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**STATEMENT BY MR. VLADIMIR ZHEGLOV,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 66th JOINT MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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Support to national authorities in the migration crisis by security forces

Mr. Chairperson,

We note the importance of discussing the various aspects of the migration issue in the OSCE. We welcome the speakers and thank them for their detailed presentations on their national experience. In their countries and in others, outstanding actions have been taken, but further joint efforts are needed to respond to the current migration challenges.

In connection with the migration crisis, we should not forget the serious problem of terrorists entering countries under cover of a refugee or migrant status. This is a typical problem for many countries.

Recently, it has been possible to inflict serious damage on Islamic State in Syria. The citizens of dozens of countries including those that were well off in terms of terrorist threats until recently are returning home or to third countries from conflict zones, having been infused with radical ideology and associated military skills. International terrorism is changing tactics: sleeper cells are waking up and terrorists are turning to individual, low-budget terrorism. After they return from the hotspots, terrorists become a constant threat to stability and security in their own countries.

In this situation, there is all the more need to establish effective international co-operation. The movement of fighters must be identified and cut off, Internet content must be monitored in accordance with unified standards and the intelligence services must exchange information in real time. This all requires honest co-operation without hidden agendas and double standards.

It is not possible to halt migration in today's world. However, it is our duty to regulate it, in the interests of all. This is precisely why we aim for the best possible co-operation in this regard with our foreign partners. We are working on strengthening co-operation under the specialized organizations, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and countries that are crossed by the international foreign terrorist fighters' routes.

Another problem is trafficking in human beings; this has increased sharply in recent years. Owing to an absence or shortage of legal, safe channels for the transfer and admission of migrants to the OSCE countries, including those in the European Union, refugees are forced to resort to the services of traffickers in human beings and illegal carriers. In that connection we should like to salute the extensive work being undertaken by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, including the organization of training courses for law enforcement officials on preventing trafficking on migration routes.

Many of those attempting to reach Europe, including children, are exposed to violence, including sexual violence, threats, exploitation, and moral and physical degradation. In terms of addressing those issues in particular, we see resources that are not put to use in the work of the security services and other specialist agencies.

The European federation of non-governmental organizations Missing Children Europe provides the following data, with reference to Interpol. In 2015, more than 10,000 unaccompanied minors went missing in the EU immediately after their arrival was registered. Only a few have been found since then. In several European Union countries, seven to eight unaccompanied minors go missing from their places of residence each week; in some countries up to 28 children go missing every 24 hours. In 2016, those losses occurred in the thousands. It is often the case that the children are 13 years old or younger.

We should like to draw attention to another aspect of this problem that is also connected with the work of the security forces in the context of the migration crisis. This concerns the depressing situation in which asylum seekers and migrants find themselves in transit or destination countries. Violence, oppression and manifestations of xenophobia towards migrants in Europe continue to be widespread. Anti-migrant rhetoric can be heard more and more from right-wing populist politicians.

One of the most serious problems is the increase in the number of attacks and other forms of aggression against residential centres for migrants, including arson. According to official statistics, the number of such crimes has risen from hundreds to thousands of cases annually, depending on the country in question. There are examples of several countries where arson attempts on migrant centres are made every three days on average.

All of these incidents are obviously not conducive to public calm; on the contrary, they are aggravating the radicalization of the population, especially young people and other groups vulnerable to the challenges that arise for them in the face of mass migration flows.

Overcoming this situation requires effective co-operation and co-ordination on the part of the security forces.

Brigadier Hubegger and the distinguished representative of the European Union rightly referred to the need to deal with the root causes of the mass exodus of migrants from their places of residence. This is the key issue. We hope that it will be discussed in detail during the OSCE Mediterranean Conference devoted to migration issues to be held in Palermo on 24 and 25 October.

Thank you for your attention.