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Delegation of France

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE (ALSO ON BEHALF OF GERMANY)
AT THE 1149th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 June 2017

The case of Valentina Cherevatenko

Supplementing the statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, I have the honour of speaking on behalf of France and Germany.

Valentina Cherevatenko, president of the non-governmental organization Women of the Don, is one of the winners of the 2016 Franco-German Prize for Human Rights. She has long been performing remarkable work in aid of the rights of women and of citizens in conflict zones, particularly in the North Caucasus and between Russia and Ukraine.

France and Germany recall their commitment to freedom of initiative and action by NGOs who should be allowed to perform their role in full in the dialogue between French, German and Russian civil societies that our authorities have agreed to promote.