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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 983rd MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 February 2014

**Regarding the situation in Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

The increasingly extremist ultra right-wing mood that we currently observe at opposition protests in Ukraine is a source of concern. Racist, anti-Semitic and Nazi slogans are being heard in public. Such actions are in no way compatible with the statements that the Maidan activists have made about their commitment to democracy and European values.

Our colleagues from the delegations of the United States, Canada and Greece (on behalf of the European Union) have drawn our attention to several serious rights violations which have taken place amid the political upraising in Ukraine. We are certain that the competent authorities will investigate all cases where the law was violated, and that the guilty will be brought to justice.

At the same time it is, to put it lightly, surprising that there has been no reaction to other rights violations that are no less serious: violence towards law enforcement officers, the occupation of administrative buildings, rioting and arson attacks on cars. Covering up such violations, which the United States and European Union countries would do well to respond to firmly and without delay, is tantamount to encouraging the extremists to step up the violence.

We think that there needs to be a clear judgment from the international community and international rights protection bodies with regard to all cases of extremism and violence. Unfortunately, no such judgment has been forthcoming, including from the relevant OSCE structures.

What is now needed are fewer slogans and more concern about the results of the efforts being made by the Ukrainian leadership to get the situation back onto a constitutional track. We call upon our OSCE partners to refrain from any steps that would escalate tensions. The Ukrainian people have all the necessary capabilities in order to find their own way out of the situation without external pressure or intervention.

Regarding the possible role of the OSCE in facilitating the search for a way out of the crisis, we would be ready to support such efforts if they respond to the desires of all parties and if the Ukrainian authorities judge it necessary to approach the OSCE with an official request to this effect.

Thank you for your attention.