

## **The Czech Republic – statement PC 1359, 27 February 2022**

- The Czech Republic fully subscribes to the EU Statement, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.
- We are profoundly shocked that this kind of unprovoked aggression can happen in Europe today, under the pretence of genocide and denazification.
  - Russia has been intentionally spreading lies and disinformation, despite the fact that the SMM has been in place over all the past eight years. It has reported on all serious violations, including those of human rights, and there were no such accusations in SMM reporting.
  - Russia's so-called arguments originate in the same manufacturing workshop as those we heard a few days ago, namely that Russia would never attack Ukraine.
- This is an unprovoked, unjustified act of war by one of the most powerful military powers in the world, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, against an independent and sovereign state.
  - By this act, the current Russian leadership has lost any credit for exercising the role of guardian of the international security order in the UN.
- We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's gross violation of international law and its undermining European and global security and stability.
- We also condemn the involvement of Belarus in this aggression against Ukraine. We call on Belarus to abide by its international obligations that is not to offer its territory for an aggression against a third country.
- Among all those horrible consequences of this conflict, there is one positive sign that despite serious restrictions on access to resources due to censorship, harassment of protesters, and media workers in Russia,

we can witness including from social media, that Russia's people are against this war.

- They are feeling ashamed and they are letting the world know that this is not their war.
- This is an important signal of change for the future.

- We follow with great admiration bravery, and determination of Ukrainian people, we stand fully behind them supporting them by all ways possible, including by welcoming Ukrainian refugees on the Czech soil.
- The Czech Republic, together with the EU, our allies, and other like-minded countries, is ready to reply with the strongest possible restrictive measures to convince the Russian government to return to the path of law and negotiations and to cease its aggression towards and independent and sovereign state.
- It is democracy, rule of law, and peaceful coexistence among nations which must prevail in the end.
- I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the Journal of the Day.