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**STATEMENT BY
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FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY
AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1131st PLENARY MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

18 March 2026

**Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Madam Chairperson,

Last week, we informed the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the terrorist attack carried out by the Ukrainian armed forces on 10 March this year against the civilian population of the city of Bryansk in the Russian Federation. As a result of strikes using British- and French-made Storm Shadow missiles, eight people were killed, and the number of injured rose to 55. The ambassadors of the two aforementioned States that sponsor the Kyiv regime were summoned to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where a strong protest was lodged. During this protest, the United Kingdom and France were accused of being directly involved in this terrorist attack. It is clear to us that the missile strike on Bryansk would not have been possible without the involvement of British and French specialists in its planning, nor without the sharing of intelligence with the Kyiv regime. A strong appeal was made to the British and French sides to refrain from inhumane actions in their efforts to raise their political profile and bring the “Ukrainian project” they sponsor back into the spotlight of the international agenda against the backdrop of the current escalation in the Middle East. We demand that the authorities in London and Paris issue a clear public response strongly and unequivocally condemning the terrorist attack carried out by the Ukrainian armed forces in Bryansk. Failure to do so would be seen as an endorsement of terrorist methods, which would be a disgrace for countries that are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

This call remains relevant, given that the Kyiv regime continues to commit acts of terrorism against those who enjoy protection under the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

On the day of the terrorist attack in Bryansk, at dawn, the Ukrainian armed forces deliberately attacked a hospital in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR). At the time of the strike, which involved four aircraft-type unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), there were more than 130 patients and around 50 medical staff in the building. As a result, ten doctors were killed, and an additional eight people, including seven medical workers, sustained injuries of varying severity. We emphasize that this facility has never been used for military purposes. The attack on medical workers constitutes yet another gross violation of international humanitarian law and the norms of human morality.

The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has opened criminal cases under the article on terrorism in relation to both of these incidents.

Over the past week, strikes by Ukrainian armed formations claimed at least 239 civilian casualties: 202 people were injured, including six minors, and 37 people were killed. The Ukrainian “fighters” fired some 3,347 munitions at civilian objects on Russian territory over the past fortnight, including rockets from 122 mm multiple rocket launchers, artillery shells of 152 mm and 155 mm calibre (some of them with cluster warheads), mines, grenades and small arms. The overwhelming majority of the weapons being used by the Ukrainian armed forces to conduct strikes on civilians are manufactured and supplied by the Western accomplices in the Kyiv regime’s crimes. Residential buildings and civilian vehicles, including ambulances, were targeted. Among the damaged buildings are a post office in the village of Mangush (DPR), a school, a museum of local history, the Church of Saints Peter and Paul (Belgorod region), the Holy Dormition Monastery of Saints Nicholas and Basil in the village of Nikolskoye near Ugledar (DPR), and medical facilities (DPR and Kherson region).

Who are the Ukrainian “fighters” fighting against? Children, churches and cultural sites?

For their barrage attacks against civilian objects, the enemy used mainly various models of short- and long-range UAVs. Over the past seven days, Ukrainian drone strikes have accounted for approximately 71 per cent of the total number of casualties.

Missile strikes and attacks by Ukrainian UAVs on Russian towns and cities are occurring on a daily basis. However, their intensity has increased significantly in recent times. Last week, nearly 5,000 Ukrainian drones were shot down over regions of the Russian Federation and in the zone of the special operation.

There is an extremely cynical explanation for such actions by the Kyiv regime. Against the backdrop of the escalating situation in the Middle East, Volodymyr Zelenskyy is concerned that Ukraine is being sidelined. A few days ago, on his Telegram channel, he wrote, in particular: “The issue is complex: all these events in the Middle East and the Gulf region directly affect Europe – and Ukraine in particular – as well as other parts of the world, critical supplies to Ukraine...”. As a result, he is demanding ever-increasing amounts of military and financial aid.

However, fewer and fewer countries are willing and able to continue supplying lethal weapons to the Kyiv regime on a large scale. According to *Der Spiegel*, Germany has organized the delivery of 30 Patriot missiles from partner countries to Ukraine in the coming weeks. An additional five PAC-3 missiles will be allocated from the Bundeswehr’s stocks. Experts understand that such German deliveries would dry up within a couple of days of intensive strikes using Russian ballistic missiles and drones.

At the same time, during a meeting with the President of the United States of America on 3 and 4 March this year, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz attempted to persuade Donald Trump that the United States should continue to provide aid to Ukraine because Russia, he claimed, “does not wish to end the conflict and continues to escalate it”. Nevertheless, the US leader’s remarks directed at Mr. Zelenskyy suggest otherwise. On 15 March this year, in an interview with NBC, Mr. Trump stated clearly: “I’m surprised that Zelenskyy doesn’t want to make a deal. Tell Zelenskyy to make a deal because Putin is willing to make a deal.” He also added that it is “far more difficult to make a deal with” Mr. Zelenskyy than with the President of Russia.

In an attempt to offer at least some support to the head of the Kyiv regime, the Netherlands is ready to provide the Ukrainian armed forces with additional ammunition for the Patriot air defence systems from

its own stocks and intends to jointly procure, together with the United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden, a batch of US weapons worth 420 million euros for the Kyiv regime under the US-NATO PURL (Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List) initiative, with the contribution from the Netherlands being 90 million euros. This package will include, among other things, munitions for F-16 fighter jets, artillery shells and spare parts. The Kyiv regime will also receive training simulators for Ukrainian fighter pilots.

In addition, the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Rob Jetten, made an emergency visit to Ukraine on 8 and 9 March this year with the sole purpose of demonstrating solidarity with the Kyiv regime amid the escalation in the Middle East. Like Mr. Zelenskyy, he stated with some regret: “The longer the war in the Middle East continues, the less attention is paid to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.” Of course, from the perspective of those who advocate confrontation with Russia, this cannot be allowed to happen!

In reality, military aid to Ukraine is merely a smokescreen behind which NATO continues to build up the military capabilities of its member States. The NATO States are steadily refining their military co-ordination “on the ground” in preparation for a war against our country.

Sensible European politicians along the banks of the Danube are already speaking openly about the fact that the European Union is preparing for war with Russia. They are making it clear that the European Union intends to continue military operations in Ukraine, has already switched to a war economy, and wants to send even more money, weapons and soldiers to Ukraine to continue combat operations against Russia.

This is evidenced, in particular, by the non-paper proposed by EU High Representative Kaja Kallas, which envisages strengthening the role of the European Investment Bank in fostering co-operation between the European Union and Ukraine, including through the financing of dual-use projects. In essence, this involves expanding military production capacity on Ukrainian territory. Incidentally, the United Kingdom has already set up four military equipment repair workshops in the country and is planning to open a fifth. These facilities are managed by British companies and staffed by engineers from the United Kingdom. In short, the list of legitimate military targets for the armed forces of the Russian Federation is set to grow.

The so-called assistance from NATO and the European Union to the Zelenskyy regime is being provided against a backdrop of corruption scandals. Western capitals are reluctant to acknowledge the dire domestic political situation in Ukraine. A widespread round-up of men of conscription age is under way in the country. The Internet is literally awash with video evidence of forced mobilization, showing how citizens who have not left Ukraine are bribing their way out of it, while those without money are practically fighting off officers from the territorial recruitment centres – whom Ukrainians themselves have dubbed “man-hunters” because conscripts are essentially being hunted down. All this is taking place amid a deplorable situation regarding the recruitment of personnel into the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces.

We ask our Western colleagues: why do your governments continue to arm a regime that is waging war against its own people? Why are your countries, which mendaciously call here for a peaceful settlement, preparing new egregious false-flag operations together with the Zelenskyy regime? Those who are encouraging this conflict to continue will have on their conscience all further escalation and all fresh human casualties.

As long as terrorist strikes launched from the territory of Ukraine continue to rain down on Russian towns and cities and our civilian population, we will take retaliatory action.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation are continuing to advance in all directions. Twelve settlements were liberated during the first two weeks of March. The elimination of Ukrainian formations in Konstantinovka, directly within a major fortified area for the Ukrainian armed forces, is ongoing. More than

60 per cent of the city is under our control. The heaviest fighting continues in the direction of Krasnolimansk. Efforts to establish a security zone in the border areas of the Sumy and Kharkov regions are ongoing. In response to the terrorist attacks against civilian objects in the Russian Federation, one barrage attack and waves of strikes have been launched, hitting Ukrainian military-industrial plants along with fuel and energy facilities and transport and airfield infrastructure being used to serve the interests of the Ukrainian armed forces, production and storage sites for long-range unmanned combat aerial vehicles, and temporary bases for Ukrainian armed formations and foreign mercenaries.

In closing, I should like to remark on the statements made by a number of EU countries to the effect that they would like to secure a seat at the negotiating table. Here, both words and deeds speak for themselves. Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prévot told Euractiv: “Today, Russia refuses a European presence at the table ... Talking about normalization sends a signal of weakness and undermines the European unity we need now more than ever.”

This is one of the reasons why Europe is not prepared to view negotiations as a realistic way to resolve the conflict. European leaders lack the courage to admit that their hopeless policy of confrontation with Russia is a mistake. Moreover, according to the Belgian minister, Europeans must maintain economic pressure on the Kremlin to “create the conditions for a credible negotiation”.

This raises a logical question: could this be the reason why the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron’s advisers to Moscow in January of this year was unsuccessful? And, thanks to the French themselves, who allowed the information to leak, it turned into an embarrassment for them. It should be noted that the Russian side, which strictly adheres to protocol, does not comment on diplomatic contacts, especially if the other side requests this. However, the conclusion is that neither the public signals from France nor those supposedly sent through confidential channels regarding its interest in dialogue are worth anything at all.

Another reason lies in the fact that the support shown to Mr. Zelenskyy by Western officials, namely Ursula von der Leyen, Kaja Kallas and Mark Rutte – who, as the Spanish newspaper *El País* aptly noted, could be described as the worst leadership in Brussels in recent decades – testifies to the resilience of radicalism in “European minds”.

European countries are determined to keep the ultra-nationalist regime in power in Kyiv, come what may. And to this end, they want to bring in so-called reassurance forces – which are, in essence, occupation troops – that will pose a threat to the Russian Federation. It is clear that Russia will never agree to this vision for a settlement, as such a state of affairs cannot in any way contribute to security in the region.

Against the backdrop of the extremely politicized and narrow-minded approach of overzealous European officials, Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever called upon the European Union to begin negotiations with Russia not only on ending the war in Ukraine, but also on normalizing bilateral relations in order to gain access to cheap oil and gas. In an interview with the *Financial Times*, he made it clear that: “That is common sense. In private, European leaders agree with me, but no one dares to say it out loud.”

Incidentally, it is not only in the United States and Europe that there is a growing realization of the futility and danger of the current course pursued by the Kyiv regime and its Western handlers. According to the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, 61 per cent of Ukrainians would support a peace agreement involving territorial compromises in a referendum. The question is whether the Zelenskyy regime will allow the citizens of Ukraine to determine their own future.

While the Kyiv regime continues to sabotage negotiations and seek ways to cling to power in order to profit from the billions being injected into the “independent” State, Russia remains committed to a political and diplomatic settlement of the conflict and continues to defend its security interests through the special military operation. You can rest assured that its objectives will be achieved.

Thank you for your attention.