



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

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

1565th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1, “Address by the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of Moldova, H.E. Valeriu Chiveri”

(21 May 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

/ Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered under this agenda item by the Delegation of the European Union. I would also like to add several remarks in my national capacity. /

Ukraine warmly welcomes Deputy Prime Minister Valeriu Chiveri to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his comprehensive address. As Chief Negotiator and now Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration, Mr. Chiveri has been at the centre of Moldova’s settlement process, and we deeply value his commitment to a peaceful, sustainable, and principled resolution of the Transdniestrian conflict.

Ukraine fully supports Moldova’s approach to reintegration – gradual, grounded in the rule of law, and firmly aligned with Moldova’s European integration trajectory. We commend Chisinau for sustaining dialogue, ensuring access to essential services for residents on the left bank, and demonstrating the kind of statesmanship that this difficult moment requires.

Mr. Chairperson,

I must, however, draw the Permanent Council’s urgent attention to a deeply alarming development that took place just days ago. On 15 May, Vladimir Putin signed a decree creating a fast-track procedure for granting Russian citizenship to residents of the Transdniestrian region of the Republic of Moldova. The decree exempts applicants from the standard requirements of residency, language proficiency, and basic knowledge of Russian law – and allows applications to be submitted through Russian consular missions without applicants ever setting foot in Russia.

This is not a humanitarian gesture. This is a hostile act directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine knows this playbook. We have lived it. Russia used a massive passportization in Abkhazia and South Ossetia before its 2008 aggression against Georgia. It used it in Crimea and Donbas before, during, and after its aggression against Ukraine. In every case, the so-called simplified citizenship was followed by claims of so called “protection of Russian citizens” – and then by territorial claims.

President Sandu has been entirely clear about the purpose of this decree: Russia needs more people to send to the war against Ukraine. President Zelensky has called it what it is – Russia’s attempt to stake a claim to the territory of Transdnistrian region of the Republic Moldova.

Prime Minister Munteanu put it precisely: “the Russian passport is becoming the passport of an aggressor state that is not accepted at the table of the civilized world.” Ukraine could not agree more.

This decree pursues two cynical objectives: first, to expand Russia’s mobilization base for its illegal war against Ukraine by drawing Moldovan citizens – for that is what most residents of the region legally are – into Russian military service; second, to manufacture a pretext for further interference in Moldova’s internal affairs, including under the guise of “protecting” newly minted Russian passport holders.

Ukraine condemns this decree in the strongest terms. We call on all participating States to reject this passportization scheme as a clear violation of international law and a direct attack on Moldova’s sovereignty.

Mr. Chairperson,

This development takes place against a backdrop of Russia’s continued illegal military presence in Moldova – in direct violation of Moscow’s 1999 Istanbul commitments – and Russia’s deliberate obstruction of the comprehensive and final Transnistrian settlement. The 5+2 format remains non-functional because Russia is not a peace partner or an “equidistant mediator”. It is the source of the conflict.

We remain concerned by the continued restrictions imposed by Russian military personnel on the freedom of movement of diplomats accredited in Moldova, by unilateral military exercises conducted by the so-called Russian “peacekeepers,” and by the lack of any access to the Cobasna ammunition depot. Russia uses the question of the OSCE Mission’s mandate as another instrument of political blackmail – and participating States must remain firm in defending the Mission’s work.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine and Moldova stand together. We are two nations on parallel European paths, facing the same source of pressure, and committed to the same principles – sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the right of every people to determine their own future. President Zelensky has already instructed coordination between our Foreign Ministries on a joint response to Russia’s passportization decree, and this coordination will continue.

Ukraine will remain a committed partner in Moldova’s reintegration process. We commend the work of Deputy Prime Minister Chiveri, the Moldovan Government, and

the OSCE Mission. We are convinced that only a comprehensive settlement – free from Russian interference, grounded in Moldova’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and anchored in its European future – can deliver lasting peace and security for the people on both banks of the Dniester.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.