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**ADDITIONAL RESPONSE BY MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1337th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 September 2021

On the deletion by YouTube of Russia Today's German-language channels

Mr. Chairperson,

There is one other important aspect. The mass deletion of Russian media accounts from the cyberspace of a number of modern Internet giants, such as Google and its resources, YouTube, Facebook and many others, was in fact at the formal request and by the decision of the governing bodies of these Internet giants. We are fully aware, however, of the mechanisms for co-ordinating the editorial policies of these platforms with the political narratives of the States where these companies are registered, where they operate and where the editorial policies of these IT companies are tied to government policies. This also applies in full measure to Germany. If this Russia Today story had been the only one in the many years of this television channel's attempts to work in Germany without being obstructed by the authorities, there might have been just one conversation. But I recall a German counter-intelligence report from the summer of 2019 explicitly stating that Sputnik and Russia Today are not media outlets but instruments of Kremlin propaganda and thus a threat to the security of the German Republic. The head of the German Federation of Journalists (DJV), a man quite close to the government structures of this State, has been saying the same thing on a regular basis.

We understand that this was taken into account in the discussion of the possible access by Russia Today to digital broadcasting in the European Union via the Luxembourg satellite. According to none other than the German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, there was some kind of meeting between representatives of the German Government, Luxembourg and the Luxembourg regulator. It was there that the decision was actually made to prevent the entry of Russia Today into the digital broadcasting segment. I will not go into the attempts to enter the cable network as well. It was very similar, maybe in a slightly different format. The point I was making was that we have no illusions in Russia. We know perfectly well how Germany's information structure is built, the relationships between German Government circles and German media, from Deutsche Welle to the Springer media holding company, what they do in Russia, and how they promote their agenda without any obstacles from the Russian Government at the moment. But I would point out once again that this situation cannot go on forever. We are starting to grow weary of this.

Thank you for your attention.