

PC.DEL/215/17  
17 February 2017

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1134th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 February 2017

**On the partial decriminalization of  
domestic violence in the Russian Federation**

Mr. Chairperson,

Our colleagues have already brought up this subject only recently. Despite our detailed explanations, we keep hearing the same points being made. Do you think there is nothing else with which to fill the Permanent Council's agenda?

Indeed, on 7 February, the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, signed the Federal Law on Amendments to Article 116 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, which removes a number of acts from criminal liability and classifies them as administrative offences. The text of the Law has been published. If colleagues have an honest desire to understand its content and not just to keep this Russian topic on the agenda by any means, we encourage them to study the subject more deeply.

The assertion that the amendments will lead to increased violence is unfounded. The initiators of the law proceeded from the principle of proportional justice. The goal was to reduce rigid government intervention, which is not always justified, in the private life of the family. Such an intervention – to remind those who are referring here to OSCE commitments – may conflict with the provisions on the right to the protection of private and family life contained in the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE held in 1991.

Family disputes happen everywhere. Should the State make a dispute irrevocable or, conversely, help to preserve the family and its well-being?

We emphasize once again – the innovation in Russia's legislation applies to incidents that do not cause injury and that occur only once. If the incident is repeated, criminal liability will be inevitable. Any violence that is systematic or that causes even minor injury remains a criminal offence. Nobody has abolished the provision in the Criminal Code stating that

violence against pregnant women, minors or persons known to be in a state of helplessness is an aggravating circumstance.

Thank you for your attention.