

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

FSC.DEL/350/26/Rev.1
30 September 2026

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 1147th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

30 September 2026

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The reckless actions of the Kyiv regime's Western sponsors continue to pose a threat to peace and security. In pursuit of the chimeric goal of inflicting a "strategic defeat" on Russia, the West has single-handedly destroyed the European security system and nurtured a Russophobic regime in Kyiv. At present, everything is being done in Europe to prevent a peaceful settlement and scupper the prospects for negotiations: the Ukrainian regime is being plied with money and weapons; it is receiving help in aiming unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and missiles at civilians and civilian infrastructure.

The European countries are deliberately blowing the situation out of proportion. They continue to try to impress on their citizens the notion of an imaginary "Russian threat" and the need to prepare for hostilities, for war against Russia. Their aim is to make this critical scenario seem routine and normal in the mind of the public. It is clear that they are hell-bent on stoking the conflict.

In a recent interview with the Flemish television channel VTM, the Belgian Chief of Defence, Frederik Vansina, urged European countries to build up their military capabilities "as soon as possible" in view of the likelihood of a confrontation with Russia "in the very near future". Almost immediately afterwards, at a conference of the chiefs of defence staff and national armaments directors of EU Member States held in Rome on 21 and 22 September, European officials discussed urgent measures to adapt the armed forces to the changing military needs of EU countries. European militarists are promoting strategic co-ordination designed to address shortfalls in air defence and missile defence systems, ammunition, drones, naval capabilities, and logistics and cyberdefence resources. This essentially involves synchronizing mobilization plans, accelerating military procurement and dividing up tasks among countries.

To stay on this topic: Belgium has announced an investment of 7 million euros in the construction of a new state-of-the-art training centre for ground troops in the municipality of Leopoldsborg, the aim being to practise combat operations in densely built-up urban areas. There are plans to build such facilities across the country in the future, including for the basic training of new recruits, and not just for specialized units. The

Belgian authorities' intention to train all military personnel in urban warfare tactics – what is more, drawing on “real-life” examples from Ukraine – indicates that preparations are under way for a high-intensity conflict.

It has long been clear that Ukraine's territory is being used by NATO member States as a testing ground for trialling new weapons systems in real combat conditions and for disposing of old ones. But it is also a convenient way for the Western pseudo-peacemakers to wage war against Russia indirectly for the time being while remaining above the fray, as it were. To that end, the process of “merging” the military-industrial complexes of Ukraine and European countries continues apace. Let us cite just a few facts. In late August, Finnish President Alexander Stubb announced an agreement with the Kyiv regime for the joint production of weapons (including drones) on Finnish territory, with 90 per cent of them to be sent to Ukraine. Furthermore, following the first meeting of the EU-Ukraine Drone Alliance on 11 September, calls were issued to expand joint projects between European and Ukrainian companies with a view to establishing a common market. In addition to this, a representative of the Danish company Søens Tech stated in a recent interview with the newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* that Ukraine had expressed an interest in the Shadowfin, a 7 metre-long kamikaze maritime drone equipped with a 300 kg warhead and capable of travelling hundreds of kilometres underwater without GPS. The aim is to potentially carry out terrorist attacks against a civilian infrastructure facility, namely the Crimean Bridge. It is symptomatic that the intention to organize a terrorist attack was declared openly, and that the Danes are apparently prepared to condone such an attack.

Of course, the “generous” sponsors will not let the neo-Banderites in Kyiv run out of military hardware. They will continue to hypocritically demand a ceasefire from the Russian Federation, while at the same time supplying weaponry and military technology to be used to slaughter Russians. This is the approach taken by the Netherlands, whose media reported back in July that Volodymyr Zelenskyy's regime had deployed the Dutch-made Ruta Block I cruise missile against Russia. Germany is doing the same: its components are used in the assembly of Liutyi UAVs – the very same drones that the Ukrainian armed forces used in an attempt to damage civilian infrastructure in 51 regions of the Russian Federation. Incidentally, deals for arms supplies funded from the German federal budget are being concluded directly between German supplier companies and Ukraine. There are no criteria for reviewing and evaluating these deals, nor are there any documentation requirements or procedures designed to ensure transparency in pricing; information regarding the shares held in major defence corporations by the officials involved in the decision-making process is concealed. All in all, it is a fertile ground for corruptly raking in “blood money”.

The current policy line of European governments is clearly aimed at preparing their countries' military-industrial complexes, State apparatuses, economies and civilian infrastructure for aggressive actions against Russia. And in these circumstances, the latest remarks made in New York by the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Alliance, Mark Rutte, who said that NATO countries are ready to provide Ukraine with “security guarantees” once the conflict is over, prove yet again that neither the Kyiv regime nor its Western backers are committed to de-escalation and a settlement. After all, as the Alliance's chief official sees it, addressing the root causes of the crisis in Ukraine does not come into the equation at all. We are opposed to the idea of a Western military contingent being stationed on the territory of a neighbouring country and will treat this as the appearance of NATO troops on our borders, with all the attendant consequences.

On a separate note, we should like to highlight that we are observing an unprecedented increase in the Alliance's military activity near our borders, with the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation being a particular focus of the bloc's attention: specific scenarios for its military and political isolation are being modelled and rehearsed. We have warned the NATO secretariat in the strongest possible terms that this reckless and irresponsible approach sharply increases the risks of a direct clash of arms with Russia, and that

should any attempts be made to “cut off” the Kaliningrad region from the rest of our country, we will take all necessary measures to defend our territory.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today, it is clearer than ever that Ukraine is merely a square on the geopolitical chessboard, a square that Western countries are trying to use to create threats to the security of the Russian Federation and its allies. At the same time, the ongoing expansion of military supplies to the Kyiv regime means that Western countries are becoming increasingly embroiled in the hostilities and the war crimes committed by the Ukrainian armed forces. We consider it necessary to draw the Forum’s attention to the humanitarian consequences of the Ukrainian armed forces’ use of anti-personnel mines against the civilian population.

In the course of the special military operation, we have been noting numerous instances of the norms and principles of international humanitarian law being violated by the Kyiv regime. Units of the Ukrainian armed forces are laying mines in areas belonging to the Russian Federation with the aim of inflicting damage on civilian infrastructure and civilians. To that end, the Kyiv regime is deliberately employing mines, booby traps and improvised explosive devices to mine the roadsides between population centres, along with bridges, dams, residential buildings, medical facilities, schools and kindergartens.

The Ukrainian armed forces use PFM-1 and PMN-2 high-explosive pressure-activated anti-personnel mines and MON-50 and MON-90 directional anti-personnel fragmentation mines, alongside foreign-made mines, including the M18A1 Claymore (United States of America) and the Hailstorm Mini (Finland), both of which are directional anti-personnel fragmentation mines.

The Russian law enforcement agencies have been regularly documenting instances of the Kyiv regime using anti-personnel mines against civilians from 2022 onwards. Since the start of the special military operation, 199 cases have been reported in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) alone of civilians stepping on such mines and setting off an explosion, including 14 children. Three of those injured subsequently succumbed to their injuries. In the Kursk region, the Ukrainian armed forces also used prohibited booby traps, including a whole range of items practically indistinguishable from civilian devices (books, mobile phones, watches, icons, etc.), which were dropped from copter-type UAVs. Since demining work began in the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Zaporozhye, Kherson, Belgorod and Kursk regions, over 322,000 hectares of land, more than 34,000 buildings and 23,000 km of roads have been cleared. In the process, more than 5 million explosive devices were discovered.

We also note the use against the civilian population of NATO-standard M42, M46 and M77 mines (all of them *kolokolchik*-type mines¹), which are categorized as posing the highest threat level (level III) and lack a self-destruct mechanism. In January 2025, a total of 78 M46 submunitions were discovered and destroyed in the Belgorod region. The US-manufactured M67 and M72 remotely deployed anti-personnel mines, some of which are fitted with a non-removable mechanism, also pose a threat to the civilian population, as do the German-made DM 1399 mines.

Here are just a few examples.

On 29 and 30 May, 196 STICKS-type submunitions – fragmentation submunitions fitted with a magnetic target sensor – were discovered and destroyed on a section of the Mangush-Berdyansk road (DPR).

1 The aforementioned mines and submunitions are shaped like a little bell (*kolokolchik*), hence their colloquial name in Russian.

On 7 July, in Energodar, a PFM-1 Lepestok mine was dropped from a quadcopter-type UAV on the road between Energodar and the Zaporozhye thermal power plant.

In July, in the Kursk region, the Ukrainian armed forces laid PTM-L1 anti-vehicle mines fitted with non-contact target sensors along a section of the Rylsk-Lgov road.

This constitutes a direct violation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocol I thereto; the amended Protocol II to the Inhumane Weapons Convention, in particular Article 3 of the Protocol and its Technical Annex; and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention).

But in the European Union, where they preen themselves on their “European values”, it is as if people there had lost their tongues: not a word of condemnation is to be heard. All they say is that Ukraine is helping to uphold “European values”. Here it is apt to recall a remark by President Stubb of Finland: “Today, we are learning more from Ukraine than Ukraine is learning from us.” The question is learning what? One cannot help but conclude that the flagrant violations of international humanitarian law by the Ukrainian regime make up the core of those “European values”. In the West, humanitarian norms are being transformed from universal obligations into a tool of selective polemics, while the interests of those affected are relegated to the background, if not taken out of the picture altogether.

The West is also hushing up the widespread human rights violations taking place during the mobilization in Ukraine. We are referring here to the forcible removal of citizens to territorial recruitment centres, to unlawful deprivation of liberty, physical violence and the obstruction of access to legal assistance. The Kyiv regime justifies this arbitrariness and unlawful coercion on the part of government agencies by invoking martial law.

Significantly, on 1 September, Ukrainian Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets made a connection between the rise in public resistance to the brutal high-handedness of the territorial recruitment centres and the failed State policies and rampant corruption in that area. According to him, a target of around 30,000 conscripts per month was set in 2024. He stated openly that, in their efforts to meet the “recruitment quota”, the Ukrainian draft officers are rounding up all and sundry, including people who are ill, drug addicts and the elderly. Meanwhile, by paying bribes ranging from 10,000 to 70,000 dollars, it is possible to buy one’s way out of the draft or even to flee abroad (it costs 10,000 dollars to be released from a minibus, 15,000 to be released from a territorial recruitment centre, and between 50,000 and 70,000 dollars for those liable for military service to be ferried abroad). This is how, in Ukraine, a person becomes a mere statistical unit or part of a corruption scheme.

Here are just a few examples of the criminal actions committed by the Ukrainian press gangs.

On the screens, you can see a video showing territorial recruitment centre personnel transporting men abducted from the streets. The bus is fitted with bars so that those captured would not even dream of escaping. And for the particularly “aggressive” ones, they posted armed guards.

In Kryvyi Rih, a married couple were out for a walk with their 11-month-old child when a recruitment centre minibus pulled up beside them. The draft officers got out of the vehicle together with three unidentified men carrying bats. They knocked the woman’s mobile out of her hand and beat up the man, causing serious damage to his kidneys.

Territorial recruitment centre personnel rounded up an employee of the Ukrainian television channel Inter right outside the channel's main studio in Kyiv. In the footage one can see policemen and draft officers forcibly shoving a man into a patrol car. At the same time, individuals in camouflage are pushing another man around near the entrance of the Inter building, causing him to fall to the ground.

An incident at the territorial recruitment centre in the Kievsky district of Kharkov caused widespread public uproar: in March 2025, a female lawyer who had arrived to provide legal assistance free of charge to a detainee was beaten up and subsequently had to be granted official disability status. The identity of the draft officer who caused her bodily harm has yet to be established. The territorial recruitment personnel were not questioned. No footage from video surveillance cameras was provided.

Meanwhile, EU officials simply brush the matter aside, claiming that these are supposedly "isolated incidents", "local excesses" or "fabrications by Moscow".

Mr. Chairperson,

While the minds of the European elites remain befogged by Russophobia, the armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to demilitarize Ukraine. Between 21 and 27 September 2026, our troops established control over no fewer than 13 population centres in the DPR and in the Kharkov, Sumy and Zaporozhye regions. Russian troops continue to systematically knock the tools of slaughter out of the enemy's hands by conducting strikes against storage sites and launch pads for long-range drones.

Over the past week, strikes were carried out against enterprises belonging to the Ukrainian military-industrial complex, including missile and UAV production facilities, and also against logistics and telecommunications centres, port facilities, warehouses, and industrial and energy infrastructure facilities sustaining the operation of the Kyiv regime's "war machine".

In Kyiv, the Fire Point plant, which manufactured components and warheads for FP-5 Flamingo cruise missiles, was hit, as were a workshop belonging to the company Pegasus Arms, which was engaged in the production and storage of long- and medium-range drones, and the Element UA plant, which manufactured components for Hornet-type unmanned combat aerial vehicles.

In the Kyiv region, the Tukans plant, which manufactured components for UAVs, was hit, as was a warehouse containing materials for the production of UAVs.

In Pavlohrad, the Sofrakhim plant, which is involved in the production of warheads and rocket fuel components for FP-9 ballistic missiles, was hit.

In the Dnepropetrovsk region, a steelworks in Kryvyi Rih and the Interpipe Steel plant in Dnepropetrovsk were hit; their products were being used for military production, including the manufacture of components for long-range drones.

In Kremenchuk, the Kremenchuk oil refinery, a supplier of fuel for the Ukrainian armed forces, was hit, as was the JTI Ukraine factory, which is engaged in the manufacture of small-arms ammunition.

In the Odessa region, a warehouse storing UAV components in the village of Myrne and a drone warehouse in Novi Biliari were hit.

Two warehouses in Mykolaiv containing UAVs and warheads for these were hit, as was the Dron Kalinsh centre in Ilichanka, where first-person view interceptor drones were stored.

This was our legitimate response to the threats to the security of the Russian Federation's citizens posed by the Kyiv regime with EU and NATO support, to the attempts to disrupt the holding of elections on Russian territory, to the efforts to mount a naval blockade of the Black Sea coast, and to the deliberate strikes against civilian objects.

We should like to conclude with a quote by Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, who was speaking during the general debate at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 26 September: "Having launched the special military operation in 2022 to defend the people of Donbass and Novorossiia from extermination by the Kyiv regime, Russia continues to fight for their security and rights in full compliance with the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. We will carry through our fight for the truth and justice to the end: the goals of the special military operation will be achieved; threats to Russia's security will be eliminated and peaceful life restored. That is how it will be, come what may."

Thank you for your attention.