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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1166th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 November 2017

**In response to the European Union statement on the latest decisions of the
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia**

Mr. Chairperson,

Unfortunately, the representative of Estonia on behalf of the European Union (EU) did not explain what exactly in our statement at the Permanent Council meeting on 23 November caused “consternation”.

In that connection, I am obliged to repeat the main points.

We spoke about the one-sided anti-Serb interpretation by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) of the tragic events during the Yugoslav conflict. Charges were brought against more than 100 Serbs during the work of the ICTY. And yet, for example, among the Kosovo Albanians nine people were brought to court. Only three of them were convicted and given real sentences (the first received four months, the second got six years but was released early, and the third received 13 years). Does the EU consider this evidence of the Tribunal’s objectivity?

We also said that the ICTY had failed to cope with the main task of impartially bringing to justice all the perpetrators of the worst crimes. Is the shameful example for the Tribunal of the Kosovo Liberation Army field commander, Ramush Haradinaj, not enough? In a recent interview, the ICTY prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, confirmed that during the trial “there were repeated attempts to influence the testimony of witnesses, which ultimately led to a verdict of not guilty”. Is this really the norm in the EU?

In our statement, we pointed to the Tribunal’s departure from generally accepted standards of justice and the fundamental rights to life, health and medical care. The leader of the Serbian Radical Party, Vojislav Šešelj, spent 12 years in the ICTY prison and was completely acquitted in the end. Is this a normal civilized procedure – to keep a leading politician in prison for 12 years on the basis of imagined charges? Is it really the norm in the EU for defendants and witnesses not to live to see trial and for them to be denied treatment? Do you really think it is normal for defendants to commit suicide in the courtroom? It is

disgraceful that poison was brought into the court building and that the defendant Slobodan Praljak died. This is evidence of the total incompetence and shameful organization of the Tribunal's work – it leaves the international arena in disgrace.

It is these everyday occurrences in the ICTY that should cause “consternation” and not Russia's assessment of the Tribunal's activities.

Thank you for your attention.