

Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE AT THE 1116th
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 October 2016

**In response to the statement by the delegation of the Russian Federation on
the violations of the rights of migrants in the European Union**

Without prejudice to the comments that might be contained in the upcoming statement on behalf of the European Union, I should like to respond to the statement by the Russian delegation and to comment on a few points regarding the situation of migrants in Calais raised by the Russian Ambassador at the start of his statement.

Humanitarian arrangements have been made in France to deal with the situation of those in Calais seeking asylum in France and the European Union.

On 26 September 2016, the President of the Republic visited Calais to announce the complete and definitive dismantling of camp de la Lande.

This decision was put into effect from Sunday, 23 October 2016. The operation involves the unprecedented mobilization of numerous public services and also of local authorities and community partners.

The prefecture of the Pas-de-Calais issued an eviction order on Friday, 21 October 2016, ordering the clearing of camp de la Lande, giving the occupants, who have no legal right or residence permit, 72 hours to leave. A sole exception will be made for foreign unaccompanied minors, who will be temporarily taken into care in two reception centres near the camp.

The Government has conducted a humanitarian operation with regard to camp de la Lande in Calais, offering every migrant on the site an arrangement adapted to their situation. Almost 6,000 migrants have been offered shelter since October 2015 in reception and orientation centres well-integrated in the country.

The Defender of Rights, the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Contrôleur générale des lieux de privation de liberté (an independent authority responsible for monitoring places of deprivation of liberty) and the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights have been invited to monitor the shelter operation.

Mr. Chairperson,

All of the migrants will be offered shelter, and assistance will be provided to asylum-seekers within France's asylum mechanism.

The operation is being planned systematically with relevant associations. The joint mobilization of public services and associations is an indispensable prerequisite for the successful dismantling of camp de la Lande in Calais.

The transit centre set up during the evacuation has now been closed so as to avoid an opportunistic rush on it.

I should like to emphasize that particular attention is being given to unaccompanied minors, and solutions taking account of and adapted to their individual needs will be provided. Among the hundreds of minors in Calais, many have families in the United Kingdom, with which France is co-operating closely in this matter. Nearly 250 minors have already been transferred to the United Kingdom as part of the dismantling operation.

The files of other unaccompanied minors will continue to be examined in the special centres where they are being sent.

As you can see, there is no question of "violation of the rights of migrants", to quote the misleading term used by the Russian delegation.

I thank you for your attention.