

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1425/24  
28 November 2024

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1499th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 November 2024

**In response to the reports by the Chairpersons of the three Committees of  
the Permanent Council**

Madam Chairperson,

We have listened carefully to the presentations by the Chairpersons of the three Committees. They paint a depressing picture. Unfortunately, we once again have to acknowledge that the work of these subsidiary bodies of the Permanent Council is still far from accomplishing the OSCE's tasks as a multidisciplinary organization. Let us examine each of these bodies in more detail.

We take note of the report by the Permanent Representative of Slovakia on the activities of the Security Committee.

We are obliged to note that the Committee's formerly constructive work on a whole set of issues constituting a direct threat to the security of the OSCE's entire area of responsibility has been completely politicized, and the focus of substantive discussions altogether blurred to accommodate the politically motivated unilateral approaches of certain countries. Global security challenges – above all, international terrorism and drug trafficking in the context of a crisis of inter-State trust and practical co-operation at the international level – have unfortunately not been reflected at all in the Committee's work. At the same time, the Chairmanship has made attempts to introduce into the activities of this subsidiary body issues that lie beyond the Committee's mandate and that relate more to the work of the OSCE's human dimension and the Forum for Security Co-operation or to non-consensus themes altogether. We also note a clear geographical imbalance in the selection of keynote speakers for the Committee's meetings: on each and every issue it is principally representatives of Ukraine and the "Anglo-Saxon" countries who have delivered statements. The substantive content of the meetings has suffered considerably as a result.

We should also like to separately emphasize that the Maltese Chairmanship bears full responsibility for the arbitrary decision to deliberately hollow out the Organization's programme of work on countering transnational threats, and in particular for the suspension of the traditional conferences held under the auspices of the OSCE on counter-terrorism, combating drugs, border security and police co-operation. We have always called for and will continue to call for substantive and professional dialogue on these highly relevant topics, which, by the way, have been reaffirmed by a number of Ministerial Council decisions.

Madam Chairperson,

We note that there has been some progress during Austria's tenure at the head of the Economic and Environmental Committee in unfreezing the activities of the OSCE's second "basket", which, to our deep regret, has still not been able to avoid excessive politicization and fixation on one country-specific subject. This has persistently poisoned the atmosphere at the thematic meetings of this subsidiary body of the Permanent Council and has impeded constructive dialogue and substantive discussions.

The Committee's work programme has traditionally been very varied. We note the meetings on the use of digital technologies in combating corruption and money laundering, on disaster risk reduction, on strengthening connectivity and on bridging the digital skills gap for young people and women. However, as recent events have shown, the thaw in the economic and environmental dimension has proven to be very short-lived and unsustainable.

Having supported the consensus on holding the 31st Economic and Environmental Forum, Russia believed it was necessary to discuss at this event truly topical issues of interest to all, such as increasing the effectiveness of digital transformation of the economy, reducing negative impacts on the environment, improving good governance and combating corruption. Unfortunately, the generally professional nature of the discussions at the Forum was completely undermined as a result of the attempts by a number of delegations to focus the Forum's work on anti-Russian rhetoric and propaganda without regard to the issues under consideration. Another negative aspect was Czechia's refusal to issue visas in Moscow to all of the representatives of the Russian delegation for the Forum's Concluding Meeting in Prague.

We will also continue to promote our priorities in the future by proposing to focus on less politicized issues, such as strengthening trade and transport connectivity, developing transport corridors and simplifying customs and border procedures. It would be useful for participating States focusing on the introduction of renewable sources of energy and low emission technologies to familiarize themselves with the risks posed by an accelerated energy transition. This will help them to avoid repeating the mistakes that have already been made in a number of countries.

As always, we are counting on the expert support of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Ambassador Bakyt Dzhusupov. We wish our Kazakh colleagues success in their work at the head of the Economic and Environmental Committee. You can always count on our support.

Madam Chairperson,

The work of the Human Dimension Committee and the third "basket" as a whole is still going through a profound crisis. This is fuelled by the fanatical obsession of the Irish Chairmanship of the Human Dimension Committee with anti-Russian narratives and its fixation on making hackneyed accusations against our country in the context of the special military operation in Ukraine. It is unacceptable to hold so-called ad hoc meetings to present the anti-Russian opuses of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on alleged violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. This is being done at the expense of the discussion of other relevant topics, among them the rise in religious intolerance, the increase in racism and racial discrimination, and violations of the linguistic and educational rights of national minorities and ethnic groups.

We are disappointed that the Maltese Chairmanship has not only failed to rectify the situation but has also contributed to the further degradation of the human dimension by holding a non-consensus "gathering" in Warsaw to replace the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Thus, at the instigation

of unscrupulous Chairmanships, dead-end and destructive processes have been set in motion in this crucial dimension, which will be extremely difficult to reverse.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, let us briefly comment on the work of the three Committees. We have already repeatedly noted that these bodies have been subjected to excessive politicization on the basis of the attitudes of a number of countries that are imposing an anti-Russian agenda. This does not allow all the participating States to meaningfully discuss and address a wide range of security issues in the three dimensions of the OSCE.

We would remind you that the OSCE Chairmanship has a clear duty to co-ordinate the Committees' work and ensure that that work is focused on current challenges throughout the OSCE area. We urge our Finnish colleagues, who are embarking on their "tour of duty" next year, and the incoming Chairpersons of the three Committees to take a responsible approach to developing a balanced programme of work, taking into account the needs of all participating States without exception, as opposed to the needs of just some of them.

Thank you for your attention.