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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1566th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 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,

Our Western colleagues in this room have of late been placing renewed emphasis on the assertion that, together with Ukraine, they are fighting for certain “shared values” that Russia does not subscribe to. The implication being that they represent the forces of good, whereas we are accordingly on the side of evil. I trust that I have not in any way misconstrued your position, colleagues, and that my understanding is correct?

If that is indeed the case, allow me to illustrate the “values” that are actually being referred to here.

On 21 May, a solemn ceremony was held in Ukraine to mark the reinterment of the ashes of the Nazi criminal Andrii Melnyk, which had been transported from Luxembourg. The remains of one of the ideologues of Ukrainian nationalism were transferred with pomp and circumstance to the National Military Memorial Cemetery near Kyiv. Among those kneeling before his coffin was President Zelenskyy, who before being elected in 2019 had very eloquently and unequivocally described the Banderites and other Nazi henchmen as criminals, and whose grandfather had fought against such fascist scum during the Second World War.

Well, one would not expect otherwise of him. Once an actor, always an actor: he is just playing the part he has been assigned. But let us remember just who was being honoured with such fanfare in Kyiv. This was one of the founders and leaders of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). There are irrefutable facts attesting to the involvement of his supporters in the extermination of the Jews of Kyiv at Babi Yar in 1942. After Nazi forces and Ukrainian collaborationists had liquidated more than 33,000 Jewish men, women and children there, Melnyk delivered a radio address in which he told Ukrainians that they remained obliged to “conscientiously and systematically help” the Nazi troops in “their crusade against Moscow”. Melnyk’s followers consistently collaborated with the German occupation authorities and took part in the formation of Ukrainian police units and Schutzmannschaft battalions. Both OUN factions – the one headed by Melnyk and the one led by Bandera – assisted in the deportation and extermination of Jews and Poles during the Second World War.

In other words, on 21 May Kyiv witnessed the State reburial of a key accomplice of the Nazis, a butcher and murderer, a co-perpetrator of the Holocaust in Ukraine – someone whom the Kyiv regime and its Jewish President are currently elevating to the status of a national hero. This sacrilege was unequivocally and strongly condemned by the Israeli institution Yad Vashem, which is dedicated to tracking down Nazi criminals. Yet not a single one of you in this room saw fit to condemn it today, even though whenever the topic of combating anti-Semitism comes up for discussion at the OSCE, as it regularly does, you all literally scramble over one another to grab the microphone. It would appear, therefore, that this entire stance, too, is hypocrisy and that anti-Semitism is, in fact, one of those “values” of yours that you are upholding together with Ukraine. How else is one to interpret your silence?

It should be noted that Melnyk is not the only Nazi collaborator currently being canonized as a hero in Ukraine. On 25 May, our Permanent Mission to the OSCE hosted a virtual round-table discussion to address these very cases. There are so many such instances that there can be no doubt whatsoever that Nazi criminals and executioners are being deliberately and systematically rehabilitated. Streets and schools throughout Ukraine are today being named not only after Bandera, Melnyk, Stetsko and Shukhevych, but also after scores, if not hundreds, of lesser-known Nazis and punitive squad members, who butchered civilians with such zeal and cruelty in the name of the ideals of the Third Reich that even the German occupiers were horrified. These figures are being held up as examples to the younger generation. A summary of this discussion has been circulated by us at the OSCE; a recording of the event is available on our Permanent Mission’s online platforms. You, of course, will choose not to watch it or read about it, but content of this kind, so unflattering to your countries, awakens great interest among European users of the Internet and is helping them to understand the true nature of the “shared values” of Europe and Ukraine.

And this reprehensible practice of rehabilitating and glorifying Nazi criminals, incidentally, did not originate in Ukraine: such sacrilegious conduct and rewriting of historical memory have been flourishing in the Baltic States for at least three decades now. I need not dwell on the fact that, after the war, a multitude of Nazi criminals found refuge overseas, where they were utilized, among other things, to sow the seeds of a revived Ukrainian nationalism with the aim of counteracting the Soviet Union. Canada today is a case in point of just how deeply these neo-Nazi sprouts, masked as a struggle for independence, can take root. Therefore, returning to my opening point, your assurances that you and Ukraine are together defending “shared values” sound almost like an axiom – provided one inserts the word “Nazi” before “values”. Then everything falls into place.

By the way, the primitive Russophobia that has taken hold of Europe today was equally characteristic of the German Nazis. Granted, they intended, in the event of being victorious, to exterminate or enslave not only all Russians but all Slavs in general, but the genocide of the Russian people was, for them, undoubtedly the paramount objective. Today, many Slavs would perhaps not need to be targeted, as, together with Ukraine, they have already sworn allegiance to these very Nazi “values” under the auspices of the European Union and remain conveniently blind to the slaughtering of Russian people. Everything is therefore taking shape in a very logical manner, with the true face of modern European elites increasingly assuming distinct Nazi features.

Now, if you believe that we will reconcile ourselves to this, then you are gravely mistaken, for the rejection of Nazism, racial hatred, colonialism and xenophobia is embedded in our DNA. By flirting with and pandering to Ukrainian Nazis, you are therefore sowing the seeds of conflict in Europe. Should they take root, diplomacy will no longer suffice to resolve these differences. Is this your real objective? To make a conflict with Russia inevitable? That explains why Europe today seeks to undermine any realistic peace initiatives by plying the Kyiv regime with weapons, building up the European military presence near Russia’s borders and conditioning European public opinion to the inevitability of war with Russia.

We are indeed moving towards that eventuality with giant strides. Europe is already making its territory available to Zelenskyy to facilitate attacks on targets within Russia. Many European countries, too, have become a rear base for the Ukrainian armed forces, a staging ground for the training of their “fighters”, a logistics hub for arms shipments and a launch pad for combat drones.

This week, we witnessed yet another manifestation of Europe going along with the Kyiv regime’s terrorist designs. Mines were discovered close to the engine room of the *Arrhenius*, a gas carrier that had arrived at the port of Ust-Luga in north-western Russia from Antwerp; they had been attached to the outside of the hull. According to our federal security officers, those mines could not have been placed on the ship in Russia. In other words, it seems that Europe also shares the Kyiv regime’s terrorist “values”, at least when it comes to Russia. The rupturing of the Nord Stream pipelines, by the way, is the clearest evidence of this. So why are some people surprised that the West failed to condemn the terrorist act in Starobelsk? Given what I have stated, it would be highly illogical to expect anything else. On the other hand, we have every reason to assume that the next time drones are launched to kill Russian children, they may well have been launched from the territory of NATO countries. Just do not be surprised then by our harsh and merciless response – you are now practically begging for such a response!

In this situation, we place almost no hopes in the Western elites. They will surely drive matters to a new major European war and, once again, bring utter destruction upon their own countries – we have been through this before. However, public opinion and Western intellectuals do give us certain cause for hope; some of them are still saying sensible things.

In that regard, I should like to draw attention to an open letter addressed to the Chancellor of Germany by the prominent economist Jeffrey Sachs, who has served as adviser to several United Nations Secretaries-General. This letter was published in the *Berliner Zeitung* the day before yesterday. In it, he states quite bluntly that Europe and Russia are “slipping into open war” and points to the provisions of the agreements that made it possible to end the Cold War, provisions which Germany has breached. His appeal is also addressed to us all: he asks us to ensure that the OSCE can “once again become the central forum for European security, with the fundamental precept that European security is indivisible, not based on military blocs dividing Europe”.

This gesture of despair by Jeffrey Sachs and his attempt to get through to the German elite demonstrate that around the world there are those who still believe in the OSCE – evidently because they are not fully aware of what Western countries have already managed to turn our Organization into. No punter in the know would today place bets on the OSCE’s future, even if million-to-one odds were being offered. Therefore, those who truly wish to preserve peace in Europe now must act not through the OSCE, but in spite of it. And you, colleagues, prove to us in this room every single week that this is the only correct path.

Thank you for your attention.