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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1192<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 July 2018

**On the anniversary of the tragic events in Srebrenica**

Mr. Chairperson,

We pay tribute to the memory of the victims of the tragedy in Srebrenica and the surrounding area. We express our condolences to the families and friends of the deceased.

We have consistently called for all of the perpetrators of war crimes against the civilian population in the Balkans to be brought to justice. We regard as extremely dangerous attempts to use the memory of what happened in Srebrenica for self-interested political purposes. There is a need to bring about a lasting reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in South-Eastern Europe in general. The memory of the events in the 1990s should not prevent the difficult post-conflict legacy in the former Yugoslavia from being overcome as quickly as possible. We welcome the steps taken by the leaders of the countries in the region to strengthen relations between States and promote inter-ethnic and interreligious harmony. We are convinced that only a forward-looking approach based on co-operation has any historical perspective in the Balkans.

Thank you for your attention.