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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1552nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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On the ongoing attempts by some OSCE participating States to undermine efforts at finding a long-term and sustainable peaceful solution to the Ukrainian crisis

Mr. Chairperson,

No matter how much our Western colleagues try to advertise their allegedly peace-loving attitude and blame Russia for the deterioration of the politico-military situation in Europe, the facts tell otherwise. Let us take a look at dry statistics, which demonstrate the true scale of the investments made by the European Union and NATO not in peace, but in protracted confrontation with Russia. Since the start of the military phase of the conflict in Ukraine, the North Atlantic Alliance's member States have already spent 126 billion euros on direct military aid for the Kyiv regime. In addition, at the last NATO summit it was agreed to earmark 40 billion euros annually for that purpose. This is no longer a case of one-off expenditures, but of systemic investments in keeping the conflict afloat.

More than 69 billion euros have been channelled through EU entities such as the European Peace Facility. A decision has already been taken on a new loan for Ukraine for 2026–2027 totalling 90 billion euros. A key “innovative” financing mechanism is to use 90 per cent of the revenues generated by illegally immobilized Russian assets. The European Union is, in effect, trying to wage a proxy war against Russia funded by money stolen from our country, which sets an extremely dangerous precedent for the plundering of sovereign reserves. It implies an erosion of the foundations of the global financial system and means that the European Union has revealed itself to be an unreliable partner. Our position is unchanged: all illegal measures must be rescinded and all assets returned. Russia will avail itself of all legal mechanisms to protect these assets.

On top of the aforementioned, there are also the massive bilateral programmes implemented by certain Western countries to supply weapons, train personnel and militarize Ukraine itself.

The conflict is not being invested in as a temporary crisis measure, but as a long-term project involving multi-year budget planning. These investments in confrontation shut down the path to negotiations, preserve the state of crisis and leave no doubt about the real as opposed to stated goals of EU and NATO policy on our continent, goals that are backed up by hard cash.

The head of the French Foreign Ministry laments the lack of a direct channel with Russia to defend European interests. It stands to reason to ask: who, if not the European leaders themselves, destroyed all those channels over the past few years?

The European Union deliberately and systematically burned all the bridges by curtailing economic co-operation, freezing political dialogue and imposing pointless sanctions that are destructive for its own economy. Germany and France once talked about the need for dialogue and strategic autonomy, but in reality they preferred to become executors of decisions taken elsewhere by opting to bankroll and arm the Kyiv regime, which since 2014 has been waging a senseless war against its own people.

Instead of a search for diplomatic solutions, what we are witnessing is a conscious, planned course towards confrontation and militarization. This fundamental rejection of peace is complemented by attempts to portray Russia as an enemy and by the brazen sabotaging of any opportunities to bring about a settlement.

Having become hostage to the growing appetites of their own military-industrial complex, the countries of the Western camp are trying to drag us into a new, even more dangerous spiral of the arms race. Russia will be compelled to take all necessary measures to provide for its security in this aggressive new reality, which is not of our making, and the consequences of which may well be felt very soon by the inhabitants of Europe.

We shall cite just two of the most striking examples of the pernicious course being steered by EU countries. The first is Germany, whose political leadership openly proclaims the goal of inflicting a “strategic defeat” on Russia. Under this slogan, an unprecedented propaganda campaign has been launched to militarize public consciousness, inuring it to the idea of an “inevitable war with Russia” in the coming years. All kinds of grounds, even the most absurd ones, are being cited for that purpose – from “hacker attacks” to mythical drone overflights – and our country is accused automatically and without any evidence being presented.

This is the only way to justify the historic military expenditure of 86.5 billion euros – a record amount since the Second World War – in a context of acute domestic socio-economic problems. Under the slogan of “containing Russia”, Germany is openly declaring its intention to build the strongest army in Europe – something that is already unsettling its neighbours, who remember how German militarism and revanchism once played out for Europe – and it is considering the reintroduction of conscription. We are keeping a close eye on how these steps square with Germany’s basic international obligations, including its obligations under the Two-plus-Four Treaty.

Another alarming example is the until recently “neutral” Sweden. Its Prime Minister recently confirmed that his country was in preliminary talks with France and the United Kingdom about stationing nuclear forces on Swedish territory. This announcement was made against the backdrop of Sweden’s active participation in NATO’s military plans. Under the pretext of some sort of “deterrence”, a new reality is being created where preparations are under way to move nuclear weapons ever closer to Russia’s borders.

Meanwhile, within the framework of the “Coalition of the Willing”, some European governments continue to discuss the possibility of stationing a military contingent in Ukraine. For us it is immaterial under which flag – whether the NATO flag or the EU one – Western troops turn up there. It is utterly unacceptable and implies a course aimed at triggering direct military conflict.

Matters of common sense, such as the recent statement by European Parliament President Roberta Metsola to the effect that Europe will have to re-establish relations with Russia when the time comes, are only a first step towards acknowledging the problem. Far more important is the substance of the

policies that the European Union will have to offer. And here we run up against a profound contradiction. On the one hand, we have claims about a desire for peace and the future restoration of ties. On the other hand, we have actions and statements that negate such a scenario.

Europe must, not in words but in deeds, renounce the hostile anti-Russian course enshrined in NATO and EU doctrinal documents. It must end the illegitimate sanctions war that is rebounding on the economies of the Europeans themselves. It must stop cultivating Russophobic myths and funding conflicts near our borders. The litmus test of its sincerity will be whether it abandons its striving to inflict a “strategic defeat” on Russia and desists from sabotaging the process for a peaceful settlement.

We are interested in normalizing relations with Europe, just as its inhabitants are. But here everything hinges on a simple choice that the European Union has to make. Either to continue a confrontation based on ultimatums and the “phantom limb” pains of history, or to initiate a complicated but necessary conversation about a real, equal security architecture in Europe. Russia was and continues to be prepared for such frank dialogue – the ball remains in the court of the governments in question.

Thank you for your attention.