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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1556th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 March 2026

On the ongoing attempts by some OSCE participating States to undermine efforts at finding a long-term and sustainable peaceful solution to the Ukrainian crisis

Mr. Chairperson,

The militaristic Russophobic rhetoric gushing forth from European capitals is not only not abating – it is intensifying. Against all facts and common sense, the attempt is being made to inure the peoples of the old continent to the notion that our country is an enemy and that conflict with Russia within the next few years is inevitable.

In that regard, ever new Overton windows are being flung wide open, gradually forcing Europeans to reconcile themselves to what until quite recently seemed unthinkable. It is now already being emphasized that nuclear conflict is not such an awful thing after all. Which implies that there is nothing awful about the nuclear arms race in Europe either.

At our last meeting, we cited data from the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service indicating that France and the United Kingdom were secretly exploring options for transferring nuclear warheads to Ukraine. On that occasion, my French and British colleagues vehemently denied this. But the very next day, Zelenskyy himself, in an interview with a Western media outlet, effectively confirmed how keen he was to get his hands on French and British nuclear weapons.

On 2 March, French President Emmanuel Macron gave a programmatic speech that marks a fundamental reconsideration of France's nuclear policy. He allowed, *inter alia*, for the possibility of French nuclear weapon delivery systems being stationed on the territory of allies, among which, as we all know, France does not hesitate to reckon Ukraine as well. Many other things were also said, the thrust of which was escalation and which show that France's obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are henceforth mere verbiage. However, since our Organization does not occupy itself with nuclear weapons, I shall not dwell on them.

I should like to highlight something else instead: we have received further confirmation that Zelenskyy's European sponsors, in particular those in Paris, intend to stop at nothing in order to strengthen the hand of their Ukrainian protégés on the battlefield. Even if it means giving him a nuclear bomb. Even if

it means triggering a new war in Europe. Could one have imagined anything of the sort just one month ago? And now it is almost a reality!

One could ascribe all these steps, which are drastically turning up the heat in the current politico-military confrontation in Europe, to whimsicality on the part of the French President, but the point is that France is a key member of the aggressive NATO bloc whose unchecked expansion was one of the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis. A bloc that has been taking a hostile stance towards Russia over the past few years and systematically plying Ukraine with weapons that are used on a daily basis to kill Russian citizens. And now several members of this bloc have straight away fervently endorsed the irresponsible rhetoric coming from the lord of the Élysée Palace. Do you think we should just ignore such rhetoric and pretend that nothing awful has happened? I think the answer to that is obvious. Russia remains committed to a responsible nuclear policy and is in favour of preventing a nuclear arms race. However, we shall be obliged to take emerging new risks into account in our military planning.

Mr. Chairperson,

As they actively arm themselves and prepare for war with Russia, our Western colleagues continue to hypocritically call upon our country to “negotiate in good faith” or even to “respond to the peace overtures of Ukraine”. In view of this, the Ukrainian authorities, realizing that the European Union and NATO have no interest whatsoever in peace with Russia, have taken heart and eagerly joined in the provocative rhetoric of their European sponsors.

To be convinced of that, one need only glance through a recent interview given by one of the key members of the Ukrainian negotiating team, Kyrylo Budanov, the Head of the Office of the President, to a Lebanese publication. He states outright there that it is necessary to “create conditions under which Russia will cease to exist” and that “several regional nation States” must emerge on its territory. A splendid peace plan – is that the one you are suggesting we respond to? Incidentally, it is the same plan that EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas regularly touts.

Furthermore, Budanov, inspired by all that European militarism, asserts that the Russian negotiating team will be “forced to accept security guarantees for Ukraine”, whether Russia likes it or not. Here, colleagues, is the direct result of your actions to undermine efforts aimed at bringing about a sustainable resolution of the Ukrainian crisis. And after all this, do you still intend to try to put on the garb of peacemakers? Or will you finally take off your masks and spare us all the spectacle of your cynicism and hypocrisy?

A further consequence of your reckless actions is the ongoing international terrorist activities of the authorities in Kyiv whom you have taken under your wing. That regime is no longer even trying to hide its true nature as it provokes ever further escalation, to which Russia will have to give a firm response.

For example, two days ago, a Russian vessel, the gas tanker *Arctic Metagaz*, was attacked close to the territorial waters of Malta, an EU Member State. It has been established that the attack on the ship was carried out by Ukrainian uncrewed sea drones launched from the Libyan coast. The Russian Transport Ministry described this incident as an act of international terrorism and maritime piracy constituting a flagrant violation of the fundamental norms of international maritime law.

In addition, there are reports that Ukraine, with the support of its Western handlers, is preparing to carry out acts of sabotage against the TurkStream and Blue Stream gas pipelines in the Black Sea. Given the Kyiv regime’s repeated attacks on international transport and energy infrastructure, in particular on facilities belonging to the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, there can be no doubt about the veracity of these reports.

However, we do have doubts – and considerable doubts for that matter – as to whether any of Zelensky’s European sponsors will actually tell him that his terrorist attacks are unacceptable, since they are triggering an escalation that is extremely dangerous for the entire world.

It is telling that Ukraine, utterly emboldened by such impunity and permissiveness, is now already issuing ultimatums to its European neighbours as well. For example, some time ago, the Kyiv regime blocked the pumping of fuel to Hungary and Slovakia via the Druzhba oil pipeline, a vital conduit for oil supplies to those two countries. The reasons cited ranged from “technical problems” to the destruction of a segment of the pipeline by Russia. However, by means of satellite imagery, Hungary irrefutably unmasked Zelensky as a liar and proved that there were no technical reasons whatsoever for blocking the oil pipeline. Just as there is no doubt that the Druzhba pipeline was blocked for political reasons, and that the kickback expected is weapons and money for Ukraine. This is outright blackmailing of EU Member States. And further confirmation of the true face of the authorities that have been ensconced in Kyiv since 2014.

Colleagues, both before and after the start of the special military operation in Ukraine, our country has repeatedly stated its commitment to a political and diplomatic settlement. We continue to hope for the success of the negotiations currently being conducted by Russia, the United States of America and Ukraine, but we see that the European Union and NATO, for their part, are openly betting on these negotiations failing and are egging the Kyiv regime on to sabotage them. This is becoming increasingly evident. If it carries on like that, you will be leaving us with no choice but to resolve the issue on the battlefield. And resolve it we most assuredly will, albeit in a way that will not be to your liking at all. I would ask you to take most seriously what we have said and to not claim afterwards that we did not warn you about this.

Thank you for your attention.