other States. Moscow has just blatantly violated the principles it has invoked.

Dear colleagues, we have remained open to dialogue and have multiplied the channels of communication; Russia rejected them, and is now committing the unrepairable. Together with our partners and allies, we are in the process of adopting immediate responses that will have massive consequences and severe costs to Russia.

We call upon Russia to immediately end this aggression, to fully respect international humanitarian law and allow access and assistance to all persons in need as well as to ensure the safety of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

All my support and thoughts are with the people of Ukraine. They will endure loss of lives and deep suffering. I want to reiterate once again our message of unity and solidarity.



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

Thank you.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**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. However, allow me to highlight several issues of national importance.

The escalation of the security situation due to the Russian invasion in the territory of Ukraine is extremely concerning. We express our full support to the joint statement of the Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General and their strong condemnation of the Russian military attack against Ukraine.

This unprovoked military aggression constitutes yet another flagrant violation of international law and of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. It puts the lives of millions of people at risk and represents a serious threat to Euro-Atlantic security. We call on Moscow to immediately cease all of its military activities, withdraw troops and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We also condemn the involvement of Belarus in this aggression against Ukraine and call on it to abide by its international obligations.

We reiterate that the only way to achieve lasting peace is through diplomatic means. There can be no military solution to the conflict. The peaceful settlement of disputes and refraining from the use of force are fundamental principles of international law, in line with the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. To this end, Russia has to take concrete steps and abide by its international commitments – halt its military operation and return to the negotiating table. We call on Russia to choose peace instead of war.

Mr. Chairperson,

As distant as it may have seemed not too long ago, the shadow of war is now looming in Europe. Russian actions are putting the whole European security architecture and rules-based international order in danger. There is only one way to remedy this situation that in my view favours no one participating State, but restores stability and security in the entire OSCE area.

We all must demonstrate responsible behaviour and commitment towards the unanimously agreed and accepted norms and principles of international law. This is a strong foundation to work towards sustainable European security. The OSCE represents an inclusive and valuable platform for addressing any security concern by any participating State. As such, it should be fully utilized so that it is able to contribute to the strengthening of peace and security in Europe.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming Montenegro's firm support to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We stand with Ukraine and its people in these difficult times.

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

Thank you.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE NETHERLANDS**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Dear colleagues,  
Dear Dmytro,

The Netherlands fully aligns with the statement on behalf of the European Union by High Representative Borrell. I add the following remarks in my national capacity.

This morning the world was truly shocked by an unwarranted, unprovoked and illegal attack by Russia on Ukraine.

The Netherlands condemns this act of war in the strongest possible terms.

This is a massive attack on a sovereign and independent State and is unprecedented in recent European history.

It is also an illegal and unacceptable act. As others have said, Russia and Russia alone is responsible for the bloodshed in Ukraine.

Russia's military invasion is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the Budapest Memorandum and the principles laid down in OSCE documents like the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris.

The thing is, Russia is a signatory to all of these. And yet Russia now chooses to disregard and damage the pillars of international law, and the international security architecture.

Needless to say, this goes against every Russian commitment and obligation.

In the past weeks, Russia has deceived the international community and its own population by deliberately spreading false information.

It ignored the diplomatic and confidence-building measures that were put in place in recent years.

Russia needs to cease its military action immediately, completely and unconditionally.

It must withdraw all its troops from Ukrainian territory and seek a diplomatic solution.

To our Ukrainian friends and partners: I want to assure you that we stand with you in this darkest hour.

We stand in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

To the Russian delegation: I assure you that we will hold your country's leadership fully accountable for its destructive actions.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION ANDORRA**

Mr. Chairperson,

In light of the recent military attacks in Ukraine, Andorra expresses its utmost concern for the deteriorating security situation in and around the country.

We strongly condemn the use of force and call on respecting the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act.

Andorra is committed to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and expresses its full solidarity with the Ukrainian authorities and population.

We appeal to all parties to engage in a dialogue and make full use of the diplomatic channels and international mechanisms. It is not too late for diplomacy and to find a peaceful, political and sustainable settlement to the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

The diplomatic path and dialogue must prevail. It is our common responsibility to find a way to stop this dramatic military development and avoid the suffering of the civil population.

Andorra strongly supports the valuable work of the OSCE on the ground through the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Thank you.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Dear colleagues,  
Excellencies,

Norway strongly condemns Russia's attack on Ukraine. It is entirely unjustified, unprovoked, and irresponsible. Russia bears the full responsibility for this crisis. We also condemn Belarus for facilitating this attack.

Despite all calls on Russia to change course and tireless efforts to seek a diplomatic solution, a cruel scenario has become a reality. Russia's repeated assurances that it had no intention of attacking Ukraine proved to be nothing but lies. Its pretext of genocide or Ukraine posing a threat to Russia are equally untrue.

We would have expected better from Russia. Clearly, this reckless act of war is not in the interest of the Russian people.

The attack is a severe breach of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, and is wholly contradictory to Russia's OSCE commitments. It constitutes an act of aggression against an independent peaceful country. A country which has Norway's unwavering support.

Norway calls on Russia to stop military attacks and to immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces from Ukraine. We urge Russia to act with dignity and return to dialogue.

We also call on Russia to respect international law, including international humanitarian law, and ensure the protection of civilians who are now facing grave risks caused by the Russian military attack.

As an OSCE participating State we support the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), also with personnel. We are gravely concerned about the monitors' safety and security. We expect Russia to respect the mandate of the SMM and to ensure the safety and security of the Mission's staff.

Let me conclude by again reiterating Norway's unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Our thoughts are with the Ukrainian people.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.





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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SLOVENIA**

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.

This is already third special Permanent Council meeting this week, as we see the events around and in Ukraine unfolding with blistering speed.

We join the whole OSCE community in condemning in the strongest possible terms the unprovoked and unprecedented military aggression by Russia and Belarus against Ukraine.

This comes after weeks of intense diplomatic efforts to stop the threats and escalations. Today, they say that diplomacy has failed. But was it really ever in Moscow's genuine interest for it to succeed? Or was it a just a method of buying time?

To illustrate – for weeks, the highest Russian representatives claimed that the troops on the Ukrainian border were just a part of regular drills and that those who suggested that Russia was preparing an invasion were the ones who escalated tensions. They were even giving personal assurances that Russia would not be the one to worsen the crisis.

Responsibility for the highly disturbing images that come from Ukrainian cities today does not lie in a lack of diplomatic efforts. It lies with two OSCE participating States, who blatantly violate international law, show utter disregard for our shared principles and demonstrate that their commitments and assurances are not to be trusted at all.

Aggression against Ukraine, including cyber and hybrid warfare, is a direct threat to European security and global stability. At this very moment, it is putting the lives of the civilian population at grave risk, at the same time threatening the security of the members of the OSCE Special Monitoring mission to Ukraine.

In this regard, we find particularly cynical that earlier this week, in this very hall, Russia explained that the decision to recognize certain regions of Ukraine is based on humanitarian grounds. There is never anything humanitarian to be found in any aggression.

We call on Russia to stop with this madness and to uphold its commitments, abide by international law and return to the diplomatic discussions. We call on the Belarusian regime to stop being an accomplice in this despicable act.

Slovenia reiterates its unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and will never accept territorial or political change as a consequence of the use of force. We will support all measures that will be adopted as a response to this invasion.

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

Thank you.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF SAN MARINO**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Republic of San Marino is horrified and desolated by the news from this morning.

We share the grave concerns of the European Union and join it in calling on the Russian Federation to put an immediate stop to the military operations that are under way: these endanger international peace and security at the global level.

We roundly condemn this resorting to war and violence, and deplore any action that is contrary to international law and international humanitarian law. War does not bring any solutions: it brings only suffering for the populations affected, tragedy and devastation.

San Marino issues a strong appeal for the acts of war undertaken by the Russian Federation to be stopped immediately in the common interest of peace, and for a renewed dialogue on common security to be resumed at once.

As the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, affirmed, “All issues – including the most intractable – can and must be addressed and resolved through diplomatic frameworks.”

San Marino calls for the involvement of international organizations, and in particular of the various OSCE mechanisms that are available to us, so as to ensure humanitarian assistance for the civilians affected and also the safety of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

We reject war in all its forms and support every multilateral or bilateral diplomatic initiative inspired by the principles of promotion of dialogue and peace, the defence of human rights and international law.

San Marino reiterates its support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Dear colleagues,

Lithuania fully aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union (EU). Due to the gravity of situation and its paramount importance to global peace and security, allow me to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson, for convening urgently our meeting today. We do appreciate the Polish OSCE Chairmanship and its leadership in the past weeks and months in trying to find ways to maintain peace and security in our region.

Dreadfully, 24 February entered European history as a tragic day:

- A day when the international rules-based order has been blatantly violated by Russia;
- A day when all our efforts to build peace and security in Europe have been shamefully destroyed by Russia;
- A day when a horrific military intervention against a sovereign European nation has been started on European soil.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine commenced eight years ago. It was done under cover by soldiers without insignia. Today, all the insignias are on, masks taken off. Flagrant violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Budapest Memorandum, is clearly evident.

Furthermore, the illegitimate regime in Minsk is an accomplice to the aggression of the Kremlin by providing its territory.

Regrettably, Russia abandoned a diplomatic solution and has chosen a grave escalation and military action.

We must make sure that the mastermind of this criminal attack against Ukraine will pay the price. The consequences must be extremely grave so as to deter Russia and Belarus from similar acts in the future.

Today's attack by Russia against Ukraine is a crime of aggression, as provided for in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It is a flagrant violation of international law and the core principles of the international rules-based order.

Russia bears full responsibility for this act of aggression and for all the destruction and loss of life it will cause. The international community should and will never forget this.

We strongly demand Russia to immediately cease its military aggression and withdraw all its forces from the whole territory of sovereign Ukraine, as well as from Belarus.

I believe that persons within the diplomatic and State service of Russia and Russia's populations at large understand what is happening. I hope that they do not wish to be accomplices to this blatant violation of international law. I call on them to stand up and speak up. History has taught us one lesson – aggressors never win. They always lose.

This morning, in a joint statement together with Latvia and Estonia, Lithuania expressed its firm support to Ukraine and its people. Lithuania stands by the people of Ukraine and its democratically elected institutions and representatives. We know from our own experience – freedom and democracy cannot be taken for granted. They must be defended – every day and by everyone.

Lithuania, the EU and our transatlantic partners have made clear from the outset and at the highest political level that any further military aggression against Ukraine will have massive consequences and severe costs. The EU has taken a first step in adopting sanctions. Later today, the EU leaders will meet for an extraordinary European Council meeting in Brussels. Additional sectorial and individual restrictive measures fully co-ordinated with our transatlantic and like-minded partners will follow.

The international community should do its utmost to solve this unprecedented situation. We must ensure that the aggressor is isolated from any international organization's decision-making in this regard.

We need to continue providing Ukraine with all possible support – political, economic, financial, military and humanitarian. Ukraine is fighting a war for our civilization and we will stand together.

Lithuania stands firmly by Ukraine, its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We underline our unwavering support to Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations. Ukraine belongs to the European family of nations. Russia's attempts to strip Ukraine's sovereignty and right to make its own decisions are absolutely unacceptable, and it will not succeed.

Слава Україні!

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



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF MONACO**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

The Principality of Monaco is extremely concerned about the deterioration of the situation in Ukraine.

Monaco attaches the greatest importance to respect for international law, for the Charter of the United Nations, and for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all Member States, and to the central principle of pacific settlement of disputes.

International law is the sole foundation of a secure world order in which peace, development and human rights can prevail.

Respect for human rights and international humanitarian law and protection of the civilian population must be the priority. Everything possible must be done to avoid disastrous humanitarian consequences, including large population movements. The Principality of Monaco stands alongside the Ukrainian population in these tragic hours.

Settling disputes by force will not result in victory for anyone.

Monaco fully supports the efforts of the Chairmanship and all the OSCE structures aimed at ensuring that the military operations are halted as swiftly as possible and resuming the path of dialogue.

Thank you.





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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Madam Secretary General,

Thank you for promptly convening this reinforced Permanent Council meeting.

Latvia fully aligns with the statement of the European Union delivered by Joseph Borrell and I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Early this morning, military aggression and an unprovoked large-scale attack was launched on Ukraine by the Russian Federation. This is following a decision by the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, announced on Monday to recognize the independence of the Ukrainian territories of Luhansk and Donetsk, and ordering in troops. The troops are entering Ukraine from the territory of the Russian Federation, from Belarus and from the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia. We strongly condemn Belarus for enabling this attack thus becoming an aggressor itself.

The senior officials of Latvia have strongly condemned Russia's aggression. It is Russia, and Russia alone, which has chosen escalation. This is a war of Russia against peaceful, independent and democratic Ukraine, against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine – a brutal violation by Russia of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Budapest Memorandum. It also contravenes the Minsk agreements, to which Russia is a signatory. Russia has violated all relevant norms and principles of international law, even the peremptory norms of international law prohibiting aggression and the use of force.

And thus, it is Russia's war against democracy and democratic values. This is the Kremlin's war against the entire world, all of us, and we must all stand against it.

We call on Russia to immediately cease its military action and withdraw all its forces from in and around Ukraine, to fully respect international humanitarian law, and to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access and assistance to all persons in need. We call on the people of Russia to keep the Kremlin accountable for this shameful action.

The war started by Russia against Ukraine is not only a breach of international law and all international commitments Russia itself has undertaken but it is a crime against the Ukrainian people. Russia clearly stands on the wrong side of history and all who wage and support this war will be judged and punished in the strongest possible terms. There will be no impunity for war crimes committed against Ukraine [by Russia and Belarus] and we, the international community, will ensure that.

Latvia expresses full support to the OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretary General for all the efforts to de-escalate the conflict. Latvia also expresses full support to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) and the work they do on the ground, being the international community's eyes and ears on the ground and we thank the OSCE Secretary General and the Chief Monitor Ambassador Çevik for prioritizing the OSCE personnel's safety and security.

The international community must be firm in support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity of independent Ukraine. Latvia will always maintain full support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters. Democratic countries and international institutions, including the European Union and NATO, stand firm in their position against Russia's aggression and imperialism, as well as regard providing support for Ukraine. We need to urgently provide the Ukrainian people with all kind of support to defend itself.

In this difficult moment we stand united with the people of Ukraine.

Dear Ukrainian friends, Latvia is doing its part and stands ready to do whatever it takes to help and support you, to stop the unlawful war against you waged by the Kremlin and supported by Belarus, and to make sure there is no impunity for the crimes committed against Ukraine by the Russian Federation and Belarus. We will make sure that aggressor pays the highest possible price.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I kindly ask my statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

The situation in and around Ukraine is a source of extreme concern. The serious deterioration of the crisis threatens peace and security in the entire OSCE area and undermines our shared vision of European security.

Azerbaijan deeply regrets that the current escalation has already reportedly caused casualties. We express our sincere condolences to the families of those perished and wounded.

The situation needs to be settled through peaceful diplomatic means in full compliance with the norms and principles of international law guiding inter-State relations, including respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, equal and indivisible security in Europe without dividing lines as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. All OSCE participating States have committed themselves to upholding these principles vis-à-vis each other.

At this critical stage dialogue is more vital than ever. We call for dialogue without delay to prevent the situation from further escalating and undermining security and stability in the OSCE area.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALTA**

I am delivering this message on behalf of the Honourable Evarist Bartolo, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs who is currently on a flight travelling back home.

Allow me first to thank the Polish Chairmanship for convening this urgent reinforced Permanent Council meeting with participation from capitals at the highest level. Further to the statement delivered by the European Union, which we strongly align with, I would like to add some brief remarks in my national capacity.

Malta strongly condemns the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, resulting in several casualties. We also condemn the participation of Belarus in this aggression against Ukraine.

Such acts are a blatant violation of international law, a clear attack on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as a complete defiance of all calls and attempts to de-escalate the crisis.

This is not just an attack on Ukraine. It is an attack on each one of us and on the values on which the OSCE is built. It risks rendering futile the efforts of our predecessors and of the international community that worked hard to achieve the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, and the rest of the OSCE *acquis*.

We express our full solidarity with the Government and people of Ukraine in face of this unprecedented and blatant aggression on European soil.

This is a dark day for the international community, as military force and might have prevailed over dialogue and diplomacy, to the detriment of the lives and livelihoods of millions of innocent civilians. This goes diametrically opposite to what the OSCE stands for.

It is a situation which we will never accept.

In this regard, we join partners in calling with all the great determination on Russia to cease its military operations immediately, and unconditionally withdraw all forces from Ukraine, and return to the negotiating table.

The OSCE remains a highly relevant platform for dialogue, peace and stability in our region. We call on Russia to return to the negotiating table for a proper dialogue on the European security architecture.

We also highly commend the work carried out by the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) in Ukraine, and the courage of the personnel to fulfil the Monitoring Mission's mandate, despite the peril they face. Hence, we call on Russia to uphold its responsibility in ensuring the safety of the SMM and its personnel.

In conclusion, Malta reiterates its unwavering support to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and calls for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. It is still not too late for diplomacy to prevail.

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



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ITALY**

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Italy condemns Russia's attack on Ukraine, which is unjustified and unjustifiable. Such a use of force and coercion has no place in the twenty-first century.

The unprovoked and unjustified military actions by Russia are jeopardizing the lives of countless civilians, constitute a grave violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and OSCE commitments, and undermine European and global security and stability.

It is deplorable that, despite the tireless international efforts and the repeated appeals to engage in diplomacy, Russia has chosen the path of war against a sovereign and independent country. We also condemn the collaboration of Belarus in this attack.

Italy calls on Russia to halt its military operation at once, withdraw its armed forces from Ukraine and respect fully the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine.

We are working together with our partners to respond immediately in a united and resolute manner.

Italy expresses its strong appreciation and support for the efforts undertaken by the Polish Chairmanship and the Secretary General to ensure that the Organization can act effectively in the face of an unprecedented challenge to the common principles and commitments on which it rests.

We reiterate our full support for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and our appreciation for the work of our monitors. We call for every effort to be made to ensure the security and safety of the members of the Mission.

Italy reaffirms its unwavering support for the full sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, and stands by the Ukrainian people and institutions at this dramatic time.

Mr. Chairperson, I formally ask you to attach to the journal of the meeting this statement, which Minister Di Maio was unable to deliver, since the Supreme Council of Defence of Italy is currently in session.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Your Excellency,

Thank you for giving me the floor and let me thank you for convening this urgent meeting.

At this grave hour, I would like to express our full solidarity with the Ukrainian authorities and the Ukrainian people. Our thoughts are with them.

In addition to the statement by the European Union, I would like to add some remarks.

Firstly, we strongly condemn the military aggression launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and reaffirm our support to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Russian military offensive constitutes a grave violation of international law, of the Charter of the United Nations, of our common agreed OSCE commitments and of the core principles on which the international rules-based order is built.

Secondly, Russia should cease immediately its unprovoked aggression, withdraw all its forces from the entirety of Ukrainian territory and respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. I would like to echo the words of the United Nations Secretary-General: "Give peace a chance. Too many people have already died."

Thirdly, we are deeply concerned by the dire humanitarian consequences stemming from the military actions. International humanitarian law must be fully respected.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Your Excellency,

Portugal stands firmly against the ongoing aggression by Russia, with the involvement of Belarus, against Ukraine. Unilateral action in breach of the Charter of the United Nations and fundamental international norms is not acceptable. Have no doubt: the international community will respond decisively and those responsible will face the consequences.



Through the current aggression, Russia is not addressing its security concerns, nor would there ever be room for a participating State to address any security issue on the basis of military aggression.

The OSCE was created to prevent conflicts and preserve peace and stability. Guided by the Helsinki spirit, we have here a platform and the instruments to address crisis situations and security concerns. The only and essential component lacking is political will. We fully support the Chairmanship's efforts and hope that the window of dialogue offered by this Organization will be properly used.

Thank you.



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**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF BULGARIA**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

We thank the Polish Chairmanship for convening this meeting in a critical moment for the international rules-based order and the security of Europe in particular. Bulgaria aligns with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union by the High Representative Borell and expresses full support for the statements of the Chairperson-in-Office made earlier today. In addition, we would like to add the following remarks in a national capacity.

Bulgaria condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. This is a gross violation of international law and Russia's commitments in the OSCE, and a serious threat to European and global security and stability. Despite the efforts of the international community, Russia has refused to engage in diplomacy and has instead chosen the path of armed aggression against a sovereign and independent country.

We also condemn the involvement of Belarus in enabling the attack against Ukraine and call on it to abide by its international obligations.

We call on Russia to immediately cease the hostilities, withdraw unconditionally its armed forces and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

Russia bears full responsibility for the loss of life and humanitarian suffering caused by its aggression. We call on Russia and Russia-backed armed formations to respect international humanitarian law. We also call on Russia to ensure the safety and security of the OSCE personnel in Ukraine including that of the Special Monitoring Mission.

Bulgaria reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and territorial waters. We stand firmly by the people of Ukraine, including by the Bulgarian community there, as they face this unprecedented crisis.

Bulgaria will be part of the European Union's further political, financial and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine.

We reiterate also our steadfast support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and of the Republic of Moldova.

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



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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.

The Republic of Cyprus condemns the Russian aggression against Ukraine, an act that violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Having first-hand experience, we believe that actions which are in gross violation of international law, as well as OSCE principles and commitments, and undermine European security and stability, have no place in the twenty-first century.

Cyprus calls for the urgent cessation of military operations in order to avoid further loss of life and urges for a return to diplomacy and dialogue.

Full respect of international humanitarian law is imperative, as well as safe and unhindered humanitarian access and assistance to all persons in need.

The Republic of Cyprus reiterates its support to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, and we express our heartfelt solidarity to the Ukrainian people.

Finally, 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 SLOVAKIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Slovakia condemns in the strongest possible terms the decision by President Putin to launch a full scale attack against our neighbour – Ukraine and its people.

This reckless and unprovoked attack is a blatant 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 and a serious threat to European security.

These military actions by Russia must immediately stop, Russian forces must be immediately withdrawn from the Ukrainian territory and Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected and restored.

Slovakia reiterates its unwavering support to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

We stand with the people of Ukraine at this terrible time.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

The OSCE has been and remains the appropriate forum to address any security concern by any participating State.

We strongly believe that there is no alternative to diplomacy and meaningful dialogue as a way to address any security concern by any participating State.

In this respect, Slovakia has welcomed and strongly supports the initiative of the Polish Chairmanship regarding the Renewed OSCE European Security Dialogue launched on 8 February in Vienna.

Regrettably, recent acts by Russia confirm that it has abandoned diplomacy and dialogue and has chosen the path of aggression against a sovereign and independent country.

In this context, let me 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. Russia bears full responsibility for their safety and security.

Thank you for your attention.

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



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

PC.JOUR/1358  
24 February 2022  
Annex 41

Original: ENGLISH

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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for convening this meeting at such a critical time.

The military assault launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine is unacceptable. We reject this assault, as we rejected the decision to recognize the so-called breakaway republics of Donetsk and Luhansk.

This assault is a blatant violation of international law and in contravention of the Minsk agreements. It poses a serious threat to the security and stability of our region and the world.

We remain committed to and will continue to support the preservation of the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and Donbas.

We call on the Russian Federation to stop this unlawful assault and get back to the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

It is high time to uphold our OSCE commitments, including those in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Istanbul Document.

My country is ready to work with all parties to facilitate a peaceful resolution of this crisis.

On a final note, I would like to underline the role of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and the importance of safeguarding the safety and security of the monitors.

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

Thank you.



**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LIECHTENSTEIN**

Mr. Chairperson,

Liechtenstein thanks the Polish Chairmanship for convening this reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council and for its efforts in relation to the extremely concerning developments in Ukraine.

We join others in condemning the Russian military action against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. This attack constitutes a blatant violation of international law and a breach of the fundamental rules of the international order, including core OSCE principles. It marks the unfortunate entry into a new phase in European history and it puts the lives of millions of people – children, women and men – at grave risk.

Liechtenstein calls on the Russian Federation to immediately stop the hostilities and withdraw its armed forces. The ongoing violation of the principle of refraining from the use of force is particularly grave, because it entails tragic humanitarian consequences and has a serious impact on the foundation of the European security order as a whole. Liechtenstein calls for compliance with international humanitarian law and for the protection of civilians. We must continue to devote our utmost attention to the serious humanitarian impact of the current developments.

Liechtenstein also recalls its condemnation of the Russian Federation's recognition of the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts as independent States. We join others and call on the Russian Federation to reverse this decision and to return to the negotiating table.

Mr. Chairperson,

We express our solidarity with the Ukrainian people and Government. Liechtenstein underlines its strong support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, the inviolability of its frontiers and its right to determine its own relationships with other States.

Liechtenstein reiterates its call for a rapid de-escalation of the situation and for engagement in a constructive dialogue on the basis of international law. We continue to



believe that the OSCE can and must play an important part in this context. We therefore renew our strong support for the efforts of the Polish Chairmanship aimed at using the OSCE dialogue platform to contribute to a de-escalation of the situation. I would also like to underline our appreciation for the important work of the Organization on the ground, in particular the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

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

I thank you.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
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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 to warmly thank the Polish Chairmanship for its swift decision to convene today's meeting. The dramatic developments in Ukraine bring the international community face to face with its responsibilities to safeguard peace and security in Europe.

Let me first of all emphasize that Greece unequivocally condemns Russia's aggression against Ukraine and its decision to recognize as independent Ukraine's separatist regions of Donetsk and Luhansk.

These actions constitute a flagrant violation of fundamental principles of international law, our OSCE commitments and the Minsk agreements.

Core principles of Greek foreign policy are respect of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, as well as abstaining from the use – or the threat of use – of force in international relations.

Furthermore, revisionism and illegal conduct of States put human lives in danger. In this respect, we are extremely concerned over the safety of Ukraine's population, among which lives a long-established Greek community of over 100,000 members.

Greece decided to not only keep its embassy in Kiev but to also reinforce its staff at the Greek general consulate in Mariupol, just a few kilometres away from the line of contact. We took these decisions as a sign of our unwavering support to the sovereignty of Ukraine and also of our readiness to provide immediate assistance to the members of the Greek community. At the same time, Greek monitors at the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine continue to exercise their duties.

Greece will never stop insisting that dialogue is the only way to resolve differences. The use of force merely defers problems to the future and opens up new wounds that are difficult to heal.

For this reason, we ask Russia to give dialogue a real chance by immediately ceasing military operations and withdrawing its military forces from Ukraine.

In the meantime, we note that it is of primordial importance that international humanitarian law is fully respected and that assistance to people in need in Ukraine is ensured. We also emphasize the need to keep the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission safe.

Finally, we would like to underline our support to the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group and our conviction that we should make full use of the available tools, procedures and mechanisms within the OSCE, including the Renewed OSCE Dialogue on European Security.

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



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF HUNGARY**

Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,  
Madam Secretary General,  
Dear colleagues,

We fully align ourselves with the statement of the European Union (EU), but I wish to make a few observations in my national capacity and I thank the Polish Chairmanship for convening today's meeting given the military attack in Ukraine.

Hungary stands for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. Prime Minister Orbán made this clear to President Zelenskyy during their phone conversation. We have also summoned the Russian ambassador this morning to make our position clear.

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

War is obviously the worst possible scenario and we regret that all diplomatic efforts have failed to avoid it. Although a political solution seems less and less likely, we must not give up hope of a negotiated settlement. We urge for the immediate cessation of military operations.

As a neighbouring country, this war is obviously a great security risk for us. We have updated our protocols and are ready to tackle the emerging humanitarian crisis situation as well as accept refugees who wish to leave Ukraine. We are maintaining the operation of all our representations in Ukraine, including our embassy in Kyiv.

We very much regret that the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine needs to be evacuated but we understand that under the current circumstances this is the wisest way to go forward.

Finally, let me underline that Hungary remains a strong supporter of EU and NATO unity and our unified position including the measures to be taken in order to react to the situation.

Please, attach my statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you for your attention.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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**1358th 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 the European Union Member States and I will give short further remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, I thank the Polish Chairmanship for convening this meeting.

Croatia strongly condemns Russia's unprecedented military aggression against Ukraine. This unprovoked and unjustified invasion presents a gross violation of international law. It is gravely endangering European and global security, as well as stability. It is undermining the rules-based world order.

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.

Again, 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 acts. They are binding for Russia. They are binding for all States assembled here. And all States must respect them.

We are gravely concerned about loss of life in Ukraine and the imminent humanitarian crisis evolving before our eyes. We urge Russia to immediately reverse its decisions, stop all military actions, withdraw and respect the obligations it has undertaken under international law.

Thank you.



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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF IRELAND**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for convening this essential meeting, for which you have our full support, as you have our full support for all your efforts in respect of this crisis.

Ireland fully aligns with the statement made by the European Union, and would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Ireland condemns Russia's unjustified and unprovoked attack on Ukraine. We stand with the people of Ukraine and we call on Russia to cease its military operations immediately. We have consistently called for restraint, and the use of diplomacy; the fact that Russia has resorted to attempted military conquest is abhorrent. Ireland will continue to seek to protect the rules-based international order and to hold Russia accountable for its actions.

We are witnessing a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and humanitarian norms. We, as participating States and sovereign countries, have repeatedly pledged to respect our respective territorial integrity. We have also pledged to work to resolve conflict and to refrain from the threat or use of force. We undertook to ensure that such acts of violence in the name of a State would not occur in Europe ever again. For one State to impose its will unilaterally against another, is unacceptable.

We remain strong supporters of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) and we commend the work the SMM has done since its inception. We underscore that the safety and security of the monitors must be assured. We will see again that civilians are impacted most. Safe passage must be guaranteed for all in need and access to humanitarian aid must be facilitated.

Russia's absolute disregard for the inevitable loss of human life and the human suffering arising from its actions, and for the rights and freedoms that afford human dignity, is repugnant. Now, even more than ever, those of us who stand for freedom, stand together. Let me conclude by reiterating that Ireland's support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and right to choose its own foreign and security policy path remains unwavering.

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





**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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**1358th Plenary Meeting**  
PC Journal No. 1358, Agenda item 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

On 24 February 2022, the President of the Russian Federation, acting within his authority and with the consent of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, took the decision to use the armed forces of the Russian Federation as part of a special military operation to defend the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR). This is of course not a war, as many participants in today's discussion are trying to portray it. No missile, air or artillery strikes are being carried out on the cities of Ukraine or on the civilian population. A special operation is being conducted, in the course of which high-precision weapons are being deployed to disable military infrastructure facilities that had previously been used for the purposes of militarizing Ukraine and that, in some way or other, were being employed by the regime in Kyiv to support the cruel punitive operation against the civilian population of south-eastern Ukraine. The positions of military personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces who have laid down their arms are not being attacked.

The main threat to the civilian population currently comes not from the armed forces of Russia, the DPR or the LPR, but from the actions of the Ukrainian military and paramilitary nationalist formations that are not subject to the authority of the leadership in Kyiv and are capable of any provocation.

These events were preceded by a drastic exacerbation of the situation in the territory of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk from 17 February onwards. The units of the Ukrainian armed forces stationed there once again went on the offensive along the entire line of contact and engaged in intensive fighting with the armed forces of the two Republics. The Ukrainian armed forces resumed their shelling from large-calibre artillery and also crossed the Siverskyi Donets River in an attempt to gain a foothold in new positions. Thus, the authorities of Ukraine have demonstratively discarded any possibility of political and diplomatic dialogue with the DPR and the LPR by again attempting a solution by force to the so-called "Donbas problem".

Over the past few days, Russia has taken in tens of thousands of refugees, mainly women, children and elderly people affected by the shelling.

All this compelled the authorities of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk to request, as they were entitled to as sovereign States, the leadership of the Russian Federation for assistance in stopping the armed violence unleashed by Ukrainian Government on the territories of the Republics. The decision by the President of Russia was taken in accordance with Chapter VII, Article 51, of the Charter of the United Nations, with the approval of the Federation Council and in implementation of the treaties of friendship and mutual assistance with the DPR and the LPR that were ratified by the Federal Assembly on 22 February 2022.

The main purpose of the special military operation is to protect the civilian population from genocide and the abuse that they have been suffering for eight years at the hands of the Kyiv regime. The irresponsible representatives of that regime unleashed an internal conflict against their own population, failing to find within themselves the strength and desire to end the conflict by peaceful political means. We are obliged to note with regret that the OSCE, too, despite its numerous resources, has not been up to the task of facilitating an internal Ukrainian settlement.

Incidentally, not a single conflict in our Organization's area of responsibility has been settled by the OSCE using its own resources. The crisis in Ukraine is a glaring confirmation of this unsatisfactory state of affairs. So you have nothing to be proud of, ladies and gentlemen.

We do not accept the arguments in the joint statement by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Zbigniew Rau, and the OSCE Secretary General, Helga Schmid, condemning Russia's actions, which are allegedly putting the lives of millions of people at risk. That is an erroneous and inappropriate reaction. We emphasize that, during all these years of the Ukrainian Government's military operation in Donbas, the leadership of the OSCE has not found it possible to condemn the actions of the Kyiv regime, which really is putting millions of Donbas residents in a life-and-death situation.

The current OSCE leadership has neither the moral right nor any other right to condemn Russia's actions, let alone to pin labels of any sort.

We must stress once again that the current crisis is a consequence of the actions of the Kyiv regime, which, instead of the peace it had promised, has wagered on war and unrestrained militarization. In this they were supported and continue to be supported, with redoubled zest, by their foreign handlers and political sponsors, who have given them carte blanche for radical nationalism, Russophobia and the forcible suppression of dissent in their own country.

Once again, we ask ourselves a question that has remained unanswered for so many years: where were all the current champions of "common OSCE values, principles and norms" when the coalition of NATO member countries conducted their monstrous bombing of the former Yugoslavia in 1999? Where was the response by the OSCE and the international community to that campaign, the largest military operation in Europe since the Second World War? I would remind you that the NATO countries, under the guise of humanitarian considerations, conducted it in circumvention of the United Nations Security Council. We may bluntly state that that situation was also brought about by the activities of

the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission, whose head, William Walker of the United States of America, did everything possible to ensure that the tragic events happened.

Over the past few years, an accelerated transformation of Ukraine into a forward “bridgehead” of the North Atlantic Alliance has been under way while the Russian Federation is at the same time designated as an adversary in doctrinal documents. NATO’s military assimilation of the territory of our nearest neighbour, its policy aimed at militarization of that territory and at the severance of the diverse historical ties between the peoples of Ukraine and our country can hardly be called a contribution by NATO to the strengthening of pan-European security. Ukraine has essentially been taken hostage to be used as a bulwark against Russia.

For years, neo-Nazi paramilitary formations, which have become the mainstay of the current regime in Kyiv, have been terrorizing their country’s population. In post-Maidan Ukraine no one from their ranks has been held accountable – on the contrary, many of them have received responsible positions in the Government. We will separately circulate today material on the facts of human rights violations, discrimination, war crimes and ethnocide in Donbas.

In response to the threats voiced in the course of today’s discussion, we repeat what President Vladimir Putin said in his address today, namely that we are prepared for any eventuality. We hope that this time we really will make ourselves heard. In addition, we will seek the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine.

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

Thank you for your attention.