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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1459th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 February 2024

**In response to the address by the President of the Committee of Ministers of the
Council of Europe, Dominique Hasler, Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Education and Sport of Liechtenstein**

Madam Chairperson,

We welcome to this meeting of the Permanent Council Ms. Dominique Hasler in her capacity as President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

As we have repeatedly emphasized, the Western majority has turned the Council of Europe into yet another tool – dependent on the European Union – for promoting the notorious “rules-based world order”.

The anti-Russian documents adopted during the fourth Council of Europe Summit and the subsequent decisions of the relevant bodies of the Council confirm that the majority of its members are intent on continuing their all-out hybrid war against our country.

Given the strict bloc discipline established in Strasbourg, the Presidency of the member countries in the Committee of Ministers has taken on a ceremonial, symbolic role. Those that previously held the post – Italy, Ireland, Iceland and Latvia – worked with unprecedented zeal on the anti-Russian agenda. There is no reason to believe that anything will change under Liechtenstein’s Presidency.

We should like to take advantage of your visit to Vienna, Ms. Hasler, to convey to the leadership of the Council of Europe in the presence of the OSCE participating States the Russian Federation’s principled position on the most important issues.

Firstly, we are monitoring Strasbourg’s continuing “legal aggression” in terms of its efforts to establish mechanisms to bring Russia’s leadership to some sort of “responsibility” under the pretext of the crisis in Ukraine. We have pointed out repeatedly that the establishment of legally void entities within the Council of Europe discredits not only the Council itself but also its member States. Such endeavours in the absence of any jurisdiction over the Russian Federation by this entity are contrary to the norms of international law.

For those of you who have yet to understand, we repeat that Russia will under no circumstances recognize the legitimacy of any so-called registers of damage or special tribunals. We consider participation in their work by members of the Council of Europe and “third” countries to be a hostile act. The promotion of mechanisms for “made-to-measure justice” at the behest of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the European Union will inevitably worsen the situation in the Euro-Atlantic region and will have the most negative consequences for the entire system of international security. In the end, it will backfire on the very masterminds behind this political spectacle. We urge you to think hard about this.

Secondly, the politicized attempts by the Strasbourg bureaucracy to press the Russian Federation to comply with the hastily issued judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are absolutely unacceptable. And not to mention the use of United Nations bodies for such purposes. We recall that, in accordance with federal legislation, judgments of the European Court of Human Rights against our country that came into effect after 15 March 2022 cannot be enforced. No one should have any illusions about this.

And thirdly, we call upon the leadership of the Council of Europe to address the unsatisfactory human rights situation in the territories under the control of the Kyiv regime in a professional and unbiased manner.

The approaches of the Strasbourg-based organization are striking in their sheer cynicism. For many years, the specialized bodies of the Council, including the once authoritative Venice Commission, have turned a blind eye to the discrimination against the Russian and Russian-speaking population and the massive human rights violations in Ukraine.

What is more, since the launch of the special military operation, the Council of Europe has openly stood up in defence of Ukrainian neo-Nazism and has given it a blank cheque to commit any atrocities, including against children, in the territories of the various regions of Russia that are under attack by the Ukrainian armed forces.

In conclusion, we express the hope that what we have said will be thoroughly examined and taken on board in order to amend the destructive policy of the organization you represent, which has completely lost its political independence, moral authority and unifying pan-European potential.

Thank you for your attention.