

FSC-PC.DEL/2/16  
9 March 2016

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 62nd JOINT MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM  
FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 March 2016

**In response to the statements by Mr. Andreas Michaelis,  
Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany, and  
Mr. Joris Voorhoeve, Professor of International Organizations,  
Leiden University, the Netherlands**

Distinguished Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation,  
Distinguished Chairperson of the Permanent Council,  
Distinguished colleagues,

We thank today's speakers and have listened to their statements with great interest. Some of their opinions coincide with the Russian views.

In the first place, this concerns the need for continued all-weather and mutually respectful dialogue and work to build confidence for the sake of our common security. This principle is implemented in the OSCE, once again demonstrating the Organization's central role among regional formats in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area. Its platform of inclusive dialogue on an equal footing effectively illustrates the principle of sovereign equality of States and, thanks to the consensus rule, permits the adoption of genuinely collective decisions responding to the interests of all OSCE participating States.

Other mechanisms, unfortunately, have been "frozen" by absurd attempts to "punish, contain or isolate" Russia. Moreover, this has been done in spite of existing agreements on the functioning of these mechanisms under any circumstances and in the presence of differences.

We have been talking here about violations of the Helsinki principles and the need to call things by their names. Russia has repeatedly appealed to the OSCE's norms and principles. However, people have preferred not to listen to us and have tried to show that there is no alternative way. One need only recall the aggression by the NATO countries against Yugoslavia in 1999, which was designed to change the borders of a sovereign State with the use of military force.

The main problem with today's crisis of confidence is the choice of a "closed" security architecture detrimental to the development of pan-European institutions, and the disregard for the principle of the indivisibility of security. The Charter of Paris of 1990 set out the task of building a unified, free and peaceful Europe. NATO decided that this should be done by expanding the bloc, in the belief that this expansion supposedly increased everybody's security. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has openly stated this.

As for the proposal to resume the work of the NATO-Russia Council, I would remind you that it was not Russia that called it to a halt. It was the result of a collective decision by the members of the Alliance, which inflicted serious damage on international efforts to meet new challenges. Moreover, NATO decided to crank up the myth of "a threat from the East" to justify the increase in military expenditure and the build-up of its presence near the Russian borders.

This approach has given rise to many problems and has in particular had a destructive influence on arms-control instruments in force. There is still a reluctance to consider the close connection between conventional arms control in Europe and pan-European confidence-building measures. To find a way out of this impasse, there is a need for political will, the restoration of confidence and the formation of a new unified political platform for pan-European security, whose nature should be determined by the collective capability of the States of Europe to counter the threats common to them all, most of which come from outside the European continent.

The goal was set at the OSCE Summit in Astana of building a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones with different levels of security. Today, almost six years later, it remains relevant. Moreover, it gives us the possibility not of focusing on the past but of looking to the future.

I should like to mention the words of the Chairperson-in-Office Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier spoken here on 14 January, which, in our opinion, epitomize the philosophy of co-operation in the OSCE: "Let's not cling to the old platitudes and certainties. Rather, let's work together to resolve the new issues which are now facing us."

Among these problems is the Ukrainian crisis, where the only acceptable possibility for settlement is full and rigorous compliance with all of the provisions of the Minsk Package of Measures.

The chaos in the Middle East and North Africa is a growing threat, combined with religious confrontation, which is not only "eating away" at the region itself but also spilling over beyond its confines. Greater attention also needs to be paid to the migration crisis provoked by this chaos and terrorist activity. Nor should we forget the threats emanating from other regions adjacent to the OSCE area. We all are faced with serious challenges from international terrorism, transnational crime, drug trafficking and trafficking in human beings.

These problems can only be resolved together, using all of the OSCE's potential, which has not yet been fully exploited. There is a need to revive our joint efforts to eliminate the accumulated institutional deficits within the Organization, draft and adopt a charter/constituent document, strengthen the regulatory framework for the work of the executive structures and rectify the obvious imbalance between the three security dimensions.

There is also a need to dispense with the logic of dividing lines and closed borders, safeguarding a country's own security at the expense of the security of others, conducting economic blockades, exclusion from regional economic projects, visa and other restrictive measures and citing human rights issues as a pretext for exerting political pressure.

Confidence can be restored by renewing open dialogue with a non-ideological analysis of the problems aimed at identifying the lessons to be learned. It is important to refrain from bloc thinking and to discuss our perception of the modern-day threats facing each of us and concentrate on managing shared strategic tasks based on the principle of the indivisibility of security, while at the same time respecting the diversity of cultures and States.

Russia is open to the most wide-ranging co-operation on a genuinely equal basis as an indispensable condition for its sustainability. We continue to assert that one of the strategic aims of co-operation within the OSCE should be the gradual building of a common economic and humanitarian space from the Atlantic to the Pacific through the convergence of European and Eurasian integrationist processes. History suggests that the attempts over the last two or more centuries to unite Europe against Russia have inevitably had tragic consequences.

Forty years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, Russia would like to see real life injected into this document. It is important to reaffirm the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States, to refrain from unilateral actions, sanctions instruments, boycotts and embargoes, and attempts to organize "coloured" revolutions, and to confirm the inadmissibility of giving encouragement to radical extremist forces.

Thank you for your attention.