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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 994th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 April 2014

**Regarding the elections in Afghanistan**

Mr. Chairperson,

We also believe that thanks to the unprecedented efforts of the authorities in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan the voting proceeded successfully, despite the increase in terrorist activity in recent months and the repeated threats to disrupt the voting process. We note the relatively high turnout of voters.

Russia has been carefully following the electoral process in Afghanistan. A delegation of Russian observers was sent to Kabul on the eve of the elections. We trust that the elections that have just been held will help to quickly stabilize the situation in Afghanistan and strengthen the democratic development of the country and further nation-building.

We are awaiting the announcement of the official results of the voting and confirm our readiness to continue co-operation with the Afghan authorities on a wide range of problems of mutual interest, primarily the countering of terrorism and drug-related crime.

We are looking forward to the report by the ODIHR's Election Support Team.

Thank you for your attention.