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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE 98th JOINT MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 February 2026

**On the adoption of the agenda for the 98th joint meeting of the OSCE Forum for
Security Co-operation and the OSCE Permanent Council**

Co-Chairpersons,

Russia has carefully studied the concept note for the 98th joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Permanent Council devoted to the treatment of prisoners of war in the context of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

The document is clearly biased and casts doubt on the ability of both Chairmanships to perform their duties in good faith in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE. The note is from the outset structured around politically motivated and unfounded arguments directed against a specific participating State. It is quite clear to us why the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office and the French FSC Chairmanship decided at the last minute to hold a joint event instead of the previously scheduled meeting of the Forum. This is a banal attempt to circumvent its procedures.

It is also regrettable that a representative of an organization whose activities have been financed by the Kyiv regime and its sponsors since the very beginning and are aimed at encouraging crimes by Ukrainian security forces against the civilian population of Donbass has been invited as a panellist. The main purpose of such so-called human rights defenders is to misrepresent the facts and spread false information about Russia in foreign media and international organizations. On 16 October last year, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation declared the Truth Hounds NGO an undesirable organization on the territory of our country.

Evidently, when putting together the programme for today's meeting, both Chairmanships forgot why the OSCE was created and for what purposes their posts were established.

We are obliged to remind you that the FSC Chairperson is a technical moderator, not a political referee, and that the Chairperson's tasks are strictly delimited by the Rules of Procedure. Now, it is expressly stipulated there that the Forum's Chairmanship is responsible "on behalf of the FSC for co-ordination of and consultation on current FSC business" (paragraph III.4 of the Rules of Procedure). It

should be emphasized that it says “on behalf of the FSC”, which means on behalf of all 57 participating States without exception.

Furthermore, the convening of meetings may not run counter to the provisions of the OSCE Chairmanship’s mandate, which unambiguously obligates it to take the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States into account in its actions (Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002). This was not done. The true purpose of this meeting, as set out in the concept note, was concealed until the last moment.

The delegation of the Russian Federation considers inappropriate any attempts to use the exalted position of a chairing country to undermine the consensus basis of the OSCE’s work.

We urge the French FSC Chairmanship and the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office to strictly abide by the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and adhere to the approaches to the Organization’s work that have been agreed upon by all the participating States.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of today’s joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council.