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**STATEMENT BY
MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1126th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

4 February 2026

**Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Madam Chairperson,

Going against the negotiation process for a Ukrainian settlement, European countries continue to pour oil on the fire of the conflict. Europe's fixation on acting "from a position of strength" looks particularly bizarre when set against the US administration's attempts to facilitate the negotiation process. In particular, speaking from the rostrum of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) in Kyiv yesterday, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said that, after the conclusion of a peace agreement, those NATO members that have agreed to do so would be deploying armed forces to Ukrainian territory, putting "jets in the air" and providing support at sea. He doggedly continues to promote the militarization of Ukraine, even though the Russian Federation has repeatedly indicated that the stationing of NATO military personnel and NATO military infrastructure in Ukraine would be regarded by us as a foreign intervention and as posing a direct threat to the security of our country and to European countries. Mr. Rutte's remarks can, in effect, be translated into plain English as follows: "We will not allow peace in Ukraine and will make it fight down to the last Ukrainian."

The Alliance's Secretary General also said that NATO was "learning" from Ukraine, which was "uniquely" applying innovations linked to the military-industrial complex. Only he forgot to mention that these very innovations are being tested by the Kyiv regime on civilians. Just let the following figures sink in.

In the course of 2025, the intensity of the Ukrainian armed forces' shelling attacks on Russian civilian infrastructure more than doubled. By the end of December, the number of strikes on non-military targets was reaching almost 500 per day (compared to 240 per day in December 2024).

The Ukrainian armed forces fired around 130,627 munitions at civilian objects last year, which is 42,000 more than in 2024. The greatest damage occurred in border regions: in the Belgorod region (29.07 per cent), the Kursk region (25.17 per cent), the Kherson region (19.40 per cent), the Bryansk region (10.64 per cent) and the Donetsk People's Republic (8.68 per cent).

Tellingly, the Ukrainian “fighters” most often used unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), artillery and precision-guided munitions fired by multiple-launch rocket systems, including NATO-made ones, to strike at homes, hospitals, schools and kindergartens. Unmanned combat aerial vehicles have, moreover, become their principal means of killing and maiming civilians. Last year, the share of casualties among ordinary people accounted for by the Ukrainian armed forces’ use of drones rose from 35 to 75 per cent. The military experts present in this room are well aware that drone operators can accurately identify whether the target of a strike is a civilian. The members of the “drone coalition” supplying Ukraine with UAVs, which comprises 20 Western countries, should face up to the truly incontestable facts regarding the crimes committed daily by the Ukrainian armed forces as they deliberately conduct strikes on the civilian population of Russian regions. They are making themselves into instigators of, and accomplices in, these criminal actions.

It is characteristic that surges in the Ukrainian armed forces’ strikes against civilian infrastructure occurred at the same time as the intensification of the negotiation process in the spring and summer of 2025. Following the initiation of dialogue between the leaders of the Russian Federation and the United States of America, the intensity of artillery, missile and drone attacks increased by about a quarter. What is more, on the eve of the summit in Anchorage there were as many as 430 to 460 strikes per day. And whereas the Kyiv regime organized a series of terrorist attacks on railways in the Bryansk, Kursk and Voronezh regions (claiming more than 120 casualties) before the second round of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations in Istanbul, there was a sharp increase in the number of UAV attacks on civilian targets in the Rostov, Kursk and Belgorod regions in the run-up to the meeting between Presidents Putin and Trump in Alaska. These are clear provocations aimed at prompting Russia to take firm countermeasures so that it can then be accused of “inhumanity”, thereby derailing the peaceful settlement that was taking shape.

In total, the Ukrainian armed forces’ aggression in 2025 claimed at least 6,481 civilian casualties, with at least 1,065 people killed. The total number of civilians who have suffered at the hands of the Ukrainian “fighters” over the past four years is 26,148, of whom at least 18,402 were injured and maimed. These are women, children and elderly people over whom the West sheds no tears. It should surprise no one that the armed forces of the Russian Federation reserve the right to deliver a matching response to the Kyiv regime’s terrorist attacks.

Madam Chairperson,

While efforts are being undertaken to bring about a peaceful settlement, there is not the least sign of a let-up in the plying of the Kyiv regime with weapons and money by European countries. Then again, war profiteering and double standards have already become the calling card of NATO and the European Union. They both remain hell-bent on using the Ukrainian armed forces as a battering ram with which to work against the Russian Federation.

In recent months, the Europeans have stepped up their measures for the provision of military-technical and military-financial assistance to the Kyiv regime. They continue to feverishly scout for and buy up arms, ammunition and dual-use goods from third-party countries, doing so not least in breach of their obligations as laid down in end-user certificates.

When it comes to flooding Ukraine with weapons, one of the “frontrunners” is Germany, which has announced that the 2026 federal budget includes 13.5 billion dollars earmarked for funding the Kyiv regime. In addition, Germany has signed contracts with Ukraine for the supply of spare parts for Patriot surface-to-air missiles and the procurement of UAVs to be subsequently transferred to the Ukrainian armed forces.

France intends in the near future to deliver additional ammunition for use with the SAMP/T long-range surface-to-air missile system, along with Caesar 155 mm calibre self-propelled artillery systems. The authorities in Paris do not care that these artillery systems have been used by the Ukrainian armed forces during all these years to shell densely populated urban areas in the Donetsk People's Republic, leading to civilian casualties.

The countries of northern Europe are not slackening their pace either. Norway has announced the allocation of 7 billion dollars towards the implementation of a NATO programme for the procurement of US weapons to meet the priority needs of the Ukrainian armed forces. The Netherlands has earmarked 750 million dollars for the manufacture of drones, while Finland has announced yet another military aid package to satisfy the interests of the Ukrainian armed forces, in this case to the tune of 108 million dollars.

A noteworthy development is Romania's desire to speed up the construction of a motorway that will eventually connect Constanța and Bucharest with Ukraine and Moldova in order to increase the logistical capabilities for the conveyance of equipment and goods in that direction. It is clear that this is being done not simply out of "charitable motives" to help Ukraine, but, rather, to get the infrastructure of NATO and EU States ready for a potential high-intensity conflict with the Russian Federation.

Work is also under way to fast-track the integration of Ukraine into the overall EU security and military-industrial framework without waiting for the country to become a member of the European Union. The ultra-nationalist regime in Kyiv is being given the opportunity to participate in the SAFE (Security Action for Europe) financial mechanism as part of the European Defence Industry Programme. It all boils down to the EU Member States establishing a long-term production base for weaponry and military equipment for the Ukrainian armed forces. No wonder that the European Union is not even thinking about peace in Ukraine. The military "beefing up" of the Kyiv regime is a chance for Europe to buy time so that it can further develop its own military-industrial complex.

That explains why the Europeans are so hooked on the Ukrainian "project". It is understandable why they do not respond to admonitions that their "nurturing" of the Ukrainian armed forces and their investments in the Ukrainian military-industrial complex are merely encouraging Volodymyr Zelenskyy's regime to continue the hostilities and making the prospect of a political and diplomatic settlement of the crisis even more remote.

But what is the price that Ukraine, playing the role of their proxy, is being forced to pay for this EU and NATO policy?

This year's first exchange of bodies of fallen military personnel took place last week. Ukraine was handed over 1,000 bodies, while 38 bodies were repatriated to Russia. The overall ratio for such exchanges is almost 7 to 1, and since early 2025 it has stood at 36 to 1. These figures give the lie to the false argument of Ukrainian and Western propaganda that the Russian armed forces, alleged to be suffering heavier losses than the Ukrainian armed forces, are unable to make any advances.

The fact that Ukraine's mobilization pool is running low is by now being openly stated not only by the authorities in Kyiv, but also by the Ukrainian armed forces "fighters" themselves. In a recent interview with *The New York Times*, these spoke openly about the difficult situation faced by the Kyiv regime in the Zaporozhye region: "We're constantly short on people." "A battalion is supposed to have around 500 soldiers. In reality, we're lucky if we have 100." "Out of those 100, perhaps only 50 are actually combat-ready – those not wounded or exhausted." Moreover, they compared the way they have to operate on the battlefield with the work of firefighters trying to put out several fires at once and rushing from one to another without any success.

All this also serves to confirm that the initiative on the battlefield, no matter how much Western delegations try to obfuscate this fact through various estimates and comparisons, remains with the Russian troops. Just in the course of January this year, our troops liberated a total of 24 population centres.

Last week, in response to Ukraine's terrorist attacks against civilian objects on Russian territory, our armed forces conducted one barrage attack and six waves of strikes, hitting Ukrainian military-industrial plants being used to serve the interests of the Ukrainian armed forces, along with transport infrastructure facilities, ammunition and fuel depots, production facilities and storage, pre-flight preparation and launch sites for long-range UAVs, and temporary bases for Ukrainian armed formations and foreign mercenaries. The Ukrainian armed forces lost some 8,760 military personnel, at least 121 armoured combat vehicles, 380 motor vehicles and 66 materiel depots during this period.

Our opponents must realize that the West will not succeed in creating a staging ground in Ukraine for a subsequent offensive against Russia. Through their recklessness, the Kyiv regime and its handlers are merely making life more difficult for themselves and complicating the search for possible compromise options. It seems that some politicians in Europe are beginning to understand this. Suffice it to recall the remarks made at a joint meeting of three key committees of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives on 28 January this year by Prime Minister Bart De Wever, who said that funding a war with no prospect of victory was tantamount to funding inhumane suffering.

Increasing and expanding the provision of military assistance to the Kyiv regime and any other steps leading to NATO States' further involvement in confrontation with Russia in and around Ukraine have the potential to lead to a direct armed clash between nuclear powers.

It is not too late for the Europeans to clear the obstructions they are throwing up on the path towards a settlement. NATO and EU countries should finally stop pandering to the Kyiv regime's ultra-nationalist ambitions; they should not supply it with arms and must desist from equipping and training the Ukrainian armed forces and other Ukrainian armed formations.

Russia's fundamental commitment to a constructive search for ways of bringing about a peaceful settlement through dialogue as the preferred method of achieving the special military operation's goals remains unchanged. Europe, though, will have to make up its mind about whether it considers peace to be more important than continuing to use the Kyiv regime to work against our country.

Thank you for your attention.