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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1117th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 November 2016

**In response to the comments by the Permanent Representative of the
United States of America regarding police violence**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished representative of the United States of America for his response to our statement. Just a couple of comments in reply.

We are bringing up this subject for one simple reason. The statistics of US civilians injured by the national police gives reason to speak of large-scale violence on their part, indicating that law enforcement officers are guided by motives of personal safety rather than that of the country's citizens. When an approach of this nature ("safety of officers above all") becomes an established police procedure, the protection of their own fellow citizens takes second place. It frequently allows the police to arbitrarily interpret a danger as a threat to them and to escape legal accountability for their actions. We have already brought up the matter of shortcomings regarding official statistics in the United States of America in this connection and would therefore once again refer you to the media.

According to *The Washington Post*, following investigations into police shootings, criminal charges are brought against law enforcement officers in less than 1 per cent of cases. It is also important to bear in mind that roughly half of the police victims are white and half belong to minorities. The same newspaper points out, for example, that while blacks account for around 13 per cent of the total population of the United States of America, they make up about 26 per cent of the victims of police shootings.

Colleagues, this is a clear manifestation of systematic, gross and large-scale human rights violations. Nor, unfortunately, is the situation improving, in spite of all of the assurances by US representatives, including those in the OSCE, that their country is taking appropriate measures.

We urge the US authorities finally to set about removing the underlying causes of racism in the law enforcement system and to adhere strictly to international standards and OSCE commitments, including those relating to police activities.

Thank you for your attention.