



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine in response to the Chairpersons of the Security Committee, the Economic and Environmental Committee, and the Human Dimension Committee

As delivered by Viktoriia Kuvshynnykova, Chargée d'Affaires a.i,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1499th meeting of the Permanent Council,

28 November 2024

Madam Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine expresses its gratitude to Ambassador of Slovakia Peter Burian, Ambassador of Austria Florian Raunig and Ambassador of Ireland Anne-Marie Callan for their exemplary leadership as chairpersons of the three Permanent Council Committees.

Your unwavering dedication and professionalism in guiding the work of the Security, Economic and Environmental, and Human Dimension Committees have been instrumental to the efficiency of Organization's activities.

Dear Ambassadors, 2024 marked another year in which the OSCE demonstrated its resolve to stand firm against Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine. Since the launch of Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022, this Organization has reached a point of no return to "business as usual." This year has reaffirmed the critical importance of maintaining a principled approach in upholding the OSCE's commitments and values across all three dimensions of security.

This momentum must carry forward, as Russian aggression persists, to ensure that justice and adherence to international norms remain at the core of the OSCE's work.

Dear Ambassador Burian,

Russia's actions continue to undermine the foundations of the shared security architecture that ensures peace and stability across the region. The Delegation of Ukraine extends its gratitude for your leadership in addressing these challenges.

Under your guidance, the Security Committee has tackled crucial issues, such as gender equality, youth crime prevention, human trafficking, cultural property trafficking, journalist safety, and critical infrastructure protection. These discussions, supported by the OSCE Secretariat, have been vital in advancing our common goals.

Looking forward to 2025, the OSCE must remain focused on halting the aggressor and preventing further violations of our shared principles. We take this opportunity to reiterate that President Zelenskyy's Peace Formula widely supported by the global international community at the First Peace Summit in Switzerland remains the only viable path to a just and lasting peace, safeguarding the international security system.

Dear Ambassador Raunig,

We extend our sincere gratitude to you and your team for the years of productive cooperation during your Chairmanship. The Economic and Environmental Committee under Austrian leadership promptly adjusted its focus, addressing critical challenges stemming from the Russian war of aggression. You have ensured that the second dimension responded effectively to pressing issues, such as energy and food insecurity and the weaponization of the environment by Russia. Discussions on Russia's deliberate destruction of the Kakhovka HPP and continued attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure highlighted the transnational implications of man-made disasters, reinforcing the urgency of collective action.

Your principled stance has underscored the threats that Russia poses not only to Ukraine but to the broader OSCE region's environment, climate, and economic sustainability. Leadership of this calibre is vital to maintaining the relevance and efficiency of the Committee. As we look forward to cooperating with the incoming EEC Chair, we assure our active engagement in addressing these urgent challenges.

Dear Ambassador Callan,

We commend your successful Chairmanship of the Human Dimension Committee for a second consecutive year. Ireland's holistic approach and the inclusion of highly qualified civil society representatives, academics, and state experts as speakers have significantly enriched the Committee's work.

Your focus on addressing the gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law resulting from Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has been crucial for advancing the adherence to the OSCE human dimension commitments.

The documentation and monitoring of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities - such as the forcible transfer and deportation of Ukrainian children by Russia - are vital for ensuring accountability. The Human Dimension Committee remains an important platform for addressing such heinous acts, including the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of Ukrainian civilians, torture and execution of Ukrainian prisoners of war, enforced disappearance and sexual violence. We stress the importance of compelling Russia to comply with international humanitarian law, including transparency on POW lists, provision of adequate medical care, and granting international monitors access to detention facilities.

Dear Ambassadors,

The violations of the Helsinki Final Act and its Decalogue by Russia - such as the breach of sovereignty, inviolability of borders, and prohibition of force - highlight the ongoing need for vigilance across all three dimensions of security.

We call on the incoming Finnish Chairpersonship of the OSCE and newly appointed Chairs of the Committees to maintain this momentum. It is crucial to ensure that Russia's violations remain a central focus of the OSCE's work, advancing justice and adherence to international norms while safeguarding the principles that underpin our shared security.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.