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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 912th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 May 2012

Regarding the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia

Mr. Chairperson,

We agree with the view expressed by the distinguished representative of the Vatican, in the sense that the Permanent Council is not the appropriate place for discussion of issues which are not part of the OSCE's mandate and are not covered by its existing commitments.

We think that discussions in the Permanent Council should focus on issues that are the subject of consensus within our Organization and on which there is a possibility of reaching general agreement.

Thank you for your attention.