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PC.DEL/1129/25  
23 October 2025

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1539th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 October 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia has consistently and systematically called for a sustainable settlement of the Ukrainian crisis. Our position is unchanged: we remain open to a constructive dialogue, but it is pointless to demand of Russia that it should forgo defending its national interests and discard the agreed principles for a settlement. Over the past week, the leadership of the Russian Federation has held a series of substantive diplomatic contacts with the US administration. On 16 October, the Russian and US Presidents spoke by telephone. There was also a telephone conversation later on between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the US Secretary of State. The possibility of holding a personal meeting between the two Presidents is being explored. On the whole, these contacts have served to reaffirm commitment to the direction of travel on which Presidents Putin and Trump agreed following their meeting in Alaska. It is essentially guided by the need for a long-term sustainable peace, rather than an immediate and fruitless ceasefire. That is the formula to which we subscribe.

We would remind you that, at the practical level, this presupposes guarantees of a non-aligned, neutral and non-nuclear status for Ukraine, the abandonment of any attempts to draw Ukraine into NATO, and a stop being put to the Kyiv regime's persecution of the Russian and Russian-speaking population.

Having a meaningful conversation about how to end the Ukrainian crisis once and for all is apparently not everyone's cup of tea. We note the various alarming statements that once again show who it is that is actually standing in the way of a peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian crisis. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas is saying openly that any negotiations without the involvement of Ukraine and the European Union are futile. Such words eloquently bespeak one thing: that the European bureaucrats, sensing the risk of real dialogue taking place between Russia and the United States of America, are doing everything they can to derail it. They do not put forward peace initiatives; instead, they go off in a panic to draw up "contingency plans" as they seek to replace the United States as sponsors of the Kyiv regime. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has been especially zealous in this regard, bombastically professing "unwavering commitment" to Ukraine. This begs the question: commitment to what? To continuing the war down to the last Ukrainian? To scuppering potential peace agreements? Poland, too, has particularly

“distinguished” itself by threatening, through its Foreign Minister, the safety of President Putin’s aircraft if he were to fly over for talks with President Trump.

Those who support a continuation of the war have changed their tactics: they are no longer openly preaching the infliction of some sort of “strategic defeat” on Russia, but are trying on the robes of peacemakers. They call for “stopping immediately”, with all the discussing to be left for later on. We would draw your attention to the hypocritical exercise in rhetoric published by the British authorities on 21 October in the name of Keir Starmer, Volodymyr Zelenskyy and several other European leaders. Under the guise of calls for a ceasefire, what they are effectively offering Russia is a continuation of the war by other means. Let us decipher their true intentions.

First, they bluntly state how they intend to put Ukraine “in the strongest possible position” once a ceasefire is already in place. This can mean but one thing: that any pause is to be used for rearming and preparation for a new round of hostilities. Secondly, they openly talk of “ramp[ing] up the pressure on Russia’s economy”. In other words, peace negotiations for them are merely a smokescreen for carrying on with economic warfare. Thirdly, they confirm their plans to rapaciously confiscate Russian assets. We are no longer talking about sanctions here: this is brazen brigandry on the international stage. Thus, under the cloak of “peace initiatives”, they are offering us the same package of ultimatums: we are to stop, while they continue to arm the Kyiv regime, strangle the Russian economy and rob us of our money.

We wish to make it quite clear that Russia will not allow the pretence of a “truce” to be used to impose terms of capitulation on us. We call for a real peace process aimed at eliminating the root causes of the conflict, as opposed to giving the Zelenskyy regime a breathing space so that it can prepare fresh terrorist attacks on Russian civilian infrastructure and civilians.

These attacks, by the way, continue unabated. Let us cite some facts concerning the Kyiv regime’s terrorist activities against Russia’s civilian population in the course of the week from 13 to 19 October. More than 200,000 civilian households were left without electricity as a result of attacks on energy facilities. Bombardments claimed 105 civilian casualties: 85 people were injured and 20 killed, including two minors. Ivan Zuev, a correspondent of the Rossiya Segodnya news agency, was killed in a strike conducted in the Zaporozhye region by the Ukrainian armed forces, while his colleague Yuri Voytkевич was seriously injured. In addition to drone strikes, artillery and long-range multiple-launch rocket systems were also used to fire at civilian objects. Emergency workers came under fire; rescuers from the Emergencies Ministry suffered casualties. There have been attacks on city traffic and also instances of remote mining, in which both civilians and rescuers have been killed and injured. Last week, the Kyiv regime’s formations apparently declared open season against local government leaders: altogether, four heads of local administrations in the Belgorod region were injured by drone attacks.

Against this backdrop, some European countries are openly supporting Ukrainian terrorists and saboteurs. The Prime Minister of Poland, Donald Tusk, publicly hailed the ruling whereby a Polish court declined a request from Germany to extradite a man suspected of involvement in blowing up the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline and ordered his release. “And rightly so. The case is closed,” said Mr. Tusk in a cynical statement that *de facto* legitimizes international terrorism, tramples underfoot the foundations of European jurisprudence and demonstrates utter disregard for the security of the whole of Europe’s energy infrastructure.

Moreover, Mr. Tusk is not bothered by the fact that those who were involved in the mass extermination of civilians, including the slaughter of Polish civilians, continue to be officially honoured in Ukraine. On 15 October, the anniversary of Stepan Bandera’s death, a requiem was held for him in Ivano-Frankivsk. What is particularly sacrilegious is that the ceremony was attended by representatives of

the local authorities who refer to this Nazi accomplice as an embodiment of the “spirit of freedom” and claim that his legacy is “helping to build the State, its culture, spirituality and resilience”. Does Poland still have any historical memory left? After all, we are talking here about the selfsame Stepan Bandera whose followers went about butchering Poles. And so while the Polish Government pompously defends Ukrainian terrorists, Poland’s neighbours openly sing the praises of executioners of the Polish people.

Mr. Chairperson,

Apart from glorifying Nazi henchmen, Ukraine continues to be the scene of flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We shall illustrate this by citing just a few facts.

The Ukrainian Myrotvorets website, notorious as a tool for persecuting dissenters, has plumbed new depths of cynicism and inhumanity. Two- and three-year-old children are now listed in its database. Yes, you have not misheard: little children who will have barely learned to talk are being accused of “conscious Russian aggression” and “encroaching on the sovereignty of Ukraine”. This is not simply an egregious violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – it is the destruction of the very concept of childhood, the creation of a system where infants are declared to be targets, and also a direct threat to the lives of minors. The Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights has sent an official request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to demand that any details of children be immediately removed from that database. This situation calls for a resolute response from the international community. When a regime sponsored by Western countries begins to hunt down children, it means that all red lines have been crossed. It is no longer a question simply of war crimes, but of the systematic destruction of humanitarian values. We demand that this practice be condemned forthwith, that urgent measures be taken to protect children and that, in general, an inquiry be conducted into the activities of the Myrotvorets website as an instrument of terror.

We are once again compelled to draw the Permanent Council’s attention to the unashamed policy of State chauvinism being implemented by the Kyiv regime. The Ukrainian State Language Protection Commissioner, Olena Ivanovska, has publicly indicated that Russian needs to be removed from the list of languages requiring protection, purportedly so as to bring the provisions of the Act on Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages into line with an updated translation of the Charter. Her cynical phrase about how “Russian does not need protection”, in point of fact, can mean only one thing, namely that the plan is to further tighten the policy of systematic destruction of the Russian language and culture in Ukraine. This is not simply a human rights violation. It is the conscious construction of a nationalistic State in which an entire people is declared to be non-existent and its language as “not needing protection”. We would remind you that, in July 2021, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine ruled that Russians did not make up a “separate national group” in that country. Now, under the pretext of “correcting the translation” of that European Charter, the authorities in Kyiv want to make linguistic discrimination the law of the land. While the Western sponsors of the Kyiv regime pretend not to notice this orgy of Russophobia, a precedent is being set in Ukraine that has no parallel in contemporary Europe: a language spoken by a large part of the population is being legislated out of existence.

And what is the West’s reaction to this flouting of human rights in Ukraine? Well, there is no reaction as such. The West is fine with everything. The main thing is that Ukraine should diligently continue to supply soldiers for the front (having duly rounded them up in the country’s streets), and anything that gets in the way of that needs to be brushed aside. The response of NATO countries is to further ply the Kyiv regime with weapons and to arm up as part of their own militarization. Just how Europe is “striving for peace” was summed up very nicely by Swedish Defence Minister Pål Jonson on 19 October in an interview with RND, a German news agency. He openly urged European countries to switch to what he referred to as “war mode”. Let us call things by their proper names: this is the explicit preaching of war. It involves

effectively designating preparation for a large-scale conflict as Europe's main priority, creating the artificial construct of an enemy, whipping up hysteria and seeking to justify a never-ending arms race.

Our country will not stand for the language of ultimatums. That is a dangerous path leading to direct confrontation, with all the attendant consequences. Responsibility for having escalated and stoked the conflict will rest entirely with those who today opt for "war mode" instead of dialogue mode. Russia remains committed to a diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian crisis and, in general, to getting the situation as regards the international security architecture back on a civilized track. As long as Russia's peace proposals fail to meet with an adequate response, our country will defend its vital interests by all available means.

Thank you for your attention.