

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1197th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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On co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to briefly draw your attention to certain aspects of co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe. Namely, the meeting of the joint OSCE–Council of Europe Co-ordination Group, held here on 5 October.

As you know, the modalities of the Group's activities are determined by OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 637 of 2 December 2004. The Group prepares draft reports twice a year on the work carried out by the two organizations.

At the meeting of the Preparatory Committee on 27 September, the drafts of such reports on combating terrorism and trafficking in human beings were discussed. We made a number of comments, which were noted by the OSCE Secretariat. The documents were then considered by the Co-ordination Group, after which a brief summary document was produced on the results of the meeting.

But the reports themselves have not been distributed, so we cannot assess the extent to which our comments have been taken into account. We have received the vague explanation that the reports do not require consensus approval by States.

In the meantime, we regularly note attempts to include in the reports non-consensus language on which there are no OSCE commitments, for example, sexual orientation and gender identity. From time to time we encounter in the texts an incorrect presentation of events held under the auspices of the OSCE (for example, the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference, held in Rome on 9 and 10 May this year, was allegedly devoted primarily to the human rights of foreign terrorist fighters, while the real topic of the meeting was security risks in the OSCE area caused by the return of foreign terrorist fighters from conflict zones). Similar examples crop up every year.

It turns out that under the Co-ordination Group's current modus operandi, the opinions of States, with rare exceptions, are not taken into account. At the same time, the

final document is presented as a result of the activities of all 57 OSCE participating States. This is contrary to the Italian Chairmanship's principle of "joint ownership of the Organization by all participating States". We are not satisfied with this state of affairs, and I believe that we are not alone. We call for further and substantive discussions on ways to remedy the situation.

Thank you for your attention.