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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1558th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 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 escalating crisis in the Middle East, triggered by Israel's and the United States of America's aggression against Iran, has, for the time being, made it objectively impossible to hold a new round of US-Russian-Ukrainian talks. Indeed, the Ukrainian issue has ended up being somewhat overshadowed in general. This, however, has not led to a reduction in the terrorist activities of the current authorities in Kyiv, who are anxious to ensure that Western financial and military aid is not scaled back in this context. After all, as President Trump rightly said this week, Ukraine would not have lasted a single day on the battlefield without the United States' support.

European leaders are also well aware of this, however much they may publicly extol the bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people. Finnish President Alexander Stubb has behaved in the most cynical manner of all. In response to the US President's call for allies to send their ships to the Strait of Hormuz, he essentially urged Europe to propose a deal to the US President: assistance in the operation against Iran in exchange for an increase in US military aid to Ukraine.

Just think about this "brilliant opening idea", which completely lays bare the militarism that has gripped Europe's elites today: rather than offering to help resolve each of these two conflicts, the European Union is being steered towards focusing its efforts on escalating them. No more humanitarian principles, no more "spirit of Helsinki", which 50 years ago helped bring about the CSCE – just pragmatism and commercial consideration.

After all, it is no secret that, in addition to scratching their Russophobic "itch", the countries of Northern Europe are, as we know, making a tidy profit from wars these days. According to publicly available data, the turnover of the European defence sector in 2024 rose by 60 per cent compared with 2021; today, these figures are even higher. Meanwhile, Europe's largest defence conglomerates have now achieved their highest revenue levels in the past 40 years. Based on the figures for the past few years, they are expected to return around 5 billion US dollars to shareholders in the form of dividends and share buybacks. What kind of a struggle for peace is this in the face of such profiteering?

Ukraine, the “money laundering machine of Europe” – to borrow the apt phrase coined by a Slovak Member of the European Parliament that we mentioned previously – is offering another decent money-making opportunity for those involved. We already talked about the regular convoys of cash and gold passing through Hungarian territory – the purpose of which Ukraine has still been unable to explain – at the previous meeting. This week, auditors from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) uncovered violations in the oversight of 26 billion dollars in aid to Ukraine – in essence, Ukrainian contractors did not provide any reports on the aid at all. And that is just the tip of the iceberg; the scale of embezzlement in the defence sector is far greater. We do not wish to point the finger at anyone in particular, but it is hard to believe that such “kickbacks” took place without the involvement of the “paying” party – I suspect we will be hearing of plenty more corruption scandals involving the sponsors of the utterly corrupt Ukrainian authorities.

And they, of course, do not want the truth to come out, so they are doing everything they can to obstruct the efforts of the Russian and US negotiating teams. Just as the Biden administration long refused to face the truth, having poured hundreds of billions of dollars into the “anti-Russia” project being implemented in Ukraine since 2014; the fate of this money has yet to be determined. It goes without saying that all these sponsors – who are also Zelenskyy’s accomplices – are very keen to ensure he does not lose power, as a great many uncomfortable questions would then arise concerning him and, by extension, them.

That is one of the reasons, ladies and gentlemen, why we are firmly opposed to the attempts by European countries to force their way – by hook or by crook – on to the negotiating table for a long-term and sustainable settlement of the Ukrainian crisis. After all, all these Stubbs, Johnsons, Macrons, Merzes and Scholzes, von der Leyens and Kallases have, in word and deed, contributed to the shaping of today’s Ukraine, which has turned into a corrupt dictatorship with thousands of political prisoners; so why on earth should they admit their mistakes and help transform it into a normal, civilized country where the right to national identity and freedom of religion are respected, where Nazi criminals are not glorified, and where everyone is given the opportunity to speak their native language and teach it to their children? And yet, without this, there will be no long-term settlement!

Until the authorities in Brussels, London, Berlin and Paris come to realize this, until there are people in Europe who genuinely want lasting peace, who do not see Russia as an enemy and who are prepared to work with our country – rather than against it– to shape the future of European security, Zelenskyy and those associated with him will continue to cling to power and throw their compatriots into a senseless, fratricidal meat grinder. And we will have no other choice but to pursue the objectives of the special operation by military means, which is precisely what we are doing now.

And in these circumstances, the only real option for Ukrainians today to avoid becoming victims of their criminal authorities is to flee the country and take their families with them. It is no coincidence that there are already more than 7 million of them in Russia, not counting those who are already Russian citizens and live in the territories that have recently been incorporated into our country. Today, as they watch what is happening in Ukraine as a result of Zelenskyy’s actions, they are convinced once again that they made the right choice.

I should particularly like to highlight among them the people of Crimea, who, almost exactly 12 years ago, faced with an unconstitutional neo-Nazi coup d’état in Kyiv, took the courageous decision to reunite with Russia. Anyone visiting Crimea today can see for themselves that this was the only correct course of action in those circumstances; it has become a thriving and rapidly developing region, where the identities of both its Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian inhabitants are respected.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is the truth that you are so reluctant to acknowledge. But that does not make it any less true.

Thank you for your attention.