



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

RIGHT OF REPLY BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by Ms Viktoriya Kuvshynnykova, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

1568th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 2, “The Russian Federation’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine”

(11 June 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to exercise my right of reply in response to the statement delivered by Belarus at the last PC meeting, in which it accused Ukraine of failing to provide evidence of the Russian Federation’s efforts to involve Belarusian citizens in its war of aggression against Ukraine.

Let me begin with the words of Aleksandr Lukashenko, who stated in May during a meeting with Defence Minister Viktor Khrenin: “As I promised, we will continue the selective mobilisation of units in order to prepare them for war.”

This statement followed a large-scale inspection of combat and mobilisation readiness, which began in March 2026 and involved approximately 5,000 reservists. In April, while reviewing the results of the exercise, Lukashenko openly stated: “We are preparing for war.”

As for Russian efforts to recruit Belarusian citizens, the evidence is substantial. Recruitment offers have been circulated through online platforms and channels linked to the Russian Ministry of Defence, offering military contracts, significant signing bonuses, travel to Russia, and simplified access to Russian citizenship.

Between July 2022 and July 2025, more than 1,000 Belarusian citizens reportedly signed contracts with the Russian Ministry of Defence.

Claims that no such cases exist are contradicted by the fact that Belarusian citizens have been captured while fighting against Ukraine. One example is Andrey Gerilovich, a Belarusian citizen and Wagner Group mercenary convicted in Ukraine for mercenary activities.

The Belarusian representative also claimed that there are no private military companies in Belarus. This is an attempt to hide reality behind legal formalities and definition of what Privat Military Company is.

Let us go to the fact. Following the so-called “Prigozhin rebellion”, Wagner personnel relocated to Belarus under arrangements between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin. In 2023, Wagner was officially registered in Belarus as a company presented as a training centre, despite substantial evidence linking it to Wagner’s activities. Numerous analysts have identified Belarus as a transit and logistical hub for Wagner operations abroad.

More recently, in March this year, representatives of the Russian military company Centre, known for recruiting personnel worldwide for the Russian Ministry of Defence, were reportedly observed operating in Belarus.

Taken together, criminal convictions, documented recruitment campaigns, official statements by Belarusian authorities, and other publicly available evidence clearly refute the denials made by the Belarusian delegation.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.