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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 1566th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

28 May 2026

In response to the remark by the representative of Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

I should just like to assure the representative of Ukraine that we have a whole host of far more scathing expressions at our disposal – ones that the Ukrainian regime deserves and that we could well use. However, out of respect for the Swiss Chairmanship, we shall refrain from using them.

In response to your attempts to impose your version of events and of “when the war began”, let me remind you that it was Ukraine that unleashed a war against its own population back in 2014. This July will mark 12 years since Ukrainian aircraft began striking residential areas of Lugansk in the Lugansk People’s Republic, and, as we know, Ukraine continues to kill children in Donbass today.

Article 51 on self-defence applies not only to Ukraine, but also to the civilian population of Donbass, whose rights you have violated by acting contrary to the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which nobody seems willing to mention today.

I request that my statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting of the Permanent Council.