



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

RIGHT OF REPLY BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

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

1567th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1, “The Russian Federation’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine”
(04 June 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to exercise my right of reply in response to the Belarusian intervention.

It is not surprising that Belarus has once again sought to deny its responsibility for supporting Russia’s war of aggression, particularly given its well-documented involvement in Russia’s previous aggressive actions. Let me remind colleagues that we have heard such arguments before.

On 16 February 2022, during the joint FSC-PC meeting convened at the request of the Baltic States following the invocation of the Risk Reduction Mechanism under the Vienna Document, Belarus similarly denied any responsibility and attempted to portray its joint military activities with Russia as routine activities.

Allow me to recall the statement made by Belarus at that meeting.

First: “We confirm our position of principle on the lack of justification for activating the mechanism for consultation and co-operation to discuss unusual military activities.” And second: “Our colleagues continue to seek to further politicize this issue.”

Should I remind colleagues what happened just one week after that meeting? Belarusian territory was used as a launching pad for Russia’s full-scale invasion.

It is futile to deny that those military exercises formed part of the deployment of Russian forces that subsequently took part in the invasion. Keeping memory about that events, it is equally futile to dismiss Ukraine’s concerns regarding Russian-Belarusian military cooperation and joint exercises now.

Today, the Belarusian side is pursuing the very same approach. It dismisses and even mocks the legitimate security concerns raised by participating States, while at the same time calling for a “professional dialogue”.

We have said this before, and I will reiterate it now: Belarus has already demonstrated where it stands in this war. It has provided its territory, infrastructure and logistical support to facilitate Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

There are only two possible explanations. Either Minsk does not exercise effective control over its own territory and is unaware of what Russian forces are doing there. Or it acknowledges its complicity in Russia's actions.

Rather than allowing its territory to be used for aggressive actions against a neighbouring State, Belarus should draw the necessary conclusions and bring an end to its complicity in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.