

---

'Bloc discipline' precludes Western diplomats from criticizing Ukraine - Lavrov

---

05/12/2014



Sergey Lavrov refuted insinuations about his being isolated at the latest OSCE session, telling of 20 parleys a day.

The forum has been quite comfortable despite the “bloc approach” of his counterparts, Lavrov said at a press conference in Basel, Switzerland.

*“I was above par [at the OSCE session] because I used to take part in the UN General Assembly sessions and other international activities, so I know very well what is usually being said in pursuance of ‘bloc discipline’. Therefore nothing surprised me,”* he told journalists.

Lavrov informed that on the sidelines of the session his foreign counterparts confessed that the ‘Lustration Law’ (the vetting of corrupt officials) adopted in Ukraine is “*terrible*,” while blocking off the southeastern regions from the Ukrainian economic system is “*unreasonable, harmful and inhumane*.”

[READ MORE: ‘Almost lynching’: Radicals attack Ukrainian officials, throw into trash bins](#)

*“But we agreed not to criticize [the actions of the Kiev authorities],”* Lavrov quoted those diplomats as saying.

He inquired then whether his counterparts share these thoughts with the Ukrainian authorities during their direct contacts, and the answer was “*inarticulate*,” so Lavrov believes they don’t.

*"That means that I do know what is going on for real and I believe that Ukrainian journalists [present at the press conference] do comprehend the essence of the lustration and other laws, which are adopted not to sooth the situation, not to reach a national consent," Lavrov said.*

[READ MORE: Putin: Economic blockade of E. Ukraine a 'big mistake'](#)

*"If I do understand the ongoing processes in Ukraine correctly, a national consent is not a task solely for the southeast, but for all of Ukraine," he said, stressing that "Probably, one day this is going to come up."*

Answering a question from a Ukrainian journalist about feeling isolated at the event, Lavrov said that he "felt no isolation whatsoever."

*"Everybody greeted me cordially as usual. We were telling jokes and discussing affairs being solved together," Lavrov said.*

*"Unfortunately, yesterday I spent only about an hour in the convention hall, because another seven hours I spent in bilateral meetings. There were 20 of them altogether. That's why I didn't feel isolated. Rather I felt excessively communicated to," he said.*

---