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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. KONSTANTIN GAVRILOV, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1035th PLENARY MEETING
OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

8 February 2023

Agenda item: Any other business

Mr. Chairperson,

Once again, I am forced to raise at this meeting an issue to which we drew the attention of the Austrian delegation at the meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on 1 February this year. I am talking about the unjustified delay in the issuance of diplomatic and service visas to Foreign Ministry officials coming to join the Russian delegation as experts on a rotational basis. This continues to seriously hamper the normal work of the delegation.

It is significant that this is the first such case since the Russian delegation began to participate in the FSC in 1994. Visas have always been issued by Austria without any artificial delays.

To date, the delegation has not received any official response from Austria. Newspaper comments do not count.

We are once again obliged to urge the Austrian Foreign Ministry to fulfil in good faith its obligations under the Agreement between the Republic of Austria and the OSCE regarding the OSCE Headquarters of 14 June 2017 and to ensure the smooth functioning of the Russian delegation.

Thank you for your attention.