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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1024th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 November 2014

On the amnesty in Azerbaijan

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the steps taken by the Azerbaijani authorities to grant amnesty to a number of prisoners. We believe that the use of amnesty procedures is an effective tool that can soften or shorten punishment and give freed prisoners an opportunity to acknowledge their mistakes and return to normal life. Russia is also using such a practice successfully by extending amnesty to persons who have not committed serious crimes or crimes against humanity.

Thank you for your attention.