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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1423rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 May 2023

**On the outcomes of the Council of Europe Summit held in
Reykjavik on 16 and 17 May 2023**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have taken note of the outcomes of the Summit held in Reykjavik on 16 and 17 May as presented by the Icelandic Presidency of the Council of Europe. We regard the Summit as a “funerary” occasion marking the passing of that organization and of the pan-European humanitarian and legal space that it was seeking to create. The Council of Europe is trying to find a new *raison d’être* in Russophobia. However, this will result in nothing other than further stoking of confrontation. Russia now views the Council of Europe as one of the executors of the hybrid aggression unleashed against it by the countries of the collective West.

With regard to the decisions from that meeting in Reykjavik, we are obliged to repeat the warning that we made to Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić and all participating States in this very room one month ago. We consider the mechanisms invented to “hold Russia accountable” to be legally void. No obligations, whether political or legal, can emanate for us from the activities of these mechanisms. We regard any State joining in such steps as committing a hostile act against the Russian Federation. There will be inevitable consequences for bilateral relations with all States that have supported this destructive initiative.

Speaking of responsibility, many countries whose representatives are present in this room genuinely bear full responsibility for the further exacerbation of politico-military tensions in the Euro-Atlantic area, for the raising of a new Iron Curtain, for having condoned, year in, year out, the Kyiv regime’s massive and gross violations of human rights – though not just that. Without running too far ahead, we would note that it is inevitable that justice will be restored and meted out to those who have been involved in crimes and in persecuting, over many years, Ukrainian citizens who feel a spiritual affinity with Russia. Punishment is inescapable for all those who massacred children in Donbas under Nazi slogans. Just as it is for those who put lethal weapons into the hands of Ukrainian neo-Nazis. However, that is an altogether different story which has no bearing on the topic of today’s meeting.

Thank you for your attention.