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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 1558th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 March 2026

In response to the statement by the representative of Moldova

Mr. Chairperson,

Given that my country was mentioned, I should like to exercise my right of reply and make a brief comment on the issue raised.

This is not the first time we have encountered attempts by the authorities in Chişinău to shift the blame for any problems that arise in their country on to the Russian Federation. This approach has become something of a hallmark of the current Moldovan leadership.

And as for the situation regarding the pollution of the River Dniester with oil, it remains rather confusing. According to publicly available information, oil slicks on the river's surface were first spotted on 10 March this year near the village of Naslavcea. However, the attempts to link this incident to the Russian Federation's strikes on Ukrainian military infrastructure seem, to put it mildly, highly questionable. According to the Moldovan authorities, the pollution occurred as a result of a spill on 7 March this year from tanks at a Ukrainian energy infrastructure facility located in Novodnistrovsk (practically on the border with Moldova). Given the speed of the river's current, the oil would have reached the village of Naslavcea within a few hours, and over the three days from 7 to 10 March, it would have travelled some 150 kilometres. It stands to reason to ask: where had the oil been all that time?

At the same time, the Moldovan segment of the Internet is actively discussing a theory that the cause of the river pollution could have been a road traffic accident involving a vehicle carrying 30 tonnes of fuel. For instance, Ruslan Verbitsky, a former Chişinău city councillor, stated that the fact that a Ukrainian lorry fell into the Dniester River from a bridge in the village of Otac is no secret to residents of the northern regions of the Republic of Moldova. However, all mention of this incident has been completely removed from official sources.

It is clear that the Moldovan authorities have no interest in identifying the true causes of what happened. Instead, they are eager to politicize the matter and use it for their own propagandistic ends. It is evident that they have such little faith in their claims that they did not even dare to raise this issue as a separate item on the agenda.

Russia rejects any and all unfounded accusations levelled against it. We suggest that, instead of blaming Russia for all their troubles, our Moldovan colleagues focus on investigating their true causes in an objective manner.

Thank you for your attention.