

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



**Statement by Ireland at the 1548<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Permanent Council**  
**Opening Address by the Chairman-in-Office, Federal Councillor and Head of the**  
**Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Ignazio Cassis**  
**15 January 2026**

Thank you Chair, dear Raphael, and welcome back to Vienna Federal Councillor Cassis.

Ireland of course aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Chair,

Switzerland takes on this important leadership role at a time of profound challenge for the organisation due to the erosion of trust, Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, and the overall strain on our multilateral institutions.

This is why Switzerland's deep commitment to multilateralism, and to preserving the Helsinki Principles is so important. You can count on Ireland's full engagement and constructive support.

Chair,

The OSCE remains a vital forum for comprehensive security, rooted in respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and human rights. These principles are not optional; they are binding commitments freely entered into by all participating States. As you have said Federal Councillor, these are not luxuries but essentials.

As we approach four years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Ireland condemns Russia's ongoing aggression. Together with partners, Ireland will continue to work for a just and lasting peace for Ukraine guided by our shared principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, based on the UN Charter and international law.

We also stress the continued relevance of the OSCE's work across all three dimensions. Respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law are essential for security and stability. Attempts to narrow or selectively apply these commitments weaken us all.

Ireland will continue to champion the meaningful participation of women and youth in peace and security, in line with the OSCE's comprehensive approach.

In July of this year, Ireland will follow Cyprus in the role of President of the Council of the European Union. We will use this an opportunity to reinforce the EU's strong support for the OSCE and for multilateralism more broadly.



We will also place particular emphasis on defending the rules-based international order, supporting Ukraine, and promoting respect for human rights and international humanitarian law.

To conclude, Chair, I want to again reiterate Ireland's commitment to supporting the Swiss Chairpersonship and engaging with all participating States to ensure this organisation can work effectively.