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**STATEMENT BY
MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1118th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

22 October 2025

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

Madam Chairperson,

While the Kyiv regime's terrorist attacks on civilian targets in the Russian Federation continue, European countries and Volodymyr Zelenskyy are making attempts, on multilateral diplomatic platforms and in the global information space, to create a semblance of their allegedly being desirous of peace. We should not give ourselves false hopes. As is well known, the authorities in London and Brussels are working to derail a Ukrainian settlement. Broadcasting through international media outlets their undisguised disappointment over the outcomes of Mr. Zelenskyy's meeting with President Trump, they continue to leverage every possible lever against our country – from packages of measures of economic coercion to the outright organization of strikes against our territory using the Ukrainians as proxies. They are also hitting facilities belonging to the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, which features US and Kazakh companies among its biggest shareholders.

The financial injections to meet the Kyiv regime's needs continue. A few days ago, British Defence Secretary John Healey stated that the UK Government had so far earmarked the impressive sum of 21.8 billion pounds sterling for support to Ukraine. However, Russophobia is not coming cheap for the United Kingdom and it is hurting the pockets of the Crown's subjects – to cite Mr. Healey again, it is estimated that their country's spending on gas has increased by 90 billion pounds "because of Russian aggression". This Englishman tried to argue that the costs of "inaction" would be greater for his fellow citizens (it is not clear on what he based his calculations, since no one has any intention of attacking his country or its allies) and intimated that "some ... rewards" of that policy were already starting to be seen.

Let us take a look at the "rewards" that the Kyiv regime's Western handlers have managed to reap in their multidimensional hybrid war against Russia.

First of all, neither the money from NATO and the European Union, nor Western weapons have succeeded in changing the situation on the battlefield for almost four years now, nor will they ever succeed in doing so. The armed forces of the Russian Federation hold the initiative along the entire line of

engagement. Around 1,700 square kilometres of territory have been liberated within the zone of the special operation since June. Over the past week, our armed forces gained control over the following population centres: Lenino and Chunishino in the Donetsk People's Republic; Peschanoye and Tikhoye in the Kharkov region; Poltavka and Pavlovka in the Zaporozhye region; and Privolye and Ivanovka in the Dnepropetrovsk region. Russia is doing everything it can to ensure that a normal life in peace can resume in these places as soon as possible and that civilians are finally able to emerge from the cellars in which they have been hiding. From those cellars in which already former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had dreamed of keeping people penned up on account of their dissenting views.

In response to the Ukrainian armed forces' attacks against our citizens, the armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to use long-range land-, air- and sea-based precision weapons (including Kinzhal hypersonic aeroballistic missiles) and unmanned combat aerial vehicles to conduct barrage attacks on military objectives, military-industrial facilities, and energy infrastructure sustaining the operations of enterprises that belong to the Ukrainian military-industrial complex. We consider these measures aimed at demilitarizing a pro-NATO military staging ground to be completely justified, given that the Kyiv regime's "fighters" have "notched up" at least 1,749 civilian casualties on our country's territory just since the mid-summer, including 250 people who were killed. Over 70 per cent of these casualties were caused by attacks using Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) produced by the aforementioned Ukrainian enterprises. The Ukrainian armed forces targeted residential buildings, civilian energy infrastructure and water supply systems, civilian road vehicles, rescue and emergency service teams (including ambulances) and educational institutions. Today our delegation will not get to hear a single word of condemnation for these acts of terror. After all, the NATO and EU authorities continue to take their cue from the Alliance's former press secretary Jamie Shea, who during the bombing of Yugoslavia would defend the killing of children and civilians by invoking the need to "defeat evil", by which he specifically meant preventing the Serbs from regaining Kosovo.

Secondly, one further "rewarding" result of the Western policy is the puncturing of the much-touted mythical claim that Ukrainians are of their own volition thronging to the front in order to fight against the "aggressor". If you have a strong stomach, take a look at the video footage in the public domain showing how, just a few days ago, a man jumped out of the window of a military draft office in the city of Mukachevo so as not to be packed off to be slaughtered. Of course, all this does not stop the West from cooking up a bevy of "nicely packaged" schemes like the memorandum of understanding on the "launching of a Scandinavian-Baltic initiative to train and equip Ukrainian fighters" that was signed on the margins of the 31st meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group in the Ramstein format. As we know, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden will be joining in this programme, which is to be implemented on Polish territory. This is essentially not so much about getting Ukrainians ready to conduct military operations as about getting military infrastructure up and running near the borders of the Union State of Russia and Belarus – military infrastructure that will potentially be able to be used against the Russian Federation by neighbouring States. We are keeping a close watch on these tendencies and are taking them into account in our national defence planning.

Western States should, though, bear in mind that the "knowledge" and "skills" being passed on to the Ukrainians for handling sensitive types of weapons are subsequently imparted to terrorists in various parts of the world. In particular, the US magazine *Defense News* has pointed out how fighters from the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, a Mexican drug cartel, are being trained in Ukraine in advanced technologies for the deployment of UAVs. This is creating potential risks and threats, not least for the countries of North America, and it once again attests to the Kyiv regime's lack of principles.

Thirdly, it would seem that our opponents have also decided to class the buoyant illicit trafficking of arms in and out of Ukraine as one of the "rewarding" results of their support for the Kyiv regime. As

reported by that country's National Police, almost half a million weapons have been stolen or lost since February 2022, with 58 per cent of the missing weapons being foreign-made. It is not surprising that, according to Europol, the number of illicit weapons in the possession of European organized criminal groups increased by 40 per cent in 2024–2025. We have repeatedly spoken here about how these weapons are also “popping up” in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

In addition, multiple instances of military aid from Western countries being used for unauthorized purposes in Ukraine's domestic market – or, essentially, stolen – have been noted as well. That very military aid which is being supplied at Western taxpayers' expense. Both darknet sites and gunshops are used to further such corruption schemes. Criminal entities are actively acquiring military equipment through illegal digital marketplaces, with delivery to Germany and Poland in some cases. There have been instances of sophisticated weapons (missiles and UAVs) being procured by militants in African countries, drug cartels in South America and radicals in Europe. Russia has been warning about these consequences since 2022, but nothing has been done to actually curb such trends. After all, the shadow trade in arms also works to the advantage of a certain group of Western manufacturers, who can make an extra profit from such sales.

Fourthly, to the catalogue of Western countries' “rewarding” non-achievements one may also add the fact that disregard for violations of the norms and principles of international humanitarian law and for war crimes has become part and parcel of their deliberate policy of double standards. Those sponsoring the puppet regime in Kyiv and steering it cannot but be aware that they are tasking it with the physical annihilation and maiming of people, with the damaging of civilian infrastructure. Underlying this systematic terror against non-combatants are two key objectives: to intimidate Russia's population and to derail efforts in pursuit of a peaceful settlement. It is telling that surges in such criminal activity since July of this year have coincided with specific international events aimed at bringing about peace.

Between 22 and 24 July, while a third round of Russian-Ukrainian talks was taking place in Istanbul, several regions in our country were subjected to a barrage of artillery strikes and UAV attacks. In the early hours of 24 July, Kyiv regime fighters launched a swarm of aircraft-type combat drones against residential areas in the city of Sochi, in the Krasnodarsky krai, leading to numerous casualties.

Between 14 and 17 August there was a threefold increase in the intensity of Ukrainian armed forces' attacks on civilian objects in the Donetsk People's Republic and the Belgorod, Rostov, Kursk and Bryansk regions. This flurry of terrorist activity was timed to coincide with the meeting held in Alaska by Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump.

The Kyiv regime also provided deadly “background music” of this kind for the United Nations General Assembly high-level week. Between 22 and 28 September there was a sharp increase in the bombardment and shelling of civilian infrastructure in the Belgorod, Kherson and Kursk regions of the Russian Federation. On 23 September, the day before Mr. Zelenskyy spoke at the United Nations, a strike was launched against a substation that supplied the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant with electricity. The Dneprovskaya high-voltage power line was disabled as a result, leaving the plant cut off from an external supply of electricity.

We have heard that the European Union is planning to provide Ukraine in the near future with military assistance to the tune of 140 billion euros for at least three years, using to that end “frozen Russian assets” under the pretext of “future reparations” that Russia must allegedly pay Ukraine. This is robbery in broad daylight that will dent trust in Europe and in the investment climate in the eurozone. However, our opponents would do well to also bear in mind that these acts of banditry will not go unanswered and that the “reparations” will, at the end of the day, be paid out of European taxpayers' pockets. And that will be only fair, since the damage caused by EU- and NATO-supplied weapons and munitions has to be paid for.

Anyway, we are familiar with many examples of how irresponsible European politicians have acted to the detriment of their countries and peoples.

Madam Chairperson,

Having failed to attain their objectives in Ukraine, the European countries have now set their sights on militarization and preparation for a high-intensity conflict with a “comparable adversary”. In full view of the international community, they are currently setting themselves up in opposition to the peace efforts being undertaken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America. It is understandable that any progress in resolving the conflict is inconvenient for them – after all, the conflict is creating a pretty profit for their military-industrial corporations.

Europeans have not learned anything from history. Russian society has in its genes a high level of resilience to adversity. According to a recent survey, 80 per cent of Russians trust and are proud of our army, and 69 per cent are willing to tighten their belts in order to support it. “United Europe” has more than once embarked on crusades against Russia. These did not end well for those who took part in them. Does someone still want to try their luck?

On a separate note, we should like to emphasize again that a peaceful settlement requires long-term, sustainable peace, and not the “immediate ceasefire” that EU countries are trying to push through and that would inevitably be used for regrouping of the Ukrainian armed forces and to continue plying the Kyiv regime with weapons and munitions, which is tantamount to encouraging its terrorist actions in the form of strikes against civilian infrastructure and civilians. Peace, though, can be achieved only by eliminating the conflict’s root causes, which our delegation has already spoken about on several occasions. As before, we stand ready to continue this work.

This needs to be understood very clearly by those in Europe who pretend that they have not yet got the gist of the Russian position, and they should take concrete steps to show military restraint and not interfere with the negotiation efforts.

Thank you for your attention.