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STATEMENT BY MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1582nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

22 October 2026

On the deterioration of social rights and societal stability in the OSCE area

Mr. Chairperson,

We are once again compelled to draw the Permanent Council's attention to the selective and politicized approaches of a number of OSCE participating States to the protection of children's rights and the observance of the social and economic rights of the most vulnerable segments of the population. The state of affairs in this field is rapidly deteriorating in the OSCE area. A striking example of this is the situation in France.

While certain Western delegations continue to churn out insinuations regarding alleged "systematic" violations of the rights of Ukrainian children and to cite the findings of the long-obsolete OSCE "Moscow Mechanism", in France, widespread police brutality has already become a daily reality, one that remains beyond the purview of the Brussels bloc and the United Kingdom. The real reasons behind the dire social situation facing children and their parents are being carefully hushed up.

In the West, it is not customary to speak the truth about the fact that the irresponsible French leadership has, for many years, consistently ignored the problems of chronic underfunding of educational institutions, uncontrolled migration, overcrowded classrooms, dilapidated school buildings and unsanitary conditions. It is precisely on this fertile ground that social protests have erupted. And the "long arm of Moscow" has nothing to do with it. For years, the authorities in Paris have been fleecing their own citizens for the benefit of the corrupt Ukrainian regime. Now, however, they have found nothing better to do than to unleash terror against their own citizens, first and foremost children.

So far, human rights activists have compared the injuries sustained as a result of the use of excessive force to "war-like injuries". It should be emphasized that we are talking specifically about children. Over 200 teenagers have suffered as a consequence of the use of excessive force. More than 6,500 people have been detained – the overwhelming majority of them minors.

Let us cite just a few examples. In Lens, a 15-year-old boy had his arm torn off by a sting-ball grenade; a 14-year-old boy had his jaw shattered and his teeth knocked out; a 17-year-old girl suffered severe eye injuries in Montpellier; and a 16-year-old schoolboy in Tours lost sight in one eye after being hit

by a rubber bullet. In all, however, there have been numerous reported cases of the brutal use of tear gas, rubber bullets, batons and chokeholds, as well as degrading treatment in detention centres. There have been cases where children were not provided with lawyers.

The French Ministry of the Interior has launched dozens of internal investigations. However, these have not led to any improvement in the situation.

Why, then, do the Western "champions of freedoms" not condemn police brutality? And why is the "Moscow Mechanism" not being invoked in relation to France? Nor is there any mention of reports by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which merely issues half-hearted calls to end the violence. Why was there not a single round-table discussion or session at the recently concluded so-called Warsaw Human Dimension Conference dedicated to the French police's repression of children? Where is even the slightest reaction from the West, which usually displays extreme sensitivity to "children's issues"?

The answer, unfortunately, is obvious. Children's rights only matter when it suits anti-Russian propaganda. Yet when it comes to their own minor citizens, the rhetoric of human rights vanishes in an instant. Belgium and Italy, as well as other countries in the OSCE area, are now heading down this slippery slope.

The Russian Federation calls for an objective and impartial investigation into all cases of excessive use of force by the French police against children, for those responsible to be held to account, and for an end to the practice of adopting a selective approach to OSCE commitments.

Thank you for your attention.