Permanent Mission
of Austria to the
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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on Ukraine
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Thank you, Mr. Vice-President,

Austria aligns with the EU statement and thanks the High Commissioner for his update. We also reiterate our support for the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

The current report highlights that high numbers of Ukrainian civilian detainees remain arbitrarily detained by Russian authorities. Civilian detainees continue to be subjected to serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

The Russian Federation not only applies Russian criminal law in occupied territory of Ukraine, ignoring its obligation to respect the laws in force in the occupied territory, it also applies torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including sexual violence, in a systematic and widespread manner against civilian detainees and against prisoners of war.

We therefore urge Russia to immediately cease torture, ill-treatment and sexual violence against prisoners of war and civilian detainees, and to unconditionally release all arbitrarily detained. We also call on Russia to provide independent and impartial monitors full and regular access to all places where Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilian detainees are held.

High Commissioner,
Could you elaborate on the impacts of prolonged detention and lack of information and communication on families?

Thank you.