

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1191st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 July 2018

Regarding the cases of Oyub Titiev and Yury Dmitriev

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to our colleagues for their attention to this matter.

As was already noted at previous Permanent Council meetings (most recently on 14 June 2018), the investigation of the criminal case of Oyub Titiev is over, and he has been charged under the relevant article of the Russian Federation Criminal Code with the illegal acquisition, storage and transportation of drugs.

A preliminary hearing on this case should have taken place on 3 July. However, according to information available, Oyub Titiev's defence appealed to the Supreme Court of the Chechen Republic to have the case hearing transferred to another region of Russia, and this is currently under consideration.

As for Yury Dmitriev, there can be no question of politically motivated charges, as some here are trying to claim. I would remind you that on 5 April the Petrozavodsk City Court cleared him of the charges against him under the article of the Russian Federation Criminal Code on the production of child pornography. At the same time, the court found Yury Dmitriev guilty of unlawful possession of firearms and sentenced him to two years and six months' imprisonment. In view of the time that he had already spent in pre-trial detention, his prison sentence was three months.

According to information available, on 14 June on the basis of fresh questioning of Yury Dmitriev's foster daughter and following the consideration of appeals, the Supreme Court of Karelia overturned the initial verdict and remanded the case for a retrial. Mr. Dmitriev is charged with committing indecent acts with respect to a person under the age of 14. As has been reported, his lawyers filed an appeal requesting that the remanding in custody be changed to house arrest.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, I should like to mention that all these procedures are clearly regulated by Russian Federation legislation and fall within the competence of the judicial authorities. In accordance with the Constitution and international norms guaranteeing the independence of all three branches of power, no one has the right to interfere with the work of the courts. I would remind you that commitments on this subject have also been adopted within our Organization. I am referring to the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE of 1991, paragraph 19 of which states: “The participating States will respect the internationally recognized standards that relate to the independence of judges”; the same paragraph provides for “prohibiting improper influence on judges”.

Thank you for your attention.