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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1577th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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

Mr. Chairperson,

A little over 25 years ago, on 11 September 2001, the Twin Towers in New York were engulfed in flames and collapsed after civilian airliners hijacked by terrorists crashed into them. In total, almost 3,000 lives were lost in the United States of America on that day. The world was shaken by the scale of that terrorist attack; new civil aviation security standards were developed. From that moment on, any threats in this area have been regarded as completely unacceptable, and any incident has been scrupulously investigated.

However, it has turned out that this unwritten rule does not apply to everyone. On 1 September, Zelenskyy openly threatened Russia as follows: “We are warning our partners: the safe days in Russia’s skies are over.” How did his Western sponsors react to this overt threat to civil aviation in Russia and to this pitch for State-sponsored terrorism? The answer is simple: they did not react at all! This was to be expected, since, as we have repeatedly pointed out at previous meetings, any crimes against Russian people committed by the current Ukrainian authorities are nowadays not regarded by the West as crimes. And in their blind support for Ukraine, Zelenskyy’s European sponsors keep going farther and farther.

Cybercrime is one of the most pressing challenges we all face. It is becoming increasingly sophisticated, and a growing number of citizens in every country without exception are affected by it. Do the EU and NATO countries condemn such acts? Absolutely. But if it is Ukrainian criminals who are involved? That is where certain nuances come into play.

For example, in a report published in early August by the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), an international research organization, it is pointed out that Ukraine has become the leading country in Europe in terms of scam call centre operations. According to the report, these call centres generate a turnover of 1 billion dollars a month, and up to 125,000 people are employed by them. However, only around 40 per cent of the victims are Russian. The remaining 60 per cent live in European countries and the United States.

Are the Ukrainian authorities combating such call centres? No. What is more, they are covering up for these centres by presenting their work as a means of countering the proverbial “Russian aggression”. As it emerged last week, money from call centres, paid in exchange for non-interference in their operations, was being channelled to the Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine. And how are our Western colleagues reacting to all this? After all, it is their own citizens, too, who are falling victim to Ukrainian fraudsters! It is the same answer as before – they have not reacted at all, just as with Zelenskyy’s threats against civil aviation in Russia.

Our Western neighbours regularly issue calls for compliance with the norms of international humanitarian law. One of these is not to place military objectives in or near civilian areas; otherwise, they become legitimate military targets. In July, we told you in this room how secondary explosions at a military depot in the town of Vyshneve, near Kyiv, destroyed more than 90 houses and damaged at least a further 200 houses.

There continued to be similar tragedies in August and September. A series of powerful explosions caused by the detonation of ammunition occurred in a civilian area of Khmelnytskyi. For a similar reason, 37 people lost their lives near the infamous city of Bucha, where a military depot had been situated right in the middle of residential buildings. Perhaps one of the Kyiv regime’s sponsors has pointed out to Zelenskyy that such a practice is in flagrant breach of the norms of international humanitarian law? We have not heard any statements to that effect.

On the whole, one cannot shake off the impression that, in connection with its unwavering support for Ukraine, the West is prepared to turn a blind eye to absolutely anything, including Zelenskyy’s tightening dictatorship, political prisoners, gross violations of freedom of religion, discrimination against the Russian language and Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine, the glorification of Nazi collaborators, and rampant corruption across all levels of the Ukrainian Government. A blind eye to absolutely anything. Any means are “fair” as long as they help Ukraine to continue weakening Russia and draining it of energy. Even at the cost of Ukraine’s future and the lives of its citizens. Europe could not care less about that. It does not want peace between Ukraine and Russia; European politicians are doing everything they can to undermine any efforts aimed at addressing the root causes of the conflict. And Europe invariably finds the wherewithal to ensure that Ukraine can continue fighting. This summer, Western military aid to Ukraine reached its highest level since April 2024. As EU chief diplomat Kaja Kallas has admitted, the overall assistance provided by the European Union to Ukraine since the start of the conflict amounts to more than 220 billion euros, with over 78 billion euros spent on military aid.

On 11 September, the European Commission officially approved the allocation of 6.1 billion euros for the purchase of drones and PAC-3 missiles for Patriot systems, with a further tranche of 4.3 billion euros in the works. Andrius Kubilius, the European Commissioner for Defence and Space, has stated explicitly that all of the 28.3 billion euros earmarked for Ukraine’s defence this year had already been agreed upon.

The United Kingdom’s all too obvious activities are particularly striking. Back in April, the UK Government announced the biggest ever drone package in the country’s history, with 120,000 drones set to be supplied to Ukraine in 2026. To date, more than 25,000 have already been delivered. These drones are not simply “defensive weapons”. According to several sources, British drones have already been used to carry out deep strikes on Russian territory. Therefore, we are fully entitled to regard this as direct participation in a war against our country, with all the attendant consequences. We will interpret in the same way the appearance of troops from NATO countries in Ukraine in any form whatsoever, as the President of Russia unequivocally warned our adversaries on 11 September.

NATO is stepping up its military activity near Russia's borders. For example, on 18 and 19 August the Alliance conducted large-scale unscheduled air exercises in the immediate vicinity of the Kaliningrad region – according to various estimates, between 25 and 50 aircraft were in the skies over north-eastern Poland and the Baltic Sea at the same time.

The exercises involved fighter jets, an E-3A Sentry belonging to NATO's fleet of airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft, aerial refuelling tankers, and an EA-37B Compass Call II electronic warfare aircraft, which spent around two hours in the air.

As reported, the exercises simulated scenarios for strikes on air defence and missile systems in the Kaliningrad region.

A large-scale exercise involving a NATO brigade took place in south-eastern Latvia, specifically near the city of Daugavpils, between 21 and 23 August. Daugavpils is situated less than 100 km from the border with Belarus and approximately 120 km from Russian territory. During this exercise, the troops involved practised interoperability in the movement of equipment and personnel in near-combat conditions, including the deployment of temporary field camps and command posts.

On 11 September, Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski, speaking at a meeting in Kyiv, called upon the Alliance to "exercise so aggressively" near the borders of the Kaliningrad region that the Russian leadership would become "uncertain" of what to expect. He stated outright that the aim of such exercises was to compel Russia to redeploy its forces away from the Ukrainian front.

At the same time, Ukrainian nationalist formations are being systematically and openly trained in Europe, and co-operation with them is being promoted.

In May 2026, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operators from the 1st Azov Corps took part in the "Aurora 26" exercise in Sweden, the largest multinational exercise in Swedish history, involving 24 countries. In January 2026, military personnel from the 12th Special Forces Brigade "Azov" took part in the annual joint exercise of the Latvian armed forces in Riga, where they gave lectures to Latvian officers on tactics and countering UAVs. Representatives of the command staff of NATO's Multinational Division North took part in the discussions. Significantly, the Norwegian website Steigan.no has directly accused the authorities in Oslo of "overt Nazification" on account of their co-operation with the Azov Brigade – a delegation from the brigade visited the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) wearing uniforms with Nazi insignia. The author of the article in question emphasized that the Azov Brigade had never changed its attitude towards Nazism and fascism. Norway is not merely imparting basic skills to Ukrainian military personnel – it is training them in line with NATO standards through "Operation Legio" in Poland and "Operation Gungne" on its own territory, with the trainees including snipers, medics, instructors and drone operators. Under the auspices of the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine), over 86,000 Ukrainian military personnel had been trained by early 2026. Meanwhile, specialized courses, including training for snipers, combat medics and staff officers, continue to be organized in Spain, France and Poland.

Western instructors are not merely training the Ukrainian "fighters" in defensive skills – the Azov Brigade is openly sharing its combat experience with military personnel from NATO countries and taking part in the Alliance's exercises.

Military capabilities are also being built up within the European Union itself, where the overt preparations for war with Russia continue unabated. And this despite the fact that Russia has regularly reaffirmed, at various levels, that it has no plans to attack the European Union or NATO. Last week, the

President of Russia and the Minister for Foreign Affairs made similar statements to that effect. It has been a long time since we have heard anything like that from Europe; instead, the threat of a Russian invasion continues to be used there as a bogeyman with which to frighten ordinary Europeans.

Where will all this lead us? Many experts' predictions on this matter are becoming increasingly pessimistic, all the more so as at present any provocation could trigger a direct military conflict between Europe and Russia. Zelenskyy, for whom the end of the hostilities bodes nothing good, is very interested in such a scenario unfolding. On 10 September, the Federal Security Service detained a Russian citizen who had previously worked as a security guard at the British Embassy in Moscow and who, on the instructions of the Kyiv regime, had been gathering information about staff there, including their home addresses. There is every reason to believe that in this way it proved possible to prevent a terrorist attack against representatives of the British Embassy, the blame for which could then have been pinned on Russia. What might the consequences of such a false-flag operation have been? I think everyone knows perfectly well.

Colleagues, in conclusion, given everything that I have mentioned, I am obliged to note that, over the past month and a half, NATO and the European Union have taken further steps that risk turning the hybrid war against Russia into a conventional war. Therefore, I believe it is high time everyone sitting at this table asked themselves whether their governments are prepared to accept such a scenario as inevitable. And if not, what are their governments prepared to do to avert it?

Thank you for your attention.