

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1135th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 March 2017

**In response to the statement by the representative of the United States of
America on the human rights situation in the Russian Federation**

Mr. Chairperson,

Our United States colleagues continue to impose their own interpretation of events in Russia, no matter what explanation we may give. It brings the discussion to a standstill. Perhaps they think that the repetition of the same inventions makes them more truthful?

You have just heard our comment on the case of Ildar Dadin. With regard to the other subjects raised by the distinguished representative of the United States of America, we have to reiterate the following.

At the meetings of the Permanent Council, we have repeatedly informed you about the nature of Russian legislation that regulates the activities of non-commercial organizations. It does not interfere with the work of non-commercial organizations, but only makes it more transparent, as it should be in a law-based society.

With regard to the case of Alexei Navalny, we have reaffirmed that the law in Russia is the same for everyone. Position, political affiliation or profession cannot be a reason for exemption from criminal liability. It is obvious that the interest of Western colleagues in this process is explained only by Mr. Navalny's membership of the so-called non-system opposition, the funding sources of which are well known. However, attempts to sculpt his image into that of a hero does not stand up to scrutiny.

Vladimir Kara-Murza was successfully treated by Russian doctors. After which he left for abroad. What makes you think that he was deliberately poisoned? Such suspicions are simply undignified and inappropriate.

Now to the murder of Boris Nemtsov. The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, has repeatedly stressed that this crime must be carefully investigated. Investigations are continuing and suspects have been arrested. Their guilt can only be

determined by a court. This murder was a tragedy for Russian society, and we believe it is inadmissible to use it for political speculation.

Thank you for your attention.