

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
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TO THE OSCE, AT THE 2017 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW  
CONFERENCE**

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**Closing session**

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Russian Federation, I should like to thank the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship for organizing the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, which has given us the opportunity to exchange opinions on a wide range of topics.

In the course of this event we have managed to discuss a whole range of topical European security problems, including the urgent tasks of countering terrorism, radicalization, illicit drug trafficking, other transnational threats, the question of information security, preventing and settling conflicts in the OSCE area, conventional arms control, and also the potential of the Structured Dialogue for de-escalating politico-military tension in the Euro-Atlantic region.

At the same time, a number of statements at the Conference confirmed the continuing confrontational attitude of some countries. The evident unwillingness to co-operate on an equal basis, the accusatory rhetoric, the rudimentary tool of unilateral sanctions, unilateral actions and disrespect for the interests of other countries are in no way conducive to strengthening security in the OSCE's area of responsibility.

We hope that common sense will prevail in the end. The current discussion confirms that the possibility for compromise and mutually beneficial solutions still exists. All that is required is the political will and the rejection of double standards.

Concrete proposals and recommendations were heard during the Conference, for example, regarding combating terrorism and narcotic drugs, dealing with the migration crisis, settling conflicts, and confidence-building measures in information and communication technologies. We trust they will be reflected in the report on the results of the Conference. Some of them might form the basis for draft decisions at the upcoming OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vienna.

We expect the next OSCE Chairmanship to focus in its organization of the Annual Security Review Conference on devising ways of using this forum to maximum effect to discuss questions of European security and to seek unifying factors rather than dividing lines.

Thank you for your attention.