

PC.DEL/1062/16
8 July 2016

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1107th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 July 2016

In response to the report by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to Ambassador Vaidotas Verba, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, for the information on his current activities and some points of reference for the foreseeable future. Given the internal conflict in Ukraine, he is faced with the difficult task of developing project activities in line with the legal rights and interests of all citizens of the country regardless of where they live, their nationality, language, culture or religious affiliation. This also applies to those who live in the Donbas territories not under the control of the Ukrainian Government.

The Co-ordinator has sufficient resources for carrying out the tasks under his mandate. During last year's discussions on the budget, we agreed to increase the funding for the Office's work in 2016, thereby granting the Co-ordinator an additional credit of trust. In evaluating the results of the Co-ordinator's work, we take note of the reservation made in Mr. Verba's written report that in view of the lengthy time required for the Ukrainian authorities to approve new projects, the Office has been unable to get down to work on implementing many initiatives during the past six months. We trust that by the end of this year the Co-ordinator will provide assessments of the effectiveness of his activities and report on the results achieved.

We welcome Mr. Verba's focus on facilitating the observance of OSCE commitments in Ukraine equally in all three dimensions in strict accordance with the Co-ordinator's mandate. We would emphasize that the Co-ordinator, just like other OSCE field presences, can support the host country in carrying out reforms only within the relevant areas of the Organization's work.

In the first dimension we note the Co-ordinator's focus on helping to combat transnational crime, money laundering, trafficking in human beings and domestic violence, as well as safeguarding chemical security. We draw the Co-ordinator's attention to the problem reported by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) of the rise in crime in

the western and central regions of the country involving the use of weapons illegally imported from the conflict zone.

We believe it important to assist Ukraine in demining activities. Comprehensive work is needed to draw up maps of the minefields laid by the Ukrainian armed forces, train Ukrainian civilian departments in the principles of humanitarian demining and warn the population of the threat posed by mines and unexploded ordnance. Meanwhile the SMM regularly reports about the death and injury of civilians as a result of triggering mines, including those laid by security forces near their checkpoints.

In the economic field we welcome the Co-ordinator's work to facilitate joint projects to support the network of Aarhus Centres and improve radiological and environmental monitoring of territories affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

In the humanitarian sphere we support the promotion of all forms of dialogue within Ukrainian society. In that connection, we draw attention to the fact that national dialogue is possible only through the involvement of representatives of all population groups, political movements and territories, including certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The discussion should be serious and focused on results. A mechanism is needed to take into account the views expressed during the discussions in the process of constitutional and other reforms. As it is, Mr. Verba has managed to establish contact between the central authorities of Ukraine and the civil-military administration of the part of Donbas controlled by the Ukrainian Government.

We attach great importance to promoting human rights in Ukraine. We are, however, obliged to note that the situation in this area in Ukraine is only getting worse. The persecution of critically disposed public figures, journalists and ordinary citizens continues in the country. The tragedy in Odessa and other crimes against humanity are not being investigated. Censorship of the media is increasing, human rights are being violated in the judicial and prison system, and there is no stopping the excesses of radical nationalists and extremists. The situation in Ukraine as regards democratization, good governance, the rule of law and the fight against corruption is deplorable.

In short, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine has much work ahead of him. We wish Mr. Verba every success in promoting the rights and interests of all citizens and all regions of Ukraine.

Thank you for your attention.