

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

FSC-PC.DEL/67/26
17 July 2026

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 101st JOINT MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 July 2026

**Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Dangerous course of NATO and the European Union towards the
militarization of Europe**

Distinguished Co-Chairpersons,

Today we should like to draw attention to military trends in the OSCE area that are giving rise to justified concern, linked as they are to the preparations being undertaken by a number of Western participating States for a high-intensity conflict by around 2030 or even earlier.

The ongoing build-up of Europe's military capabilities is proceeding according to the most dangerous of scenarios, one based on the remilitarization of Germany and the abandonment of the basic tenets of peaceful coexistence. It is no longer being hidden that this course of action is dictated by a desire to guarantee the European Union a prominent role in international affairs at all costs and to "reboot" its ailing industry. More broadly, the imaginary "Russian threat" is viewed by European elites as a means of "holding together" their increasingly fractured ranks. But have they given any thought as to the price that pursuing this goal entails for their own populations?

In Brussels, they have set themselves the task of building a "European Defence Union" by 2030 and achieving "defence readiness", which essentially means equipping the EU Member States with modern warfare capabilities. This sort of rhetoric is accompanied by unprecedented financial injections into the military-industrial complex. In terms of overall military expenditure, the EU Member States rank second in the world: in 2025 alone, they spent 381 billion euros. According to various estimates, the planned levels of military-industrial funding in some Member States are approaching those seen on the eve of the Second World War.

The recent NATO summit in Ankara on 7 and 8 July this year not only cemented this trend but also gave fresh impetus to that military bloc's own build-up efforts. This is confirmed by financial statistics. For example, according to the Alliance's Secretary General, Mark Rutte, the combined military expenditure of Europe and Canada for 2025 and 2026 rose by 258 billion dollars, of which at least 37 billion dollars was

invested in developing the industrial base for a future war. The aim is to achieve a manifold increase in the production of weapons, military equipment, munitions and other materiel. Incidentally, the Alliance's member countries plan to double the production of artillery ammunition by the end of 2026 – to 4 million rounds per year.

We also noted that, throughout the summit, there was a cornucopia of pledges to bolster the bloc's military potential, with an emphasis on ramping up the production and procurement of military goods, including offensive arms. Amid a torrent of anti-Russian rhetoric, the British announced the launch, in conjunction with Germany, France and nine other European "partners", of an initiative to develop long-range high-precision missile weapons (Deep Precision Strike Capability Investment Initiative) – weapons that have allegedly proved their worth in "Ukraine's confrontation with Russia". The pledged investment in the project is set to be 50 billion dollars.

For the first time in the history of NATO summits, a "Defence Industry Forum" was included in the main programme of the Ankara summit. Measures to strengthen military transport aviation were announced with great fanfare at that event, including the launch of a new project to create a multinational fleet of Airbus A400M military transport aircraft and plans to procure GlobalEye aircraft from Swedish company Saab as part of the modernization of NATO's fleet of airborne early warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft.

At the same time, the Alliance's member countries are proudly announcing the further development of an integrated air and missile defence system, including the acquisition by the NATO Support and Procurement Agency of new consignments of PAC-2 and PAC-3 missiles for use with the Patriot system.

As we have been able to see for ourselves, not least during today's meeting, Ukraine remains a significant factor in the context of the accelerated militarization of European countries. These countries are actively working to fast-track the integration of Ukraine's remaining capabilities into the overall structure of their defence industries. NATO and EU member States are learning from Ukraine's battlefield experience, while the military production facilities relocated from Ukraine to Europe are being rapidly amalgamated with the European military-industrial complex. Naturally, this gives the Russian Ministry of Defence every reason to pay heightened attention to any enterprises involved in the development and production of weapons being used against our country, with all the possible attendant consequences.

During the NATO summit, plans were also outlined to continue developing co-operation and joint production of military equipment with Ukraine. We should like to draw particular attention to the active promotion of "drone deals"; such deals were concluded by Denmark and Estonia on the sidelines of the summit. These agreements provide for the establishment of joint production facilities with Ukraine on the territory of European countries as part of the Kyiv regime's "Build with Ukraine" initiative. However, there is nothing to be proud of or to boast about here. Your unmanned aerial vehicles are already being used to kill citizens of the Russian Federation. We are carefully analysing the steps being taken in this regard by EU countries, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and others, with a view to determining political, economic and other countermeasures that are proportionate and appropriate.

It is noteworthy that the EU countries are seeking, by hook or by crook, to cash in on the conflict. At NATO's "get-together" in Ankara, it emerged that no fewer than eight countries (Albania, Belgium, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine) had pledged their support for Canada's initiative to establish the "Defence, Security and Resilience Bank", which resembles a "military International Monetary Fund" in that its main purpose is to attract private capital for investment (taking the form of low-interest loans) in preparations for war and the expansion of related production.

Another element in the overall politico-military picture is the systematic preparation of Western participating States to operate in the context of a large-scale armed conflict. To this end, attention is being paid, among other things, to adapting civilian transport and logistics infrastructure to meet the requirements of military planning and operational mobility. Projects of this kind are being launched, in particular, in the Netherlands, which announced in June this year that it would be implementing four research programmes in the field of logistics. That country is also actively exploring the use of aviation hubs (Schiphol) and seaports (Rotterdam) for military purposes. Furthermore, the Dutch authorities are considering the possibility of enshrining in law the right to intervene in the operations of private enterprises in order to compel them to fill military orders. And this is by no means the only example.

Distinguished Co-Chairpersons,

It is clear to us that the European Union and NATO's gambling on militarization will require the maintenance of a constant potential for conflict in the European region. Moreover, on the one hand, they see the conflict in Ukraine as a way to buy time for the West and supposedly sap Russia's strength, thereby "containing" our country; while, on the other hand, as the Belgian Chief of Defence, General Frederik Vansina, stated in an interview with the newspaper *Le Soir*, once this conflict is over, the countdown will begin. In this regard, Russia will keep being artificially portrayed as the principal source of threats. In order to justify the increase in military spending, European countries will continue to brainwash their own citizens into believing that a direct confrontation with our country is inevitable within the next few years, carefully feeding the information space with new insinuations. A striking example is the report recently published by the London office of the International Institute for Strategic Studies on a series of overflights by unidentified drones over military facilities and civilian objects in Europe, the launch of which, as always, is attributed to our country without any evidence. But are your citizens aware of how many times of late the governments of EU and NATO member States have rejected our proposals to establish a direct professional dialogue to clarify the circumstances surrounding a number of these incidents?

We wish to make it absolutely clear that the Russian side has no interest in a conflict. The European elites' focus on fattening up the military-industrial complex at the expense of taxpayers and at the cost of swallowing the civilian sector is depriving European countries of meaningful guidance and prospects for sustainable development. The bill for the West's fuelling of the spiral of confrontation will be paid in full by ordinary citizens of the "Old World", while the generous "tips" will be pilfered by the time-servers of the criminal regime in Kyiv.

Such a militaristic policy – coupled with the refusal of the authorities in Brussels to engage in direct dialogue with Russia, the "routinization" of the escalation scenario and the avoidance of an objective discussion of the catastrophic consequences of implementing such a scenario – is leading down a very dangerous path of uncontrolled escalation of military tensions, turning the heartland of the OSCE area into a powder keg.

Thank you for your attention.