

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY BALAKIN,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION, AT THE 1218th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 February 2019

**In response to the report  
by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the distinguished Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, Ms. Maryse Daviet, and thank her for the informative report on the main areas of the field presence's work.

We consider the Mission's work at various levels to be useful in determining specific tasks and the extent of assistance to local authorities. We believe that the relevant areas are strengthening parliamentarianism, the independence of the judiciary and investigations, and media pluralism.

We should particularly like to highlight the need to combat the security threats common to the Balkans – organized crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, trafficking in human beings, corruption and, more recently, cybercrime. The problem of transit migration flows should also be monitored. We consider useful the Mission's contribution to countering those threats.

Thanks to the conclusion of the project to upgrade military depots as part of the Capacity Development Programme for Small Arms and Light Weapons Demilitarization and Safe Storage for the Republic of Montenegro (MONDEM), a joint programme with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Mission has contributed to the maintenance of stability and security in the region by facilitating the process of demilitarization and the destruction of surplus weapons in Montenegro.

We hope that the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, together with the Organization's field presences in neighbouring States, will continue to pay close attention to strengthening regional co-operation. We are convinced that the development of co-operation between

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1 Includes a correction to the English translation.

relevant departments will greatly assist in dealing with the majority of the tasks facing the Balkan region as a whole.

We have taken note of the fact that the OSCE Mission often strays into supporting the European integration agenda, which falls outside its scope of competence. We believe that the Mission's work should continue to be carried out in strict accordance with the existing mandate. As for the statements by the United States of America concerning some sort of "interference" by Russia in Montenegro's affairs, we consider these statements to be unscrupulous and divisive in terms of bilateral relations. We call on the United States to refrain from such a policy.

In conclusion, we should once again like to thank Ms. Daviet for her ongoing efforts and wish her and the whole team continued success.

Thank you for your attention.