

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1110th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 July 2016

On the murder of the journalist Pavel Sheremet in Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation is seriously concerned at the murder in the centre of Kyiv of the well-known journalist Pavel Sheremet. He was a highly professional and principled person who was frequently critical of the authorities. We convey our deep condolences to his family and friends.

The statement by the representative of Ukraine attempting to detect a Russian “fingerprint” behind the brutal attack on Pavel Sheremet comes as no surprise in the reality of present-day Ukraine. Over the past three years, the new authorities in Kyiv have consistently imposed the idea of a foreign “enemy”, if only to justify the lawlessness existing in the country.

Mr. Sheremet was the latest victim of the system that has taken shape in Ukraine today, making it the “communal grave of journalists”. The investigations into the cases of Georgiy Gongadze, Oles Buzina and journalists killed in the conflict zone in the south-east of the country have not yet produced any conclusive results. On 20 July, Maria Rydvan, editor of the Ukrainian version of *Forbes* magazine, was attacked in a park in Kyiv.

We note the inability of the Ukrainian authorities to ensure the safety of journalists and the systematic violations by Ukraine of its obligations to freedom of speech and the protection of human rights.

We call on the Ukrainian Government to put an end to this sequence of crimes against journalists. We support the appeal to the Ukrainian authorities by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, to ensure observance of the fundamental principles of international law to guarantee the safety of journalists, to conduct an objective and thorough investigation into all crimes against journalists and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Thank you for your attention.