

**Buantoscáireacht na hÉireann**  
**don Eagraíocht um Shlándaíl agus Comhar san Eoraip**  
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the  
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



**Statement by Ireland under Agenda Item 4, Follow-up to the Vienna Mechanism  
invoked with regard to reports of arbitrary and unjust detentions in Russia**

**OSCE PC 1469, 18 April 2024**

Madam Chair,

Ireland fully aligns with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the participating States that invoked the Vienna Mechanism on 21 March 2024, but allow me to add the following remarks.

Ireland regrets that the Russian Federation has not responded to the seven questions put forward by the 41 invoking States regarding arbitrary or unjust arrests and detentions in Russia, the targeting of political opposition, as well as torture and mistreatment in Russian detention facilities and prisons.

Let me emphasise that the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security makes clear that respect for human rights, the rule of law and democratic governance is a prerequisite for sustainable peace and security. All OSCE participating States have committed themselves to upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right of peaceful assembly, freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention, freedom of expression, and the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. We have agreed that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States.

Ireland remains gravely concerned about increasing internal repression in the Russian Federation, including the persecution of political opponents, human rights defenders, independent journalists, and civil society leaders, as documented by the Moscow Mechanism report which was presented to the Permanent Council on 22 September 2022. The death of Alexei Navalny at age 47 in a remote Arctic penal colony is a tragic reminder of the consequences of Russia's repression. I would like to echo the remarks made by Tánaiste and

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin who stated that Navalny's 'death underpins the lack of respect for the rule of law and protection of human rights in Russia, and is a reminder of the repressive nature of the regime against its own people'.

As stated in the Moscow Mechanism Report, the OSCE must continue monitoring the human rights situation in the Russian Federation, "in particular with regard to the consequences of the implementation of laws adopted after 24 February 2022". Ireland urges the Russian Federation to cease attempts to silence all opposing voices in contravention of its OSCE human dimension commitments. We also urge the Russian Federation to engage with human dimension mechanisms that have been agreed by all participating States.

No participating State has an unblemished record in respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The OSCE is a forum in which States can engage in dialogue, learn from each other, hold each other to account and work to continually improve implementation of the commitments that we have made with the support of the OSCE institutions. If the Russian Federation decides not to engage with the substantive, serious and legitimate questions raised on 21 March, then regrettably this will be seen as a signal of indifference. Indifference to the welfare of its citizens, indifference to the provisions of Russia's Constitution and indifference to its human rights commitments.

Thank you.