



**Dr. Daniela De Ridder's Speech at the OSCE PA
Autumn Meeting in Warsaw**

November 24-25, 2022

**THE WAR IN UKRAINE
THE ROLE OF THE OSCE AND
NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS**

SESSION 1

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THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE: IMPACT ON THE OSCE, LESSONS LEARNED

Dear Madam President,

Dear Mr Vice-President,

Dear Madam Secretary General,

Dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to thank Ms Bartus and the Polish Delegation, for hosting the Autumn Meeting at short notice and for the excellent organisation of the event.

Since February 24, 2022, we have been witnesses to the most serious attack on the European peace order. We remind Russia of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter. We condemn Russia's war of aggression, which is contrary to international law, in the strongest possible terms! We stand in solidarity with Ukraine and are very pleased to welcome our colleagues from the Verkhovna Rada at our autumn meeting.

As the Parliamentary Assembly, we must remain united and resolute. We struggle for the right of existence of the Ukrainian people, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We demand the unconditional and complete withdrawal of Russia from all of Ukraine, including Crimea! We will not recognize the illegal annexations of Ukrainian territories! In this position, we fully agree with the United Nations.

It is unacceptable that Russia, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, repeatedly threatens to use nuclear weapons. The world community must not allow itself to be held hostage to nuclear weapons. The safety of the Zaporizhia nuclear power plant is also in acute danger because of the fighting. Therefore, a combat-free security zone around the nuclear power plant must be established immediately! I would like to express my thank to IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and his entire team, who are working tirelessly to achieve this.

Dear colleagues,

we also share the fears of the Republic of Moldova, which also sees its security threatened by Russia. The war threatens global security and exacerbates tensions in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. In addition, we appeal to President Lukashenka to stop being a de facto supporter of Russian aggression and to release all political prisoners in Belarus!

In full solidarity with Ukraine, we say:

Russia must immediately end this war, which is contrary to international law, and return to the fundamental values and principles of the OSCE! This is the most important task of our time.

Thank you very much!

Dr. Daniela De Ridder