



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on
Threats to International Peace and Security
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Greece's Statement delivered
by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta
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Thank you Madam President, for convening this important emergency meeting, and I take this opportunity to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council and wish you every success in your duties. You have our full support.

On this occasion, I would like to express our appreciation to China for the Presidency of the Month of May.

I would like also to thank also Ms. Kayoko Gotoh, Director for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas for her briefing and I welcome the participation of H.E. Ms. Oana Țoiu, Foreign Minister of Romania.

Madam President,

In the last meeting of this Council on the repercussions of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, only last Thursday, we warned against the high risk of a vertical and horizontal, geographical escalation, following Russia's aggressive rhetoric and explicit or implicit threats against other countries of the region.

We regret that this statement is even more relevant today, after the incident of late last week in Romania.

As we all know, during these last two weeks, Russia has intensified its attacks in Ukraine, striking the capital and surrounding urban areas, has issued warnings and threats to the diplomatic community, has threatened Latvia and the Baltic countries and has conducted common military exercises, including nuclear drills, with Belarus. All these incidents evidently cannot be viewed in a vacuum.

Russia's violations against other European and NATO countries of the region is nothing new. We are reminded of the drone and Russian fighter jet incursions last year in Poland and Estonia respectively, which were brought to the attention of this Council last September.

Romania itself has registered 47 different cases of drones or their debris falling into Romanian territory, with a similar instance of debris causing damages in Galați last month.

Yet this time, Russia's reckless actions have caused human casualties, injuring Romanian civilians, one child among them. Greece unequivocally condemns this violation of Romania's airspace. We support and stand in full solidarity with Romania, an EU and NATO ally. We also express our deepest sympathies to the injured and all those affected and wish them a speedy recovery.

Any violation of state borders, be it air, sea or land borders, constitutes a clear and blatant breach of international law and the UN Charter and is unacceptable. We demand that Russia ceases these unlawful acts immediately, respects its obligations under international law and takes immediate steps to deescalate the mounting tension in Ukraine.

Madam President,

We keep witnessing the destabilizing effects of this war and its implications for European and international security. The spillover effect of this violence risks spiraling out of control and needs to stop immediately.

Therefore, I reiterate Greece's firm conviction that a full, immediate and comprehensive ceasefire, is needed now more than ever. This will allow for the resumption of dialogue and diplomacy. The overwhelming majority of the UN membership and of this Council has repeatedly requested it, and Ukraine itself has long agreed to. We call on Russia to now heed those calls.

I thank you.