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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1536th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 October 2025

On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in further confrontation in and around Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

On the night of 31 August 1939, a group consisting of members of the Nazi security service carried out a simulated Polish attack to seize a radio station in the small German city of Gleiwitz near the Polish border. This incident was then used by the leadership of the Third Reich as justification for invading Poland and triggering the Second World War. Today there is reason to believe that Volodymyr Zelenskyy's regime is drawing up similar plans with the help of Western intelligence services.

Strikes on transport hubs in Romania and Poland are being prepared in Ukraine using refitted Russian unmanned aerial vehicles so that Russia can subsequently be accused. This topic has been covered by the Hungarian media. In addition, the relevant Russian agencies are in possession of information indicating that Ukraine is preparing to "infiltrate" into Polish territory a sabotage and reconnaissance party allegedly drawn from Russian and Belarusian special forces, but actually made up of fighters from the so-called "Freedom of Russia Legion" and the "Kastuś Kalinoŭski Regiment" who are fighting on the side of the Ukrainian armed forces. The plan is that, once these fighters have been "disarmed" by Polish law enforcement, the arrested men will make "confessions" implicating Russia and Belarus in being engaged in an attempt to destabilize Poland.

Such playing with fire following the templates of 1939 is jeopardizing the security of the whole of Europe. We are seeing how the groundwork for false-flag operations of this kind is now being laid with full fury. The goal is clear and easy to understand: among the circles of power in NATO countries there is currently a growing demand for means to artificially create a climate of fear and crisis within society so as to justify the unpopular measures aimed at increasing military spending in support of the Kyiv regime, restricting civil liberties and getting the public to rally around false Russophobic narratives. There is no other way of accounting for the multiplying instances of "drone incidents" along the entire border arc between the North Atlantic Alliance and Russia. Things are being carried to the point of absurdity: night-time images showing flying objects of some sort fitted with flashing beacons are presented as "Russian drones" (so far they have not come up with the idea of having these beacons emit light in the colours of the Russian tricolour, but that will evidently be the next step).

The “drone hysteria” is already leading to specific measures to ramp up military tensions. A programme called “Eastern Sentry” is being rolled out for the further military “beefing up” of NATO’s eastern flank. Under the pretext of “a growing number of sightings of unidentified drones”, the Danish authorities have announced an urgent call-up of reservists. The Netherlands has unveiled plans to station Patriot and NASAMS surface-to-air missile systems and anti-drone systems in Poland as of December.

In view of this, one cannot but be extremely alarmed by the recent statements coming from Washington to the effect that the United States of America is willing to sell to Europe, for subsequent transfer to Ukraine, long-range missiles that can potentially be fitted with nuclear warheads. In carrying out such plans, Western countries on both sides of the Atlantic are deliberately working towards a dramatic escalation of the conflict.

As for European countries, their leaders, towed along by the most aggressive forces within NATO, are sacrificing the safety and welfare of their own citizens. Instead of addressing domestic socio-economic problems, resources are being squandered on cranking up the machinery of militarism. However, behind all this there is something bigger than mere defence needs. We are talking about a fundamental transformation of the European [security] architecture. By promoting the image of Russia as an absolute threat, the ruling elites are killing several birds with one stone: they are legitimizing tremendous military spending, diverting their citizens’ attention away from domestic crises (inflation, deindustrialization, migration) towards an “external foe” and establishing new ideological foundations for the European Union that are built on confrontation with Russia. Under the pretext of “protection against the Russian threat”, a new Iron Curtain is being erected on the continent – not only in the geopolitical sense, but also in terms of mentality as it involves the tightening of control over information and the suppression of dissent.

In the information space, the citizens of European countries are being assiduously kept in the dark about what their governments are in fact up to when it comes to the crisis in and around Ukraine. About the fact that this dangerous course is leading not to a strengthening of security, but to the most profound destabilization and risks for the very future of the European project. About the fact that taxpayers’ money in the countries participating in the “drone coalition” is going towards the killing of civilians in Russia courtesy of the Kyiv regime.

The military censorship in Europe will hardly allow the press to talk freely about how the Kyiv regime continued its heinous campaign of terror against the civilian population during the week from 22 to 28 September. The figures speak for themselves: 17 people killed, including three children, and 139 injured, including 11 minors. These are not simply statistics – a shattered human life lies behind each such number. What are we seeing in practice? Targeted strikes on civilian infrastructure, the bombardment of cities and towns using multiple rocket launchers, drone attacks on civilians. A three-year-old girl with an injury to the head after a strike on a petrol filling station in the city of Donetsk; a drone targeting a car with two children aged 8 and 12 years inside; an 86-year-old woman killed during artillery shelling. Particularly egregious are the attacks on social infrastructure – on a polyclinic in Shebekino, where a 78-year-old woman who was being treated there became a casualty; on public utilities in Energodar. The Kyiv regime is showing complete disregard for the norms of international humanitarian law. Maybe the OSCE leadership will, after all, take notice of the Ukrainian formations’ war crimes?

Does the average European citizen know what lurks beneath the “shiny” gloss of “support for Ukraine” informing the policies of his or her government? For example, that the Zelenskyy regime’s sponsors regard the Ukrainians themselves merely as a military resource to be deployed against Russia? That Ukraine itself has turned into a veritable concentration camp, where border guards are not busy protecting the borders from external threats but, rather, catching citizens of their own country who are trying

to escape forced mobilization and the decline in living standards? Moreover, the Kyiv regime's Western partners, who only yesterday were all smiles and cheer while taking in refugees, are now changing their policy. Canada is demanding that Ukrainian men provide certificates of military service. The European Union is planning to phase out the temporary protection programme, thereby seeking to prod refugees into going back home. The rationale behind these actions is obvious: the West needs cannon fodder so that it can continue its proxy war against Russia. Accompanied by slogans about "support for Ukraine", a cynical operation is under way to get people on the mobilization lists. The Kyiv regime's allies are openly assisting the Zelenskyy junta with its ruthless policy of war "down to the last Ukrainian". They are willing to sacrifice the future of an entire nation for the sake of achieving their geopolitical goals. This is not "support for Ukraine" – it is support for none other than the nationalistic and corrupt Kyiv regime, which is using Russophobia as barter in its dealings with those who are trying to inflict some sort of "strategic defeat" on Russia.

Western propaganda will scarcely let it be known that the Kyiv regime is constructing its ideology on the basis of rejection of, and hatred towards, everything connected with Russia. What is currently happening with the Russian language in Ukraine is a veritable cultural and spiritual tragedy. The systematic demonization of the Russian language at the official level has led to an upsurge in xenophobia in everyday life. People brainwashed by propaganda have now become censors themselves and are persecuting their fellow citizens for speaking in a tongue that they have been indoctrinated into regarding as "alien" and "hostile". The hypocrisy of this system is illustrated most vividly by the case of the "language ombudsperson", Olena Ivanovska: her own daughter posts on social media in Russian, as otherwise there would simply be nobody wanting to read what she has to say. But instead of acknowledging reality, this functionary calls the Russian language a "security threat" and blames Russian bloggers for the problems besetting young people. Things have got to the point that the popular animated series *Masha and the Bear* is pronounced dangerous and Russian-speaking children are referred to as "second-class". This is not protection of a language – it is the cultivation of hatred towards one's fellow citizens. Such forced Ukrainization is a social experiment designed to divide society. Instead of unity, there is harassment; instead of culture, prohibitions. And this experiment, which is being conducted to the drumbeat of patriotic slogans, is in reality destroying the very soul of the Ukrainian people, a soul that for centuries has been and remains indissolubly bound up with Russian culture.

Unprecedented judicial proceedings are unfolding in Ukraine before our eyes, the purpose of which is to completely ban the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC). The authorities are demanding not only that its activities be wound down, but that 5 to 6 million believers be stripped of the right to pray in their houses of worship. It is not just the clergy who are threatened with criminal prosecution, but also ordinary parishioners because the tightening of legislation will make it possible to criminalize the mere fact of membership in the UOC, attendance at UOC services and donations for the upkeep of its churches.

On 28 August 2025, the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnopolitics and Freedom of Conscience officially ruled that the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church is an organization affiliated with the Russian Orthodox Church. This ruling serves as the basis for banning a canonical church outright through court action. The first hearing in the case regarding the complete prohibition of the canonical UOC, which might well end up depriving millions of believers of their Church and opening the door to criminal prosecutions, has been postponed owing to the judge's ill health. The hearings have been rescheduled for 30 October; however, this is not stopping a fresh deluge of pressure on a Church which the authorities in Kyiv continue to accuse of having ties with the Russian Orthodox Church.

These proceedings are but part of an ongoing systematic persecution. Churches are seized by force, priests are being harried. The facts point to the systematic destruction of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine. I shall cite just some data: by 2023 there was not one UOC church left in

Ivano-Frankivsk or Lviv; in the autumn of 2023, the UOC had a number of cathedrals taken away from it in Chernihiv; in 2025 alone, more than 1,900 UOC parishes were re-registered under the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. More than 80 local injunctions against the activities of the UOC have been issued in Ukraine; over 1,000 searches have taken place in churches and monasteries; around 180 criminal proceedings have been initiated against ecclesiastics, with 30 sentences handed down on UOC clergy and 20 bishops stripped of Ukrainian citizenship; the head of the UOC, the Metropolitan Onufriy, has also had his citizenship revoked. A new form of repression against UOC clergymen is taking shape, namely their forced mobilization into the Ukrainian armed forces. On 26 December 2024, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine made the granting of exemption from mobilization to clergymen conditional on their belonging to a religious organization. Parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church were not listed among the 7,726 eligible organizations. We demand that the OSCE executive structures, first and foremost the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, react to this intolerable situation.

In closing, we must point out that Russia will respond appropriately to all threats; it will protect its citizens and ensure their safety by all available means. Nor will we allow any covering or hushing up of the attempts by the countries of the anti-Russian alliance to sponsor flagrant violations of rights and freedoms to suit their geopolitical interests, likewise of the irresponsible course they are steering to foment large-scale politico-military destabilization in Europe.

Thank you for your attention.