

PC.DEL/360/17
17 March 2017

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1137th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 March 2017

In response to the representative of Ukraine on Crimea

Mr. Chairperson,

We see that the question of the situation in Crimea is once again being set aside from the context of what is happening in Ukraine. Obviously, the Ukrainian Government and governments in other countries are increasingly becoming aware that Crimea is an integral part of the Russian Federation. And this is correct.

In this connection, the assertions about some kind of “occupation” and “illegal annexation” of the peninsula are flawed. Let me remind you that its reunification with Russia was a result of the free and voluntary will of the people of Crimea at the referendum on 16 March 2014.

The situation in this constituent entity of the Russian Federation is calm, its inhabitants freely exercise all the rights provided for by Russia’s international obligations and guaranteed by its Constitution.

As for international monitoring, we invited observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to the elections of the deputies of the State Duma in Crimea. The peninsula was also visited by parliamentary delegations from a number of OSCE participating States. Incidentally, they gave a high appraisal of the situation in Crimea. So the insinuations in this respect are completely inappropriate.

Thank you for your attention.