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**STATEMENT BY  
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1137th PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

20 May 2026

**Agenda item: General statements  
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

Before anything else, we have a question to put to our Western colleagues: how can the mantra that they repeat time and again about Ukraine's so-called "self-defence" be reconciled with the terrorist attacks that Volodymyr Zelenskyy's regime is unrestrainedly carrying out against civilians?

According to data collected and verified by the team of Ambassador-at-Large Rodion Miroshnik from the Russian Foreign Ministry, Ukrainian armed formations fired at least 3,619 munitions at civilian objects over the past week. The enemy's strikes extended far beyond the line of contact, with their scope encompassing the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk; the Republic of Crimea; the Belgorod, Bryansk, Kaluga, Kherson, Kursk, Lipetsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Orenburg, Oryol, Pskov, Rostov, Ryazan, Smolensk, Tula, Tver, Voronezh, Yaroslavl and Zaporozhye regions; the Krasnodar territory; the Moscow region; and the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. A vast majority of the attacks were repelled.

The enemy tried very hard to reach densely populated areas of our country. As a result, there were at least 234 civilian casualties: 203 people were injured, including 18 minors, and 31 people were killed, including two children. We shall cite a few examples to illustrate that the neo-Banderites' actions are by no means defensive in nature. In the early hours of 15 May, Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) damaged apartment buildings in Ryazan, killing four people, including a child, and leaving a further 28 people with injuries of varying degrees of severity. A barrage attack by Ukrainian drones on the Moscow region during the night of 16 to 17 May claimed the lives of three people and injured 16.

Behind these crimes by the Kyiv regime we find NATO and EU member States, which are supplying it with lethal weapon systems in breach of their OSCE politico-military commitments and contrary to international rules on responsible export control.

The number of formats for supplying weaponry and military equipment to the Zelenskyy regime is multiplying. Latvia and the United Kingdom continue to be the ringleaders of the "drone coalition" that is

sending various types of UAV to the Kyiv regime. Across the European landmass, including France, Italy and Norway, factories producing assorted weapons, including drones, to serve the interests of the Ukrainian armed forces are springing up like mushrooms after a spell of rain. Germany is showing itself to be particularly keen on partnering with Ukraine for the mass development and production of UAVs boasting a flight range of between 100 and 1,500 km, with a focus on the longer-range types. On 30 April, an additional entity for military procurement was established in Kyiv with the participation of representatives from Denmark, Italy, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom; they were subsequently joined by Finland. From 5 to 25 May, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space is accepting applications from organizations wishing to become founding members of the "EU-Ukraine Drone Alliance".

The leaders of the countries that have become actively involved in providing the Kyiv regime with strike capabilities and that are allowing it to use their airspace to carry out attacks on Russian civilian infrastructure have failed to properly assess the consequences. Their blind pandering to the Ukrainian leadership and their rabid Russophobia have resulted in risks for the population in their own countries – something that the West is finding increasingly difficult to keep secret.

On 3 May, during the enemy's massive drone raids on the Leningrad region, yet another Ukrainian UAV was detected in Finnish airspace in the area of Virolahti, close to the Russian border. When raising this issue in conversation with Mr. Zelenskyy, Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo stressed that that kind of thing was unacceptable and expressed the hope that the Ukrainians would be more careful in future. On 4 May, Estonian Prime Minister Kristen Michal requested the Kyiv regime to see to it that "debris from the war" did not enter his country's airspace. Did the effect of those reprimands on the Zelenskyy regime last very long? On 7 May, a Ukrainian UAV crashed on the grounds of an oil storage facility in the city of Rēzekne in eastern Latvia. This cost the country's Defence Minister, Andris Sprūds, his post (he had admitted that these UAVs "headed for Russia" belonged to Ukraine), and it would also claim the scalp of Prime Minister Evika Siliņa. The cabinet reshuffles did not improve the situation. In the early hours of 17 May, a Ukrainian drone entered Latvian airspace, prompting an air threat alert to be issued for the country's five eastern border regions. The wreckage of a drone that had not been detected by radar was discovered on the evening of 18 May in the village of Samanē, in the Utena district in eastern Lithuania. This was confirmed by the Head of the National Crisis Management Centre, Vilmantas Vitkauskas. On 19 May, Estonian Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur stated that Romanian F-16 fighter jets had neutralized an aerial threat posed by a UAV belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces, shooting it down between Lake Võrtsjärv and the town of Põltsamaa. He demanded an apology from the Kyiv regime.

Providing the Kyiv regime with the technologies required to create a seagoing fleet of uncrewed surface vessels is having a similarly destabilizing effect. On 20 April, Mr. Zelenskyy openly reiterated that relevant "solutions" had been obtained from the United Kingdom, Norway and the Netherlands, countries with extensive experience in naval development. Can one wonder, then, at the uncontrolled proliferation of samples of these technologies mastered by the Kyiv regime? Thus, on 7 May, not far from the southern coast of the Greek island of Lefkada in the Ionian Sea, fishermen discovered a Ukrainian MAGURA V5 uncrewed surface vessel, carrying 300 kg of explosives, with its engine running, and equipped with navigation sensors, antennas and communications systems that make use of artificial intelligence. Only after several days did the Greek Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence acknowledge the "seriousness" of an incident posing a threat to freedom of navigation, the safety of citizens and the environment. The media and the public in Greece reacted with outrage to the Government's belated and timid response, accused officials of covering up this sensational development and called upon the authorities in Athens to reconsider their disastrous course.

Against this general backdrop, the findings of opinion polls conducted in Finland in March and April this year are telling: around 70 per cent of the country's inhabitants felt that it was "heading in the wrong direction". In Denmark, too, there is a growing number of voices critical of the Government on account of its failure to provide information on military and technical co-operation with Ukraine, including projects related to the production of UAVs. Public discontent will only grow further, as the investments channelled by governments into "project Ukraine" are making everyday life even harder for ordinary people. In Finland in particular, the Orpo cabinet's plans to increase the country's military expenditure in the period 2027–2030 by an additional 1.13 billion euros (from 6.4 billion euros to 8.7 billion euros, i.e., so as to reach 3.2 per cent of gross domestic product by 2030) and to ramp up financial support for Ukraine (by an additional 300 million euros) entail severe cuts to social spending. To the detriment of such sectors and areas as healthcare, social security, entrepreneurship support, civil society organizations, research and development, and transport, funds are being redirected towards the production of drones and counter-drone assets, the expansion of explosives manufacturing, the upgrading of military mobility infrastructure, and the joint development of military equipment with Ukraine. According to Finnish experts, there is an all too real risk of public infrastructure deteriorating, of a significant proportion of the country's inhabitants falling into poverty and of social inequalities widening.

However, the governments of Russia's neighbouring countries are, by the looks of it, utterly indifferent to the security and well-being of their citizens. According to available data, the Kyiv regime does not intend to limit itself to using the air corridors provided to the Ukrainian armed forces by the Baltic States. There are also plans to launch drones from the territory of these countries. The assumption is that such tactics will significantly reduce the time taken to reach targets and increase the effectiveness of the regime's terrorist attacks. Despite Latvia's concerns, the authorities in Kyiv persuaded their counterparts in Riga to agree to such an operation. Military personnel from the Unmanned Systems Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine have already been deployed to Latvia. They are stationed at the Latvian military bases in Ādaži, Sēlija, Lielvārde, Daugavpils and Jēkabpils. There should be no doubt that modern intelligence means make it possible to accurately determine the co-ordinates of a UAV's launch site. Reliable data can also be obtained by examining the wreckage of drones, as was the case with the attempted drone attack on a residence of the Russian President last December. Here it would not be amiss to recall that the co-ordinates of decision-making centres in Latvia are well known, and that a country's NATO membership will not protect terrorist enablers from just retribution.

These trends can only be rectified by putting an end to the militarization of Ukraine and Europe, which is taking place under the cover of the invented scenarios being churned out about a Russian attack.

However, NATO and EU member States are opting for the path of escalation and preparation for a major war.

They are seeking to outdo one another in boosting their army performance metrics. As we have already mentioned, Germany is preparing to become the "strongest army" on the continent by 2039. Poland has set itself the same task for 2030: by that year, according to Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, the country's armed forces are to reach a troop strength of 500,000. Militaristic trends are on the rise in Belgium, too, where the aim is to have 12,800 combat-ready reservists by 2034 and to recruit a total of 52,500 personnel by 2040. Lithuania is establishing fortified areas near the Kaliningrad region. At the end of April this year, the President of that country, despite opposition from local residents, approved the creation of a new training ground covering more than 14,000 hectares in the Suwałki Corridor near the small town of Kapčiamiestis, where exercises involving brigade-level formations will be conducted. In an interview with the Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* on 18 May, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Kęstutis Budrys set out the underlying bellicose intentions. I quote: "We have to show the Russians that we are capable of penetrating that little fortress of theirs which they have set up in Kaliningrad. If

necessary, NATO has the means to raze the Russian air defence bases and missile systems there to the ground.”

The direction of travel in Europe continues to be towards using civilian infrastructure for military purposes. In addition to the refitting of the port of Bremerhaven, we also learn from German media reports that the defence corporation KNDS is exploring the possibility of acquiring the Mercedes-Benz plant in Ludwigsfelde and the Volkswagen plant in Osnabrück with a view to repurposing them for the production of armoured vehicles. Investments totalling 1 billion euros are planned.

France is following the same path. The authorities in Paris are likewise harnessing the capacity of major civilian corporations to achieve the mass production of defence industry goods. In partnership with Turgis Gaillard, Renault is preparing to manufacture Chorus kamikaze drones, which have reconnaissance as well as strike capabilities (with output set to be 600 drones per month following summer trials). Airbus Helicopters and Guimbal are working on the joint production of a helicopter-type UAV designed to be launched from warships. The private company Valeo plans to manufacture lightweight electric motors and video cameras for military UAVs. The automotive manufacturing corporation Stellantis and the car parts suppliers Forvia and OPmobility have agreed in principle to collaborate with the military-industry complex.

In the West it is no longer being hidden that Ukraine has been assigned the utilitarian role of serving as a testing ground. Ukraine’s “front-line experience” is being widely studied and taken on board, as are its innovations related to UAVs, artificial intelligence, and the sharing of air defence and anti-missile defence data. In connection with this, Western countries are demanding that the Kyiv regime regularly top up the cannon fodder by intensifying its mobilization efforts. They are prepared to supply the personnel from the territorial recruitment centres with the necessary means to forcibly place Ukrainians under arms. Among other things, the Netherlands plans to hand over to the Zelenskyy regime 20 minibuses with a reinforced chassis, designed for the transportation of prisoners. As they say, it is all about exporting democracy.

Mr. Chairperson,

The ongoing threats to the security of Russia and its citizens mean that it is necessary to continue the special military operation. In response to the Kyiv regime’s terrorist strikes against civilian objects on Russian territory, the armed forces of the Russian Federation are using land-, sea- and air-based precision weapons and unmanned combat aerial vehicles to conduct barrage attacks against plants belonging to Ukraine’s military-industrial complex, against fuel and energy facilities and transport and port infrastructure used by the Ukrainian armed forces, and against military airfields. The highly co-ordinated work of Russian UAV operators is making it possible to maintain constant fire pressure on the enemy, break down his defences and enable the advance of our units. The following settlements were liberated recently: Nikolayevka in the Donetsk People’s Republic; Charivnoye in the Zaporozhye region; and Borovaya, Volokhovka, Kutkovka and Chaikovka in the Kharkov region.

The West’s attempts to weaken Russia courtesy of the Kyiv regime are not having the desired effect. For the information of our Western colleagues who dispute the claim that the armed forces of the Russian Federation maintain their strategic and operational advantage over the Ukrainian armed forces – a similar conclusion is to be found in a report prepared by the Pentagon and the US Department of State and recently submitted to Congress for consideration.

The goals and tasks set for the special military operation will be achieved.

Thank you for your attention.