

**Statement by the OSCE PA Special Representative on
Anti-Terrorism Mr. Nikolay Kovalev
at the meeting of the OSCE PA Standing Committee**
(Vienna, February 25, 2016)

**Dear Mr. President,
Dear colleagues,**

At the end of the last century, the famous American philosopher Francis Fukuyama **predicted the end of our history - and he was very wrong.** Wrong, like many of his predecessors, who were trying to draw the last, final line under this or that historical phenomenon.

As one of his most powerful arguments Fukuyama **referred to the final liberation of humanity from two global totalitarian utopias - fascist and communist.** It is hard to disagree that these ideologies in their extreme form have apparently become part of the past. However, events of the last decades show that **Her Majesty History is not about to retire.** On the contrary, today the human civilization faces **another serious challenge by the name of "international terrorism."**

It wears different clothes in different countries and regions of the world. In some places it acts under the guise of national liberation movements, in other regions - it uses pseudo-religious demagoguery, or parasites on the acute social and economic problems. However, terrorists of all stripes are united by insatiable political ambitions, their disregard for human life and willingness to implement their delusional messianic ideas to make the most heinous, the most despicable crimes against innocent people.

The history of terrorism covers many decades. But the events that the world is living through today, the scope of them, it seems to me that they **can only be compared with a very real terrorist war, unleashed by the German fascism in the mid-twentieth century.** The analogy is obvious: in fact, in both cases we are dealing with an attempt to **impose a totalitarian ideology on mankind and**

establish their own ugly picture of the world order by military means, regardless of millions of victims.

This is the path, chosen by the so-called DAISH (ISIS), claiming the state status and ideological dominance over the world. **Their hallmark moves - terror, mass executions, propaganda of exclusivity, the destruction of culture, the use of children in warfare, slave-trade, shameless robbery of neighbors.**

It is well known what terrible consequences were brought by the **lack of solidarity among global Powers in face of Hitler's regime on the eve of the World War II**. I would not like to re-confirm the old truth: the history teaches us that it teaches nothing. I would not like, as they say in Russia, "fall into the same trap twice".

The terrorist war, unleashed by DAISH, requires coordination, consolidation of efforts and joint actions from us and our governments.

In the context of growing terrorist threat, it would be extremely **useful to turn to the experience, which dates forty years back, the time of the creation of the OSCE**. It was the time when there were deep contradictions between the states with various social systems and economic structures, it was the period of unyielding stand-off of military and political blocks. Still, the previous generations of world leaders **succeeded in overcoming barriers**. Despite all difficulties they laid a solid foundation for future European security. This incredible victory became possible only because **back then world leaders were wise enough to step outside of controversies to solve strategic tasks and concentrate on objectives that fully meet common interests of each and all participating states**.

Today there are neither rival military blocks nor unsolvable ideological contradictions across the OSCE. I believe that, given much more favorable conditions than forty years ago, we just have to establish effective cooperation in the areas, where our positions are close. **Countering international terrorism**, which is our common arch enemy, **is certainly one of these key areas**.

Today, our **opponent has acquired new, even more menacing looks**. This opponent denies all traditional forms of the political order, social models, national borders, religious attitudes, international relationships that define the face of the huge

and extremely important region in previous decades. **DAISH is a terrorist organization**, among other things. **It is also a mafia** that exploits transnational markets, trading in oil and weapons. This is an **armed group**, consisting of well-trained soldiers. **It is a complex organization that collects data**, the staff of which can penetrate into enemy structures and recruit senior officials before seizing the territory of other states. **It is a skillful propaganda machine** that effectively disseminates official information through social networks and finds new recruits.

In my recent address to the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Heads of delegations, once again I tried to draw everyone's attention to a number of **key factors of the current international situation, in my opinion, contributing to the widening of the terrorist threat.**

These **negative factors** include the following:

- the OSCE participating states ignore legitimate geopolitical and economic interests of each other;**
- violent change of lawfully elected governments in the OSCE participating states;**
- combat with international terrorism used as a pretext for achieving short-term internal and external political objectives;**
- applying the so-called "double standards" in combat with international terrorism (dividing terrorists into "bad" and "good" ones, "us" and "them");**
- absence of the common internationally acknowledged definition of terrorism;**
- lack of political will when it comes to overcoming current disagreements and contradictions between the OSCE states in the face of the common enemy, which is international terrorism;**
- insufficient time paid to discussing anti-terror measures in the inter-confession dialog in the OSCE area of responsibility.**

I want to reiterate **my proposal to initiate a substantive discussion of the following topics:**

1. Taking into account an obvious fact that international terrorist structures successfully “piggy-back” on contradictions and segregation of the OSCE

participating states, including their representatives in the Parliamentary Assembly, in my opinion, **it is the right time for us to make a joint appeal to the parliaments of the participating states.** We can explicitly state our call, under the circumstances of extreme urgency, **to set aside current disagreements, temporarily at least, and to immediately start forming a maximally wide anti-terror coalition.**

2. I consider it especially important to block any attempts - no matter where they come from-to use DAISH in regional or geopolitical games.

3. The consolidation of our efforts on the antiterrorist front could be expressed via a **preliminary study on the establishment of a specialized international anti-terrorist organization**, vesting it with powers to find, identify, arrest and expose members of any terrorist groups, regardless of political goals. Successfully functioning analogues are Interpol and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

4. Additionally, it appears that the situation prompts us **to urgently address such pressing issues as unification of anti-terror legislations and developing the measures aimed at blocking funding of terrorist organizations.**

5. I am also convinced that **intelligence services of our countries**, first of all, their anti-terrorist subdivisions, **should interact more closely.** This problem becomes especially acute as terrorist groups introduce their members into the stream of refugees from the countries of Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa.

I believe that **OSCE parliamentary anti-terrorist activity** will remain the most important element of international efforts, aimed at preventing and fighting terrorism. We should continue consistent work **to establish joint approaches to various aspects of the problem**, we should **pay close attention to various experience of participating states** and **be quick to react to emerging new negative trends.**

Thank you for your attention.