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

17 November 2011

**In response to the statement by the European Union regarding the arrest of
journalists in the United States of America**

Mr. Chairperson,

We share the concern expressed by our European Union colleagues and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, regarding the recent police action against journalists in the United States covering the Occupy Wall Street protest.

We should like to stress the importance of the implementation by participating States of all OSCE commitments, including the commitment to ensure freedom of speech and assembly. It is the professional duty of journalists to cover demonstrations, and they should not be subjected to arrest for carrying out this duty.

In this regard we welcome the active approach taken by the Representative on Freedom of the Media in this matter. We call on Ms. Mijatović to continue to carefully monitor the situation regarding freedom of the media throughout the OSCE area in accordance with her mandate. We would also ask the United States delegation to provide information on what happened.

Thank you for your attention.