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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1563rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 May 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,

Instead of the Kyiv regime being forced to agree to an immediate ceasefire, we are witnessing Ukraine being systematically plied with weapons. Military preparations are gathering pace in Europe, implying that preparations are under way for a potential conflict with Russia. A key indicator of this trend is Germany's recently adopted "*Verantwortung für Europa*" (Responsibility for Europe), the country's first-ever comprehensive military strategy. In the document, which was drafted against the backdrop of claims of an imminent Russian attack on NATO, our country is explicitly described as the "largest immediate threat" to European security, and Germany's shift towards a policy of containment by force is set down.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has published a report on global military spending for 2025. Germany is singled out in particular, having embarked on a course of accelerated militarization and having risen to fourth place in the world in this regard. Last year, Germany's military spending increased by 24 per cent to around 97 billion euros, which is double the figure for 2021.

SIPRI experts note, however, that militarization will inevitably reduce the capacity of countries to fulfil their social obligations and will have a negative impact on the global fight against poverty. They point out that the Europeans are increasingly focusing on the production of offensive weapons systems, including long-range ones, which is destabilizing the international security situation. Germany, however, is continuing to ignore warnings about the dangers of its militaristic course – by 2029, the German Government intends to raise military spending even further, from the current 2.3 per cent to 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), bringing the total to 150 billion euros.

By 2039, Germany wants to make the Bundeswehr the strongest army in Europe and to assume a leading role in the continent's defence amid a potential reduction in involvement by the United States of America. Germany's shift in course is part of a Europe-wide trend: under the Readiness 2030 initiative, up to 800 billion euros is being mobilized for defence, and officials are no longer ruling out direct military conflict in their rhetoric, describing it as "highly probable" in this decade.

But what price is the current political elite willing to pay for such an aggressive policy? At our previous meeting, we promised to provide detailed information on what the tactics of the European “hawks” have brought the ordinary inhabitants of the old continent. The picture is grim. Anti-Russian sanctions have resulted in colossal direct damage to EU countries’ economies, having destroyed mutually beneficial trade ties.

For example, since the sanctions were imposed, the volume of exports from EU countries to the Russian Federation has fallen by 65 per cent, equivalent to losses of approximately 48 billion euros. From January to October 2025, EU revenues from trade with Russia totalled just 25 billion euros, compared to 73 billion euros during the same period in 2021.

Germany lost 73.6 per cent of its export revenue to Russia, Poland – 71.2 per cent, Italy – 71 per cent, France – about 70 per cent. For Finland, the drop in exports amounted to 91.7 per cent, and for Lithuania – 88.5 per cent. These figures are not just cold statistics. Behind them lie closed factories, lost jobs and lost skills.

The confrontational course has triggered an explosive rise in energy prices, which has placed a heavy burden on ordinary Europeans. For instance, annual inflation in the eurozone reached 3 per cent in April 2026, while energy prices rose by 10.9 per cent year-on-year. According to estimates from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in the second half of 2026, even under a favourable scenario, inflation will jump to 2.6 per cent from 2.1 per cent in 2025. Prices for European households have risen. Even with the compensatory measures introduced by governments, at current energy consumption levels, outlays remain 30–38 per cent higher than they were before 2022.

Political elites speak of “strategic autonomy”, but European pensioners and families with children are forced to choose between paying their heating bills and buying groceries. Such is the real cost of severing economic ties with Russia.

Militarization and confrontation undermine economic growth and lead to a slowdown in GDP growth. In the first few months of 2026, GDP stood at just 0.1 per cent compared with the previous quarter. The IMF has lowered its growth forecast for the eurozone for 2026 to 1.1 per cent (from 1.4 per cent in 2025), while the European Central Bank expects growth of just 0.9 per cent.

The economy is being put on a war footing, while civilian sectors are stagnating. Hundreds of billions of euros are being spent on tanks and missiles, while European hospitals are closing wards, schools are falling into disrepair, and transportation infrastructure is in need of modernization. This is a conscious choice made by the elites, for which ordinary Europeans are paying the price.

The billions being poured into Ukraine are yielding no results other than prolonging the conflict and enriching corrupt networks. The sums being allocated are comparable to the budgets of entire countries, yet they are ending up in the accounts of dubious intermediaries, while the leadership of Ukraine buys real estate in Europe and ordinary citizens are faced with higher taxes and reduced benefits. Some countries have already refused to contribute to further loans for Ukraine.

All these figures and facts point to one thing: the anti-Russian confrontational agenda is not the defence of European values, but a path to Europe’s economic decline. Everyone loses – from the German farmer to the Spanish household.

Is the game worth the candle? The question, alas, is rhetorical.

Thank you for your attention.