

PC.DEL/213/17  
17 February 2017

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1134th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 February 2017

**On the referendum in the Republic of South Ossetia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We consider it incorrect to comment here on the decision of the leadership of the independent Republic of South Ossetia, which is not a participating State of the OSCE, to hold a referendum on the name of its own State. It is the sovereign right of Tskhinval, and related questions should be addressed to it.

We hope that Georgia will stop making capital out of this topic in order to justify its unconstructive position in the negotiations carried out within the framework of the International Discussions on Security and Stability in the Trans-Caucasus.

Thank you for your attention.