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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1569th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 June 2026

On the ongoing hybrid war waged by NATO and the European Union against Russia

Mr. Chairperson,

As you have probably noticed, we have changed the title of our standing item in the “current issues” section. Given the dynamics of the Ukrainian conflict, it is high time we in this room called things by their proper names. Our country is currently facing an all too real hybrid war, unleashed by NATO and the European Union against Russia and waged mainly through Ukrainian proxies. At least for now.

The plan going forward is also clear: Russia has been declared an existential threat to these two Russophobic blocs, and when Ukraine is finally “ground down” against Russia, European countries will become directly involved in the conflict, rather than merely indirectly. They are being intensively and rapidly prepared for this, which also includes the brainwashing of their populations, something that is obligatory in such cases and is being achieved through the wholesale demonization of our country. This is the scenario being prepared for us all at the NATO and EU headquarters in Brussels, and we believe that it deserves to be discussed in this room, as it is undermining security and co-operation in Europe – that is, the very things for the maintenance of which our Organization was created.

We also note that, in the two weeks since our previous discussion, our Western opponents have once again demonstrated that their empty calls for peace are merely a smokescreen to conceal aggressive militaristic moves, each of which is aimed at escalation and at pushing the prospect of a peaceful settlement further into the distance.

Thus, French President Emmanuel Macron openly admitted at a press conference following the recent meeting of the European Council: “We are not mediators. We stand with Ukraine. We are providing it with aid and support, and we have imposed sanctions on Russia.” Moreover, he clarified that “the European Union is not a neutral third party or a mediator; rather, it is an involved party on the side of Ukraine.” We agree with this wholeheartedly – the European Union has long been deeply embroiled in the conflict against Russia, and any attempts to portray itself as an “honest broker” are hypocritical. All masks were thrown off long ago.

Europe's contribution to fuelling the Ukrainian crisis cannot be denied. The hybrid war did not start yesterday, nor in 2022, nor even in 2014. The "anti-Russia" project on Ukrainian territory was launched much earlier. First, the "Orange Revolution" was instigated in Kyiv in 2004. In order to establish an anti-Russian bridgehead in Ukraine, the Europeans devoted themselves over many years to buying off politicians and entire parties, to rewriting history and educational curricula, to feeding and cultivating Ukrainian nationalism, and to doing everything in their power to alienate Ukraine from Russia.

In 2013, the European Union peremptorily imposed an association agreement on Ukraine. After President Viktor Yanukovich asked for its signing to be postponed so that he could weigh up all the consequences of this move, the Europeans, firmly determined to thereby sever any ties between Ukraine and Russia, provoked street riots and then a coup d'état in Kyiv in February 2014. Germany, France and Poland subsequently showed their true colours. Having provided guarantees that the opposition's agreement with President Yanukovich would be honoured, they washed their hands of the matter as soon as that very opposition, which they controlled, took power. When dozens of innocent supporters of closer ties with Russia were burned alive in Odessa on 2 May 2014, not a single word of condemnation was to be heard from Europe.

History has laid bare, with thoroughly unpalatable explicitness, how deceitfully France and Germany called themselves "guarantors" of the implementation of the Minsk agreements of 2015. In reality, the authorities in Paris and Berlin were encouraging the exact opposite, namely the Ukrainian regime's sabotaging of the obligations placed upon it. As Angela Merkel and François Hollande admitted after the start of the special military operation, there had never even been any intention for Ukraine to implement the Minsk agreements, which had been unanimously endorsed by the United Nations Security Council. The aim was to buy time to "build up the strength" of the Ukrainian armed forces and ply them with Western weapons. That the reputation of French and German diplomacy has been forever tarnished by such "mediation" seems never to have occurred to anyone among the political elites of these "twin motors of the European Union".

And this is not an isolated episode. Russia has repeatedly tried to prevent a slide towards military conflict by calling for serious negotiations. However, in January 2022, the United States of America and NATO rejected Russia's proposal to conclude legally binding agreements on mutual security guarantees. The European members of the Alliance played an active part in this. No response was received on the key issue of the inadmissibility of NATO's further eastward expansion.

After the start of the special military operation, a united Europe supported the then British Prime Minister's line aimed at derailing the Istanbul talks between Russia and Ukraine. The adoption of Boris Johnson's plan for Ukraine "not to sign anything and just fight" proved to be a fatal mistake by the Ukrainian leadership and closed off opportunities for real diplomacy for a long time.

And now, all of a sudden, European leaders have changed their tune and started talking about negotiations. On 4 June, Zelenskyy published an "open letter" to the President of Russia. That theatrical performance, which has nothing to do with serious diplomacy, was lapped up and widely publicized by Western media.

Instead of calling upon the Kyiv regime to engage in de-escalation, the leaders of the United Kingdom, Germany and France met with Zelenskyy in London on 7 June and set out five demands for Russia as conditions for a "just and lasting peace" in Ukraine. That statement amounts to an ultimatum – one that is absurd and completely inappropriate given the catastrophic front-line dynamics facing the Ukrainian armed forces, as I already mentioned when speaking here previously.

Colleagues, we perfectly understand that the European elites have staked their “political capital” on confrontation with Russia, spending hundreds of billions of dollars on supporting the Kyiv regime and on ramping up the military budgets of EU and NATO countries. Their defence companies are making huge profits from the war and do not want to miss out on these. They have painted themselves into a corner, for Europe is dreaming of further expansion, while Ukraine – should it be possible to patch up and arm that country during the ceasefire that they are seeking to impose on us – is viewed by crazy European politicians as the “striking fist” of a future European army that would be autonomous from the United States and NATO.

The summit of the Group of Seven that took place in Évian, France, from 15 to 17 June clearly corroborated this.

In a joint statement, the G7 leaders unequivocally gave the Kyiv regime the green light for continuation of the hostilities. Furthermore, the same text mentions an agreement to increase the delivery of air defence systems, interceptor missiles and long-range capabilities. But most cynical of all is the stated willingness to issue Ukraine with licences to manufacture weapons, including long-range missiles and air defence systems. Ukraine is thus, in effect, being turned into a NATO military arsenal on Russia’s borders.

I should like to draw attention to yet another recent noteworthy statement by a European politician – this time I shall quote what Finnish President Alexander Stubb said in an interview with a local newspaper: “As President, Commander-in-Chief and a Finn, I see no evidence for that [a Russian attack on a NATO member State] happening.” He also pointed out that warnings about an allegedly impending Russian attack were part of a hybrid operation aimed at “throwing Europe and European countries off balance” and “getting Europeans themselves to warn of a Russian attack”. One certainly cannot accuse Mr. Stubb of lacking cynicism. We fully subscribe to this assessment – the West is deliberately whipping up hysteria in order to justify its own aggressive preparations in the eyes of ordinary Europeans, who are facing ever-increasing economic difficulties. And it has no other agenda at present.

This topic was examined in most detailed fashion during a virtual round-table discussion on the militarization of Europe, held on 22 June at the Russian Permanent Mission to the OSCE, which was attended by more than 30 politicians, experts and parliamentarians from many OSCE participating States. We will summarize its findings in a separate document, to be distributed by us at the Hofburg. Let me say straight away, though, that the key conclusion was a dispiriting one: irresponsible Russophobic elites are causing Europe to sleepwalk into war against the will of the majority of Europeans. The option of dialogue is not even being considered by them.

Russia, for its part, is not refusing contacts with anyone. We still prefer that the tasks set within the framework of the special military operation be achieved through diplomacy, and we believe that this would serve not only Russia’s goals but also Europe’s fundamental interests. But it has to be through serious diplomacy – something which modern European leaders simply seem to be incapable of. For us, it is a matter of vital and indisputable importance that Russia’s security on its western borders and the honour and dignity of our citizens and compatriots, including their right to their native Russian language and the Orthodox faith, be reliably safeguarded. There can be no question of Western politico-military and economic expansion continuing – this runs counter to the imperatives of a multipolar world.

European leaders need to understand that the model of regional security which had been built up in Europe over decades, starting with the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, has been destroyed by their own hands. There will be no going back to that model. We now need to move towards creating a pan-continental security architecture, open to all the countries of Eurasia, which reflects the multipolar realities of our time. The principle of equal and indivisible security, which has been trampled underfoot in

Euro-Atlantic constructs, can be brought to life as part of a new Eurasian architecture. When conditions are ripe, Europe will be able to join in this great endeavour.

For now, we consider it our duty to prevent our continent from sliding into a new major war – a sliding process whose pace is accelerating before our very eyes. This is precisely what we should be primarily focusing on in this room, within the walls of this Organization, which once held great promise until the West began to use it as a tool of its hybrid war against Russia. As a result, the OSCE is by now already – let us not mince words – a half-dead organization, devoid of any positive agenda and of its original purpose. Whether it will die once and for all, along with the hopes for peace and co-operation in Europe, depends today on the Western countries. So far, these have been moving in that very direction, rejecting dialogue and stoking confrontation.

Thank you for your attention.