



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



**Security Council Briefing on
the maintenance of Peace and Security of Ukraine
Wednesday 23 September 2026**

Greece's Statement delivered
by H.E. Mr. Tasos Chatzivasileiou,
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Thank you, Mr. President,

I would also like to thank the French Presidency for convening this important meeting for European and international security and of course I would like to thank Under Secretary-General DiCarlo for her sobering remarks today.

Your Excellencies,

Now in its 9th decade, this Organization continues to be tested by profound violations of international peace and security, crises and armed conflicts, which threaten to dismantle the very fabric of peace woven by the UN Charter in 1945. The war in Ukraine is a flagrant example in this regard.

Greece has consistently condemned all violations of international humanitarian law resulting from Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, calling for strict compliance with humanitarian principles. Protection of civilians is non-negotiable, while protection of humanitarian actors is quintessential to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in dire need. In that regard, we deplore the recent escalation of attacks against humanitarian premises and objects, as well as medical and educational facilities.

We also call on Russia to cease all human rights violations committed against residents of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and ensure full, safe and unhindered access to humanitarian actors and international monitoring mechanisms.

We further reiterate the call for the full implementation of the General Assembly Resolution demanding the immediate and unconditional return of the Ukrainian Children.

Mr. President,

The latest escalation of this war is twofold, threatening to expand the conflict both in its territorial reach and in its destructive severity.

For the last several months, Russia has intensified its attacks against vessels and seaport infrastructure in the Black Sea and the Danube, threatening maritime security, energy supplies, global food security and international trade.

Greece reiterates that freedom of navigation must be fully protected in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We remain committed to safeguarding maritime food supply chains, through our commercial shipping fleet, as we have done consistently in the past.

Energy supply chains must be equally protected: vessels conducting lawful transportation of energy products through the Black Sea should not be considered as potential targets.

At the same time, your Excellencies, we are deeply concerned by the spillover effects of this war, which endanger European security more broadly, through an increasing number of incidents affecting EU and NATO member states. We express our solidarity to them and we condemn all actions that contribute to further escalation.

Mr. President,

Greece believes in peace, dialogue and diplomacy and has consistently backed all efforts to end the war in Ukraine, including the US-led initiative, reinvigorated in recent weeks. In this regard, we support the recent US proposal for a moratorium on strikes against energy infrastructure.

We join the overwhelming majority of the UN membership and this Council in calling for an immediate ceasefire as a first step towards meaningful negotiations, aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, in accordance with international law, the UN Charter and GA Resolutions. We call on Russia to engage with Ukraine in good faith.

Mr. President,

Once more, we reiterate our unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders. We reject any attempt to change borders through the use force, prohibited by our UN Charter.

Lastly, it is clear to us that no decisions on peace in Ukraine can be taken without Ukraine and without Europe, whose security is directly affected by this war. We will continue supporting an independent, democratic and sovereign future for Ukraine, founded on enforceable security guarantees.

I thank you.