



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by HE Mr Yurii Vitrenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

1553rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 2, “Presentations by the Chairs of the Three Committees: the Security Committee, the Economic and Environmental Committee, and the Human Dimension Committee”

(12 February 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine expresses its gratitude to Ambassador of the United Kingdom Neil Holland, Ambassador of Slovenia Melita Župevc and Ambassador of Albania Eglantina Gjermeni for their dedicated efforts as chairpersons of the three Permanent Council Committees.

Dear Ambassadors,

In just twelve days, we will mark the fourth tragic anniversary of Russia’s full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as twelfth anniversary of Russian war. This war has already stretched across the formative years of an entire generation of Ukrainian children. It is the longest interstate war and the bloodiest invasion in Europe since the Second World War.

Over these years, the persistent focus on Russia’s war and its devastating consequences for security of the OSCE region across all three dimensions has ensured the relevance of our organisation. In this regard, the steadfast and principled defence of the OSCE’s core principles and commitments demonstrated by the chairs of all three Committee remains indispensable.

As Russia’s aggression continues, it is essential that this resolve remains unwavering, ensuring that accountability, justice, and full respect for international law stay at the centre of the OSCE’s work.

Furthermore, as Russia has so far shown no genuine willingness to stop its aggression, the OSCE’s response to Russia’s intensified genocidal attacks on Ukraine must be reinforced.

Dear Ambassador Neil,

We are pleased to note the successful launch and initial implementation of this year’s work programme of the Security Committee.

Russia’s ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine continues to generate hybrid threats across our region. Countering disinformation, malicious cyber activities and other forms of hybrid interference must remain at the core of our work. Strengthening the protection and resilience of critical infrastructure, reinforcing border management, and

combating organised crime networks used to circumvent sanctions are equally essential for safeguarding our common security.

We appreciate the interactive format of the opening meeting, and support the continuation of the practice of Chair's recommendations as a practical tool to preserve focus and guide our work.

My delegation stands ready to further contribute substantively to the Committee's activities. We are convinced that the experience Ukraine has gained in resisting aggression and countering hybrid threats is essential for restoring and enhancing regional stability and security.

Dear Ambassador Melita,

We welcome your continued Chairpersonship.

It is imperative to ensure that the second dimension, particularly the EEC, continues to serve as a relevant mandated platform for consolidating attention of the OSCE participating states to the transboundary and long-lasting consequences of Russia's ongoing war. Unfortunately, four years of the full-scale aggression clearly show that its economic and environmental aftermaths keep mounting, and the repercussions for the OSCE region will persist for years.

In this regard, we call for the balanced distribution of economic and environmental topics throughout the year to foster various and timely discussions on the current most pressing real life issues on the OSCE agenda.

We support structured and substantive discussions on innovation, advanced technologies and scientific cooperation, particularly in the context of the challenges and threats stemming from the ongoing war. Thus, such work within the EEC can further strengthen the Organisation's ability to support participating States, enhance economic and environmental security, and ensure that discussions within the Committee lead to concrete and practical outcomes, including through project activities.

Ukraine stands ready to continue its active engagement in order to ensure that the Committee's work remains focused, result-oriented and responsive to the real needs of participating States, while reinforcing the practical role and relevance of the OSCE.

Dear Ambassador Eglantina,

First of all, allow me to congratulate you on your Chairpersonship of the Human Dimension Committee.

We all know that the topics within the Human dimension are the most difficult to discuss from a human perspective as a majority of them directly deal with real human suffering and pain. And this is why such discussions are urgently needed - all systematic and barbaric violations of human rights committed by Russia in Ukraine since 2014 demand sustained attention, and a decisive response.

Amid the ongoing international peace efforts, Russia continues its grave systematic violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, including deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, arbitrary detention of civilians, torture, enforced disappearances and conflict-related sexual violence. Addressing these violations through documentation, protection of victims and accountability must remain at the core of the OSCE human dimension work.

Of particular importance is calling things their real names, using the real-life terminology, as well as to be clear-eyed and not to engage in dialogue for the sake of the illusion of one.

The forced deportation, indoctrination and militarisation of Ukrainian children by Russia remain among the gravest crimes of this war and demand a sustained response from the OSCE. Thanks to the Bring Kids Back UA initiative, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight (1,984) Ukrainian children have already been rescued from deportation or from life under Russian occupation. Nevertheless, thousands of Ukrainian children still need to be brought home. Ensuring their safe return to their families and accountability for those responsible is a shared responsibility. We call on all delegations to continue supporting Ukraine's efforts in this regard and for the OSCE to get formally affiliated with the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian children.

Ukraine stands ready to support the efforts and initiatives of the Albanian Chairpersonship in the Committee

Dear Ambassadors,

Russia's continued violations of the Helsinki Final Act including its breach of sovereignty, the inviolability of internationally recognized borders, and the prohibition of the use of force, strike at the very foundations of our common security.

Ukraine calls on the OSCE Chairpersonship, participating States and Chairs of the three Committees to remain united, principled and consistent in defending our shared commitments. The credibility and effectiveness of the OSCE depend on our collective ability to respond clearly and resolutely to the ongoing aggression.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.