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EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No. 1586
Vienna, 19 November 2026

EU Statement on the Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

1. As winter approaches, Russia continues its attacks against Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure, in particular the energy sector. This week Russia targeted electrical substations and other infrastructure in the Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, Odesa, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Donetsk and Kyiv regions, causing power outages and once again depriving civilians of essential services. Railway infrastructure in the Dnipro, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhia regions also came under attack, while a Russian missile attack struck Kyiv's Northern and Southern bridges over the Dnipro River, affecting vital transit routes. We strongly condemn these attacks, which further deepen the suffering of the population and demonstrate once more Russia's utter disregard for international humanitarian law.

2. Russia has also continued its attacks on commercial vessels in the Black Sea this week, further undermining maritime and global food security. Four commercial vessels - one under a Greek flag — were struck by drones near Romania's Sulina shipping canal, in the Romanian territorial waters. On 16 and 17 November, a cargo ship carrying wheat and a gas tanker sank in Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone after being hit by sea drones. We strongly condemn the repeated attacks on civilian vessels, which constitute a serious violation of international law, including UNCLOS. We welcome Bulgaria, Romania and Türkiye's agreement to establish a trilateral coordination mechanism to strengthen maritime security.

3. In response to Russia's attacks against Ukraine, the European Union imposed additional restrictive measures on 12 individuals and 101 entities, including nearly 50 Russian banks and financial institutions, actors in the oil and energy sectors, and those supporting Russia's shadow fleet. On the same day, the EU also imposed further sanctions on 30 individuals and two entities involved in Russia's information

manipulation and malicious cyber activities. We will continue to take action to constrain Russia's war machine and those who support it.

4. The European Union will continue to stand with Ukraine. We have made a new disbursement of EUR 1.71 billion under the defence component of the Ukraine Support Loan to meet Ukraine's urgent military needs as it defends its people and territorial integrity. We demand yet again that Russia immediately and unconditionally cease its aggression, withdraw all its forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, and fully respect Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

5. We reiterate our call on all countries to immediately cease any assistance to Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine, whether direct or indirect, and notably through the provision of dual-use goods and components. In particular, we strongly condemn the deployment of the DPRK's military forces in the war against Ukraine as well as the continued military support provided to Russia by Iran, Belarus and the DPRK, among others.

6. We remain committed to ensuring full accountability for war crimes and the other most serious crimes committed in connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. This includes crimes related to the unlawful deportation and forced transfer of Ukrainian children. Of the 20,500 documented cases, just a little over 2,700 children have been rescued from Russia. We again call on Russia to ensure the immediate, safe and unconditional return of all deported or forcibly transferred Ukrainian children.

7. We note reports of an agreement on a prisoner-of-war exchange following talks in Abu Dhabi. Humanitarian relief efforts and confidence-building measures, notably the exchange of prisoners of war and the return of all unlawfully detained civilians, including the three OSCE staff members—Vadym Golda, Maksym Petrov, and Dmytro Shabanov, must continue as part of the pathway to peace.

8. The European Union supports all diplomatic efforts towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law and underpinned by robust and credible security guarantees for Ukraine. The OSCE plays and will continue to play a role in view of a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.