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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO,  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1072<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 October 2015

**On the protests in Montenegro**

Mr. Chairperson,

We regret the information we have received about the development of events in Montenegro, a country which is our friend.

We are concerned to hear of the injuries that occurred during the dispersal by the forces of law and order of the continuing protest in Podgorica and also the arrests of opposition members of parliament and journalists, which were described in particular in the spot report distributed by the OSCE Mission on the events in the capital of Montenegro on 17 and 18 October.

We expect the situation in the country to normalize and the differences in society to be settled through inclusive political dialogue with due account taken of the full range of opinions within Montenegrin society regarding the State's future.

We call on Montenegro's external partners to refrain from any act or encouraging signal that could destabilize the situation in the country. In that regard, we particularly regret the escalation of the internal political crisis following the visit to Podgorica by the Secretary General of NATO, Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, which took place at a time when Montenegrin society is known to be politically and ideologically polarized with regard to the prospect of the country's membership of the Alliance.

Thank you for your attention.