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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1088th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 February 2016

**Regarding the expulsion from Russia of the Polish journalist,
Wacław Radziwinowicz**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have taken note of the concern expressed by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Poland.

We should like to recall that in October 2014 the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs cancelled the accreditation of the Rossiya Segodnya international news agency correspondent, Leonid Sviridov, who had been working in Warsaw since 2003. In December 2015, he was also stripped of his residence permit for that country. Neither the Polish Internal Security Agency, which had initiated the expulsion process, nor other competent authorities have been willing or able to explain to Mr. Sviridov or to the Polish and international public what the allegations against the journalist are and what rules he is supposed to have broken. Mr. Sviridov has appealed repeatedly to the relevant authorities about this matter, including the judicial authorities. This has been going on for over a year, but no results have been forthcoming.

We have emphasized on a number of occasions that, without a satisfactory explanation or the bringing of specific charges against Mr. Sviridov, we regard this situation as harassment of a Russian journalist on account of his professional activities and infringement of his rights to freedom of expression and creativity.

The withdrawal of accreditation in Russia for the correspondent of the Polish publication Gazeta Wyborcza, Wacław Radziwinowicz, was a retaliatory step necessitated by the actions of the Polish authorities, which are completely at odds with the OSCE commitments to ensure freedom and pluralism of the media and the unhindered professional activity of journalists.

We cannot allow the infringement of the rights of Russian journalists, which has unfortunately become standard practice of late in a number of OSCE countries, to go unnoticed and fail to give a proper response.

On top of that, no one has abolished the principle of reciprocity.

Thank you for your attention.