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FSC.DEL/361/25
18 November 2025
ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**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 1121st PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

12 November 2025

**On reaching agreement on the agenda for the 1121st Plenary Meeting of the
OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation**

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past week, you undertook a series of systematic steps to prepare a discussion in the format of a Security Dialogue, the outcomes of which had essentially already been predetermined by the Chairmanship.

In particular, this refers to the following provocative actions taken by the Chairmanship:

- Including in the agenda of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) the topic of “sexual and gender-based violence in conflicts”, a topic that goes beyond the scope of the Forum’s politico-military mandate and has nothing whatsoever to do with matters of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures. The attempt to tag this issue on to the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is far-fetched and does not stand up to scrutiny.
- Drafting a one-sided concept note for the meeting with a patently confrontational thrust and presenting just one point of view – and a biased one at that – on the problem in question, something that runs counter to paragraph III.4 of the Rules of Procedure and the interests of the 57 OSCE participating States. In addition, the use of hate speech in the concept note for a Security Dialogue flies in the face of the Chairmanship’s neutral status as laid down in the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.
- Disseminating “as a background paper for the upcoming Security Dialogue” a pseudo-academic anti-Russian paper whose author advances personal opinions and outrageously slanderous and confrontational arguments. This does not set the stage for supporting the proper conduct of meetings in accordance with paragraph IV.1(C)5 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, nor does the invitation of panellists the professional experience of most of whom is related to the realization of Western interests in the Ukrainian conflict. They can hardly be treated as sources of objective information.

- Holding, on the margins of the FSC, a series of events suffused with anti-Russian sentiment and dealing with “gender” issues under the Chairmanship’s auspices, which is contrary to its functions as regards acting on behalf of all the participating States in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

We regard the aforementioned actions as a deliberate provocation that renders the holding of a discussion in the format of a Security Dialogue quite unacceptable to us. The use of this format of work as a battering ram against specific delegations prevents the implementation of the FSC’s goals and objectives as defined by our Heads of State or Government. We are certain that no participating State would tolerate a state of affairs where the Chairmanship clearly infringes upon its interests. The Finnish delegation was informed in advance about Russia’s concerns.

In that regard, the delegation of the Russian Federation objects to an agenda item entitled “Security Dialogue” being included in the agenda for the 1121st Plenary Meeting of the FSC. In a context where it is exploited as an instrument of information warfare against a specific participating State, the holding of a Security Dialogue cannot garner consensus.

We are obliged to remind you that the agenda is meant to be adopted by the Forum, that is, by all 57 participating States, at the beginning of the meeting (paragraph IV.1(C)4). Since the FSC is a decision-making body (paragraph II(B)7), that adoption process is meant to take place on the basis of consensus, which is defined as “the absence of any objection expressed by a participating State to the adoption of the decision in question” (paragraph II(A)2).

Russia remains committed to efforts to find consensus and pursue constructive work. We note the FSC’s fundamental role in addressing politico-military issues in the OSCE area with a view to assisting more effectively with the enhancement of security and stability and with the establishment of just and lasting peace. For that reason, today we would be willing not to block the other items on the proposed agenda: “General statements” and “Any other business”.

We call upon the Finnish Chairmanship to display good sense, to not undermine the sustainability of the FSC and its status as a pan-European platform for dialogue in the field of military security and, last but not least, to reissue the agenda for today’s meeting.

Thank you for your attention.