

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 1000th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 May 2014

**In response to the report by Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan,  
Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan to today's meeting of the Permanent Council and thank him for his detailed report on the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine and the situation there.

We are attentively following the work of the field mission and helping to consolidate it. There are 12 Russians at present in the SMM and we have put forward new candidates.

We support your determination to strengthen the SMM, which we would like to see playing the role of an impartial assistant to the Ukrainian people and striving to find a way out of the acute domestic political crisis.

The Mission is destined to play an important role in the reconciliation within Ukraine. We believe that it could integrate quickly and effectively in the systematic work to implement the road map proposed by the Swiss Chairmanship.

The way out of the crisis depends on wide-ranging discussion in Ukraine involving all political forces and regions in the country on its future structure as a State. The first event of this type took place yesterday in Kyiv, but it was not attended by real representatives of the south-eastern regions of the country. We expect all regions in the east, south and west of Ukraine to take part in the round tables. The outcome of this discussion should be clearly reflected in the constitutional reform.

We should like to re-emphasize that the implementation of the road map depends first of all on the Ukrainian authorities and their willingness to take account of the concerns of the inhabitants of the south-east of the country. For the violence in Ukraine to stop, Kyiv must desist immediately from military activities in the south-east and from intimidating the civilian population through the use of force. Barricades around populated areas should be removed and regular troops and other armed formations, including the Right Sector forces and mercenaries, withdrawn. Only if Kyiv takes these measures is it likely that the self-defence

leaders in Donbas and Luhansk will react accordingly. This was also mentioned in the statement by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is naïve, to say the least, to expect them to take down the barricades themselves and wait calmly at home to be arrested.

We also call on the OSCE Mission to exploit its potential to investigate acts of violence. An absolute priority in this regard is the organization of impartial and transparent international oversight of the investigation of the tragedies in Odessa and Mariupol and all of the other recent instances of armed attacks on civilians.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Ambassador Apakan,

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine has already achieved a lot. Given its limited resources at present and the security situation, it has managed on the whole to accomplish its monitoring tasks. We would nevertheless like its reports to be more detailed and informative. At present some important events are not mentioned in the reports. We expect to see a fuller account of the events not only in the south-east but also in other regions of the country.

The observers should pay constant attention to the activities of Ukrainian security forces, who are using armoured vehicles and combat aircraft during the military operation. Unfortunately, the reports make practically no mention of this.

We urge the OSCE observers to establish working contacts quickly with all forces controlling the situation at the local level. Amongst other things, this would prevent vexatious incidents such as the detention of OSCE observers on 27 April in Yenakiieve. This will also make it possible for the SMM commands to get to trouble spots in good time and by their presence help de-escalate the situation.

In these cases it is important for the observers to have the necessary documents providing them with immunity and guaranteed security in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, which, as we recall, has not yet been ratified by the Verkhovna Rada.

We support the Mission's efforts with respect to the fate of political prisoners, arrestees and detainees. The Mission is aware of their names. We trust that all protestors as well as other illegally detained persons will eventually be granted amnesty and released.

Your report confirms that the overwhelming majority of the protestors dissatisfied with the Kyiv authorities are unarmed citizens concerned, amongst other things, about problems of corruption and the economic downturn. It is quite clearly wrong and unacceptable to present them as terrorists and "enemies of the people". Their demands need to be heard and taken into account.

We draw attention to the reports of the build-up of Right Sector militants near Dnipropetrovsk transferred from the west of Ukraine. There is a need to keep permanent track of this question, with particular focus on monitoring manifestations of racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism, violent extremism and other forms of ethnic and religious intolerance.

Unfortunately, up to now the work has not been aligned with what the citizens are saying. If it were, this would not only substantially enhance the observers' knowledge but would also strengthen the confidence of the population in them. "Community liaison offices" need to be opened as soon as possible in all ten cities where the Mission works, together with a single hotline, postal and e-mail address. This information should be available to all inhabitants of Ukraine.

Closer co-operation with the media would also improve the Mission's authority among the citizens of Ukraine. Press releases should be concise and aimed at a wide audience. I repeat that they should be different and not merely copies of the Mission's situation reports.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Ambassador Apakan and wish him and the staff of the Mission every success in their difficult but noble work.

Thank you for your attention.