

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/900/20  
10 July 2020

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1274th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 July 2020

**On the United Kingdom's unilateral sanctions**

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the statement by the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom regarding the introduction of sanctions relating to my country, I am obliged to exercise the right to reply.

The restrictions imposed on a number of Russian individuals allegedly involved in the death of Sergei Magnitsky are nothing but a political farce by the British authorities designed solely for public effect. The intention behind this measure is not to solve specific human rights problems, which are purportedly of such concern to the United Kingdom, a country that has long forfeited the right to call itself the “moral linchpin” in Europe. The goal is quite trivial – to try to put pressure on countries it doesn't like, guided by current domestic politics. The main thing is to restore the island's independent role in the eyes of a continent that has doubts about its neighbour. The cynicism of this latest venture, emanating from 10 Downing Street, is obvious to any unbiased observer, especially against the backdrop of calls by the international community for the abandonment of sanctions during the coronavirus pandemic.

It is also noteworthy that the decision was adopted by Parliament in an accelerated and opaque procedure. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab formally presented the relevant document for consideration by the Members of Parliament on 6 July. It entered into force two hours (!) later. At the same time, the Russian embassy in London received a corresponding note from the Foreign Office, as a courtesy, so to speak, informing us of this fact, which was dated – wait for it – 24 June. In short, a gesture worthy of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

The inclusion in the sanctions list of representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation as well as certain judges is outrageous. We should like to remind the British authorities that in Russia investigation, public prosecution and courts work independently of the executive authorities and are guided solely by the law.

As for the death of Mr. Magnitsky in 2009, answers to all questions regarding the circumstances of this affair have long been provided. Further hyping of this subject merely shows the true intentions of the forces behind it.

Russia reserves the right to respond to this unfriendly decision by the United Kingdom on the basis of the principle of reciprocity and to an extent determined by the interests of the Russian Federation.

Thank you for your attention.