

PC.DEL/734/17

2 June 2017

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1148th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 June 2017

**In connection with the death of the journalist Dmitry Popkov**

Mr. Chairperson,

As reported, the journalist from the newspaper *Ton-M*, Dmitry Popkov, was found murdered on 24 May in the backyard of his home in the city of Minusinsk. Criminal proceedings have been opened and an investigation is taking place.

As far as we are aware, the centre for the legal support of journalists of the All-Russia People's Front has requested the Prosecutor General and Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation to closely monitor this affair. At the same time, the Russian Union of Journalists has called for a thorough investigation of the crime.

A special group within the regional criminal investigation department has been set up to investigate the murder. Various theories are being considered. The police are drawing up a list of people with whom Mr. Popkov had contact recently, including those connected with his business activities, which are unrelated to his work as a journalist.

Thank you for your attention.