

# The full speech of Deputy Prime Minister Radosław Sikorski at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Vienna

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Honourable Minister Valtonen,

I'd like, first of all, to associate myself with what's already been said by Minister Sybiha, by Minister Eide, by Kaja Kallas, and by Minister Wadehul in particular. I don't want to add to their excellent presentations about the horror of the war in Ukraine, but I want to share with you a reflection that, in politics, also in international politics, what matters is not only where we are, but the direction of travel.

And the Helsinki Final Act was possible because the then Soviet bloc, and in particular the Soviet Union, was travelling in the right direction, away from the export of revolution and totalitarianism towards international rules and towards reform.

And the problem is that today's Russia is travelling in the opposite direction, from democracy to autocracy and from coexistence to aggression. This is the fundamental problem, that today's Russia is more repressive and more aggressive than the Soviet Union in the 1970s. Almost every day, Russia sends hundreds of drones and missiles targeting civilians and critical infrastructure in Ukraine.

The Kremlin also wages hybrid war against the rest of Europe. We've had GPS jamming, arsons, assassinations. Recently, Russian provocations have escalated.

During the Zapad 25 military exercises on our borders, more than 20 military drones invaded Polish airspace. This is one of them. Please take a good look.

The decision to shoot them down was the first of this type taken by NATO forces. Last month, it got worse. Saboteurs sent by the GRU exploded a bomb in Poland under a railway line, under a moving train.

Only thanks to their incompetence was nobody hurt. Also, Poland alone fends off up to 4,000 cyberattacks per day. And each of these aggressive actions is, of course, accompanied by a tsunami of disinformation designed to polarise our societies.

All of these hostile acts against Ukraine and against the European Union violate the rules of this organisation.

And compliance with these rules should be a necessary condition for retaining one's seat. This magnificent hall should not be a place for the sick ambitions of those who want to rebuild an evil empire.

Thank you, Finland, for bearing the cross of leading this organisation for the last year.

Good luck, Switzerland.

Thank you.