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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE
1524th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 June 2025

In response to the address by the President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta, H.E. Dr. Ian Borg

Minister,

Your appearance at the Permanent Council in the capacity of President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe leaves a painful impression. It is sad that the circumspection, sensible flexibility and thoughtfulness displayed by Maltese diplomacy during your chairing of the OSCE last year could not be put to proper use to curb the Russophobic initiatives in Strasbourg. We would hate to think that you did not set yourself such a task in the first place.

Under your leadership, the Council of Europe has continued to be transformed from a constructive multilateral entity into a primitive flail for castigating those whom the West deems objectionable. We can see how it is being attempted to drag the OSCE, too, into such a behavioural pattern. We must warn from the outset that this venture will never come to fruition. At least for as long as even just some of our Organization's participating States take as their premise the principles of sovereign equality and political diversity, along with the principle of respecting the right of other countries to have their own legitimate national interests and policy line.

Minister,

Seeing as you brought up our country in your address, we must make some comments as a matter of principle. Even though we have repeatedly spoken about this here.

First, Russia will under no circumstances ever recognize the legitimacy of pseudo-legal mechanisms for achieving so-called accountability under the pretext of the events in Ukraine. The "tribunal" initiatives being fostered in Strasbourg are legally null and void and no obligations for Russia can emanate from them. They amount to a banal attempt to use unsuitable means to "correct" Russia's sovereign foreign policy course. In practice, they are a meaningless and futile waste of time and resources.

Secondly, we can see how the Council of Europe is trying to endow its quasi-legal initiatives with legitimacy by knocking together a group that is as broad as possible to provide international support. We

caution that participation in these by any State is something that we will deem to be a hostile act. There will inevitably be severe consequences for jumping on the bandwagon of Russophobia.

Thirdly, a large number of crimes are being committed in Ukraine and in Russian constitutional territory that is under temporary occupation by the Kyiv regime, not least by mercenary fighters from member States of the Council of Europe and other countries. Crimes that are being deliberately hushed up for political reasons both in this room and at the Council of Europe. We would remind you that the investigative and judicial authorities of the Russian Federation are engaged in comprehensive work to gather and document verified facts and hold the perpetrators accountable. All those involved in such crimes will be duly punished. Sooner or later. Irrespective of their national affiliation or citizenship.

One last thing. In the course of 26 years of membership of the Council of Europe, the Russian Federation acceded to 68 multilateral treaties (Conventions and Protocols to these) adopted under the aegis of that organization and worked in good faith on implementing the objectives of these international instruments. We perceived such efforts to be a collective process of building a uniform legal space in Europe in the interests of all countries belonging to it. However, the events of the past few years have shown that not everyone needs such a Council of Europe. Our country could not remain in an organization that has turned into a tool for imposing a “rules-based order” and foisting its political and progressive neoliberal approaches on others.

At present, the Constitution of the Russian Federation guarantees a wider range of rights than the European Convention on Human Rights.

Thank you for your attention.