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PC.DEL/351/25
3 April 2025

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1515th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 April 2025

**On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in
further confrontation in and around Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

During a meeting with crew members of the nuclear-powered cruiser submarine *Arkhangelsk* on 27 March, Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasized that, as regards a Ukrainian settlement, Russia did not intend to make mistakes stemming from excessive trust towards our so-called Western partners. Our country will not allow the Kyiv regime's handlers to advance their interests at the expense of the Russian people. What is called for is an honest, responsible approach that takes into account the concerns of all sovereign States in our region.

One of the key problems standing in the way of achieving a long-term resolution of the Ukrainian crisis is the chronic intractability of the Kyiv regime, but also the lack of legitimate authorities in Ukraine with a mandate to speak on behalf of all of the country's inhabitants and to act as guarantors of the implementation of any agreements reached on de-escalating and ending the conflict.

Most symptomatic is the situation regarding implementation of the moratorium of 18 March on a mutual 30-day cessation of strikes on energy infrastructure facilities. The Russian armed forces are complying strictly with that moratorium. Once the Supreme Commander's order was received, our air defence assets and fighter aircraft shot down in mid-flight seven Russian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that were on course to strike energy facilities in the Mykolaiv region linked to Ukraine's military-industrial complex; no further strikes have subsequently been launched.

However, over the past fortnight or so, the Kyiv regime's formations, assisted by their Western handlers, have carried out a score of attacks on facilities from our country's fuel and energy sector. The Russian Federation has circulated at the OSCE a list of such facilities that came under fire between 18 and 28 March (SEC.DEL/90/25). The strikes that were carried out cannot be treated as something accidental – they are of a systematic, premeditated nature and stand in direct contradiction to the agreements reached on 18 March.

It is worth drawing special attention to the destruction of the Sudzha gas metering station on a section of the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhhorod trunk gas pipeline that in the past was used to pump significant volumes of gas to European countries. According to the information available, military specialists from the United Kingdom and France took part in launching the strike against the Sudzha gas metering station, which was carried out using a HIMARS multiple-launch rocket system. All this once again demonstrates what the real worth is of the UK and French representatives' words about their alleged support for the agreement reached on a 30-day moratorium on the shelling of energy infrastructure facilities on both sides of the line of contact.

The Kyiv regime is either deliberately thwarting implementation of the moratorium or, on a more banal note, it has no control over these paramilitary formations made up of neo-Nazis and foreign mercenaries. We would remind you that these outfits have weapons manufactured by NATO countries at their disposal, including long-range weapons the operation of which is impossible without the involvement of highly qualified foreign military specialists and without the input of satellite reconnaissance data. The Kyiv regime simply does not have such resources of its own.

Last week, the Ukrainian neo-Nazis' shelling of Russian regions claimed at least 118 civilian casualties, of whom 14 were killed and 104 were injured, including three children.

Representatives of the Kyiv regime and of its Western sponsors often bang on in this room about so-called "Russian disinformation and propaganda". Not having any convincing counterarguments of substance, they seek to devalue facts that they find awkward. The media outlets that they have in their pocket have gone even farther, claiming that the ample real evidence of these neo-Nazis' atrocities against the civilian population and the copious footage showing forced mobilization are just propaganda film material produced on the sets of the Mosfilm studio – the implication being that, in reality, problems are non-existent and that isolated incidents do not constitute a trend. However, the real facts attest to something quite different, and many of them are acknowledged even by the Kyiv regime's representatives themselves.

According to official information from the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets, that was made public on 26 March, Ukrainian military enlistment officers (from the "territorial recruitment centres") are massively and systematically violating human rights and breaking the law as they carry out mobilization activities. Mr. Lubinets pointed out that "unlawful detentions and beatings" had become "a new viral trend" and were accompanied by numerous abuses of power. The violations he mentioned include the use of violence, traffic accidents being intentionally caused so as to be able to catch further sacrificial victims, the way in which people abducted from the streets are denied the right to communicate with their relatives or a lawyer, the concealment of information about illegal deprivation of liberty, the coerced signing of military service papers, and much more besides. As for all those who continue to wax lyrical about the "heroic enthusiasm displayed by volunteers" allegedly wishing to take up arms for the Kyiv regime, we recommend that they carefully study the comments by the Ukrainian Ombudsman for Human Rights.

Incidentally, complaints about the most aggressive actions by these "people-catchers" are coming in mostly from areas in the east and south (in particular the Kharkiv and Odessa regions), where the ethnically Russian and Russian-speaking population make up the overwhelming majority – they are being breezily thrown into the bloodbath to fuel a conflict against their kith and kin.

Staff from the Ukrainian Ombudsman's office are frequently denied access to the facilities where those forcibly mobilized are being held. Instances have been documented of young fathers being literally hauled off the street and separated from their children as these stand nearby, weeping. Why, then, the silence

about this now from those representatives of Western countries who pompously style themselves as defenders of children's rights?

Against this backdrop, ordinary Ukrainians are seeking, by all available means, to leave the territories controlled by the Kyiv regime. They do not want to end up as cannon fodder and as organ donors. In that regard, it is worth recalling those instances, which caused quite a stir, of documents being found on captive personnel from the Ukrainian armed forces indicating their approval for their organs to be removed after death and shipped to Canada for transplantation (they were forced to sign such documents under the guise of medical insurance policies; these Ukrainian armed forces soldiers had no inkling of the true content of the paperwork they were signing).

Tens of thousands of Ukrainians who do not wish to fight are crossing the border illegally. In 2024, according to official data, at least 13,000 people managed to escape just to Romania through poorly guarded sections of the border. In view of this, on 22 March this year, the Ukrainian border protection service officially announced the introduction of enhanced measures for guarding the border with Hungary and Romania, including the use of piloted aircraft, special-purpose equipment and UAVs. That is, for guarding the border against the country's own citizens, who are fleeing from – as the representatives of Western countries in this room would have us believe – the incredibly successful and attractive Kyiv regime, a standard-bearer for the values of freedom and democracy.

It was in that vein – as if the Zelenskyy regime were indeed somehow defending the principles and values of freedom and democracy – that the members of the so-called “Community of Democracies” spoke a few days ago at their latest get-together, held in Vienna's Hofburg. They expatiated there on so-called “Russian disinformation, manipulation and propaganda”, all while they themselves were spreading fake stories about invented “Russian atrocities in Bucha” and the like. However, they ultimately had nothing to say about the real problems.

For example, about the nature of NATO's current proxy conflict with Russia, about the cancellation of elections at all levels in Ukraine and the usurpation of power by Kyiv's illegitimate “crisis managers” or, rather, “liquidation team”. About the massive encroachments on citizens' rights, not least in the religious sphere, where they include raid-like seizures of churches in hundreds of towns and cities, and also of the sacred places of the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves. About the persecution and assassination of journalists. About the Ukrainian armed forces' extensive violations of the norms of international humanitarian law with regard to the civilian population – the extrajudicial executions of, and acts of torture perpetrated against, civilians and captive military personnel. Or, last but not least, about the aforementioned information from the Ukrainian Ombudsman regarding the flagrant human rights abuses occurring during the forced mobilization, as a result of which the country's citizens are actively fleeing the ever so “democratic” Ukraine.

The “empire of lies” in the West continues to spawn anti-Russian, Russophobic narratives to the effect that the threat to democracy and to the well-being of Ukrainians is emanating from Russia, rather than from the Western-nurtured puppets in Kyiv. What is more, all this is being done amid blatant attempts by the EU elites to gag opposition leaders – in this case in their own backyard – using refined legal ruses and tactics. These goings-on are now obvious to the whole world, which understands perfectly well what Western grandees' talk about defending so-called “principles” and “values” is really worth.

And one more thing about democracy, freedom and independence. In view of the suspension of programmes of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the EU leadership has taken the decision to allocate an additional 10 million euros to support so-called “independent” media

outlets in Ukraine. Without batting an eyelid, EU leaders described this as “support[ing] individual independent journalists ... through sub-grants”. Excuse me, but “independent” from whom?

Overall, the European Union has since 2017 allocated 137 million euros in the form of grants to enable the work of “suitable” media outlets in Ukraine. All this while the Kyiv regime is implementing a policy of clamping down on genuinely independent local opposition media. Anti-Russian propaganda generally costs money, and, as we can see, funds are being dished out again, accompanied by ludicrous talk about “independence” that would not be out of place in George Orwell’s dystopia.

The head of the Kyiv regime, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, “distinguished” himself by some notable remarks he made last week. He explained that one of the principal motivations for all his actions was, I quote, “hatred of Russians”. This public admission by the leader of the neo-Nazi Banderite regime once again confirms that the inhabitants of the territories liberated by Russia – who are mainly ethnic Russians – made the only correct decision by opting to preserve their historical unity with our fatherland and to be incorporated into Russia. In Russia they found a bulwark against attempts at genocide and liquidation, against the forcible rejigging of their ethnocultural identity. And we are confident that Mr. Zelenskyy’s words about hatred of Russians underlying the Kyiv regime’s policies have also been heard loud and clear in a host of cities, towns and areas that are currently under the regime’s temporary control – in places inhabited by people of pan-Russian culture who are on their native land and who will never come to terms with the hatred directed at them by the transitory usurpers of power in Kyiv.

Mr. Chairperson,

In launching their hybrid attack, the NATO countries underestimated our State’s reserves of resilience, the cohesion and will of the Russian people, the determination to stand up for the interests of our fatherland’s unity and security. Today, Russian troops hold the strategic initiative along the entire line of engagement and continue to improve their positions.

We stress that Russia is committed in principle to a peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian conflict – a solution that must be sustainable and long-term, and be based on eliminating the root causes of the current crisis. For effective agreements to be reached, it is necessary that concrete practical steps be taken, which include halting the forced mobilization in Ukraine, terminating the provision of weapons and intelligence to the Kyiv regime’s formations, and putting a stop to the measures aimed at rearming the Ukrainian armed forces. As we can see, the Kyiv regime has so far not been sent any effective signals attesting to a desire on the part of its handlers to cease hostilities.

When it comes to protecting its interests, Russia is prepared to – and will – use all the means and resources at its disposal, including, to be sure, military ones.

Thank you for your attention.