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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1507th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 February 2025

**In response to the address by the President of the Committee of Ministers of the  
Council of Europe, Xavier Bettel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign  
Affairs and Foreign Trade of Luxembourg**

Minister,

Since our country was mentioned in your address, we should like to clarify a number of issues. Even though we have already presented here on more than one occasion Russia's arguments concerning both the problems the Council of Europe is seeking to resolve and the overall direction that this once respected international organization has gone down.

First of all, we continue to observe the Council of Europe's efforts to establish mechanisms to bring Russia's leadership to some sort of "responsibility" under the pretext of the events in Ukraine. We are obliged to repeat what we have already said many times: the legally null and void mechanisms being fostered by the Council of Europe in the absence of any jurisdiction over the Russian Federation by that organization are contrary to the norms of international law. Once again, we warn that Russia will never under any circumstances recognize the legitimacy of any registers of damage, special tribunals, commissions or other pseudo-legal instruments.

We consider them to be an element of the hybrid aggression against our country, a method of settling political scores and a means of obtaining undue financial gain. The attempts by certain countries to give themselves the right to misappropriate the property of "undesirable" States are nothing but neocolonial consumerism. Is it not time to give up the habit of ensuring one's own development at the expense of the barbaric plundering of other countries' resources?

Ultimately, all these projects are an obvious attempt to shift attention away from the real, heinous crimes perpetrated by the Kyiv regime's armed formations against the civilian population. Including, for example, the mass shootings, torture and rape of civilians in the village of Russkoye Porechnoye in the Kursk region and many others. We classify intentions to whitewash the criminal regime in Kyiv, just like participation in the work of the aforementioned pseudo-legal schemes, as hostile acts. We would remind you that such provocative actions will not go unanswered and will have inevitable consequences.

Secondly, we regard the Council of Europe's anti-Russian activities as an unsuccessful means of drawing attention away from the alarming human rights situation in a number of European countries and in States that like to lecture others from across the ocean. And we are not just talking about the chronic discrimination against the Russian and Russian-speaking population in the Baltic States and the massive human rights violations in Ukraine.

The problems of racism and racial discrimination, glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism, xenophobia and related intolerance have lost none of their relevance in the West. The situation concerning violence against women and girls, especially First Nations women and girls, remains critical in the United States of America, Canada and Denmark. There is also the inability of countries "west of Vienna" to cope with migration flows as a result of their brazen and destabilizing interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States in the Middle East and North Africa. These countries are also characterized by their flouting of international obligations under the pretext of combating terrorism and their irresponsible pandering to corrupt regimes that are abducting people, including for the purposes of quashing dissent and carrying out reprisals against their own citizens. We advise the Council of Europe to put its own house in order first.

Lastly, in your address you justified the decision not to invite a Russian delegation to the commemorative events marking the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp on the grounds of Russia's current political course. In doing so, you are letting the historical truth pass through the distorted prism of the anti-Russian geopolitical conjuncture prevailing in Europe. Russia, in your words, "should be ashamed". In our view, it is you who should be ashamed of this.

Developing your idea, the representative of Ukraine has just boldly claimed that the forces of the First Ukrainian Front of the Red Army brought an end to that monstrous product of Nazism. I would remind you that Marshal Ivan Konev commanded this strategic unit, in the ranks of which representatives of more than 200 nationalities of the USSR fought against Hitler's Germany. Before that, the Front was commanded by Army General Nikolay Vatutin, who died heroically in a firefight with Ukrainian nationalists. Their ideological successors are the fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces. In our opinion, you should bear this in mind in your assessments.

As for your assertion that the time for forgiveness has passed, we should like to assure you that Russia will indeed not forgive the West for the planned destruction of the Slavs. But there is still time for multilateral diplomacy, which we suggest you encourage instead of deepening the already bleeding fault lines in Europe.

Thank you for your attention.