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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1135th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

6 May 2026

**Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

As Russian President Vladimir Putin reaffirmed during a telephone conversation with US President Donald Trump on 29 April, the goals of the special military operation will be achieved in any event, preferably through negotiations. For now, though – and on this point Russia and the United States of America see eye to eye – the Kyiv regime, led by Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is very much seeking to drag out the conflict, at the instigation and with the support of the Europeans.

As is well known, in accordance with a decision by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, a ceasefire has been declared for 8–9 May to mark the 81st anniversary of the Soviet people’s victory in the Great Patriotic War. We expect the Ukrainian side to follow this example. At the same time, we have taken note of pronouncements made by the head of the Kyiv regime threatening to strike Moscow on 9 May of all days. The armed forces of the Russian Federation will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the festive events. Should the Kyiv regime attempt to carry out its criminal plans aimed at disrupting these celebrations, a massive retaliatory missile strike will be launched on the centre of Kyiv. Despite the capabilities at our disposal, Russia has previously refrained from such actions on humanitarian grounds. The civilian population of Kyiv and the staff of diplomatic missions have been warned of the need to leave the city in good time.

The Ukrainian armed forces continue to carry out systematic terrorist attacks against the civilian population and against purely civilian objects on the territory of our country. It is high time that our Western colleagues, who pretend to be champions of international humanitarian law, realized the scale of the atrocities being committed by their protégés with the help of the weapons and munitions they themselves are supplying.

According to data from Rodion Miroshnik, the Russian Foreign Ministry’s Ambassador-at-Large (we will forward the weekly digest of the Kyiv regime’s war crimes prepared by his team, also in an English version, to the OSCE Secretariat under cover of a note verbale so that our colleagues can peruse it), the

Ukrainian armed forces' artillery, missile and drone attacks claimed at least 200 civilian casualties over the past week: 166 people were injured, including eight minors, and 34 people were killed, including two children.

The highest numbers of civilian casualties were reported from the Belgorod, Kherson and Zaporozhye regions and the Lugansk People's Republic. The enemy operated first-person view drones in real time to pursue civilian vehicles (including scooters, bicycles and motorbikes), public transport, emergency vehicles and goods vehicles. In a targeted manner, using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), missiles and artillery – primarily fitted with shrapnel-filled and high-explosive fragmentation warheads – its death squads pounded social and medical facilities, houses and apartment buildings, electricity transmission and distribution systems, commercial premises, petrol filling stations and mobile phone masts. They conducted remote mining of highly frequented places, planting explosive devices within populated areas. There have been reports of such explosive devices, including cluster submunitions, detonating and injuring civilians as a result.

These crimes will not go unpunished.

Behind the transfer of UAVs and other types of offensive weapons to Ukraine we find NATO and EU member States, which are thereby complicit in the crimes and breaching their international obligations and commitments regarding a responsible export control policy, including the OSCE Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers (1993), the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000), United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/40 from 2007 on the prevention of the illicit transfer and unauthorized access to and use of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), the OSCE Principles for Export Controls of MANPADS (2008), Common Position 2008/944/CFSP of the Council of the European Union from 2008 and the Arms Trade Treaty (2013). The most flagrant violations are being committed by France, Germany, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom – all of which are actively calling for Europe to prepare for a major war with Russia.

One cannot fail to notice the zeal with which Germany is investing in remilitarization, something that awakens unpalatable historical associations. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Germany has already jumped up to fourth place in the global rankings for military expenditure in 2025. No wonder that Johann Wadephul, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of that country, when speaking in Neubrandenburg last month, urged the German military to intensify its “exchange of experience” with the Ukrainian armed forces, to get behind the efforts aimed at transforming the Bundeswehr into Europe's strongest army, and to enhance combat readiness on NATO's north-eastern flank in view of imaginary threats from the East. It is also sad to see how, instead of providing economic relief for the people of their country, German politicians are deliberately opting for prolonged military and financial mobilization of the population. They are frantically trying to halt Germany's industrial decline by switching from car production to arms manufacturing. Civilian infrastructure is being repurposed for military tasks. Suffice it to say that Europe's largest automobile hub in the port of Bremerhaven is currently being upgraded to ensure that Leopard tanks can be rapidly transported to “potential combat zones”.

Who it is that the Germans are preparing to fight is hardly a secret: the authorities in Berlin are systematically putting their military-technical co-operation with the Kyiv regime on a long-term footing, seeking to make extensive use of Ukrainian innovations and front-line experience, as well as to obtain from the Ukrainian armed forces vast amounts of digital data from the battlefield for subsequent analysis. Against this backdrop it is not surprising that weapons are already being actively deployed to Lithuania – right next to the Russian borders – in order to bring a tank brigade up to strength and ensure that it reaches full combat readiness by 2027. To cap it all, the Bundeswehr recently circulated some 200,000 questionnaires to 18-year-olds of both sexes so that their personal data can be entered into the military service registration

system. This can only be described as paving the way for a return to compulsory conscription. All the more so since Lieutenant General Christian Freuding, the inspector general (and commander) of the Bundeswehr's land forces, indicated in a media interview in April this year that such a possibility was on the cards.

Obviously, in order to build up their “military muscles”, the Germans need to buy themselves some time. And that is where the Kyiv regime comes in – a regime to which EU countries will grant a loan worth 90 billion euros in 2026–2027. According to European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, the first tranche of 6 billion euros is to be spent by the Kyiv regime on the procurement of UAVs, which are being used by the Ukrainian military to conduct strikes on civilian infrastructure, including critical international infrastructure, and on commercial vessels in the Black Sea and other regions of the world's oceans. And even on strategic military facilities of the Russian Federation in the Murmansk region. But the Europeans evidently like playing with fire – otherwise, instead of a “military risk management” strategy, they would have opted for a path of military risk reduction and de-escalation of tensions.

Mr. Chairperson,

The international community is already well aware that EU funding is serving to line the pockets both of industrialists in EU countries themselves and of Ukrainian businessmen, who have no qualms about engaging in corruption schemes based on the purchase of weapons at inflated prices.

According to forecasts by the think tank Vertical Research Partners, the free cash flow of the world's 15 leading defence contractors will reach 52 billion dollars in 2026, almost double the figure for 2021. As long as Europe's military-industrial elites continue to get rich off militarization, the risks of a major conflict will continue to grow. As noted in the magnum opus of Karl Marx (who was in turn quoting the British trade unionist T. J. Dunning), at 100 per cent profit, capital is “ready to trample on all human laws”, while at 300 per cent, “there is not a crime at which it will scruple nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged”.¹

At the same time, some European manufacturers, whom the EU bureaucrats are encouraging to collaborate with their Ukrainian counterparts on the production of weaponry and military equipment, are concerned about the growing competition from the Ukrainians. The cheapness of their products is alarming. Equally suspect is the reputation of the Kyiv regime's “men of business”.

Nevertheless, in the West it is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore the risks arising from the accumulation of weapons and ammunition in Ukraine as a result of Western shipments. According to annual reports from Europol and data from Western think tanks, the Western-made small arms seized from organized criminal groups in 2024–2025 show no signs of use and enter the black market from countries that receive them as part of military-technical assistance, one of the major beneficiaries of which is Ukraine. Law enforcement agencies in EU countries estimate that the illegal trafficking of weapons from Ukrainian territory increased by 96 per cent in 2025. Incidentally, in a press release issued on 17 April this year, the Norwegian armed forces, too, acknowledged the threat posed by the uncontrolled spread of weaponry and military equipment, citing the example of how weapons fell into the hands of criminal groups following the conflicts in the Balkans and were used to carry out terrorist attacks in Europe. In these circumstances, what credence can be given to the claims made by delegations at the Forum for Security Co-operation about the “tremendous efforts” that their governments are undertaking to prevent the illicit trafficking of the weapons supplied by them?

¹ Translator's note: The original passage quoted by Karl Marx is from T. J. Dunning, *Trades' Unions and Strikes: Their Philosophy and Intention* (London, 1860), p. 36. See e.g., Karl Marx, *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*, Vol. 1, transl. Ben Fowkes (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1976), p. 926, n. 15.

We have repeatedly warned the European authorities about the risks associated with uncontrolled arms transfers to the Kyiv regime, which has close ties to various radical elements. As was recently illustrated by the shameless posing for the camera by “fighters” from the terrorist organization known as the Russian Volunteer Corps, who raised their arms in a Nazi salute while holding C7NLD rifles supplied to Ukraine by the Netherlands.

Within the Ukrainian armed forces, it is not only illicit trafficking in Western weaponry and military equipment that is flourishing, but also moral corruption, which is manifesting itself in the high levels of drug dependence among service members (around 38 per cent of Ukrainian armed forces personnel use amphetamines at least once a month, 20 per cent use pregabalin, 16 per cent use “salts” and 13 per cent use tramadol). This is something to which commanders are turning a blind eye – as the saying goes, they have to work with what they have. But it is being seen for what it is and openly acknowledged by international non-governmental entities (including the Swiss-based Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, and also Ukrainian ones such as the Observatory of Illicit Markets and the Conflict in Ukraine, 100% Life, and Healthy Solutions for an Open Society).

Ever fewer people are willing to die for a corrupt elite. As you can see on the screens, the ranks of the “defenders of Ukraine” are being topped up by force by the territorial manning centres. Passers-by in this or that region are regularly capturing footage of men being brutally abducted in full view of their loved ones, of their parents, wives and children. Yet the shortage of cannon fodder continues to be an unresolved problem. In that regard, the so-called People’s Deputies are discussing a lowering of the age for mobilization from 25 to 23 years and the introduction of new restrictions on crossing the border for young people under the age of 22, while the Cabinet of Ministers is reviewing its approach to the designation of critical enterprises and the exempting of their workers. Against this backdrop, the slogans about an imminent launch of “army reforms”, about pay rises for the military, about strengthening the contractual system and a phased discharge of long-serving personnel – they are all no more than empty agitprop.

Given the escalatory course being steered by the Kyiv regime and its European sponsors, Russian troops, with a view to eliminating threats to the security of our country and its citizens, are pushing back the enemy as they continue to hold the strategic initiative. Between 25 April and 1 May, they used precision weapons and UAVs to conduct one barrage attack and five waves of strikes against enterprises belonging to Ukraine’s military-industrial complex along with fuel and energy facilities and transport and port infrastructure sustaining it, against sites where combat drones and uncrewed surface vessels are assembled, stored and prepared for launching, and against temporary bases of the Ukrainian armed forces and foreign mercenaries. The following population centres were liberated: Bochkovo, Zemlyanki and Pokalyanoye in the Kharkov region; Korchakovka, Novodmitrovka and Taratutino in the Sumy region; and Ilyichovka, Ilyinovka, Novodmitrovka and Novoaleksandrovka in the Donetsk People’s Republic.

The objectives set at the start of the special military operation will in any case be accomplished. We will not put up with the continued presence of threats on our borders. The longer our adversaries and their patrons carry on with their attempts to draw our country into armed confrontation, to exacerbate the root causes of the conflict and to unnerve our people through terror campaigns, the grimmer the “conditions on the ground” that they will have to contend with.

Thank you for your attention.