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**STATEMENT BY  
AMBASSADOR VÉRONIQUE ROGER-LACAN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE OSCE,  
AT THE 1096th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 April 2016

Mr. Chairperson,

I agree with the statement by the European Union but should like to make a few comments in my national capacity regarding the safety and security of the monitors of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). The SMM monitors are doing tremendous and extremely useful work on the ground and in conditions that, as we are aware, are not always easy. We should like to pay tribute here to their commitment and professionalism.

We are extremely concerned at the two incidents that occurred last week, on 7 and 9 April 2016, involving two SMM patrols. The incident of 7 April took place 72 kilometres east of Donetsk in an area controlled by the separatists. The monitors on patrol noticed a bullet mark on the vehicle's reinforced glass panel. The incident of 9 April occurred in an area controlled by the Ukrainian Government, 50 kilometres north-east of Donetsk, where the five monitors on patrol were targeted by small-arms fire. We strongly condemn both of these incidents.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is unacceptable that unarmed civilian OSCE monitors are subjected to this type of intimidation. The safety of the monitors is our priority and we urge the parties to exercise restraint.

We call for an investigation by the competent authorities to determine who was responsible and punish the guilty parties.