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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1567th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 June 2026

On the issue of the glorification of Nazism

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank our Belarusian colleagues for drawing attention to this extremely relevant and important topic. We should also like to add a few words.

For several decades now, a number of OSCE participating States have preferred to act as if the issue of the glorification of Nazism has nothing to do with them. It is easy to turn a blind eye, keep silent and explain everything away by referring to the “domestic context”. As we mentioned earlier today – it is easy to dismiss everything as some kind of “contested history”, the interpretation of which depends on the current political climate.

However, such “blindness” does have its limits. The episode involving the reburial of the remains of the Hitlerite butcher Andrii Melnyk and the conferral of the title “Heroes of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army” upon a Ukrainian armed forces unit served as a clear and unambiguous reminder that the rehabilitation of collaborators of the Third Reich cannot indefinitely be disguised as “national memory” and “a specific historical context”.

It is telling that this time the reaction came not only from Moscow. In particular, Polish President Karol Nawrocki condemned the Ukrainian authorities’ latest sacrilegious move in the strongest possible terms. According to him, Volodymyr Zelenskyy has proven that “Ukraine, given its mentality of glorifying the bandits and murderers of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, is not ready to be part of the European family”. He also proposed, as we mentioned earlier today, that the head of the Kyiv regime be stripped of the Order of the White Eagle – Poland’s highest State honour.

This is perhaps a most unwelcome sign for those who have been trying for years to frame the issue as “Russian propaganda”. Because when even the Polish authorities are openly talking about the glorification of the “bandits and murderers of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army”, it is hard to pretend that this is just some trivial matter.

This raises a legitimate question for our Western colleagues: how long will you allow Ukraine to test the limits of your political tolerance? Or will you finally acknowledge the obvious? That the glorification of Nazi criminals is an insult to the memory of the victims, turns the tragedy of the past into a subject of cynical political bargaining and renders any talk of European values empty and meaningless drivel.

Thank you for your attention.