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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1114th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 October 2016

On the anniversary of the 1938 Munich Agreement

Mr. Chairperson,

With increasing frequency in recent years we have been faced in the OSCE area with persistent attempts by some countries to falsify and rewrite the history of the Second World War.

In that connection, we should like to draw attention once again to one of the most tragic dates in the history of the twentieth century, namely 30 September 1938. On that day, the leading European powers, Great Britain and France, concluded an infamous agreement with Nazi Germany, which has gone down in history as the Munich Agreement. As you know, this Agreement, signed by Neville Chamberlain and Édouard Daladier on the one hand and Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini on the other, sealed the allegedly voluntary transfer of the territory of Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia, as it was at the time, to Germany.

In their efforts to avert the threat to themselves and point the Nazi military machine eastward, the Western European powers chose the tactic of appeasing an aggressor craving for new conquests and new territories and, even more, revenge for past defeats. In fact, this shameful step by so-called European democracies confirmed to the leadership of the Third Reich that it could conduct its aggressive and inhuman policies with impunity, opening the way to its aggression in the East and initiating the Second World War. In effect, it signified the capitulation of Western Europe to Nazism.

We are all well aware of the sad consequences of this short-sighted policy: a protracted war, the most destructive and bloodiest in the history of mankind, tens of millions of people killed, wounded and disappearing without a trace, Nazi concentration camps, hunger, devastation and immeasurable suffering. Unparalleled efforts by all progressive forces and the creation of an anti-Hitler coalition were needed to deal with this and to destroy Nazi Germany and liberate Europe.

Against this background, we are bewildered and concerned at the absence of an appropriate response by Western countries to the many instances of the veneration of Nazism

and its supporters, demonstrations by veterans of the Waffen-SS, the glorification of groups like the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists or the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, and manifestations of neo-Nazism, radical nationalism and other aggressive ideologies. We have already been offered grim lessons regarding the harmfulness of this approach to history. Do we need to repeat them?

Thank you for your attention.