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Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR FATÈNE BENHABYLÈS-FOETH, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE OSCE,
AT THE 1577th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 September 2026

On the incident at Leipzig airport on 4 August (raised by the delegation of Germany)

France fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union, but I should like to add a few words in a national capacity.

I thank Germany for drawing the Council's attention to the serious incident that took place at Leipzig airport on 4 August, when a drone laden with explosives was discovered near two Ukrainian aircraft.

In this context, France reaffirms its full solidarity with Germany, whose investigative authorities established, on 2 September, that Russia was responsible for the very serious events in question. At the request of the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Russian chargé d'affaires was summoned to Paris.

In recent weeks, Russia has first opted for escalation by continuing and expanding its war of aggression against Ukraine. Subsequently, Russia has been opting for escalation vis-à-vis Europe by intensifying its hybrid actions against several European States.

France condemns these hybrid actions in the strongest possible terms and will continue to play its full part in shaping and implementing firm responses to them. In the face of this Russian policy of escalation and intimidation, France reaffirms its support for its partners and allies, and will continue to work with them to strengthen the protection of our countries, our democracies and our citizens. France also intends to continue supporting Ukraine, its independence and its sovereignty.

Mr. Chairperson,

The war of aggression must end, and France remains determined to establish a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, in accordance with the principles of international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Decalogue.

I would be grateful if you could kindly attach this statement to the journal of the day. Thank you.