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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1466th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 March 2024

**In response to the report by the  
Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Madam Chairperson,

We thank the distinguished Ambassador Brian Aggeler for his comprehensive report on the significant events that took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the reporting period and on the mandated activities of the field operation headed by him.

A difficult situation is unfolding in the electoral sphere. We are following closely the preparations for the local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the autumn of this year. We trust that the Mission will keep us informed in a timely manner of developments in this area. We would be interested in the latest statistical data on the level of public trust in electoral processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We would also ask Mr. Aggeler to share exactly what “significant results” are being referred to, which, as mentioned in the report, were achieved in co-operation with the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The report circulated shows that the Mission took an active part in the preparation of a very large number of documents aimed at assisting the host State in the fight against corruption. Was this work carried out by the field operation itself, or were outside experts involved in the process? We would be grateful if the Mission could share the results of the survey conducted in February under an extrabudgetary project on the level of public perception of corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Mission should also continue to focus on combating violence against women, young people and vulnerable groups. We will study with interest the results of the research conducted by the field operation on the situation of Roma women. We also look forward to the continuation of the in-depth work to support interreligious dialogue and prevent hate crimes.

We endorse the Mission’s efforts to improve the situation with regard to education. Initiatives such as the campaign launched by the field operation to combat discrimination in this area are commendable.

The regional context is well presented in the Mission's report. In view of the specificities of the region, we believe it is important to continue to monitor the evolution of events in the Western Balkans in a comprehensive manner.

In closing, we should like to point out that the source of a large number of problems in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Office of the High Representative. The actions of Christian Schmidt, who is illegally holding this office, have long violated the policy of transferring all responsibility for internal affairs to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We once again recall the long-overdue need to dismantle this outdated mechanism of foreign tutelage over a sovereign State.

We wish Ambassador Aggeler and the Mission team success in their work within the framework of the existing mandate.

Thank you for your attention.