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**STATEMENT BY
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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: Provocative military activities by countries of NATO and the European Union

Madam Chairperson,

In the current round of negotiations, the French Chairmanship proposed to unlock the potential of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) as a platform for dialogue on military risk reduction and de-escalation of politico-military tensions. At the same time, instead of a pan-European dialogue on confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), which is being blocked here at the FSC through no fault of our own, Western countries have begun to “generate” parallel formats for discussing the Vienna Document 2011 on CSBMs with a “small group” of participants. Moreover, they are shamelessly using the official channel for politico-military communication within the OSCE – the OSCE Communications Network – to advertise them. This is yet another blow by NATO and EU countries to the already moribund politico-military dimension of the OSCE.

In this regard, we propose using the FSC’s functions as intended and drawing the attention of the participating States to the dangerous trend of militarization in Europe, which could lead to unpredictable consequences for international peace and security.

Today, we are witnessing the North Atlantic Alliance prepare for a large-scale military confrontation with the Russian Federation. European capitals have already set a time frame of two to four years for this. In particular, Lieutenant General Christian Freuding, Inspector and Chief of the German Army, confirmed in a recent interview with the *Handelsblatt* newspaper that NATO is preparing for a conflict with Russia by 2029. Similar calculations are also being made in France, where huge sums of money are being allocated to update the defence planning programme for 2026–2030 with the overall goal of preparing the country for participation in large-scale combat operations. In Norway, at the end of December 2025, the Government announced the start of work on the first long-term plan for civil preparedness for crises and war.

We can see a clear desire on the part of the current leadership of NATO/EU countries to make the militarization of Europe irreversible. The local elites do not care that the increase in military spending is taking place against the backdrop of stagnating European economies (gross domestic product growth in

2023–2025 was between 0.4 and 1.2 per cent) and will put additional pressure on the social sphere of the respective countries in the future.

The concept of “containing Russia” promoted by the Europeans is being achieved primarily by building up conventional armed forces. At the same time, the implementation of the Military Mobility Package will strengthen the infrastructure for high-intensity combat operations on NATO’s “eastern flank” (or is it already the “eastern front”?), the reinforcement of which is a priority. The Eastern Flank Deterrence Line concept presented last week by Brigadier General Thomas Lowin, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations at NATO Allied Land Command, offers a glimpse of an automated “deterrence zone” along the borders of the Union State of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation, which could inflict critical damage on a “potential adversary” when full-scale combat operations begin.

Barbed wire has already been rolled out along the border with our country, now it seems that there will be minefields too. In preparation for a full-scale war with Russia, the Baltic States, Poland and Finland have announced their withdrawal from the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. But any decision to deploy anti-personnel mines on their territory will, first and foremost, endanger the lives of their own citizens.

At the same time, the bloc’s focus on confrontation with Russia is also reflected in aggressive military training scenarios. For example, from 2 January until 18 March, Germany is hosting a major joint NATO exercise “Steadfast Dart 26” involving some 10,000 military personnel from 11 Alliance countries. The objective of this exercise is to demonstrate Germany’s ability to serve as a key logistics hub for the transfer of troops to the “eastern flank”. It is emphasized that, in the event of an armed conflict involving NATO, the Germans should be able to accommodate and facilitate the transit of up to 800,000 troops and 200,000 vehicles through its territory within six months. Just think about these figures. The trend towards the remilitarization of Germany evokes historical parallels that German leaders would previously have been ashamed of.

Incidentally, aggressive intentions towards Russia are now being openly announced by NATO countries also through the pan-European channel of politico-military communication – the OSCE Communications Network. A telling example in this regard was Norway’s recent notification of the “Cold Response” exercise, as part of which, in a month’s time, some 25,000 military personnel will be trained to defeat enemy forces in all manner of environments and using all services. By the way, I should like to remind you that our troops did indeed enter Norway once. However, not as aggressors, but as liberators. This was in 1944 during the Petsamo-Kirkenes operation to liberate northern Norway from the fascist invaders. Six years ago, King Harald V of Norway called the Red Army soldiers who participated in the country’s liberation from the Nazis heroes of the kingdom. It seems that today’s European politicians would like to erase that memory.

European countries are also rehearsing urban warfare tactics. In particular, at the Cenzub training centre near the town of Sissonne in France, activities are conducted at a training ground that includes a mock city with a population of 5,000, which is a realistic reconstruction of a complex urban environment, including residential areas and industrial zones. What can I say? We remember well how NATO instructors once trained the Ukrainian armed forces to fight in urban environments using the Kill House simulator at the Yavoriv military training ground in the Lviv region of Ukraine. And while the training ground itself was destroyed by our high-precision strike in the early days of the special military operation, Ukrainian nationalists continue to engage in the practice of setting up firing positions in residential buildings and using civilians as human shields, in violation of international humanitarian law. We know what you teach and how you will wage war in the event of a potential conflict. Remember – the boomerang comes back.

There is also a steady trend towards the conversion of civilian infrastructure in NATO countries for military use. Last week, the Netherlands completed national air force exercises involving F-35 fighter jets from NATO's dedicated air group to test the possibility of using the country's largest civilian airport, Schiphol, for military purposes. A similar trend applies to ports, logistics hubs and railway networks as part of efforts to increase military mobility within NATO. In the future, all this may be necessary for the Alliance countries to quickly transfer forces and assets, including heavy equipment, to the "eastern flank".

It is not surprising that ordinary citizens are already suffering because of Europe's obsession with preparing for a real war. For example, in the Lithuanian town of Kapčiamiestis, dozens of civilians will be evicted from their homes as a result of the authorities' plans to build a new military training ground (just 500 metres from the Belarusian border). On 24 January this year, in protest at this development, around 1,000 Lithuanians called for an end to the country's militarization. But it was all for nothing. Turning Lithuania into a NATO training ground has become a priority for the current leadership in Vilnius. Anyone who opposes the destruction of their home is automatically labelled a "Kremlin agent".

In these circumstances, it is understandable why European States have launched a large-scale "programme of indoctrination" of their population to prepare for war against Russia. Not so long ago, in November 2025, the Chief of France's Defence Staff, General Fabien Mandon, recommended at the annual congress of mayors that the country should be "prepared to accept losing its children". And now the country's Ministry of Defence has announced the start of recruitment of young people into the army as part of a national service initiative launched at the end of 2025 – voluntary military service, upon completion of which "volunteers" may already be called up in the event of a major crisis. Brainwashing is also being carried out with regard to minors. The "collective against the militarization of youth and schools", a non-governmental organization, notes that militarization in French educational institutions has reached unprecedented levels.

These are just a few examples.

Madam Chairperson,

Any sensible person would ask: why is Europe spinning this military "flywheel"?

After all, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, has repeatedly confirmed that we do not harbour any aggressive intentions towards members of NATO and the European Union and would be prepared to set out the relevant guarantees in writing in a legal document. Of course, this would be on a collective, reciprocal basis in line with the approaches outlined earlier.

But all we get in response is a deliberate escalation of militaristic psychosis.

All of this testifies to the fact that Europe is not interested in de-escalation today.

For its part, the Russian Federation, as a responsible global power, adheres consistently to its policy of not allowing a direct military clash to happen.

However, the direct risks and threats to security being generated by the Alliance are inevitably factored into our military development and defence planning. Russia's security will be guaranteed whatever the scenario. The necessary measures to that end are already being taken and will be taken so as to nullify all the attempts by the bloc to project power vis-à-vis our country. Do not be surprised and do not say that you were not warned about this.

It is not too late for the countries of Europe to abandon their aggressive rhetoric, cease provocative military activities and renounce eastward expansion. Steps in this direction would help to create an atmosphere conducive to discussing ways of strengthening security on the European continent, mutually taking into account each other's interests and based on the OSCE's key principle of the indivisibility of security.

Thank you for your attention.