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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1506th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 January 2025

In response to the remarks by the OSCE Secretary General, Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu

Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Permanent Council. Allow me, first of all, to once again sincerely congratulate you on your appointment to this responsible post. You are taking up your job at a time when our Organization is by no means experiencing its best moment – mistrust and confrontation are off the charts and the very foundations of the OSCE, laid by wise politicians in 1975, are under threat. Such foundations as the consensus rule when adopting decisions, the imperative of maintaining professional and respectful dialogue, and co-operation in addressing real issues of vital importance to all the countries of our region.

The gravest crisis within the OSCE is due to the persistent desire of a number of participating States to turn the Organization exclusively into a tool for serving their national and bloc-based interests. The complete “Ukrainization” of the agenda has paralysed the thematic work in all three dimensions of security to a large extent. This needs to be rectified.

Against the backdrop of utmost politico-military tension, the OSCE leadership has a particular responsibility not to aggravate inter-State disagreements but, instead, to consolidate diplomatic efforts in order to prevent a military “end scenario” that would be catastrophic for the European continent.

We believe that the appointment of the four heads of the principal executive structures – that is, of the Secretary General, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media – is a positive sign. It suggests that the participating States have the political will to preserve the OSCE as a broad-based diplomatic forum in the interests of constructive co-operation.

Mr. Sinirlioğlu,

It is difficult to overestimate the significance of the position of the Secretary General in the OSCE. You have the important function of co-ordinating the executive structures and facilitating political dialogue among the participating States. We are confident that, as chief administrative officer, you will adhere strictly

to your mandate, consult with the participating States and take their opinions into account, without taking the side of any one group of countries.

We trust that you will put an end to the shameful practice that has unfortunately occurred in the past, when the OSCE Secretary General would subscribe to politicized and confrontational public statements in spite of the rules in force in that regard (Permanent Council Decision No. 485 of 28 June 2002 on OSCE statements and public information). In the same vein, we hope that, under your tenure, the OSCE's press releases and the content of the official website in general will be tidied up, and that non-consensus material will not be allowed to appear either in press releases or on the website.

The administrative sphere will also require your close attention. While not playing down the importance of making every possible effort to reach agreement on the Organization's Unified Budget, we reiterate the need to achieve transparency in extrabudgetary matters. We also trust that you will endeavour to ensure a balanced and fair representation of the participating States in the staffing of the OSCE structures.

In closing, we should like to wish you, Mr. Secretary General, success in the challenging work involved in this responsible international position. For our part, the representatives of the Russian Federation are ready to engage in the closest co-operation with you to address long-standing issues on the agenda of our common Organization.

Thank you for your attention.