



Security Council briefing by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, 19 April 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

I will now make a statement in my national capacity.

I begin by thanking OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Dr Borg for his briefing.

In a world marked by complex security threats, and global uncertainties, Malta attaches great value to multilateralism and strongly supports enhanced cooperation between the UN and the OSCE.

As highlighted by OSCE Chair-in-Office Minister Borg, Malta is proud to have led efforts that resulted in the OSCE's recognition as a regional arrangement under Chapter 8 of the UN Charter. With their converging objectives, both organisations should stand together and actively work in promoting and safeguarding international peace and security.



This year, Malta commemorates three proud milestones, 60 years as an independent nation, 50 years as a Republic, and 20 years as a member of the European Union. Throughout this time, we have always sought to meaningfully engage in finding solutions to challenges affecting the global community of nations.

Malta's leadership in the OSCE goes back to the signing of the Helsinki final act, where we affirmed that there cannot be European security without Mediterranean security.

Our conviction lies in the imperative need of restoring the world to a state of peace and serving as a multilateral bridge, inspired by Malta's unique position at the crossroads of East and West, of Europe and Africa.

We regret that violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law continue to occur in the region.

With its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, Russia continues to blatantly violate the UN Charter and the founding principles and commitments of the OSCE enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, and subsequent key documents including the Charter of Paris.



We will remain steadfast in demanding Russia's full and immediate withdrawal from Ukraine. This war must end.

Malta will continue holding a consistent and principled position using all available means to ensure accountability for actions that violate collectively agreed-upon principles and commitments. The OSCE Moscow Mechanism stands as a prime example, a key instrument that not only promotes accountability but also safeguards human rights.

The arbitrary detention of Ukrainian civilians is unacceptable. It is clear under international law that no individual shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention; an obligation that each Member State has to adhere to.

Furthermore, the unjust and illegal detention of the three staff members of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, who have been held in Russian captivity for more than 700 days is unacceptable. We echo the CiO's call for their immediate release. We are concerned about their health and safety, and our thoughts are with them and their families during this challenging time.



Malta's leadership in the OSCE is not to be seen in isolation, as we work to optimise links with our term as an elected member of the UN Security Council. We remain committed to support peace by facilitating dialogue towards durable and sustainable political solutions, particularly in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. Furthermore, we remain committed to supporting the organisation's on-going Field Operations in Moldova, Southeastern Europe and Central Asia with a view to strengthening host countries' national capacities and capabilities.

Malta is convinced that our shared human rights commitments are an essential part of our comprehensive approach to peace and security. Another priority for us is to ensure a full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and girls in all aspects of work in the Security Sector at a national, regional, and international level. This is a basic prerequisite for comprehensive security in Europe and throughout the world.



Malta will continue to advocate for the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda both at the Security Council and the OSCE. We would also like to stress that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law is the basis for a peaceful and secure world.

To conclude, we believe that only through strengthening resilience, and enhancing security, will a fruitful cooperation between the UN and the OSCE be achieved. This, with the end to build a safer, more secure, and cooperative future for all within the OSCE region and beyond.

I now resume my duties as President of the Council.