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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1540th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 October 2025

**In response to the address by the  
Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Alain Berset**

Mr. Secretary General,

Both an analysis of the activities of the Council of Europe and your statement serve to confirm once again how that once prestigious international organization is trying to make up for the loss of its constructive and unifying potential through cheap point-scoring against Russia. In addition, every proposal that comes out of Strasbourg is subordinated to the promotion of neoliberal values and aimed at confrontation with those who reject that logic – anyone who is declared “undesirable” may find themselves facing a crusade launched to impose the interests of the occidental *Weltanschauung*. Mark my words: any of you who displays an inclination to defend the national interests of his or her country and fellow citizens may well, under certain circumstances, become the next target of the Strasbourg bureaucracy.

It is in this light that we regard the recent attempt by the Western majority in the Council of Europe to arbitrarily designate political adventurers possessing zero weight in public life and politics as “partners for dialogue” from Russia. We are referring to the infamous Russophobic Resolution 2621 (2025) adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 1 October. In this case, it is not even a question of the interparliamentary dimension being compromised. Sensible politicians cannot fail to understand that such a “playbook” can be used to exert pressure on any State or political force deemed not to toe the Western-centric line.

Special mention should be made of the pseudo-legal Russophobic initiatives being promoted by the Council of Europe that involve holding Russia “accountable” for the events in Ukraine.

Mr. Secretary General,

We explained to your predecessor more than once that, from a legal point of view, the Council of Europe as an international organization may exercise only those powers with which it has been invested by its member States – and then only in respect of those very countries. The administration of justice with regard to States that are not members of the Council of Europe is legal nonsense, plain and simple. This Strasbourg-based entity has no right to establish any “special tribunals” insofar as it is not a regional

organization tasked with the maintenance of peace and security. The Council of Europe will not be able to set aside the immunity of Russian officials. We, therefore, consider all such pseudo-legal constructs that have nothing to do with international law to be merely tools for exerting political pressure on sovereign countries.

Russia will never recognize the legitimacy of all these “registers of damage”, “compensation mechanisms” and whatnots. We are treating these expropriatory initiatives as legally worthless. Those in the West are evidently unable to shake off the vestiges of their colonial past, when their countries would pursue economic development by barbarically plundering the resources of other peoples. The creation of such instruments of “political piracy” is setting a dangerous precedent of endowing a narrow group of countries with the right to misappropriate the property of those deemed not to fit into the mould of the notorious “rules-based order”.

We, for our part, warn that involvement by any State in such initiatives will be regarded by us as an extremely hostile act towards our country, one that will inevitably have an impact on the nature of our bilateral relations with that State. Encroachment on sovereign assets of the Russian Federation under pretexts such as “compensation” and “reparations” gives Russia free rein to take retaliatory measures, including asymmetrical ones. Like other Russophobic enterprises, such lawlessness will cost its instigators dear.

One last thing. There has been a lot of talk today about Ukraine. We are obliged to note that the activities of the Council of Europe are undermining the prospects for a settlement of the crisis, that they are leading to the demolition of the system of international law and inevitably exacerbating military and political escalation. What we have heard in this room today merely corroborates our point.

Thank you for your attention.