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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1198th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 October 2018

On the explosion in Kerch

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, I should like to express my gratitude to the Italian OSCE Chairmanship for its condolences in connection with the tragedy in Kerch, as a result of which 20 people died and around 50 were injured – most of them children.

According to the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, there was an explosion at the polytechnic college in Kerch on 17 October. Information later emerged about a shooting. It was established that the shooting and explosion were carried out by a student at the college, who then committed suicide.

The Investigative Committee initially opened a criminal case under the article on terrorist acts, but after clarifying the circumstances of the tragedy, it reclassified the crime as mass murder.

The Russian Government was instructed to take all necessary measures to assist the victims. For that purpose, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education were sent to Kerch. A plane from the Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Relief also flew to the scene with medical modules and equipment.

The Russian President expressed his condolences to the relatives of the victims and promised to do everything possible to aid the recovery of the injured. He also stated that the motive for and accounts of the tragic events are being carefully investigated, and the results will be communicated to the public.