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**STATEMENT BY
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE 1569th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 June 2026

On the destructive impact of the European Union's illegitimate unilateral coercive measures on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Mr. Chairperson,

We are compelled to draw attention to yet another attempt by the European Union to exert pressure on Russia through illegitimate unilateral coercive measures that directly infringe upon the rights and freedoms of our citizens.

We are referring to the new round of EU sanctions against Russia's Foundation for the Support and Protection of the Rights of Compatriots Living Abroad. The European Union had previously imposed restrictions on this organization and its Executive Director, Aleksandr Udaltsov, a former Ambassador of the Russian Federation. We informed the Permanent Council about this. However, this was clearly not enough for the European "champions of freedom". They have now turned their attention to the Foundation's assets and financial transactions.

EU officials in Brussels are not bothered by the fact that, since its establishment in 2011, the Foundation has operated exclusively as a humanitarian and human rights organization – dedicated to supporting and defending the rights of our compatriots. It provides assistance to people facing difficult life situations and helps them find lawyers and barristers. All of this takes place strictly within the framework of the law.

So what made the Foundation so displeasing to the European Union? It turns out that the organization was allegedly carrying out activities that undermined or threatened the territorial integrity of "sovereign and independent Ukraine". It is accused of working to combat xenophobia, Russophobia, neo-Nazism and attempts to falsify history. Such efforts are deemed to pose a threat to the sovereignty and stability of the European Union, including through the manipulation of information. All this merely serves to highlight the absurdity and propagandistic nature of these illegitimate restrictions.

The European Union's latest actions have once again confirmed that it is pursuing a consistent policy of persecuting those who defend the rights of Russian and Russian-speaking populations. At the same time, the Russophobes are doing everything in their power to ensure that European society remains unaware of the true, dismal state of human rights at home.

It is regrettable that the European Union continues to wield the “sanctions stick” against those who “dare” to pursue an independent foreign policy based on the rule of law, the defence of sovereignty and the promotion of national interests, rather than on some sort of “rules-based order” drawn up behind closed doors.

Once again, we must point out a truth that is uncomfortable for the European Union: sanctions are the exclusive prerogative of the United Nations Security Council for curbing activities that pose a threat to international peace and security. At the same time, sanctions must be of a proportionate and targeted nature, have a limited duration, and take into account political, socio-economic, human rights-related and humanitarian implications.

We consider the restrictions imposed by the European Union to be politically motivated, illegitimate and at odds with international law and their commitments, including those undertaken within the OSCE, such as paragraph 18 of the CSCE Moscow Document. According to that document, the participating States affirmed “their commitment to the rule of law” and “their dedication to supporting and advancing those principles of justice which form the basis of the rule of law”.

EU officials have also forgotten about Chapter VI, paragraph 2, of the CSCE Helsinki Document, which refers to their “strong determination to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to abide by the rule of law, to promote the principles of democracy and, in this regard, to build, strengthen and protect democratic institutions, as well as to promote tolerance throughout society”.

The European Union’s discriminatory policies merely give free rein to Russophobes who feel they can act with impunity. This applies in particular to Ukraine, the Baltic States and Moldova. For a detailed account of the depressing state of affairs in these and other “civilized democracies”, we invite you to read the third joint report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus on the human rights situation in certain countries, which has been circulated at the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.