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PC.DEL/990/26
15 October 2026

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1581st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

15 October 2026

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Last week, our European neighbours' most painful fear was once again laid bare – a scenario in which Russia and the United States of America find a long-term and sustainable solution to the Ukrainian conflict without them. No sooner had US President Trump addressed the elephant in the room and drawn the obvious conclusion that Zelenskyy was not interested in peace and is merely trying to do everything possible to cling on to his personal power in the country, his defenders emerged from every nook and cranny across Europe and began trying to prove his peace-loving nature and vowing that the course of confrontation with Russia remains unchanged.

Colleagues, I do not envy those of you who have received such instructions today. Even the facts that I listed in my earlier statement are more than enough to reveal the true intentions of Zelenskyy, the usurper of power in Ukraine, and his coterie of henchmen. And this has nothing to do with the pursuit of peace or a desire to protect the interests of Ukrainians!

How can one fail to notice that as soon as there are signs of a respectful and mutually beneficial dialogue developing between Russia and the United States, and as soon as the inviolability and infallibility of the Kyiv regime's ringleader are called into question, European States invariably get into a panic and take steps aimed at derailing this process?

For example, on 10 October, the British Government issued a statement entitled "UK government response to agreement between US and Russia", in which it is explicitly stated that the United Kingdom will not deviate from its path of comprehensive support to the Kyiv regime and will pursue its anti-Russian policy. We would remind you that it was British Prime Minister Boris Johnson who, in April 2022, scuppered the Istanbul agreements, which were on the verge of being signed, by arriving in Kyiv with the promise of arms deliveries and urging the Ukrainians to keep on fighting. This tactic cost Ukraine hundreds of thousands of lives and led to destruction and damage that could easily have been avoided.

Judging by the tone of the recent statement, the United Kingdom again intends to go on playing the same role of a warmonger masquerading as a "defender of a just peace". And it is of no concern to the

strategists there how many more Ukrainians will die before the United Kingdom stops viewing this country, in the best colonial traditions, as a compliant geopolitical tool.

The European Union's extremely nervous reaction to the resumption of US-Russian dialogue is in a similar vein. On 12 October, at the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council in Luxembourg, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas tried to convince the United States that "only pressure works with Russia". The European Union has just one formula for derailing any movement towards a sustainable and long-term peace: new arms deliveries to Ukraine, pumping money into its corrupt leadership, and further sanctions. And this is despite the fact that Ms. Kallas herself has been forced to acknowledge the ineffectiveness of most of the previous sanctions and the direct economic damage they have done to Europe. However, the authorities in Brussels are not prepared to abandon the "pressure until victory" logic under any circumstances.

I must admit that, given what is happening today, it is hard to shake off that feeling of déjà vu. I am reminded of what happened after the Alaska summit in August of last year. Back then, European leaders were caught off guard by the US proposals for resolving the Ukrainian crisis, proposals to which Russia had agreed. Fearing that the conflict in Ukraine might end ingloriously for their protégés in Kyiv, and that the "anti-Russia" project – which has been under way since at least 2014 – might be scrapped, European leaders rushed to persuade the United States from all sides to abandon the understandings reached in Anchorage. That was hardly surprising either, given that the only strategy pursued in EU capitals and London since the anti-constitutional coup d'état on the Maidan has been to ply the Kyiv regime with weapons and derail any diplomatic initiatives that would take Russia's legitimate interests into account.

We all remember how, at a NATO summit in June this year, French President Emmanuel Macron effectively boasted that the Anchorage initiatives had been "buried". This sounded like a celebration of the fact that peace has still not been restored in Ukraine. And it confirmed that in Europe they still cannot envisage any scenario other than victory over Russia. No matter how futile and far-fetched the Russophobic European elites' pipe dream may be, they are clearly unwilling to abandon it, hoping that, with the aid of their weapons, Ukraine will be able to hold out until Europe has flexed its muscles and is ready for direct conflict with our country.

A conflict which, I would remind you, Russia consistently denies seeking at the very highest level.

In an effort to prevent public opinion from shifting towards good-neighbourly relations with Russia, leading Western media outlets are aggressively presenting ordinary Europeans with a completely distorted picture of reality. In Germany – the country that has suffered the most economically as a result of severing ties with Russia – all reputable journalists have joined the race to brainwash their own population. Readers of major German publications are being made to live in a fantasy world: the public is having it drummed into their heads that Ukraine is supposedly winning, while the Russian fuel and energy sector apparently lies in ruins. The public is being frightened with the notion that the White House is betraying Europe, and that more money needs to be sent to Ukraine to keep Germany safe.

The few voices of reason are instantly labelled "Kremlin bots" or "neo-Nazis from the Alternative for Germany (AfD)". The authorities are trying to get the Germans to stop thinking and analysing, because those who contemplate matters and know the truth make poor soldiers. The current German Government views its citizens as indeed soldiers who must be conscripted as quickly as possible to bolster the ruling elite's ambitions to "make Germany the leading military power in Europe once again".

The anti-Russian drone hysteria and spy mania sweeping across Europe come in handy for the authorities in Berlin and those following in their footsteps. I would not be surprised if, at meetings of

European bodies, plans and quotas are already being approved, detailing who is meant to detect how many drones and how many Russian provocations are meant to be thwarted. I would remind you that these guidelines were set out personally by NATO Secretary General Rutte, who called for Russia to be blamed for any incidents, even in the absence of evidence to support such conclusions.

At the same time, direct threats against Russia and calls for the destruction of Russian infrastructure are also increasing. For example, Estonian Prime Minister Kristen Michal made the following pronouncement: "It is worth discussing in Estonia and at the European Council next week whether we can quickly contribute more to Ukraine so that they can blast Russia's oil refineries to smithereens." So much for a warm greeting to President Trump from Tallinn! And to ensure that no one could dispute the superiority of the Estonian Russophobes in Europe, he also proposed decommissioning a section of the backup gas pipeline through which Russia could supply the Kaliningrad region with gas if necessary.

But the Estonians do have rivals after all. On 9 October, the Dutch Minister of Defence, Ms. Yeşilgöz-Zegerius, publicly stated that the Netherlands now regards Russia as an "enemy". Does the Minister realize what such wording implies? At the same time, the Netherlands refused to grant visas to three leading gymnasts from the Russian national women's team, thereby interfering with the selection of participants for the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships and calling into question the country's ability to host competitions of this calibre. What threat did the Dutch authorities see in our girls, apart from the fact that they would once again demonstrate the superiority of our sports academy? In this way, the Dutch are merely proving to us that no one in their country – or in Europe as a whole – has any intention of abandoning their primitive Russophobia and hatred of all Russians, even young female athletes.

Meanwhile, General Alexus Grynkewich, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, has presented a new "Theory of Victory" – a plan setting out how the Alliance will respond to "Russian aggression". At the same time, NATO launched its "Steadfast Noon" annual nuclear exercise. Military personnel from 17 Alliance countries are participating in the exercise. NATO's air forces are practising the execution of nuclear missions, and, what is more, in close proximity to the Russian border. Naturally, we are obliged to prepare an appropriate military response to such provocations. Any self-respecting State would do the same in our position. Do they realize in Brussels that they might get carried away and manoeuvre themselves into a direct nuclear conflict on the continent?

Sober assessments are extremely unpopular in Europe at the moment. And sometimes, let us be honest, assessments are driven by dubious domestic political considerations. For example, many will recall how, in September last year, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk stated that he had received a classified report from CIA Director John Ratcliffe and urged his country and Europe to prepare for various scenarios in which Russia might destabilize NATO's eastern flank. A few days ago, Mr. Tusk's opponent, Polish President Karol Nawrocki, openly accused him of spreading disinformation and having fabricated the report. Nawrocki also emphasized that, according to the information he had received from NATO and the intelligence services, the level of the Russian threat had not changed significantly over the past six months. In his view, Tusk is deliberately stoking fears about Russia for his own political interests.

Mr. Nawrocki, thank you, of course, for your vigilance; it is just that Mr. Tusk is by no means the only Russophobic scaremonger in Europe – unfortunately, there are people like that in practically every EU country! And in Poland, for example, Mr. Sikorski cannot go a single day without spouting anti-Russian fabrications, each one more ludicrous than the last. Furthermore, look at the EU leadership alone! Let us face it: compared to Ms. von der Leyen and Ms. Kallas, your Polish colleague, the Prime Minister, is just an amateur!

Colleagues, in conclusion, I should like to stress once again that Russia has no aggressive intentions towards the Netherlands, Poland or Europe as a whole. We had also been perfectly happy with our Ukrainian neighbours until you turned that country into an anti-Russian hornets' nest. However, we will not tolerate being addressed in a language of threats and ultimatums. You can rest assured that any encroachment on the security and sovereignty of the Russian Federation will be met with a devastating response.

Europe's fuelling of war hysteria does not bring peace any closer, but rather pushes it further away, while creating the risk of irreparable mistakes. The same goes for the supply of Western weapons and the provision of intelligence to Zelenskyy, which is resulting every day in the deaths of hundreds of Ukrainians who do not wish to fight. For that reason, ladies and gentlemen, the prospects of bringing peace to Ukraine through diplomacy and dialogue are being dashed today by you and you alone, however much you may deny it.

Thank you for your attention.