

**Security Council Briefing on Maintenance of peace and security
of Ukraine
24 August 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
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Mr. President, Your Excellency,

I would like to welcome you to today's meeting and thank you for convening this important briefing for European security. I would also like to thank Under Secretary-General DiCarlo and Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher for their remarks. I also welcome the presence of the Vice-Minister of Latvia and the participation of Ukraine in the meeting.

Mr. President,

Allow me, first, to congratulate the people of Ukraine on their Independence Day. Yet, this year's celebration is sadly overshadowed by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, now entering its fifth year. The harrowing statistics we heard today on the impact of Russia's war of aggression on civilians underscore once again why this war must end. Each month of 2026 has proven deadlier than the last. July 2026 marked the highest civilian death toll since May 2022. Child casualties reached record levels, the highest since April 2022, with 17 children killed and 166 injured.

These figures result directly from Russia's use of long-range weapons, drones, and aerial bombardments in densely populated urban areas of Ukraine. This pattern of indiscriminate attacks tragically continues into August. Just last week, a combined missile and drone attack on Kyiv and the surrounding region resulted in dozens of casualties, as well as severe damage to residential buildings, schools and medical facilities.

Greece strongly condemns all violations of international humanitarian law. We stress that the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, including energy infrastructure, is not only a legal obligation but also a moral imperative. The protection of humanitarian personnel is likewise essential to ensuring the delivery of life-saving assistance to civilians in need.

We also condemn human rights violations committed against residents of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and against Ukrainian prisoners of war. We call upon Russia to grant international monitoring mechanisms the necessary access. All parties to the conflict must strictly comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Violations must be thoroughly investigated and those responsible held accountable. We reiterate our call for the immediate return of all Ukrainian children who have been unlawfully deported or transferred.

We are particularly alarmed by the intensification of Russian attacks against vessels and seaport infrastructure in the Black Sea.

These attacks disrupt the transport of oil and agricultural products, with serious repercussions for maritime security, energy supplies, international

trade and global food security. In July 2026 alone, 39 such attacks were recorded, resulting in the tragic loss of 19 port and vessel personnel.

Greece remains willing to further contribute with its fleet to safeguarding maritime food supply chains, as we have done consistently in the past, provided that a predictable safety environment is in place.

Energy supply chains must be equally protected: Vessels transporting energy products through the Black Sea in accordance with the law and thereby fulfilling international contracts, should not be considered as potential targets.

We reiterate our position that freedom of navigation must be fully protected in line with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Furthermore, we remain deeply concerned by the spillover effects of the war and the broader implications for European security, as evidenced by the multitude of security incidents in several EU countries.

Mr. President,

Greece reiterates its unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. Borders cannot be changed by force anywhere in the world. We call upon Russia to end hostilities and return to the negotiating table.

We reiterate our call for a full ceasefire as a first step towards meaningful negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. Any settlement must be in accordance with international law and the UN

Charter, including the principles of respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

At the same time, we encourage the continuation of confidence-building and humanitarian measures, including exchanges of prisoners of war and the release of civilian detainees.

Greece, along with its partners, will continue to stand with the Ukrainian people in their fight for a sovereign and independent future.

I thank you.