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PC.DEL/875/25
11 September 2025
ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1533rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

11 September 2025

In response to the address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Mr. Pere Joan Pons Sampietro,

We welcome you to the Permanent Council for the first time since you were elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We were interested to learn of your assessments of the state of the Assembly and its role. You enunciated important principles that all of us share: responsibility for seeking meaningful solutions through dialogue; the need for parliamentarians to reconcile the interests of their countries with respect for universal principles, and to do so without double standards; and – something that is especially relevant in the year that the Helsinki Final Act marks its 50th anniversary – a reminder that dialogue and détente are possible even in a climate of tension. However, being practically minded people, we have a legitimate question: how will these true words be put into practice? The entire work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in recent years has, alas, boiled down to quite the opposite, namely to further stirring up the current politico-military crisis in the Organization’s area of responsibility.

Going back in time, it was with expectation that we welcomed the election of your predecessor, Ms. Pia Kauma, hoping that she would succeed in turning the page of confrontation in the Assembly’s history and get it to revert to professional work. To our deep regret, it proved to be the other way round: a once respected interparliamentary forum has turned into a politicized instrument for implementing an anti-Russian course characterized by the deliberate distortion of the causal link between the events taking place in Ukraine. Biased discriminatory approaches, systemic double standards and total Russophobia, accompanied by an unwillingness to engage in substantive discussion on issues pertaining to equal and indivisible security, all attest to the deep degradation of the Assembly as a mechanism for interparliamentary co-operation. Of particular concern is the fact that, for many years, it has been ignoring flagrant violations of the rights of national minorities in Ukraine and the Baltic States, including curtailment of the freedom to communicate and learn in one’s mother tongue, the blasphemous glorification of Nazi accomplices, and the harassment and killing of journalists whose positions do not square with Western narratives.

The previously unprecedented practice of denying national parliamentary delegations visas to attend official events of the Assembly has become the norm. We must stress that it is unacceptable to apply restrictions on participation in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to parliamentarians expressing the will and interests of their people. This violates the principle of sovereign equality of participating States and

norms adopted by the Assembly itself, namely the provisions of the resolution on unrestricted access of members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly attending official OSCE events and other parliamentary activities, which was appended to the Assembly's Tbilisi Declaration from 2016.

Ultimately, in view of the futility of further attempts to get through to our colleagues, the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation was compelled to take the difficult decision to suspend its participation in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and to withhold the corresponding financial contributions, as was announced in detail on 3 July 2024. During the period of suspension, any action to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly to the detriment of the Russian delegation will be considered legally null and void.

The Russian delegation will be ready to consider returning to work in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, provided that the Assembly's leadership and a number of participating States revise their Russophobic and discriminatory approaches to the task of addressing pressing problems of European security. In general, it will become possible to speak of future prospects for this multilateral platform if reasonable forces in the Assembly show the necessary will to resolve the political and ideological crisis in the OSCE area in the interests of peace and stability on the continent.

Unfortunately, the arguments voiced by you today regarding Ukraine, which exclusively reproduce a simplistic, anti-Russian version of events, do not inspire hope that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can play a constructive role in facilitating a settlement. We typically hear such narratives from those who deliberately hush up the root causes of the crisis, impede the search for a sustainable political solution and are working to drag out the conflict with a view to inflicting maximum damage on Russia. If the Assembly remains wedded to this paradigm, its contribution to pan-European security will verge on zero.

In closing, we should nevertheless like to express our hope that, under your leadership, the Assembly will find the strength to overcome this crisis by regaining the role of a credible and relevant platform for honest and constructive dialogue among all 57 participating States without exception.

Thank you for your attention.