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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 942nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 February 2013

Regarding the presidential elections in Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to make a few comments in connection with the question raised by various delegations concerning the presidential elections in Armenia on 18 February.

Russian representatives took an active part in the monitoring of the elections within the missions of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). According to Sergey Lebedev, Executive Secretary of the CIS and head of the CIS mission, the elections were free and competitive, complied with generally accepted international norms and were fully in accord with the country's electoral legislation.

It is significant that the assessments and conclusions of the various international organizations monitoring the elections were in agreement on the whole. The general opinion was that the elections were legitimate and that the irregularities noted were basically of a technical nature and did not affect the outcome of the voting.

The President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin congratulated the winner, Head of State Serzh Sargsyan, and remarked that the results of the elections bore witness to his high standing among the Armenian population and the active support for the socio-economic and foreign policy orientation under his leadership. In addition, the President of Russia expressed his conviction that Russian-Armenian relations would be further strengthened by the concerted efforts for the good of both countries.

Thank you for your attention.