

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Radosław Sikorski's address during an OSCE Reinforced Meeting of the Permanent Council regarding the fourth anniversary of the start of Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine
(24 February 2026)

Dear Colleagues,

Four years into the Russian aggression – the Kremlin's forces still occupy almost a fifth of Ukraine's territory.

Last year was the deadliest for Ukrainian civilians since 2022 – with over 2.5 thousand killed and 12 thousand injured.

Well aware that Ukraine faces one of the harshest winters in decades, the aggressor now targets heating and energy systems to maximise civilian suffering.

Fortunately, Ukraine heroically stands its ground and refuses to buckle under the pressure.

Moscow's advances along the frontline are incredibly costly, with 382 thousand Russian casualties in 2025 alone.

But unfortunately, Russia does not seem intend to stop.

By using hybrid warfare tools, including acts of sabotage, it strives to undermine the security in many OSCE participating states.

We, the Western democracies, have been standing with Ukraine since day one.

We must continue to do so for as long as it takes – by consistently implementing appropriate measures: targeting energy sector, asset freezes and travel bans.

Non-compliance with international obligations must carry enforceable consequences.

The OSCE and its participating states have a role to play in this regard.

We should expose obstruction and track those who enable the aggression. Business as usual is not an option.

We must continue our efforts towards a just and lasting peace for Ukraine.

One that does more than just silence the guns.

One that will deter future aggression and lay the foundation for full national recovery.

Dear Colleagues,

Europe's security will not be restored through polite declarations.

It will be rebuilt by unity, resolve and accountability.
