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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1089th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 February 2016

**In response to the reports by the Chairpersons of
the Security Committee, the Economic and Environmental Committee and
the Human Dimension Committee**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank our distinguished colleagues – Ambassadors Cristian Istrate, Andreas Papadakis and Katja Pehrman – for the interesting information on the work plans of the Permanent Council Committees they chair.

We note the fruitful work of the Security Committee headed by Ambassador Istrate. In particular, the Committee facilitated the adoption of a set of important documents on transnational threats at the Ministerial Council meeting in Belgrade. We welcome the Committee's close co-operation with the Transnational Threats Department of the OSCE Secretariat.

We agree that of all the problems that the Committee is dealing with in countering transnational threats priority attention should be given, first and foremost, to pooling efforts to combat terrorism and extremism. We look forward to the Committee's active involvement in the preparations for the forthcoming conference on this topic in Berlin on 31 May and 1 June.

Combating illicit drug trafficking should remain a key item on the agenda. We expect a balanced approach, taking into account the interests of all OSCE participating States, to be applied to other aspects as well – policing, border management and security, and the use of information and communication technologies.

We thank the distinguished Ambassador of Greece for his effective leadership of the Economic and Environmental Committee. Constructive dialogue within the Committee has considerable unifying potential.

In the context of the 24th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on strengthening stability and security through co-operation on good governance, we look

forward to a substantive discussion on trade facilitation, economic co-operation and improving the investment climate. We consider it useful to continue discussing the transport agenda, primarily in the context of developing international transport links and corridors. We are ready to share our experience and best practices in good governance of labour migration. We have some interesting insights and would be happy to discuss them with our partners.

In our view, the OSCE could also serve as a useful platform for discussions on energy efficiency and conservation, which are relevant for all participating States. In addition, we are in favour of retaining the topic of reducing the risk of natural and man-made disasters on the second basket's agenda.

We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Pehrman as Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee. We share the idea mentioned in her statement of ensuring that discussions within the Committee are professional, without escalating confrontation or politicizing the topics under discussion.

We note the efforts to ensure that the Committee's work programme for the coming year is balanced. We welcome the inclusion of topics such as economic, social and cultural rights, the rights of persons with disabilities and of children, and combating trafficking in human beings. Economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of the child should be considered separately.

Unfortunately, the blatant bias towards civil and political rights persists, and several items, for example freedom of the media and freedom of expression, actually overlap.

Burning issues such as eliminating statelessness, countering aggressive nationalism, protection of privacy, freedom of movement and human contacts, and the migration crisis, not least in the context of protecting women from violence, have also been left on the sidelines.

We believe it would be advisable to look for other formats for discussing States' examples of best practices so as not to overburden the Committee with voluntary reports, in imitation of the monitoring mechanisms of the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

As for the broader plan of human dimension events compiled by the Chairmanship, we have a number of ideas to make the document more balanced and to avoid repeating the same topics year after year. We are ready to work constructively on that plan with the Chairmanship and countries concerned.

In the context of human dimension events, I should also like to recall that Russia remains convinced of the need to move the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting from Warsaw to Vienna. We have made known our reasons for this, including here in the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention.