



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to the address by President of the Committee of Ministers of the
Council of Europe, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of
Moldova H.E. Mr. Mihai Popșoi**

**as delivered by Ambassador Yurii Vitrenko,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in
Vienna, to the 1555th meeting of the Permanent Council**

26 February 2026

Thank you, Mr Chair

The delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes H.E. Mihai Popșoi in his current capacity as President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe at today's meeting of the Permanent Council.

First and foremost, Ukraine would like to note that we value your consistent support for Ukraine and your significant personal contribution, in your capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, to strengthening the strategic partnership between Ukraine and Moldova. In particular, we highly appreciate the active coordination between our states in international fora, joint efforts in advancing European integration, cooperation in the field of security, as well as support for transit and infrastructure connectivity, which contributes to enhancing the resilience of the entire region.

I would also like to sincerely thank you for your substantive statement and for your consistent leadership in the framework of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Ukraine reaffirms its full support for the priorities of the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in particular initiatives aimed at further consolidating international support for Ukraine, as well as at strengthening democracy, the rule of law and ensuring international accountability.

We highly appreciate your principled position in condemning Russia's war against Ukraine and your unwavering support for our country. It is of special importance to us that issues related to Ukraine continue to remain among the key priorities on the agenda of the Council of Europe, despite numerous international challenges and ongoing crises.

We welcome the decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, adopted on 24 February on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, in which all 46 member States clearly reaffirmed that the Russian Federation bears full responsibility for its war against Ukraine as a grave violation of international law, as well as for all destruction, loss of life and suffering caused by this aggression.

Your Excellency,

The Council of Europe is an exceptionally important partner for Ukraine across a broad range of areas – from the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, the international compensation architecture and the functioning of the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, to project activities aimed at strengthening the rule of law, advancing anti-corruption reforms, protecting human rights and promoting democratic governance.

The Council of Europe continues to play a critically important role in building the international architecture of accountability. Above all, the establishment of the Register of Damage for Ukraine constitutes the first practical element of the future compensation mechanism. The Ukrainian people continue to suffer immense damage. Therefore, a fully operational compensation mechanism is not only an important political step, but also a practical necessity for the people of Ukraine.

We are sincerely grateful for the leadership role of the Council of Europe in advancing the establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. We clearly observe that this process has moved from political commitments to practical implementation. The signing in January of the agreement between the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the European External Action Service on the creation of a group to prepare the Special Tribunal was an important step forward and demonstrated the irreversibility of this process.

At the same time, we would like to underline the importance of comprehensive efforts to document violations of international law and to ensure their proper legal assessment. In this regard, close cooperation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE is of great significance. OSCE mechanisms, including the Moscow Mechanism, have repeatedly demonstrated their effectiveness in documenting grave and systematic violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. The reports produced under this mechanism are essential for building a solid evidentiary basis and for subsequent accountability processes.

We are convinced that close coordination between the OSCE and the Council of Europe in documenting violations, providing legal qualification of crimes, and supporting accountability mechanisms is essential for ensuring justice and strengthening the international legal order.

We welcome the preparation of a new Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine beyond 2026. In our view, the Action Plan for 2027–2030 should reflect the current challenges of recovery and Ukraine’s European integration.

Alongside traditional priorities – the protection of human rights, strengthening institutions based on the rule of law and democratic governance – increased attention should be given to countering disinformation, digital governance, veterans’ reintegration and the preservation of cultural heritage. The expertise of the Council of Europe in strengthening the rule of law and promoting standards in the area of business and human rights will contribute to creating a predictable and rules-based environment for investment and to supporting responsible private-sector engagement in Ukraine’s recovery.

We would also like to emphasise the importance of interaction between the Council of Europe and the OSCE regarding project activities in Ukraine. The synergy between these two organisations remains critically important for further anti-corruption reforms, strengthening the rule of law, implementing EU standards, as well as for expanding community participation in local governance and recovery processes.

We look forward to continued fruitful cooperation and to your firm support for Ukraine in these exceptionally challenging times for our country. The protection of human rights, the strengthening of the rule of law and the development of democratic institutions remain our shared task. We rely on your strong and consistent leadership in this regard.

Thank you for your attention.