

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

FSC.DEL/401/21
28 October 2021

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. KONSTANTIN GAVRILOV,
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY AND
ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 991st PLENARY MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

27 October 2021

**Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Situation in and around Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Russian Federation does not consider it necessary to listen to the propaganda exercises of the Ukrainian delegation or to hold discussions on the confrontational topic which it is trying to impose. At the same time, I believe it is extremely important to draw the attention of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to the information that appeared in the British newspaper *The Times* on 21 October about the possible delivery of missiles to Ukraine by the United Kingdom.

The article in question begins with the absurd supposition that Russia could allegedly try to exploit the gas crisis to “seize” Ukrainian territory. “As the concerns grow”, as the article puts it, the British may well supply Ukraine with surface-to-surface missiles. We are talking about MBDA’s Brimstone missiles, which would subsequently be deployed on Ukrainian navy vessels. In addition, the possibility of installing such missiles on Ukrainian aircraft, at a cost of 138,000 US dollars per missile, is being considered. The developer’s website points out that the range of targets that can be hit by these missiles (weighing 50 kg and measuring almost two metres in length) extends from fast-moving and manoeuvring vehicles to bunkers, tanks and ships.

It would not be amiss to recall that such missiles were used by the British Royal Air Force during military operations in Afghanistan, Libya and Syria.

The UK Ministry of Defence has confirmed this information, citing a tripartite memorandum concluded in Odessa on 23 June by the British group Babcock with the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence and the UK Government regarding the launch of Ukraine’s Naval Capabilities Enhancement Programme. It will be implemented with full assistance from the United Kingdom. Funding has been entrusted to UK Export Finance (the UK export credit agency) in the form of a 1.25 billion pound loan.

I shall not comment on the passages about a “gas crisis” in Europe (these are completely paranoid insinuations), but I would remind you that during the current round of negotiations the UK delegation has

repeatedly voiced its “concerns” about our military activities on Russian territory (it is our sovereign right to conduct these exercises on our national territory). Well, we now have a clear insight into the reasons behind the anti-Russian information campaign unleashed by certain delegations. We would describe this as an attempt to divert attention from the irresponsible policy of Western countries to pump Ukraine full of increasingly dangerous weapons. Not only will the “fruits” of such decisions not lead to a reduction in tensions on the ground, but they will also make the situation considerably worse for the civilians in Donbas, who are literally living “under a loaded gun”.

We would remind our British colleagues that, in the absence of a United Nations Security Council arms embargo, there is a whole system of international restrictions and prohibitions that applies to arms deliveries to Ukraine, including the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers, the Arms Trade Treaty and paragraph 10 of the Minsk Package of Measures regarding the need to withdraw foreign military equipment from the territory of Ukraine. There is every reason therefore to describe arms deliveries to the conflict-torn country outright as a manifestation of legal nihilism undermining the status and significance of the relevant international agreements and obligations. Such actions are anything but evidence of a commitment to the peaceful settlement of the conflict in south-eastern Ukraine.

We cannot but draw attention to something that was demonstratively not mentioned at today’s FSC meeting either by the Ukrainian delegation or by the “Anglo-Saxon trio”, namely the use of unmanned combat aerial vehicles (the Turkish Bayraktar) in Donbas on 26 October. As Sergey Lavrov noted, this affair should give food for thought to those who are arming the Kyiv regime.

The Ukrainian military’s seizure of the village of Staromarivka (including the Russian citizens living there), which is located in the so-called “grey zone”, is also outrageous. All these incidents require an immediate reaction from the international community. They amount to a direct violation of the Minsk agreements, exacerbate the situation at the line of contact in Donbas and are not conducive to resolving the internal Ukrainian conflict.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.