

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1116th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 October 2016

**In response to the address by the President of the  
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Ms. Christine Muttonen**

Ms. Muttonen,

First of all, we should like to congratulate you on your election as President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We hope that in this post you will be able to strengthen the atmosphere of mutual understanding and constructive co-operation on the basis of respect for the national interests of all participating States. We trust that the spirit of parliamentarianism, which should unite rather than divide the peoples of the Euro-Atlantic region, will finally prevail over the current electoral environment and confrontational approach.

We have listened carefully to your address, in which you outlined ways of strengthening the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly's role in this. We are in full agreement with you that the OSCE must serve as a forum for effective dialogue. We also appreciate the purpose of our Organization and its Parliamentary Assembly as a platform for dialogue with a view to reaching agreement on ways of addressing the most pressing issues on the pan-European agenda.

We believe that this kind of constructive dialogue should be focused on strengthening security and developing co-operation in the OSCE's area of responsibility. There is particular need for this today when Europe is confronted with growing challenges and problems emanating from outside the region.

The main challenge is the global terrorist threat, which directly affects the security of the European continent. We are pleased to note that the OSCE has begun recently to deal actively with combating terrorism, in particular preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters and also countering the spread of terrorist and extremist ideas. We also note the contribution by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to this work. A concrete example was the adoption at Russia's initiative at the Assembly's Tbilisi session of a resolution on the introduction of video monitoring on passenger aircraft for security purposes. We believe that the idea of establishing an Assembly committee to counter the terrorist threat also deserves due consideration.

No less pressing is the challenge connected with the migration crisis that has engulfed the European continent. The Assembly's autumn meeting held in Skopje from 29 September to 2 October spoke of the need to step up and co-ordinate the efforts of the international community, including within the framework of the OSCE, to overcome the negative consequences of this crisis.

In our opinion, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which is made up of parliamentarians from countries representing various economic associations, could facilitate the formation of a common economic area from Lisbon to Vladivostok by combining the integration processes in the OSCE area. This topic could become one of the key themes for future sessions of the Assembly.

Of course, the discussion of all these issues with the aim of arriving at consolidated decisions and resolutions depends to a large extent on the willingness of the Assembly's parliamentarians and leadership to stop focusing on confrontational topics that inevitably heighten mistrust and tension among countries. In that connection, we are impressed by your call for constructive and future-oriented discussions so as not to make dialogue a hostage to politicized accusations.

Constantly harping on about the topic of violations of OSCE commitments is clearly not conducive to that goal. It is hardly in our common interests to keep making lopsided assertions, forgetting what happened in Yugoslavia in 1999 and later in the Middle East and North Africa. It is important to look objectively at the causes and consequences of particular events and not to allow them to be repeated, by drawing the right conclusions from the disregard confirmed at the highest level for the principles of the indivisibility of security and of not strengthening one's own security at the expense of the security of others.

Finding a way out of the current stalemate situation will require political will, a rebuilding of trust and the formation of a new political platform for questions of pan-European security, the quality of which should be determined by the collective ability of the countries of Europe to counter common threats, most of which are being generated outside the European continent.

Joint efforts are needed in the Assembly to prevent the erection of any dividing lines or visa barriers in the OSCE area. In that connection, we welcome the resolution adopted in Tbilisi, at the initiative of the Russian delegation among others, on the unrestricted access of members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to all its events.

Russia has always advocated maintaining constructive and mutually respectful co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as attested by the regular visits of its leaders to Moscow. Bilateral contacts of this kind help to foster collaboration and increase the Assembly's authority. We intend to continue with this approach in the future.

Thank you for your attention.