

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1101st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 May 2016

On the situation in Macedonia

Mr. Chairperson,

The cancellation of the early parliamentary elections in Macedonia scheduled for 5 June 2016, on which the main hopes rested for extracting the country from the drawn-out crisis it faces, is a matter of extreme concern. It is clear that the unprecedented pressure exerted on the authorities of an independent State by outside forces that have insisted on offering to help to find an internal political compromise played a decisive role in this regard.

We should like to point out that further aggravation of the internal conflicts and efforts to destabilize the fragile situation in a country with a complex ethnic and religious make-up is likely to have far-reaching ramifications not only for Macedonia but also for the region as a whole. We call on all political forces in Macedonia and external mediators from the European Union and the United States of America to work towards solving the domestic situation in Macedonia through dialogue within the framework of the existing legal and democratic procedures with respect for the activities and decisions of the legitimate authorities with a view to restoring stability and social harmony in the country.

Thank you for your attention.