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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1544th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 November 2025

In response to the report by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Mr. Braathu,

We have carefully studied the detailed report on the work of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media that was presented to the Permanent Council. Unfortunately, at present, we cannot say that it is balanced and reflects the realities on the ground and in the information space. Our hopes of restoring the seriously eroded confidence in this institution have not been fulfilled. In this regard, we consider it appropriate to draw attention to the following details that have been omitted from the report, details that appear to have been deliberately ignored and not communicated to the public.

We should like to recall once again that the OSCE has a broad mandate in terms of promoting freedom and pluralism of the media, combating disinformation and ensuring safe working conditions for reporters in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Vienna Concluding Document (1989), the CSCE Copenhagen Document (1990), the Charter of Paris (1990), the Istanbul Document (1999) and, finally, OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/18 on the safety of journalists (2018). However, the efforts of several generations of diplomats and subject-matter experts have been coming to nothing for years now, against the background of the triumph of the darkest forms of information censorship and the professional bankruptcy of the relevant international structures, including the OSCE.

The situation with regard to ensuring the safety of professional journalists and media specialists and the prosecution without fail of offences committed against them has deteriorated noticeably in recent years. Although the need to ensure safe working conditions for journalists without distinction has been recognized by all States on paper, in practice, many countries of the collective West have normalized the segregation of media representatives into “ours” and “theirs”. They have embarked on a course of relentlessly suppressing any manifestations of dissent, and the global media landscape is becoming dangerously fragmented. The bans and blocks imposed by these countries, along with the other forms of oppression of undesirable, primarily Russian, media outlets have become an artificial barrier for their inhabitants, preventing them from exercising their right to free access to information.

Other unscrupulous methods of suppressing alternative points of view have also become widespread in these countries, including segregation and the targeted harassment of ideological opponents, the freezing

of their bank accounts, politically motivated criminal prosecutions, and even threats of reprisals and physical violence. All these illegal actions are justified under the spurious pretext of protecting national security. However, after reading the report, one gets the impression that the aforementioned problems with the media do not exist in the Western-centric world.

At the same time, Western countries not only fail to acknowledge their own gross violations of the fundamental rights of their own citizens, but also vigorously defend their protégés in the form of the Kyiv and Moldovan regimes, which have already moved towards totalitarian political censorship. By taking advantage of their positions in the relevant international structures, Western pseudo-democracies are effectively paralysing their work, thereby preventing them from responding effectively to the various repressive actions against media outlets and their staff. As a result of this policy, the international system for protecting the professional rights of the media community has become dysfunctional, even in cases involving the premeditated murder of, and terrorist attacks against, journalists and war correspondents. As we have repeatedly pointed out, detailed information on all these atrocities can be found under the heading “Foreign reprisals against Russian journalists and media” on the main page of the Russian Foreign Ministry’s website.

Moreover, the West, which considers itself to be “the chosen one” and above the law, is encouraging its protégés in Kyiv to engage in terrorist activities. Since the beginning of this year alone, at least six Russian media workers have been killed in targeted attacks by fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces: Alexander Martemyanov, Alexander Fedorchak, Andrei Panov, Anna Prokofieva, Nikita Goldin and Ivan Zuev. We have seen the Representative’s statements on this matter. However, they, like certain other remarks, distort reality to suit the political situation prevailing in the West, in which any blame, regardless of the facts, is automatically attributed to Russia.

The extremist website Myrotvorets is still publicly accessible. It consists of a “hit list” of reporters, public figures, journalists and, in general, anyone whom the Zelenskyy regime has labelled as an ideological opponent. For how long will the local patrons of this regime ignore the very existence of this website while they talk about their commitment to ending impunity for crimes against journalists? Will we ever see a response from the OSCE executive structures to this matter? Will the criminal nature of this resource be mentioned in the relevant report?

On a separate note, we are obliged to comment on the now traditional narratives in the report regarding the so-called restrictions on foreign agents and journalists in exile. For a long time, Russia has been accused of having and applying a law on foreign agents. I would remind you that a similar law, known as the Foreign Agents Registration Act, has been in force in the United States of America since as far back as 1938 and is applied to this day – extremely zealously, I might add. Data on its use is publicly available. Almost 500 natural persons and legal entities are featured there. There are other similar laws in other countries, but there is no mention of them either.

Mr. Representative,

The lack of a proper response from your Office undermines the Organization’s legacy in this area and its ability to effectively tackle the tasks at hand. No one denies that your work in the current geopolitical realities, where journalists are being mobilized as soldiers of information warfare and censorship and repression are being imposed on undesirable media outlets, cannot be easy by any means. We also understand that representatives of certain participating States present in this room are exerting systematic pressure on you to achieve their goals – goals that are perfectly obvious even to the uninitiated. However, this does not relieve you of your responsibility to organize the work of the Office entrusted to you by the

57 participating States, including Russia, in the interests of each OSCE participating State, in strict compliance with the existing mandate.

At this point, we should like to quote from paragraph 2 of OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 193 on the mandate of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media: the Representative “will address serious problems caused by, *inter alia*, obstruction of media activities and unfavourable working conditions for journalists”. For now, unfortunately, this obligation is not being properly fulfilled, and this has been the case for many years. This year has been no exception.

Nevertheless, we remain ready to co-operate in good faith with the Office of the Representative on a wide range of relevant issues, on the understanding that we will see a truly impartial implementation of the mandate.

Thank you for your attention.