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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1149th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 June 2017

On the formation of a new Government in Macedonia

Mr. Chairperson,

We continue to pay close attention to developments in Macedonia. We have called consistently for the settlement of the critical political crisis in Macedonia, which has been going on for more than two years now, by the Macedonians themselves on the basis of the Constitution and democratic principles. We are convinced that any outside interference in the internal affairs of a State, particularly one with such a complex ethno-confessional situation as Macedonia, is harmful.

We wish the Macedonian people a swift restoration of stability and the settlement of the accumulated differences on the basis of the inter-ethnic model for government formation set forth in the Ohrid Framework Agreement. It deserves to be handled with due care by the political parties in the country and supported explicitly by the international community. In that context, we sincerely regret that none of our Western colleagues has ever found the strength to condemn the infamous Tirana platform, which represents a direct threat to the unity and sovereignty of Macedonia.

Thank you for your attention.