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

27 October 2016

**On the results of the parliamentary elections in Montenegro**

Mr. Chairperson,

Our observers state that no serious criticisms arose concerning the organization of the nationwide parliamentary elections in Montenegro. We presume that the technical irregularities did not have any significant impact on the results. We are also aware of the criticism of the elections by local opposition groups and certain European non-governmental organizations specializing in election monitoring, which emphasized, among other things, the extremely politicized atmosphere of the recently concluded campaign.

This makes the political results of the vote even more significant. It is apparent that political forces that based their pre-election campaigning on the cultivation of an alleged “Russian threat” and on promoting the divisive prospect of NATO membership were not well received by the overwhelming majority. In fact, the citizens of Montenegro came out in favour of a multifaceted foreign policy taking equal account of the present-day reality in the region and the country’s centuries-old historical and cultural ties with its traditional partners.

Following the elections, the political parties in the Montenegrin parliament will face difficult coalition discussions. A necessary condition for a stable society and hence the key to the future development of Montenegro would be an end to attempts at external interference in this process. We trust that the new legislative and executive bodies formed in the wake of the election will listen to the opinion of the people of Montenegro and shape their policies on the basis of a unifying political agenda taking account of the multifaceted interests of their own people.

Thank you for your attention.