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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1121st MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 December 2016

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

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Napiontek,

We are grateful to you for your responsible and highly professional approach to the fulfilment of your mandate.

We highly appreciate the OSCE's contribution to the work of the Commission, whose activities affect the interests of over 8,000 people. We believe that this is an effective mechanism that has played an important role in helping to safeguard the basic rights of a socially vulnerable group within the population, namely military pensioners in Latvia.

The absence of individual submissions to the Commission on Military Pensioners recently is one of the results of the difficult and painstaking work of the OSCE Representative. We acknowledge the concrete progress mentioned in Mr. Napiontek's report that has been achieved in resolving differences in the interpretation of certain provisions of the 1994 Russian-Latvian Agreement on the Social Protection of Russian Military Pensioners and their Family Members Residing on the Territory of Latvia.

However, there are still some problems demanding attention in this area, in particular the procedure for reimbursement of medical expenses.

We agree with Mr. Napiontek's opinion that in spite of the progress in the work of the Russian-Latvian Commission, it is quite likely that other problems will arise that demand the involvement of the OSCE Representative and exploitation of his potential. We are willing to help in the fulfilment of this important mission.

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

Thank you for your attention.