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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1557th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 March 2026

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,

The alarming and tragic events concerning Iran have meant that, for logistical reasons, it was impossible to hold a new round of talks this week on a long-term and sustainable settlement of the Ukrainian crisis. However, this has by no means dampened the zeal of the European sponsors of the authorities in Kyiv to undermine the efforts of Russian and US negotiators.

I have already spoken about something which vividly confirmed that, namely how the Kyiv regime, drawing on the assistance of British military experts, used Storm Shadow long-range missiles to strike at the peaceful city of Bryansk. The aim of that British-Ukrainian operation is obvious: to derail the peace process and bring about an escalation of the hostilities through a large-scale provocation involving civilian casualties. We do not rule out that what triggered the operation were remarks recently coming out of Washington to the effect that a “turning point” had been reached in the talks on a Ukrainian settlement and that achieving peace was quite realistic. And that being the case, then, according to the logic of the authorities in London and several other European capitals, such a scenario must be prevented at all costs.

Even so, the European Union and NATO continue to insist that the Old World is not seeking confrontation with Russia. However, facts are stubborn things, and they tell a different story. We are witnessing the complete militarization of Europe and a systematic campaign to brainwash its population on a scale that is unprecedented in modern history. There can be no doubt that the European Union is preparing for war with Russia.

Thus, the European Union has officially announced a policy of accelerated rearmament. A mechanism called SAFE (Security Action for Europe) has been set up that provides for pooled borrowing of up to 150 billion euros for military needs, with total planned military expenditure reaching the astronomical figure of 800 billion euros. Particular emphasis is placed on hyping up the image of Russia as an “existential threat” that needs to be eliminated.

However, militarization is on the rise not only as regards conventional arms. At previous Permanent Council meetings we have already discussed the reckless plans of the European members of the “nuclear club”. Now alarming signals are coming from Northern Europe as well. The Finnish Government has announced that it intends to amend national legislation with a view to lifting the ban on the import of nuclear weapons and their storage on Finnish territory, that is, on the storage of nuclear weapons right next door to Russia.

It goes without saying that this rash and provocative move will not strengthen the security of Finland itself. On the contrary, by posing new and large-scale threats to the security of the Russian Federation, it will make Finland a potential target for a retaliatory strike. There can be only one conclusion: the European elites, driven mad by Russophobia and the realization that their role in the world is diminishing, are consciously and systematically pushing our continent towards the abyss. And this instead of heeding Russia’s repeated proposals for dialogue and finally setting about the construction of a system of equal and reliable security that would take into account not only European but also Russian interests. The price, though, for this rampant European arrogance, which is intertwined with racism and hatred towards all things Russian, will be paid by ordinary Europeans, who are currently being persuaded that the forthcoming new war in Europe will be a mere cakewalk, not unlike a computer game. Since contemporary European textbooks are assiduously blotting out the historical truth, the Europeans would do well to ask their grandparents how such illusions played out for the old continent on more than one occasion in the past.

For more than four years now, ordinary Ukrainians have been paying with their lives for this most dangerous delusion and for alien geopolitical interests – ordinary Ukrainians, who are currently being denied any opportunity to speak their mind by a regime that has usurped all the levers of democracy. In a country where, right under the noses of European “champions” of human rights, people are being seized on the streets and forcibly packed off to the front, stripped as they are of all rights and freedoms, speaking one’s mind is impossible by definition. As a result, Ukraine today has become synonymous not only with dictatorship and the decay of public institutions, but also with rank corruption and boorishness on the international stage – a boorishness that has been elevated to State policy. For example, as they overtly use the transit of energy resources from Russia to try to twist the arm of two members of the European Union, officials in the Ukrainian capital are indulging in such unrestrained rhetoric towards their neighbours that even the European Commission snapped and was obliged to take those malicious extortionists in Kyiv down a peg. However, this is not stopping the Kyiv leadership, and so we already have a retired general of the Security Service of Ukraine appearing on national television and threatening Viktor Orbán and his family with reprisals. At the same time, it is becoming increasingly noticeable that the tail is trying to wag the dog, and those in Brussels are finding it ever harder to control their emboldened protégés.

Thus, Europe is on the brink of an oil and gas crisis, yet the Kyiv regime has not only cut off the Druzhba oil pipeline, but is also attempting to halt the operation of the Blue Stream and TurkStream gas pipelines in the Black Sea. We warned about these plans of Zelenskyy’s at our last meeting, but many people did not believe us at the time. Yesterday, though, the Russkaya compressor station was attacked and there were also strikes on other facilities sustaining the flow of gas through both pipelines. It will be interesting to see how the EU authorities will try to justify this attempt by Zelenskyy to undermine what little remains of European energy security.

We sympathize with our European colleagues – after all, you still need to come up with some halfway coherent version of the events leading up to the detention of that “Ukrainian gold convoy” in Hungary – a version that must at the same time not be damning for the corrupt authorities in Kyiv. For the benefit of those not in the know, we recall that seven Ukrainian citizens travelling in two armoured vehicles were detained at the Hungarian-Austrian border in early March. They were found to be carrying 40 million US dollars, 35 million euros and 9 kg of gold. In total, this works out as around

115 million dollars in cash! Among those detained was a retired general of the Security Service of Ukraine. However, as is clear from media reporting, this was by no means the first such money-laundering run.

One could be forgiven for curiosity as to how this textbook case of corruption will be presented to the European public and how the reluctance of the authorities in Kyiv to use international bank transfers will be explained away. After all, sanctions were meant to have been imposed on Russia, yet it is Ukraine that is applying sanctions against itself. Let us not speculate, though – it is of no interest to us, and to be honest, such covering up for one another is quite simply repugnant.

We can see that the conscience of Zelenskyy's European sponsors is not troubled in the least by their having to make up excuses to justify him in the eyes of ordinary Europeans, who with each day are paying ever higher prices for heating their homes and filling their petrol tanks, are faced with rising inflation and declining living standards – all so that the corrupt leaders in Kyiv can enjoy even more of the good life. And against this backdrop, the Brussels bureaucrats are promoting yet another aid package for Ukraine, in this case one worth 90 billion euros – a sum that has almost certainly been siphoned off by those in Kyiv long ago, which explains why they are very worried about the new funds still not having come in. We agree with Slovak Member of the European Parliament Luboš Blaha, who recently gave a most apt description of the ruling apparatus in Kyiv as “one huge corruption washing machine worth hundreds of billions of dollars and euros”.

It would seem that the notorious “European values” nowadays have been all but reduced to servicing this “washing machine”. And to ensure that the machine keeps spinning, the powers that be in London, Berlin, Paris and Brussels are ready to scupper any efforts aimed at achieving a long-term and sustainable settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, which is possible only if its root causes are addressed.

Thank you for your attention.