

PC.DEL/1490/18  
29 November 2018

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1205th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

29 November 2018

**In connection with the comments by the Prime Minister of Albania,  
Edi Rama, and the actions of the Provisional Institutions of  
Self-Government in Kosovo**

Mr. Chairperson,

We fully share the concern of Serbia over the provocative remarks by the Prime Minister of Albania Edi Rama. We believe that the call to “move from words to deeds” regarding the unification of Kosovo and Albania by 2025 deserves widespread condemnation by all responsible members of the international community. Such plans conflict blatantly and directly with international law, in particular United Nations Security Council resolution 1244, and undermine the long-standing international efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the Kosovo problem. The Greater Albania plans by the authorities in Tirana and Priština increase the conflict potential in the Balkans.

We have repeatedly drawn attention to the inadmissibility of interfering in the internal political processes in neighbouring Balkan States, particularly in times of exacerbated crisis. We well remember the Tirana Platform ultimatum formulated in the office of the Prime Minister of Albania under a map of “Greater Albania”, aimed at changing the constitutional structure of the Republic of Macedonia. In reply to our criticism in this room at the Permanent Council meeting of 16 March 2017, the representative of Albania stated (I quote): “The Albanian Government is not involved in the internal affairs of other countries.” Seemingly, these assurances do not reflect the real political situation in Tirana. We recall that this country would like to assume the OSCE Chairmanship in 2020. Will it be able to ensure that “its actions are not inconsistent with positions agreed by all the participating States and that the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States is taken into account”, as provided for in the decision on the role of the Chairmanship-in-Office adopted at the 2002 OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Porto?

We urge Albania to confirm its adherence to international law and the principles of the CSCE Helsinki Final Act, publicly disavow the statements by the Head of Government, and adopt a strictly status-neutral approach in future in relation to Kosovo until the final settlement of the protracted conflict.

The incursion by Kosovo Albanian special forces in the Serb-populated part of Kosovska Mitrovica on the morning of 23 November to arrest four local inhabitants, and the decision by the so-called “Government” of Kosovo on 22 November to introduce a 100 per cent tariff on imported Serbian goods, including food, medicaments and printed matter, are to be strongly condemned. This is another attempt by the authorities in Priština to take out their own failure on the most vulnerable Serb population of Kosovo with a view to making it intolerable for them to live in their homeland.

We expect the European Union and the United States of America, which for years have supported the Kosovans, to restrain their “wards” and put an end to the policy of ethnic cleansing by the authorities in Priština in Kosovo and Metohija.

Thank you for your attention.