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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1138th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

23 March 2017

**In response to the address by the
Dean and Executive Secretary of the International Anti-Corruption
Academy, Mr. Martin Kreutner**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the Dean and Executive Secretary of the International Anti-Corruption Academy, Mr. Martin Kreutner, to the Permanent Council meeting. We thank him for his interesting presentation of the work and plans of the Academy, and for his considerations on the further development of its interaction with the OSCE.

Corruption is a global phenomenon, hence the importance of strengthening international anti-corruption co-operation, a significant contribution to which is made by our Organization.

The issue of combating corruption has long been at the top of the OSCE's agenda. Considerable capacity has been built up in the presence of the extensive supporting elements of the relevant activities, among which the OSCE Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Good Governance and Combating Corruption, Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, adopted in Dublin in 2012, occupies a special place. Anti-corruption co-operation is being actively developed with a number of international and regional structures. In accordance with their requests, the participating States are assisted in the development and improvement of their national legislations, and in the establishment of specialized agencies. Training seminars and courses are held for government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the business community.

In the Russian Federation, a great deal of work has been carried out to fulfil the obligations to combat corruption, which is one of our country's priorities. In the Public Safety Concept, approved by the President of the Russian Federation, corruption is named as one of the systemic threats. We believe that the eradication of this scourge would ensure the successful development of society as a whole and, in particular, the improvement of the quality of life of each person.

Currently, Russia has a solid legal framework aimed at combating corruption offences. It is based on the Federal Law on Combating Corruption of 25 December 2008. Under the President of the Russian Federation, a special Anti-Corruption Council has been established, the task of which is to assist in ensuring the co-ordinated functioning and interaction of State authorities, local governments and organizations in combating corruption. Uncompromising work on minimizing corruption risks is carried out at all levels of Government.

A new law has been adopted that changes the rules for Government procurement. The practice of examining laws to enable corruption risks to be determined before their adoption was widespread. Work is continuing to reduce administrative barriers for the activities of commercial organizations.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia was actively involved in the establishment of the Academy and is its main stable donor. Russian representatives are members of the governing bodies of this structure. Bilateral co-operation is being actively developed. The list of joint measures is significant, but I do not want to take up your time by enumerating them. I will only note that Russia contributes significantly to one of the key areas of the Academy's work – the organization of training workshops and refresher courses for employees of various anti-corruption structures.

From 25 to 27 May 2016, the Academy held its first special course for representatives of the member States of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), sponsored by funds from Russia's annual voluntary contribution. The objective was to develop a common knowledge base and to strengthen regional capacities for the effective prevention and combating of corruption. We attach great importance to the Academy's holding of another special course for the EAEU in October of this year in the Austrian town of Laxenburg, also sponsored by Russia.

Our co-operation is being actively developed through research structures studying the phenomenon of corruption. In particular, the Academy has recently established contact with the Russian National Research University – Higher School of Economics.

On the whole, the International Anti-Corruption Academy has affirmed its relevance as one of the leading training centres for anti-corruption specialists. We would welcome the continuation of the practice of involving its experts in the thematic activities of the OSCE. We consider it important to further enhance co-operation between the Academy and the OSCE while respecting the purpose set out in Article II of the Agreement for the Establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy as an International Organization of 2 September 2010, which is to promote effective and efficient prevention and combating of corruption by providing anti-corruption education and professional training; undertaking and facilitating research into all aspects of corruption; providing other relevant forms of technical assistance in the fight against corruption; and fostering international co-operation and networking in the fight against this global challenge.

At the same time, we should like to emphasize that the United Nations plays a central co-ordinating role in multilateral efforts to combat corruption. We attach special importance to the maintenance and strengthening of the regime established by the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The activities of other international organizations and forums

(including the International Anti-Corruption Academy, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank) should complement the efforts of the United Nations in this area.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Mr. Kreutner and the Academy staff further success.

Thank you for attention.