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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1110th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 July 2016

**On the results of the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
in Tbilisi**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have taken note of the statement by the Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Ambassador Andreas Nothelle, on the outcome of the 25th Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly held in Tbilisi from 1 to 5 July.

We do not see the need to comment on the work of this fully autonomous dimension in our Organization's activities. Nor do we intend to discuss the resolutions adopted at the session which, as you know, are recommendations, all the more so since the members of the Russian parliamentary delegation explained their attitude to each of the documents discussed at the session in detail.

Nevertheless, we should like to make some comments on one current issue. We cannot agree with the assertions that there was full support in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for a number of resolutions, particularly on Crimea. As you know, according to the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, these documents are adopted not by consensus but merely by the majority of parliamentarians – and, what is more, among those present in the room when the vote is taken. Moreover, some parliamentarians from European Union Member States voted against the frankly offensive resolution on Crimea, and some members of the Assembly abstained or did not take part in the vote. In fact, the members of the Russian parliamentary delegation left the room when the vote on this document was being taken.

Assertions about the supposedly wholesale condemnation of the Russian Federation by participants in the Annual Session do not correspond to the facts either. In reality, many parliamentarians supported a significant number of the Russian proposals. In particular, mention should be made of the approval for the resolution concerning the unrestricted access by members of the Assembly to all OSCE events, which was already proposed last year by the chairman of the State Duma, Sergey Naryshkin.

The positive attitude to Russian initiatives is also demonstrated by the adoption of the resolution on the equipping of passenger aircraft with video recorders for security purposes proposed by a member of the Russian delegation, Special Representative on Anti-Terrorism Nikolay Kovalev. This position by the parliamentarians confirms their serious concern about the growing threat of terrorism in the OSCE area. Unfortunately, the recent tragic events in Nice and Munich only substantiate the priority that should be accorded to this issue and the need for a consolidated approach by the Parliamentary Assembly to combating terrorism. In that context, the proposal by the Russian delegation concerning the creation of an anti-terrorism committee within the Parliamentary Assembly is worthy of attention.

In spite of all the difficulties and differences of opinion, it is important that the Parliamentary Assembly remains a platform for constructive dialogue and discussion of the most pressing security problems in the OSCE area. This is possible only by moving away from the discussion of confrontational subjects, which merely emphasize the disunity of the participating States, towards the development of inter-parliamentary co-operation to counter new threats and challenges.

Thank you for your attention.