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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1397th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 November 2022

In response to the report on the activities of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

Mr. Chairperson,

We are obliged to draw your and the participating States' attention to the irregularities that occurred during the process of appointing (as from 1 November) Ambassador Henrik Villadsen as Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office – OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

Do you realize that such actions and attempts to introduce the so-called principle of political expediency into the work of our Organization are fraught with the potential for total chaos?

As you know, paragraph 2(h) (ii) of the Porto Ministerial Council decision of 2002 stipulates that: "When appointing a personal representative related to a specific issue, the Chairmanship-in-Office shall consult with the participating States in advance through the Preparatory Committee regarding the creation, the designation and the mandate of such a representative." As far as we understand, this has not been done.

We cannot accept the argument that this provision does not apply to the appointment of "Special Representatives". You cannot help but be aware that, one year after the adoption of the Porto Ministerial Council decision, in 2003, Permanent Council Decision No. 550 (PC.DEC/550/Corr.1) endorsed the OSCE Staff Regulations, Regulation 3.03(b) of which clearly states that: "Representatives of the Chairmanship shall be designated in accordance with Decision MC(10).DEC/8 of 7 December 2002."

It is for this reason that the requirements for the appointment of both Personal and Special Representatives have been strictly observed by all previous Chairmanships and upheld in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the Porto Ministerial Council decision.

We urge the Polish Chairmanship to strictly follow the rules and long-standing practice of our Organization. No reference to political disagreements among participating States can justify violations of the collectively agreed rules concerning the functioning of the OSCE.