

PC.DEL/318/17
10 March 2017

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1136th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 March 2017

**Regarding the closure of
checkpoints on the border between Abkhazia and Georgia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have taken note of the statements by our esteemed colleagues regarding the decision of the authorities of the independent Republic of Abkhazia to close the Bgoura (Otobaya) and Bataiguara (Nabakia) border crossing points on the inter-State border between Abkhazia and Georgia.

We are again obliged to note that the complaints made are not directed at the right address. In the absence of legal representatives of the Abkhazian Government in this room, we suggest that we seek clarification from Abkhazia in the framework of the forthcoming round of the International Discussions on Security and Stability in the Trans-Caucasus. We trust that the topic will be raised in a constructive and depoliticized manner. The now familiar attempts of the representatives of Georgia to make capital out of current regional problems have nothing to do with real concern for the humanitarian situation of the local population, finally divided as a result of Mikheil Saakashvili's military adventure in August 2008.

For our part, we note that the Abkhazian authorities' decision concerns solely the border regime on the inter-State border of the two independent States. It does not affect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, nor does it affect the Medvedev-Sarkozy agreements.

Thank you for your attention.