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

28 January 2010

**In response to the statement by the European Union on the reform of the  
criminal justice system in Russia**

Mr. Chairman,

We have listened with interest to the statement by the European Union regarding the measures being taken in Russia to reform the judicial and prison systems and on the reasons for and consequences of those measures. As rightly noted in the statement, these issues receive constant attention from the Russian Government, under the personal supervision of the President of the Russian Federation.

We continue to be surprised not only at the heightened interest in the internal situation in Russia but also at the way particular events are interpreted. One has the impression that our European colleagues are more concerned with what is happening in our country than they are with the state of affairs in their own societies. Still, we have taken note of the positive assessment by the EU of Russia's efforts in the area of human rights, although we would emphasize that the subjects mentioned today constitute a logical link in a chain of comprehensive measures on the part of the authorities aimed at improving the internal affairs agencies and the criminal justice system in the way they work and at making the criminal laws more humane.

Thank you for your attention.