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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY
AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1114th PLENARY MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

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Agenda item: General statements

Subject: Deliberate escalation of politico-military tensions in Europe by NATO and European Union countries

Mr. Chairperson,

The Western OSCE participating States are once again undermining the credibility of this pan-European organization by fuelling a disinformation campaign against the Russian Federation. We firmly reject such insinuations.

Today we should like to clarify a situation that is most unflattering for the delegations that have just taken the floor, all the more so since, at the instigation of NATO and EU countries that are ratcheting up tensions, it is having an extremely negative impact on security and politico-military stability in the OSCE area.

We shall respond in substance to the groundless accusations levelled against us and, therefore, recommend our colleagues to arm themselves with patience.

The underlying cause of this latest wave of negative momentum in the field of security in Europe has to do with the fact that the resumption of Russian-US dialogue in 2025 after a new administration came to power in the United States of America has sown not just confusion but outright panic among the NATO Allies. Whereas Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump demonstrated, at the summit between Russia and the United States in Anchorage on 15 August, a genuine commitment to a comprehensive and just settlement of the conflict in Ukraine, a number of European countries have started engaging in persistent attempts to undermine those efforts. They are not ready for peace on the continent because their ultimate goal, the one defining the *raison d'être* of modern Western political elites – namely inflicting a strategic defeat on Russia – has not been achieved.

The search for an external enemy so as to artificially consolidate the Allies' ranks is historically part of the North Atlantic Alliance's DNA. That is why today, as in the days of the Cold War, all NATO activities are focused on opposition to Russia. Any kind of restraint in their military expenditures is out of

the question. In 2025, the NATO countries will, taken together, spend around 1,588 trillion dollars on defence needs. These funds are being invested by them not to enhance their security or the socio-economic welfare of their citizens, but to prepare for a high-intensity war against a comparable adversary. Moreover, European politicians are increasingly to be heard saying that our country will remain the principal threat to the West even after the end of the Ukrainian conflict.

Against this backdrop, the militarization of Europe is snowballing. Significantly, this process is in many respects taking place under the slogan of it being necessary to strengthen their national and pan-European military capabilities in view of the allegedly flagging support from the United States. However, the essence of what is going on is that the Europeans are actively increasing and expanding the scope for providing resources that feed into the combined military strength of NATO. Their creation and build-up of new forces and capabilities is, in reality, being pursued not as an alternative but to complement the existing capabilities of the United States and other countries that are already part of the NATO arsenal and that can subsequently all be aggregated and directed against Russia.

It is of particular concern that such militarization of Europe encompasses an increasingly substantial strategic element of a destabilizing nature. In actively and systematically developing a military-strategic toolkit with an overtly anti-Russian thrust, the Europeans are paying special attention to its missile and anti-missile component. However, this by no means implies that NATO's integrated air and missile defence system, in which the United States plays a central role, has vanished into thin air or that the plans to deploy US intermediate- and shorter-range ground-based missiles in Europe have been abandoned.

There are also growing calls for the establishment of some sort of "European" mechanism of nuclear deterrence based on the corresponding weapons held by the United Kingdom and/or France. In addition, feelers are increasingly being put out in various forms (ranging from precise and subtly veiled hints to crude statements) that are clearly intended to shift the Overton window in the European public's attitude towards a possible move by certain non-nuclear European States to acquire a nuclear arsenal of their own. This points to a dangerous lack of inhibitions among the political elites in Europe when it comes to matters related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. And all this while the capabilities and arrangements for so-called joint nuclear missions by NATO countries have not vanished into thin air either. What is more, these are being developed most actively and comprehensively, even encompassing an expansion of the US nuclear presence in Europe and a widening of the circle of NATO countries to which the task of delivering US air-launched special munitions to their targets would be delegated in the event of a conflict.

In that regard, we should like to point out in all seriousness that, by creating additional strategic threats for Russia as part of the process of strengthening its own security, Europe is ultimately paving the way for that very security to be weakened, since it is forcing us to contemplate very substantial military and technical countermeasures.

The bloc's aggressive plans are taking tangible martial shape near our borders. Facilities are being set up for the forward storage of weapons and military equipment, the relevant infrastructure is being expanded, logistics arrangements for the movement of troops are being fine-tuned. The intensity of exercises involving NATO member countries and partners is increasing. In 2024 alone, 119 exercises were organized under the Alliance's aegis and 752 national exercises were conducted by the NATO Allies, a considerable proportion of these being aimed at rehearsing the operational deployment and use of coalition task forces in the event of hostilities with the Russian Federation. In 2025, the most significant training activity of NATO forces in Europe was a series of three exercises under the overall name of "DEFENDER-Europe" – if one takes into account the exercises conducted in a shared operational environment by the armed forces of NATO countries as part of that series, the number of personnel involved in preparations for a potential military conflict with Russia was more than 90,000 troops.

A succession of large-scale NATO exercises are currently unfolding on the borders of the Union State. With 17,000 military personnel involved, Lithuania has been turned into an arena for rehearsing scenarios of NATO combat operations as part of regional defence plans. More than 15,000 troops are taking part in the provocative “Namejs” exercise in Latvia. The “Iron Defender” exercise is being conducted in Poland, bringing together around 30,000 personnel as reported by local functionaries. The true goals of these provocative military activities by NATO near the borders of the Union State are not clear to us and that is why we unequivocally support the request transmitted by Belarus to Poland under Chapter III (“Risk Reduction”) of the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures.

Nor can one fail to observe that, as Russian-US dialogue is under way, those in Europe have become overly concerned about the prospects for preserving NATO unity, which is alive only when there is a phantom threat from the East. To prop up these mythical constructs, the Brussels bloc is in vital need of anti-Russian provocations.

In our country we foresaw such a turn of events, which is why President Putin issued this warning following the Russian-US talks in Alaska: “We hope that those in Kyiv and the European capitals will take the current developments constructively and will neither try to put up obstacles nor attempt to disrupt the emerging progress with provocative acts or behind-the-scenes plots.” However, the Europeans have gone down another path, as evidenced by their hyping up of the fake story about the alleged “deliberate violation” of Polish airspace by Russian-made unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

To bring clarity into the matter, we propose to reconstruct the chronology of the events.

In the early hours of 10 September this year, the armed forces of the Russian Federation used high-precision long-range land-, sea- and air-based weapons, along with unmanned combat aerial vehicles, to launch a massive attack on enterprises belonging to Ukraine’s military-industrial complex in the Ivano-Frankivsk, Khmelnytskyi and Zhytomyr regions and in the cities of Vinnytsia and Lviv.

Thus, on the southern and south-western outskirts of Lviv, workshops at the Lviv armoured vehicle plant, where armoured vehicles were repaired and upgraded, and at the “LDARZ” Lviv aircraft plant, where long-range UAVs were manufactured and Ukrainian armed forces combat aircraft were repaired, were hit. The objectives of the strike were achieved. All the designated targets were hit.

The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has confirmed that there were no plans to strike targets on Polish territory.

At the same time, as reported by the Operational Command of the Polish Armed Forces, more than a dozen (19 according to some reports) UAVs entered that country’s airspace. Through the existing mechanisms, the relevant bodies of the Republic of Belarus promptly informed Poland and Lithuania about the risks involved, thereby demonstrating their responsible stance and their willingness to co-operate. As reported, some of the aforementioned UAVs were neutralized by the Republic of Poland’s air defence. The Polish authorities have acknowledged that the drones could have flown in from Ukrainian territory. Nevertheless, they hastened to pin blame on Russia without presenting any evidence whatsoever. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte was obliged to confirm the lack of such evidence after a meeting of the NATO Council that was convened at the request of Poland under Article 4 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

In view of the seriousness of the accusations levelled against the Russian Federation and with a view to preventing a further exacerbation of the situation, the Russian Defence Ministry has stated its readiness to hold consultations with the Polish Defence Ministry on this matter. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

is also ready to engage in this work. It has been clearly indicated by Russia that we are not interested in escalation with Poland. A week has already passed since then, but Poland has yet to respond to our proposal. We draw the conclusion from this that the Polish authorities are not interested in reducing tensions.

Instead, NATO member countries have embarked on further escalation and taken the following dangerous steps over the past seven days:

- The Alliance’s “Eastern Sentry” operation, which involves air- and ground-based elements, was launched;
- The sending of additional support to Poland was announced by France (Rafale fighter jets), the United Kingdom (Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets), Czechia (Mi-171S helicopters and troops), Sweden (air defence assets and aircraft) and Germany (which has doubled the number of Eurofighter jets stationed along its border with Poland), while military equipment is expected to be deployed by the Netherlands (Patriot surface-to-air missile systems and counter-drone technology, along with military personnel) and others;
- Comments about the applicability of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty in relation to the incident involving UAVs in Poland were to be heard from the ranks of the Alliance’s member countries;
- EU diplomacy chief Kaja Kallas stepped up her calls for “investment in Europe’s defence” and also made the bold claim that the conflict in Ukraine would continue for the next two years;
- The idea of the Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors about establishing a no-fly zone over Ukraine was again floated, which is a direct provocation that could lead to catastrophic consequences. After all, if NATO were to begin shooting down Russian UAVs, that would automatically signify the start of war against Russia by the Alliance.

This list could be continued.

Now, though, we propose to analyse the real magnitude of the consequences of the incident and to compare it with what Polish and other European politicians have been saying in an attempt to hype up the incident. I kindly ask that the slides be shown on the screen.

First of all, only yesterday the Polish mainstream press published an investigation. It refers to how this incident involving “decoy drones” resulted in damage to just one house in the village of Wyrzyki-Wola. What is more, the damage was caused not by UAV debris, but by an air-to-air missile fired from a NATO fighter jet. We are awaiting verification of the information presented. Incidentally, the NATO Allies would do well to remember that, during the unlawful murderous operation carried out by NATO in Yugoslavia in 1999, errant missiles and empty fuel tanks would land on the territory of other countries. In April of that year, one of the Alliance’s air-to-ground missiles hit a house in the Gorna Bania district of Bulgaria’s capital Sofia and destroyed its roof. Was an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council or a special meeting at the OSCE convened? No. Even though it was reliably established to whom the missiles belonged.

Secondly, the Polish authorities have published some data about the fragments of the fallen UAVs that were found. Any military expert will confirm that, had it indeed been an explosion of a drone warhead weighing tens of kilograms, the consequences would have been quite different. Also noteworthy is this photograph of an intact drone neatly resting on the roof of a barn that shows no signs of damage at all. Equally telling in this regard is another incident involving a device found in a field, where there are no traces of destruction in the surrounding earth or even of the UAV having landed and been dragged into the field.

Apparently, it simply veered off course and fell, or it may even have been placed there deliberately for the sake of composing that photograph.

Thirdly, the photographs disseminated by official Polish sources show very basic UAVs that carry no warheads and would, therefore, simply be incapable of attacking anything. The Polish authorities were compelled to acknowledge that they had not found any drone warheads on their territory. As you can see, these drones were not carrying any reconnaissance equipment either, or even a basic camera. A further important point is that their flight range appears to be limited. Now, the locations of most of the “crash sites” on Polish territory are such that the UAVs cannot have been launched from farther afield than areas to the west of an imaginary line joining Chernihiv, Cherkasy and Kropyvnytskyi (Kirovgrad), i.e., all areas controlled by the Kyiv regime. The question is, so how, then, could these UAVs end up in the depths of Poland? The claims about “the deliberate nature of these actions” on our part are contradicted by the tactical and technical characteristics of such devices.

Fourthly, an analysis of publicly available data inclines one to the view that the fallen drones had been collected in an OSCE participating State, repaired there and reused by directing them towards Poland. This version is also supported by the use of gaffer tape to “piece together” the UAVs. This could only be the case if a previously fallen device had been picked up, opened and prepared for a new flight.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is evident that this whole story is riddled with inconsistencies and leaves many questions open. No wonder that just 46 of the 193 United Nations Member States signed up to a hastily cobbled-together statement about Russia allegedly being behind the incident involving drones in Poland (tellingly, among them are the NATO and EU countries along with a handful of kindred spirits). At the same time, the US leadership has stated that it is necessary to lay out all the facts and hold consultations before taking any decisions. This approach is informed by common sense, for which there is great need in the current politico-military circumstances.

However, the Polish authorities and their allies have opted to artificially whip up hysteria, something that can benefit solely the European “war party” and the Kyiv regime.

In this way they are desperately trying to scupper the prospects for a Ukrainian settlement that began to take shape as a result of the Russian-US contacts in August. Unceasing hostilities are an instrument used by the authorities in Kyiv to ensure their political survival and squeeze out new arms supplies from their allies together with the allocation of additional funding to support Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s regime. By the way, the overwhelming majority of individuals arrested in Poland in connection with acts of sabotage allegedly organized by the “Russian intelligence services” have Ukrainian citizenship. These facts should induce one to reflect on who actually stands to benefit from an escalation of the already tense relations between Russia and Poland.

We also remember well the incident in Przewodów in November 2022, when two Polish citizens were killed by a falling missile. Emotions were also being whipped up back then. However, a year later, Prosecutor General and Minister of Justice Zbigniew Ziobro recognized that both the launch site and the missile itself belonged to Ukraine. Former Polish President Andrzej Duda confirmed in an interview with journalist Bogdan Rymanowski that this was a deliberate attempt by the Kyiv regime to drag Poland and, consequently, NATO, into the military conflict. Tellingly, this important admission by a Polish politician is not being quoted by European newspapers or discussed in national parliaments.

There is one other important aspect. The story about these UAVs is being exploited by the NATO Allies precisely as a form of pressure against Russia in view of the joint Russian-Belarusian strategic exercise “Zapad-2025” involving 6,856 military personnel (covered by the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011). Thus, off the back of the aforementioned “drone incident”, the Polish authorities announced the closure of their country’s border with Belarus and deployed almost six times (!) that number of troops along the border. And this despite the fact that our Belarusian friends reduced by half the scale of the military activity on their territory, moved the location of individual stages of the joint strategic exercise away from the Polish border so as to reduce tensions and prevent misjudgement of the actions of the parties involved, and demonstrated their openness by inviting all the Vienna Document 2011 participating States to observe the exercise. But, as with the proposal by the Russian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence to hold consultations with Poland on the supposed incident involving UAVs, the Western countries have opted for the exacerbation of tensions.

We should like to respond separately to the assertions about a “Russian UAV” having been discovered in Romanian airspace. Romania has still not answered a single one of the questions posed by us with regard to identifying the aforementioned drone and confirming the country to which it belongs. Consequently, we reject these accusations as trumped-up and baseless.

Mr. Chairperson,

In closing, allow me to share the following conclusions prompted by this deliberate escalation in the field of politico-military security in Europe.

We have repeatedly spoken about our having no intention to attack NATO countries. However, European leaders are deliberately not taking notice of this and are frightening their citizens with the bogeyman of an inevitable war with Russia. Unfortunately, one cannot build one’s hopes on a shift in the mindset of the Western elites.

Russia will not get involved in an arms race, but we have sufficient means to safeguard our security. In trying to pose additional threats of a strategic nature to Russia and its allies, Europe is merely paving the way for a weakening of its own security, since it is provoking the emergence of a large-scale conflict.

We call upon the NATO member countries and their like-minded partners to stop stoking emotions, to weigh up the real risks associated with Europe’s unrestrained militarization and to activate mechanisms for the reduction of politico-military tensions so as to prevent negative developments.

We are ready to have a professional conversation with a view to de-escalation.

Thank you for your attention.