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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1042nd MEETING OF  
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 March 2015

**On elections in Tajikistan**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to point out that the parliamentary elections in Tajikistan on 1 March this year were also monitored by the Interparliamentary Assembly (IPA) of the Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The observation mission was made up of deputies and representatives of the parliaments of the CIS countries, members of the Secretariat of the IPA Council and experts from the International Institute for Monitoring the Development of Democracy, Parliamentarianism and the Observance of Citizens' Electoral Rights. The team carried out long-term monitoring and also observed a large number of polling stations on election day.

The CIS observation mission noted a good deal of positive changes that have brought the electoral legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan into line with international standards. It also had the task of assisting in the organization of the election process.

It described the elections as being transparent and enabling citizens to freely express their will, democratic and free, and conducted in accordance with the country's legislation.

It recorded isolated cases in which individuals voted for several members of their family and also two people being in the voting booth at the same time. The electoral campaign was quiet with isolated violations of the campaigning procedure.

These facts did not in any way have a substantial influence on the overall result of the elections.

At the same time, we note – not for the first time – that the preliminary findings by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) were used to support a politically motivated and biased assessment of the situation in the country where the elections were taking place. This is particularly striking against the background of the ODIHR's conclusions about other recent elections in the OSCE area.

Once again, the arbitrary decisions by the ODIHR leadership on the size and composition of the observation missions and the usefulness of co-operating with other international observers need to be questioned. They once more emphasize the need for uniform regulations and modalities for election monitoring agreed within the OSCE. We trust that this question, which Russia and a whole series of participating States regularly raise, will finally be addressed objectively this year.

Thank you for your attention.