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PC.DEL/960/26
8 October 2026

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1580th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 October 2026

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

Mr. Chairperson,

From 28 to 30 September, OSCE events dealing with cybersecurity – a meeting of an informal working group and an annual conference – took place in the Swiss town of Zug. Switzerland hosted these events as part of its tenure holding the OSCE Chairmanship.

In all that time, not a single Western delegation uttered a word about Ukrainian telephone scammers. In Zug, our colleagues referred exclusively to “Russian cyberattacks”, as usual without providing any evidence.

Meanwhile, the Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* reports that the Network for Investigative Support in the Fight against Cybercrime (NEDIK), a Swiss police network, has recorded an increase in the number of scams linked to Ukrainian call centres. An investigation by the authorities in Berne serves to illustrate the scale of what we are talking about: one of the suspects was in charge of several such entities in Kyiv, and just one of his platforms caused Switzerland losses of almost 4 million francs (4.84 million dollars). The main victims were Swiss and German nationals.

It is also common knowledge that such call centres are “protected” at the very top and feel they can act with complete impunity.

According to the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Russians account for only 10 to 15 per cent of those affected by their activities, while the remaining 85 to 90 per cent are European and US citizens.

This naturally raises the question: why did our Western colleagues keep quiet about this in Zug? The answer is obvious: State protection for cyberfraud in Ukraine does not fit in with the sole narrative they are willing to promote – that of the “Russian cyberthreat”.

After all, were it not for such selective deafness and blindness, the Russophobic war hysteria being whipped up by the European political elites would go up in smoke – that very hysteria which they need in

order to push the situation towards a direct military clash with Russia, in defiance of the sentiments of their own citizens, who want peace rather than war.

The problem for the European Russophobes is that ordinary Europeans are now increasingly concerned about the rapidly deteriorating economic situation in EU countries, yet the powers that be in Europe are simply unable to offer any viable strategy. Their only answer is that Russia is to blame for everything, even though they themselves have done all they could to sever mutually beneficial ties with our country and are still refusing to calm down, let alone admit their glaring mistakes.

For example, speaking before the European Parliament on 6 October, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that gas prices had risen by 140 per cent and diesel prices had doubled since the end of February, with 100 billion euros incurred in additional costs through the import of fossil fuels. This, however, does not bother her; she is pleased, instead, that the share of Russian gas in EU imports has fallen from 45 to 12 per cent and is expected to drop down to zero by the end of 2027. Moreover, under an EU regulation adopted in January 2026, Russian liquefied natural gas imports will be banned completely from January 2027, and Russian pipeline gas imports will be prohibited by the autumn of 2027. The causal link between these two pronouncements by Ms. von der Leyen is obvious even to schoolchildren, but not to the President of the European Commission herself. This really is a case of “cutting off one’s nose to spite one’s face” or, to cite the Russian saying, a case of “I’ll freeze my ears off just to spite Grandmother” – it is high time the European Commission made this its motto!

Meanwhile, those schoolchildren who have taken to the streets in France to protest and demand that the State finally allocate funds for education are being beaten and maimed; we will be discussing this in more detail later today. France has no money for textbooks or the maintenance of schools, as it is all being spent on supporting Ukraine. Germany, acting in a similar vein, has no money for such things either. The outcome is obvious. The leaders of both these countries do not even enjoy double-digit support among voters, something behind which they likewise see “the hand of Moscow” – naturally, who else could it be!

Colleagues, the European elites simply cannot manage without anti-Russian hysteria these days. Like drug addicts, they experience “dope sickness” unless at least one anti-Russian story, however absurd and implausible, appears in the European media space. Claims about violations of EU countries’ airspace – Estonian, Polish, Romanian airspace – are multiplying with kaleidoscopic rapidity. Russian drones are popping up everywhere, as though there were no others. After all, there is no need to prove anything, and no investigations are conducted – everything is “crystal clear”. It is exactly as NATO Secretary General Rutte exhorted his colleagues to do, when, at the end of September, as I would remind you, he called upon the Alliance countries to immediately hold Russia responsible on the least suspicion, even if they were not entirely certain.

We are not talking here about a harmless paranoia afflicting certain politicians – this paranoia has all too tangible consequences. Its aim is to justify the further militarization of European economies and concrete preparations for war with Russia, to rationalize the pumping of billions into the corrupt black hole that is the Kyiv regime.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the situation is deteriorating towards a wider European war.

From 6 to 15 October, NATO is conducting its largest command post exercise this year, “Avenger Triad 26”. The exercise is taking place at distributed command posts in France, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland. Around 2,000 US military personnel and a further 2,000 Allied troops are taking part. The exercise scenario is based on a simulated conflict involving more than 2.2 million military personnel from fictitious “friendly” and “opposing” forces.

As with any of its exercises, NATO is referring to this exercise as “defensive”, but that is not true. We know from Yugoslavia, Libya and Afghanistan just how adept the NATO countries are at launching attacks. In reality, such provocative steps by the Alliance are rapidly bringing us closer to outright war in Europe.

The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that, while preparing for a war against Russia, NATO has absolutely no interest in bringing the hostilities in Ukraine to an end. It is no secret that the West regards the conflict in Ukraine as a testing ground for modern forms of warfare and weaponry, a sort of “laboratory” for new military tactics and strategies. Nobody in Europe seems to care that ordinary Ukrainians are being used as the guinea pigs in that “laboratory”.

Colleagues, we have no doubt that the citizens of European countries want peace and normal relations with Russia. This is becoming increasingly obvious as the fog lifts and the true face of the Kyiv regime is revealed. A peaceful Europe needs neither militarization, nor social spending cuts, nor multibillion injections into the failing “anti-Russia” project. However, for now, a peaceful Europe exists only in theory, while a military Europe is taking shape as we speak.

We are not threatening or intending to attack anyone. That being said, we cannot ignore the fact that NATO is drawing up plans for a direct military clash with Russia and running model scenarios for a military and political blockade of the Kaliningrad region. Our response to any hostile moves will not be long in coming. We advise our opponents not to test our patience and not to push our shared continent towards the point of no return!

Thank you for your attention.