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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1559th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 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,

Against the backdrop of the aggression unleashed against Iran and the Kyiv regime's apparent unwillingness to engage in substantive work, the talks on resolving the Ukrainian crisis held in a trilateral format involving the United States of America remain on hold.

Support for Ukraine's "resilience" – which, as we have already established today, is measured in terms of new Bentleys – continues to go hand in hand with the accelerated militarization of EU countries, despite the negative consequences of this madness for the economies of the EU Member States. The only way to try to mitigate these consequences is by brainwashing the populations of European countries with baseless "scare stories" about an allegedly inevitable attack by our country.

Such stories have become a key element of the strategy announced by the authorities in Brussels, London and Paris to prepare for "high-intensity conflict" with our country in a few years' time. NATO's largest winter exercise, "Cold Response 2026", which took place in Norway, Finland and their northern coastal waters, concluded on 19 March. More than 32,000 military personnel from 14 Alliance countries took part in the deployment. Russia had naturally been designated as the imaginary enemy. The "flywheel" of a major war, spun by the European military-industrial complex and the political elites loyal to it, continues to gather momentum.

Ukraine's role in these efforts boils down to two main functions. Firstly, as a test site for new types of weaponry and methods of warfare. Secondly, as a means of inflicting maximum damage on Russia until NATO is finally forced to end its hybrid war against our country – after all, at the current rate of "slaughter" maintained by the Zelenskyy regime, which is indiscriminately rounding up its compatriots and sending them into a senseless fratricidal meat grinder, Ukrainians may indeed soon simply run out.

And this is no mere figure of speech – forced mobilization has taken on the characteristics of a genuine manhunt. Every day, evidence emerges of men being seized on the streets of Ukrainian towns and cities, dragged into cars, beaten and tear-gassed. In Vinnytsia, draft officers have even begun to exploit for

their own ends the minute's silence that the regime has declared mandatory for everyone. Passers-by and drivers of civilian cars who stopped were forcibly dragged into the draft officers' vehicles right there on the street.

We have already spoken about this here and we will say it again: the Ukrainian people have even coined a grim term for these henchmen of Zelenskyy – “people-catchers”, that is, those who hunt people. Another popular name for them is “polizei”, which is what the fascist death squads were called during the Second World War. They are now being joined by semi-criminal elements who receive a fixed reward for every new slave they capture for Zelenskyy. It is precisely on them that the Kyiv regime, which has long since ceased to care about the law or the interests of its citizens and holds no regard for human life, now relies.

Representatives of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which is being persecuted by Zelenskyy, have recently become the main targets of this hunt. Due to their mass mobilization, nine parishes in the west of the country are already without rectors. At the same time, the “polizei” leave the schismatics from the pro-government Orthodox Church of Ukraine alone.

According to eyewitnesses, the unfortunate souls captured in this way are taken to camps that bear a striking resemblance to concentration camps: with barbed wire, moats around the perimeter and patrols with dogs to prevent them from escaping. Their only chance of breaking free comes when they are deployed to the front line. Is it any wonder that the number of officially recognized deserters stands at 700,000; in reality, of course, the figure is many times higher. As a number of officials involved in the forced mobilization have admitted, 70 per cent of those mobilized are completely incapable of fighting due to their emotional state.

This is the reality hidden behind the individual, pointless PR stunts staged by Ukraine's most combat-ready units, whose purpose is to demonstrate to Western sponsors that Ukraine is capable of putting up a fight. So that Zelenskyy and his cronies can steal the money allocated to them from the pockets of European taxpayers and buy themselves Bentleys and property abroad. It seems that all of you here are content with this situation, which is why you have no interest in a sustainable and long-term settlement. There is only a desire to muscle in on the negotiating table at any cost, in order to derail the talks.

Under such circumstances, when diplomatic efforts have been put on hold and their effectiveness is, in principle, in doubt due to the Kyiv regime's lack of interest in peace, it is hardly surprising that our military continues to systematically work towards achieving the objectives set by the leadership. Our conditions for resolving the Ukrainian conflict through diplomatic means are well known; they are based on eliminating its root causes and preventing its recurrence. The sooner this is finally realized in Europe, the more Ukrainians will be saved from the criminal and inhumane regime that usurped power in Kyiv.

Mr. Chairperson,

Given that no Permanent Council meetings are scheduled for the next two weeks due to the OSCE's traditional spring recess, I should like to conclude my remarks by drawing attention to the fourth anniversary, falling in early April, of an utterly repugnant and crude event staged by the Kyiv regime and its sponsors, an event that played the most fateful role in today's Ukraine. As many have already guessed, I am referring to the provocation in Bucha, where bodies laid out on the streets of the town were presented as evidence of crimes committed by Russian soldiers. Since then, despite all our attempts to uncover any details about those whose deaths were exploited in such a Goebbels-like manner in Ukraine, neither we nor those asking similar questions have received any information on the matter. Even appeals to the United

Nations Secretary-General and relevant international bodies, who have demonstrated their impotence in the face of international liars and swindlers, have been to no avail.

The consequences of this monstrously cynical hoax are well known – it was precisely thanks to this hoax that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson persuaded Zelenskyy, whose negotiators had already initialled the terms of a peace treaty with Russia, to abandon the treaty and attempt to defeat Russia using Western weapons. And all this despite the fact that, as a gesture of goodwill, Russian troops had been withdrawn from a vast area in northern Ukraine, including the suburbs of Kyiv, one of which is, in fact, Bucha. Instead of making peace on terms that would have been quite favourable to Ukraine – terms that the Kyiv regime can only dream of today – Zelenskyy and his sponsors chose war. And Ukraine is still paying the price for that bloody decision and, as is evident from the facts cited at the beginning of my statement, it has not yet paid the price in full.

As for Bucha, the word has now become a byword and a synonym for human stupidity, greed and a complete disregard for any moral or civilized values.

One final point. Under this agenda item, we regularly highlight the actions that are pushing our continent to the brink of a major war. For instance, the Kyiv regime is continuing to deliberately seek to draw neighbouring States into the conflict with Russia and to secure the direct involvement of NATO members in it. In particular, on 13 March, the Greek tanker *Maran Homer* was attacked in the Black Sea while waiting to load Kazakh oil near Novorossiysk. The authorities did everything in their power to hush up the ensuing scandal in the Greek media.

Yesterday, the Turkish oil tanker *Seahorse* was attacked by drones 14 nautical miles from the Bosphorus Strait. We are awaiting a principled assessment of this terrorist attack from our Turkish colleagues. However, the most alarming reports have come from the Baltic Sea region, where the Kyiv regime recently attacked Russian port infrastructure. At the same time, reports of Ukrainian drones straying off course and crashing have been received in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

In Latvia, where the elites, in their Russophobic frenzy, have long since abandoned all reason, they even handed our chargé d'affaires a note of protest. Just think about this new innovation in diplomacy from the authorities in Riga: a Ukrainian drone flew into the country, yet the note of protest is addressed to Russia! At the same time, Latvian President Edgars Rinkēvičs acknowledged that the drone was part of an operation against Russia that was “co-ordinated by Ukraine”.

But never mind that. Around the same time, a Ukrainian drone struck a facility in Estonia, and shortly before that, in the early hours of 24 March, a Ukrainian drone crashed in the Varėna district of Lithuania. And once again, according to media reports, Lithuanian Prime Minister Inga Ruginienė confirmed that the drone was “linked to an operation that Ukrainians were carrying out that night against Russia”.

Colleagues, the site where the drone crashed in Lithuania is hundreds of kilometres from the border with “Greater Russia”; the Ukrainians did not carry out any strikes against the Kaliningrad region on that day. Consequently, there is only one conclusion to be drawn: Ukrainian drones were being flown into Russia through the territory of the three Baltic States and, in all likelihood, Poland, in order to strike our ports on the Baltic Sea. In other words, through NATO airspace and with the full connivance of the Alliance’s members.

What do you think we should do if this information is confirmed? Can we conclude that NATO has decided to become directly involved in a military conflict with Russia? I should like to hear an explanation

on this matter from representatives of those NATO member States that have not yet lost their last shred of common sense. If, of course, there are any such States left in this room.

Thank you for your attention.