



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement by Romania

at the 1390th Meeting of the Permanent Council on 22 September 2022 on the report under Moscow Mechanism on Russia's Legal and Administrative Practice in Light of its OSCE commitments

Mr. Chairperson,

As one of the countries that invoked the Moscow Mechanism, Romania fully subscribes to the statement delivered by Ireland on behalf of all 38 invoking states, as well as to the statement by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make few remarks in my national capacity.

We welcome Professor Angelika Nußberger to the Permanent Council and thank her for the comprehensive and impartial report, drafted in accordance with the given mandate. We also thank ODIHR for the support provided.

We regret that the Russian Federation has chosen again not to cooperate, neither by appointing its own rapporteur as a member nor by granting the requested assistance and access to Professor Nußberger, the latter in violation of existing OSCE commitments.

Mr. Chairperson,

We reject the claims just made by the distinguished representative of Belarus that the Moscow Mechanism is redundant, obsolete, outdated or politicized by a number of participating States. On the contrary, it is an instrument established by consensus and in good faith by all participating States to help us implement our shared commitments in the Human Dimension. It provides an unbiased and factual basis for further dialogue, cooperation and action.

Mr. Chairperson,

The report clearly confirms many of the concerns raised by the European Union and other participating States over the past years both in the OSCE Permanent Council and within Human Dimension events, in terms of Russia's systematic non-compliance by with its OSCE commitments.

The restrictive changes in the Russian legislation on freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of peaceful assembly, implemented by the Russian authorities over the past years, including since the beginning of the war of aggression against Ukraine, are intentionally designed to suppress any independent voices and political opposition, to discourage critical attitudes towards the authorities, and to silence the independent journalists and other media actors. The deliberately vague language of the legislation allows for its arbitrary application, leading to many citizens being detained and condemned. All these measures against independent civil society and media have a negative impact on all kinds of civic activism and on the Russian society as a whole.

The report also confirms the connection between the internal repression and the external aggression against Ukraine, an independent and sovereign state, a point repeatedly made in this Permanent Council and in other fora.

We call on Russia to study carefully and implement the recommendation of the report and to act in accordance with the spirit and letter of all OSCE Human Dimension commitments and international obligations.

We also look forward to engaging with civil society representatives at the upcoming Warsaw Human Dimension Conference, including about the finding and recommendations of this report.

Thank you.