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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1471st MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 May 2024

**On the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Madam Chairperson,

It is not the first time we are discussing the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Permanent Council. Yet, the main reason for the events – alarming events – taking place in that country is plain for all to see. That is, the brazen intervention by external forces in the internal affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the unceasing attempts to revise the Dayton ethno-administrative architecture for the purposes of unitarization and centralization of that Balkan State at the expense of the constitutional powers of its constituent peoples and entities.

There continues to be a clearly destabilizing element in the shape of the so-called High Representative, who was illegally appointed in circumvention of the United Nations Security Council and without taking into account the views of Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens. At least one entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not recognize Christian Schmidt as High Representative, just like a number of States that are members of the United Nations Security Council. These would seem to be good grounds for pausing to reflect. But no – certain countries, whose representatives are also to be found in this room, prefer to take an expansive view of the Dayton Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and continue to demonstratively support the non-consensus institution embodied by Mr. Schmidt and his interference in the legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which clearly violates the policy of handing over all responsibility to the Bosnians.

We reiterate once again that the Office of the High Representative has for a long time now been nothing but a source of problems, that it is undermining the entire Dayton structure. It is essential to work towards dismantling this harmful mechanism of external patronage over a sovereign Balkan State as soon as possible.

We have taken note of the joint statement of 19 April by OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Ian Borg and Secretary General Helga Schmid regarding the election law adopted in the Republika Srpska. We shall not comment on the nature of the statement but leave that to the Bosnians instead. We should, though, like to observe that the Republika Srpska National Assembly did not take this step lightly. It was in response to the improper actions of the illegitimate High Representative in imposing amendments to the country's electoral

legislation. The question arises as to why there was no reaction from our Organization, which in accordance with Annex 3 to the Dayton Agreement has been ascribed a role in assisting the Bosnians to create the conditions for the holding of elections. This task, incidentally, also underlies the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. We call upon the Organization's leadership to bear this in mind in future.

In closing, we should like to stress once again that equitable internal Bosnian dialogue, free from external interference, is the basis for sustainable inter-ethnic reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This path may be challenging and not as quick as we might wish. However, only such a path can guarantee that solutions to the existing differences are found by political means.

Thank you for your attention.