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**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1132nd PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

25 March 2026

Agenda item: Closing session under the French Chairmanship

Madam Chairperson,

This year, the latest round of work of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) began in a challenging international environment. There is no doubt that the global situation is having a direct impact on the consideration of politico-military security issues in Europe. Current trends do not inspire much optimism. The search for compromise solutions at the negotiating table is increasingly being replaced by unilateral and extremely dangerous actions. The very possibility of dialogue is being dismissed; instead, we hear monologues from those who have arrogated to themselves the right to impose their will, to lecture others and to call the shots.

Our country continues to face military, political and economic aggression from many Western States. The nature of the discussions held during the French Chairmanship confirms that European countries remain committed to pursuing the utopian goal of inflicting a “strategic defeat” on Russia. Ukraine’s sponsors are turning a blind eye to the fact that their military handouts, along with the introduction of numerous “packages” of anti-Russian restrictions, are detrimental to the economies and populations of European countries. Bureaucrats in Brussels and politicians in most European capitals are sparing no resources in their support for Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s regime.

Consequently, we are working here in a climate of significant loss of trust in the military sphere. Given the diametrically opposed positions regarding various items on the FSC agenda, efforts are required from the rotating Chairmanships to find common ground on most of the issues covered by the Forum’s mandate. And the idea voiced back in January of this year by the Deputy Secretary General of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr. David Bertolotti, regarding the need for the FSC to revert to tasks related to the promotion of dialogue on matters of “hard” security in the interests of a de-escalation of tensions could help to improve the situation at our Forum. However, the effectiveness and feasibility of such initiatives depend both on the Chairmanship itself and on the response of other participating States.

In this round, we could see with our own eyes how positive signals and intentions as regards the need to normalize the state of affairs within the OSCE's politico-military dimension, which has been watered down by the Westerners, are immediately nipped in the bud.

The European countries that are sponsoring the Kyiv regime and throwing all their resources at the militarization of the continent simply have no need for a reduction in tensions and the restoration of trust in the politico-military sphere. Instead, they are imposing the notorious NATO concept of "risk management" here, which means continuing their provocative activities against Russia, rather than working together diligently to eliminate the current threats of an escalation of the situation to the point of a direct clash between nuclear powers.

No wonder that the FSC has ceased to fulfil the functions set out in its mandate, which was agreed upon at the CSCE Summit in Helsinki in 1992 and further developed in the decisions of subsequent OSCE Summits and Ministerial Council meetings. Events that are part of the annual cycle are not being held. The Forum's issues are being discussed by Western participating States behind closed doors or "divided" among other formats. The Security Dialogue is losing its relevance – strictly speaking, during the current round, only one discussion, namely the one devoted to subregional arms control in the Balkans, was directly relevant to the FSC's mandate. One gets the impression that those at the helm of this OSCE body no longer care about its fate.

It is also telling that the rotating FSC Chairmanships, which frequently take the initiative in convening joint meetings of the Forum and the OSCE Permanent Council, attempt to use that platform to push through deliberately confrontational anti-Russian topics, the discussion of which would simply be impossible at a regular meeting of the Forum. The French were quick to take advantage of this opportunity this time around, having secured the support of the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office. During the meeting, France took the liberty of presenting a concept for the event that contained politicized and unfounded accusations and disregarded the objective data available to the Chairperson; invited panellists who gave one-sided assessments that distorted the facts and did not reflect the whole spectrum of opinions at the FSC (first and foremost, we are referring to the representative of an organization engaged in spreading disinformation paid for by Ukraine and Western capitals); ignored questions posed by delegations; and, assuming the role of political censor, interrupted speakers and, under spurious pretexts, attempted to prevent them from speaking. In doing so, the Chairperson not only violated the Rules of Procedure, but also demonstrated a willingness to further entrench the FSC on a path of confrontation and division.

Naturally, this behaviour was met with a fitting rebuke from the delegations of Belarus and Russia. We consider such behaviour unacceptable; it goes beyond the Chairmanship's authority and is contrary to diplomatic etiquette.

We have also come to the conclusion that the FSC Chairmanship's grandiloquent statements about the importance of dialogue and reducing tensions are utterly devoid of sincerity. As soon as it was freed from procedural "constraints", the Chairmanship immediately dropped its mask and began spouting Russophobia.

Since the subsequent FSC meetings proceeded fairly smoothly, one might have been led to believe that the French Chairmanship had learned its lesson from the disastrous outcome of the joint event on 25 February and would henceforth carry out its duties in good faith. However, today's provocative photo exhibition about Ukraine shows that the Chairmanship stubbornly continues to stick to its guns.

In view of what has been said, our delegation does not consider it possible to take part in the Chairmanship's protocol event and is circulating the comments made by the official spokesperson of the

Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a briefing on 4 March this year regarding the provocative actions of the French Co-Chairperson of the joint meeting of the FSC and the OSCE Permanent Council.

Madam Chairperson,

At the end of this round, it has become clear that the Western participating States are still not prepared to restore the Forum's work in accordance with its mandate – a move which the OSCE Secretary General, His Excellency Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioglu, recently called for here.

In the light of what has been said, Madam Chairperson, you should not expect any initiatives or action on our part. We have previously put forward proposals for improving the FSC's work, but there has been no response from our opponents. Overall, we agree that, given the West's hybrid war against Russia, it is not possible to conduct business "as usual" within the OSCE's politico-military dimension.

Against this backdrop, it remains the responsibility of the rotating FSC Chairmanships and the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office to maintain a normal working atmosphere within the decision-making bodies and to preserve the OSCE's international standing – or rather, what is left of it.

We call upon the Chairmanships to endeavour to prevent attempts to settle political scores at our Forum, to adhere strictly to the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and to respect the tradition of building mutually respectful and professional dialogue.

The Russian delegation remains open to productive engagement both with the FSC Chairmanships and with the delegations of all participating States that share this approach. We will continue to take part in substantive discussions and facilitate the implementation of the FSC's tasks, as stipulated by its mandate and the Rules of Procedure.

Thank you for your attention.