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Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDRÉ DE BEAUREPAIRE, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
FRANCE TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1576th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 August 2026

The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

France fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. I should like to add a few words in a national capacity. We welcome the Chairmanship's decision to hold this special meeting of the Permanent Council devoted to Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

On the occasion of the 35th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, France reiterates its resolute commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. France expresses its full solidarity with the Ukrainian people and salutes their heroic struggle to preserve their freedom and sovereignty in the face of Russia's aggression. We salute the courage and resilience of this people, who for more than four years now have been enduring indiscriminate attacks and bombardment by Russia. We will hold Russia accountable for the war crimes perpetrated against Ukrainian civilians, military personnel and prisoners.

The stability and security of the European continent have been profoundly undermined by Russia's war of aggression. The many incursions by drones, and even missiles, into NATO airspace are a first sign of this, and I should like here to reaffirm France's full solidarity with Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Like several other European countries, France is a direct target of Russia's destabilizing actions. On 13 July, France attributed a series of cyberattacks to the 16th Centre of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation – cyberattacks targeting French diplomatic agencies, government bodies and technology entities for espionage purposes. This national statement of attribution was accompanied by a collective statement of attribution on behalf of the European Union, illustrating the extent to which we were collectively being targeted by Russian cyberthreats.

Ukraine's actions against Russia are very much a case of exercising the right to self-defence in the face of such armed aggression. Russian disinformation campaigns will not change the facts: Ukraine is exercising its "inherent right of individual or collective self-defence" under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. France's support for Ukraine, along with that provided to Ukraine by France's partners and allies, is fully in keeping with this approach.

If there is to be a just and lasting peace for Ukraine and for the whole continent, we also need credible security guarantees. Such guarantees presuppose Ukraine's ability to defend itself effectively in the years to come. That is the implication of the bilateral aid provided by France to Ukraine, and it is also the implication of France's involvement in the Coalition of the Willing. We welcome the fact that the Coalition – whose Heads of State or Government gathered in Paris on 13 July and are today holding talks in Kyiv itself – continues to grow and now comprises 37 countries.

There can be no security in Europe without respect for the sovereignty of each participating State and its territorial integrity, or, for that matter, without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is essential that the future of the OSCE area be anchored in an international order based on rules and principles, such as those enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

In that regard, France reiterates its support for a ceasefire with a view to achieving a just and lasting peace, which is essential for the peace and security of our continent.