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PC.DEL/310/25
28 March 2025

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1514th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 March 2025

**On the “anniversary” of the invocation of the “Vienna Mechanism” in relation to
Russia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have taken note of the statement by the Permanent Representative of Norway, who also spoke on behalf of a group of OSCE participating States. We should like to make a few brief comments.

We have long ceased to be surprised by the desire of the Western alliance countries to denounce Russia by any means at their disposal, the crudeness of which has nothing in common with dialogue or diplomatic practice. For them, criticism of our country has become an obsession which, often contrary to OSCE commitments and common sense, determines the behaviour of their representatives.

The invocation of the “Vienna Mechanism” in relation to our country is clear evidence of this. We are not going to comment substantively on this “mothballed instrument”, the value of which is currently equal to zero. If you want to ride on museum-piece steam locomotives in the twenty-first century, it is your right to do so, but it is actually faster, more comfortable and safer to get from A to B using high-speed, electric-powered trains nowadays.

For those who do not know – and this seems to be the majority – let us explain: the need to use a mechanism for the exchange of information between countries has long ceased to exist. This exchange already occurs on a regular basis at Permanent Council meetings under the agenda item “Review of current issues”. This is, in fact, the “Vienna Mechanism” in the literal sense of the word, without the quotation marks. Subjects relating to the situation in Russia are touched upon in one form or another by a number of States at almost every meeting. Or do the initiators of the “Vienna Mechanism” see no need to discuss current issues and respond to them? We would ask the organizers of this dubious undertaking to be consistent.

As for the issue of the “mechanism”, even here its initiators have shown their cavalier attitude towards the OSCE and their lack of respect for it by imposing concepts that are alien to our Organization. Not to mention the fact that there are no so-called political articles in the Russian legislation and, consequently, no “political prisoners”. There are people who have broken the law and have therefore been

punished. Everything happens in line with the established procedures, as it should in a State governed by the rule of law.

There are enough problems “in the countries west of Vienna”. Put your own house in order before you lecture others.

Thank you for your attention.