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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY  
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1550th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 January 2026

**On Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Everything we have heard today confirms the fact that the European sponsors of the Kyiv regime are still keen for Ukraine's armed confrontation with Russia to continue. Dreams about the "strategic defeat" of our country have been put aside; the ultimate goal is to enervate Russia as much as possible and give it a hard time in the period remaining until the collapse of the Kyiv junta. Neither Germany, nor France, nor the United Kingdom, nor the Brussels bloc in general, cares particularly what will become of Ukraine in the process – the West has long ago sacrificed that country and written it off as a "spent resource" along with its population.

In order to keep the fire of the Ukrainian conflict burning, Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his associates are not averse to all kinds of provocations. We should like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our foreign friends and partners who strongly condemned the Kyiv regime's attempt to attack a State residence of the President of Russia in the early hours of 29 December 2025. The fact that this residence was the target of an attack, which once again lays bare the terrorist nature of the Kyiv regime, was proved by the technical examination of a block from the navigation system of one of the Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) downed in the airspace of the Novgorod region.

The provocations were continued on New Year's Eve, which traditionally has a special significance for both Russians and Ukrainians. Civilians, specifically families with children gathered around a festive table in the village of Khorly in the Kherson region were subjected to a targeted drone strike that left 29 people dead, including two children, and 31 people injured, including five children. The terrorizing of the civilian population by Mr. Zelenskyy's "fighters" continues: during the week of 12 to 18 January, 75 casualties were added to their bloody "scorecard", including 11 people killed, among them children and elderly persons.

Over the past 24 hours alone, Russian air defence assets have destroyed more than 70 Ukrainian UAVs, most of which were flying towards civilian objects in the Krasnodarsky krai.

Esteemed colleagues,

Much criticism of Russia has been voiced today with regard to our strikes on Ukrainian energy facilities. All this is presented pretty much as if these were inhumane acts committed by us out of hatred for Ukraine and the Ukrainians. As usual, such claims are false and baseless.

For all those who are keeping an eye on this topic, it is obvious that our strikes are reactive in nature – after all, as early as 18 March 2025, the Russian President, after a telephone conversation with his US counterpart, agreed to a proposal for Russia and Ukraine to mutually refrain from strikes on energy infrastructure for 30 days. Mr. Zelenskyy paid lip service to this idea at the time, but the Ukrainian armed forces almost immediately started violating the aforementioned “energy truce”.

In particular, in the early hours of 24 March, the Kyiv regime used UAVs to attack the Kropotkinskaya oil-pumping station of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, whose shareholders include the US companies Chevron and ExxonMobil. The attacks subsequently took on a systematic nature – moreover, the “princeling of Kyiv” began openly bragging that attacks on Russian energy facilities constituted a conscious strategy on his part to make Russians feel the hardships of war, and started threatening Russian cities with a “blackout”. Accordingly, we announced that Russia would respond in the strongest possible terms to such actions by the Kyiv regime.

As a result, today the Ukrainian capital is freezing, as are other Ukrainian cities and towns. However, the head of the Kyiv regime still refuses to get down off his high horse, because for him the suffering of ordinary Ukrainians is nothing more than a pretext for soliciting fresh military and economic aid from the West. Do not let yourself be taken in and do not try to establish a false connection between cause and effect. And it is their own government, which does not give a hoot about them, that Ukrainians should present with the bill for their freezing houses.

It is also important not to forget that the Kyiv regime’s large-scale terrorist activities against Russian civilians would not be possible without massive arms deliveries from the war’s foreign sponsors, above all its European sponsors. So remember that by writing a new cheque to Mr. Zelenskyy and his associates, you are multiplying the suffering of ordinary Ukrainians, since Russia will continue to protect its citizens and respond to Ukrainian attacks. As to whether to take a firm stand against such actions by the Kyiv regime or to continue pinning all its crimes on Russia, that is exclusively a matter of individual conscience for each and every one of you. How it is settled will not alter the truth.

In closing, I should like to reaffirm our continued readiness to arrive at a diplomatic solution to the Ukrainian crisis on the basis of serious diplomatic efforts that address its root causes. At the same time, we will not allow the process of searching for such a solution to be supplanted by unsavoury manoeuvres aimed at keeping the moribund Kyiv regime afloat. And that is precisely what sundry European “coalitions of the willing” are currently engaged in. Nor will we allow various pseudo-peace formulas to be imposed on us that would imply a Western military presence, the militarization of Ukraine, and the preservation of its Russophobic and neo-Nazi mindset in one guise or another, no matter how beautiful the wrapping in which these formulas may come.

Thank you for your attention.