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

22 December 2011

Regarding the situation in Belarus

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the statements presented here today by the European Union and the United States of America regarding the latest events in Belarus, we should like to say the following.

The policy of exerting pressure on Belarus that has been pursued over recent months is negatively affecting the general atmosphere in the Organization, is leading to tension between participating States and is making more difficult the joint search for responses to the challenges facing all the countries of the OSCE. These actions are not in conformity with the goal of forming a common and indivisible security community from Vancouver to Vladivostok as set out in the Astana Declaration.

The Russian Federation urgently calls for an end to this incessant harping on about the subject of Belarus and for dealing with the substantial tasks set at the Astana Summit and at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius.

Thank you for your attention.