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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1045th MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 March 2015

**In response to the report by Ambassador Janina Hrebickova,
Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Ambassador Janina Hrebickova, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, and thank her for her detailed report on the basic thrusts of the work of the field presence.

We have a positive opinion of the Mission's activities. We note its role in assisting with the reform activities in Montenegro in the area of institution-building and strengthening the judiciary in accordance with high democratic requirements.

We believe it is right for the Mission to focus on helping the authorities of the host country to combat threats to security that menace the entire Balkan region – organized crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, trafficking in human beings and corruption. The Mission makes a useful contribution to developing the potential of the local law enforcement bodies whose task it is to combat these evils.

Assistance by the field presence in demilitarization and destruction of surplus arms in Montenegro within the Capacity Development Programme for Small Arms and Light Weapons Demilitarization and Safe Storage for the Republic of Montenegro (MONDEM) conducted jointly with the United Nations Development Programme makes an important contribution to bolstering stability and security in the region.

We expect the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, together with the Organization's missions in neighbouring Balkan States, to continue to pay close attention to strengthening regional co-operation. It is our belief that without intensified co-operation by specialist departments, it will not be possible to resolve most of the tasks of relevance to the Balkan States as a whole.

We trust that the Mission will continue to co-operate closely with the host authorities, including the line ministries and departments, in response to requests and with specifically

defined direction and scope. At the same time, we point out the need for the Mission to comply strictly with the programme priorities agreed by the OSCE participating States.

In conclusion, we should like once again to thank Ambassador Hrebickova for her report and wish her and her team further success.

Thank you for your attention.