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Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR CHRISTINE FAGES,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE OSCE,  
AT THE 1326th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

29 July 2021

**Right of reply on behalf of France and Germany**

I should like, on behalf of France and Germany, to respond to the words of my esteemed colleague from the Russian Federation.

As to the facts, the Minsk agreements continue to be the sole framework for the settlement of this conflict. All these agreements were signed on behalf of the Russian Federation by its official representative. Russia has therefore accepted, in a clear and binding manner, its responsibility with regard to a peaceful settlement of the conflict and to the implementation of the agreements. Moreover, the Heads of State or Government of the Normandy Four countries declared in February 2015 that they would “use their influence on relevant parties”. In the Minsk Package of Measures, only paragraphs 9, 11 (decentralization and legislation on a special status) and 12 (local elections) explicitly provide for consultations or co-ordination with representatives of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The Minsk Protocol is unambiguous – I quote: “[T]he Trilateral Contact Group [consists] of representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).” It is chaired by the OSCE. The same wording is also found in the Minsk Memorandum.

Thank you.