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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1565th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 May 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,

If our Organization, which deals with matters of peace and security, had something akin to the Doomsday Clock, then over the past week its hands would have had to be moved at least several marks closer to midnight. That would be a fitting action, because the madness and Russophobic frenzy of the elites in a number of European countries merely keep intensifying.

Thus, on 18 May, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Kęstutis Budrys openly called upon NATO to attack Kaliningrad. This is how he put it: “We have to show the Russians that we are capable of penetrating that little fortress of theirs which they have set up in Kaliningrad.” He added that NATO had the necessary means to destroy the Russian bases in the exclave. In other words, the European elites have moved on from veiled calls for war to outright exhortations to attack Russia!

But the bellicose Russophobic militarism of our Baltic neighbours does not end there. According to data published by the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation, the Kyiv regime is currently actively working on scenarios for using Latvian territory to conduct sabotage attacks against Russian territory. Judging by the note of panic in the voices of my Baltic colleagues when they spoke today, this disclosure has hit the mark and caught Zelenskyy’s Baltic accomplices off guard.

I would remind you that, in practical terms, we are talking about the launching of combat drones from Latvian territory. Drone operators from the Ukrainian armed forces have already been sent to Latvia, where they are stationed at the bases in Ādaži, Sēlija, Lielvārde, Daugavpils and Jēkabpils. The powers that be in Kyiv and Riga calculate that in this case the co-ordinates of launch points will remain unknown or be difficult to identify, allowing accountability to be diluted. However, we state, with full responsibility, that objective monitoring means will make it possible to reliably determine the drones’ flight paths and their launch sites. Given the recklessness of such plans, Latvia must be clear about the fact that our response to actions of this kind will be decisive and crushing. Were the Latvian authorities’ NATO partners aware of these plans of theirs? Or did they support them today purely out of a sense of bloc discipline and to cover up for one another? For us these are open questions. But we have serious doubts as to whether they will bring

themselves to rein in their confederates, who are playing with fire, if and when these do decide to carry out their plans.

After all, they certainly did not rein in Latvia along with its Baltic neighbours and Poland a few weeks ago, when those countries opened their airspace to Ukrainian drones flying towards targets in north-western Russia! Nor did they condemn the plans of a bevy of countries to relocate the production base for such drones from Ukrainian territory to their own! However much you may deny all this, ladies and gentlemen, facts are stubborn things and they speak against you. So what reason have we to expect that, in connection with these new escalations, NATO members will suddenly demonstrate some semblance of common sense and self-preservation instinct?

Especially given that the “Narrow Waters 26-1” exercise recently commenced in the Gulf of Finland, right at the entrance to Russia’s territorial waters. It is a logical continuation of NATO’s biggest winter exercise, “Cold Response”, which concluded on 19 March in the northern coastal waters of Norway and Finland. In general, we note that NATO countries’ military activity near our borders has reached Cold War levels.

So for the time being, there is no reason to hope for the prudence of our European neighbours, and all that is going on suggests that until they receive a harsh military response from our side, their militaristic hubris will not diminish. Kaliningrad could, in principle, become a most powerful detonator. The President of Russia has already warned unequivocally that any attempt to impose a blockade on the Kaliningrad region – let alone invade it – would lead to an unprecedented escalation. Do you want to test our resolve? Go ahead, but do not say afterwards that we did not warn you!

The Kyiv regime, too, is shamelessly taking its cue from its “senior partners” by not only deliberately targeting civilian objects on Russian territory, but also extending its terrorist tentacles to various areas of the globe. Following Africa and the Middle East, Ukrainian terrorists are now beginning to branch out into the Mediterranean, threatening freedom of navigation in that part of the world.

Thus, in early May, a Ukrainian sea drone was discovered near the Greek island of Lefkada; it had to be neutralized with the help of demining experts. It is not yet clear from where it was launched before going off course – prior to this, instances had been recorded of Ukrainian naval drones being launched from the Libyan coast.

The investigation is ongoing, and our Greek colleagues are clearly very keen to hush up this scandal. After all, in the West it is customary to speak well of Ukraine, or not at all, just as one does not speak ill of the dead. They similarly hushed up the scandal surrounding Ukraine’s attack on the Greek tanker *Maran Homer* in the Black Sea on 13 March. And so the upshot is this: Ukrainian terrorists now feel that they can do as they please right under your noses and are trying to drag your country into a direct naval clash with Russia. Is this the outcome you were seeking?

And all this despite the fact that an alternative to military confrontation between Russia and NATO does exist and is entirely within reach. Now, to make it happen, the Alliance just needs to show common sense and goodwill, to demonstrate that it is willing to rectify the mistakes made with regard to Russia after the Cold War ended, and especially since 2014. Russian President Vladimir Putin has stated on numerous occasions that Russia is open to dialogue – to having a serious conversation on security guarantees for all States in the region. It is open to discussing the root causes that led to the current crisis. However, our openness and our appeals are perceived in Brussels and other Western capitals not as an invitation to work together, but as a sign of weakness. Our openness is met not with reciprocal steps towards de-escalation, but

with further sanctions, arms deliveries and militaristic rhetoric. Do you think that our patience knows no limits?

You should not be surprised, then, that Russia is consistently strengthening its defence capabilities. On 12 May, our Strategic Missile Forces successfully conducted a test launch of the Sarmat heavy intercontinental ballistic missile. This system is capable of overcoming all existing and projected anti-missile defence assets. The Sarmat will be brought into service for combat alert duty before the year is out. It is a weapon that needs no advertising; its characteristics speak for themselves.

A joint Russian-Belarusian exercise on the combat use of nuclear weapons commenced on 18 May. This is not a threat; it is deterrence in action. It sends the message that if our partners continue to step up their military activity near the borders of the Union State, we will be forced to further strengthen our defence capabilities by all available means.

Colleagues, I wish I could end my statement on an optimistic note, but we have almost no grounds for optimism today, because you refuse to heed appeals to common sense.

Only yesterday, yet another such appeal was issued from Beijing, where the leaders of Russia and China, in a joint statement running to several pages, expressed, among other things, their belief in the need to fully address the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis on the basis of compliance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in their entirety and in all their interrelatedness and interdependence, with a view to ensuring mutual security and laying the foundations for lasting peace. Russia and China reaffirmed their support for all efforts conducive to establishing a long-term and sustainable peace, and called for a solution to continue to be sought through dialogue and negotiations. And these are not empty words – they are backed up by action and practical steps. However, you have yet to give us any grounds to hope that we will eventually see similar steps taken by you or even the slightest manifestation of prudence on your part, and that our continent will not have to endure yet another devastating war in order to get you to awaken to reason.

Thank you for your attention.