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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE
1070th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 October 2015

**In response to the report by the OSCE Representative to the
Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Napiontek,

We appreciate your responsible and highly professional approach to the performance of your mandate.

The Russian Federation highly values the OSCE's contribution to the work of the Commission. We believe that it is an effective mechanism playing an important role in providing practical assistance in safeguarding the basic rights of military pensioners in Latvia, who are a socially vulnerable group within the population.

There are still some problems demanding attention in this area. Some military pensioners continue to live in privatized houses and apartments and remain under threat of eviction. There is still disagreement on the interpretation of various provisions of the 1994 Russian-Latvian agreement on social security questions for the more than 8,000 military pensioners from the Russian Federation and members of their families living on the territory of Latvia affected by the agreement. Nor has the procedure for reimbursement of medical expenses been fully settled.

We agree that in spite of the progress made by the Latvian-Russian Commission, there are still issues that could require the participation of the OSCE Representative and the exploitation of the potential of his office to resolve the points of contention and safeguard the social security and rights of military pensioners. We therefore support the extension of his mandate in 2016.

As far as the financing of the Office of the OSCE Representative is concerned, this should be considered separately in the discussions on the 2016 OSCE Unified Budget.

We should like to wish Mr. Napiontek continued success in his work.

Thank you for your attention.