



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
135th Session of the Committee of Ministers
15 May 2026, Chisinau
Remarks by the Secretary General

Minister Popșoi,
Secretary General Berset,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be in Chisinau and to address the Committee of Ministers under the Moldovan Presidency.

This meeting is taking place at a time of rising instability and uncertainty in Europe. Multilateralism is under strain. Geopolitical competition is intensifying. And pressure on our common security is growing.

The war in Ukraine continues. It causes immense human suffering. It deepens divisions across our continent. It undermines the global security environment. It must end through a negotiated settlement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Across Europe and beyond, we see broader pressures. Unresolved conflicts. Strained institutions. And rising polarisation. These developments are interconnected. And they weaken European security, prosperity and stability, built over generations.

The question before us is not only how do we respond to crises. It is how we preserve stability in a more fragmented environment.

This is where the OSCE remains vital. It is the *only* inclusive platform where non-likeminded States come together. To discuss and co-operate on comprehensive security. Across the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian space. Even in times of profound disagreement. When trust is low, dialogue is indispensable. And when risks increase, transparency and early warning help prevent miscalculation.

Excellencies,

Emerging technologies are reshaping our security landscape. They influence how information flows. How societies function. And how power is exercised. Artificial intelligence is accelerating these changes.

Making resilience central to our security. Because security is not only military. It is also about trust. Trust in institutions. Trust in information. And trust in democratic processes. That is why strong institutions matter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this broader context, the co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe is important. It is grounded in shared principles. Each organisation brings its own distinct strengths and mandates. And both are needed.

I welcome the recognition of this partnership in the External Action Strategy adopted today. This co-operation is already delivering results. Across democratic governance. Human rights. Media freedom. And the rule of law. Yesterday we reviewed our co-operation in a pragmatic spirit. And reaffirmed its relevance in today's environment.

Excellencies,

At a time of growing global fragmentation, we all will continue to need a platform to discuss the most pressing security challenges in Europe. To keep dialogue open, reduce risks and tensions, control arms, manage crises, and prevent escalation. That platform is and will be the OSCE.

Let us use all available tools to build peace, secure stability, defend democracy and protect human rights across our continent.

Thank you.