

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**ADDITIONAL REMARKS BY
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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, IN
CONNECTION WITH THE AGENDA ITEM OF THE 1071st MEETING
OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION IN
UKRAINE AND THE NEED TO IMPLEMENT THE
MINSK AGREEMENTS**

15 October 2015

**Regarding speculation about Russian military presence in Donbas and
restrictions on the access of OSCE monitors to the
Ukrainian-Russian border**

Our esteemed colleagues once again thought it a good idea to dream up an imaginary Russian military presence in Donbas and while they were at it to accuse the insurgents of denying monitors from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) access to the Ukrainian-Russian border. The conclusion we draw from this is that our partners are either not reading the reports by the SMM and the team of OSCE observers at the Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk or this is just wishful thinking on their part. None of the OSCE Mission reports contain any information on the presence of Russian units on Ukrainian territory. Attempts to read anything into this remain in the realm of pseudoscientific fiction and are not in keeping with the format of the Permanent Council, which calls for professional political dialogue.

As for the insinuations that the OSCE monitors do not have access to the Ukrainian-Russian border, allow us simply to cite some facts from the SMM's reports. During the week of 7 to 13 September, the OSCE monitors travelled without any restrictions to the section of the Ukrainian-Russian border controlled by the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR). On 4, 9 and 11 October, the SMM visited the Uspenka international crossing point controlled by the Donetsk People's Republic, where it documented a stream of Ukrainians entering Russian territory and a calm situation at the border. The monitors went to the Marynivka crossing point on the Ukrainian-Russian border on 4 October and the Novoazovsk crossing point on 9 October. On 11 October, the SMM visited the city of Krasnodon in the Luhansk region, which is located 14 kilometres from the Ukrainian-Russian border on the only road leading to the Izvarino international crossing point. On 12 October, the OSCE Mission went to the LPR-controlled Dolzhansky checkpoint. The list goes on. The SMM has visited the border on numerous occasions and found nothing unusual to report there.

We are not denying that the SMM monitors have trouble moving around freely. However, they encounter difficulties on territory controlled by the insurgents and also in areas where units of the Ukrainian armed forces are stationed. We call on the Mission to co-operate more closely with the parties to the conflict controlling the situation on the ground.