

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 937th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 January 2013

**In response to the statement by His Excellency Leonid Kozhara,  
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Kozhara,

We are truly happy to welcome you to today's important meeting of the Permanent Council, inaugurating our Organization's political season. The Chairmanship priorities you have outlined seem reasonably balanced to us. They aim to advance issues of importance to all participating States and above all, they do not show signs of attempts to focus on pushing through issues that never had a chance of achieving consensus owing to the different approaches to them. We trust that our Ukrainian colleagues will, with their characteristic diplomatic skill and without repeating the mistakes of others, put together a unifying agenda on all three of our Organization's baskets. It is now particularly important to strive to ensure that the OSCE can ensure cohesion among all of its States on the basis of shared objectives and interests.

Russia advocates the creation through joint efforts of an open pan-European architecture appropriate to the current realities of a globalized, interdependent world. In order to establish a climate of trust and co-operation in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian regions, it is important to use all the tools at our disposal, including, of course, the platform of the OSCE.

We agree with your assessment of the significance of launching the Helsinki+40 process that aims to construct a common and indivisible security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Our proposals on how to make the principle of the indivisibility of security, oft cited in the OSCE, legally binding and functional in practice, remain valid. They are independent of any current situation. Integral elements of the Helsinki+40 process should be a comprehensive reform of the Organization, solving the problem of its legal status, and an in-depth analysis of the criteria for OSCE membership.

A goal of no less importance in the context of the reform of the Organization is to develop regulations for election observation. The relevance of this was clearly confirmed last year, when election processes, especially in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, were accompanied by subjective assessments by the missions of the

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, occasioning justified complaints on the part of several countries, including Russia. The image of the OSCE as a whole has been tarnished as a result. We consider it essential to conduct a comparative analysis of election legislation and practices from the point of view of implementing the 1990 Copenhagen Document in order to identify general problems and ways of overcoming them.

We share your view that it is essential to strengthen the conventional arms control regime in Europe. We believe it will be useful to implement all the agreements reached at the Astana Summit in 2010. It is our firm belief that the ongoing negotiations on this issue should be conducted without any preliminary conditions, excessive politicization or attempts to anticipate the final result.

We welcome the aim of the Chairmanship to provide all possible assistance with conflict resolution in the OSCE area. Russia and Ukraine, as the mediators and guarantors of the negotiations in the "5+2" format, can and must play a key role in the Transdniestrian settlement. We trust that we shall be able to approach the next round in Lvov in February with ideas that will help to expedite the process of establishing the necessary conditions for proceeding to discussions on the political aspects of the settlement.

We support the Chairmanship's intention to take active steps towards stepping up efforts to combat transnational threats. To this end, a solid base of strategic documents has been developed within the Organization: the narcotics concept, the police framework and the counter-terrorism mandate. We need to use these as a basis to ensure the effectiveness of the relevant key events in the first basket this year.

Overall, we support the approaches of the Chairmanship to giving substance to the agenda of the Twenty-First Economic and Environmental Forum. It is important that the dialogue in the second basket be constructive and aimed at encouraging confidence-building measures with a focus on energy efficiency and saving.

A unifying agenda in the human dimension is long overdue. We support the proposal of the Ukrainian Chairmanship to include the subjects of combating trafficking in human beings and tolerance. In our view, the issues of ensuring social and economic human rights should also feature. We hope that Russia's priorities, which include combating neo-Nazism, freedom of movement with a focus on the abolition of visas, election observation, ensuring the rights of national minorities and reduction of statelessness, will also be reflected in the agenda for the OSCE human rights events this year. We are of the view that methodical work, without artificially rushing discussion topics towards the Ministerial Council meeting, can lead to common understanding and solutions acceptable to everyone. We also look forward to ongoing discussions on optimizing work in the third basket.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine and Russia are bound together by strong, age-old ties of friendship and multifaceted co-operation, the deepest cultural and spiritual community and the most closely interwoven economic interests. Today, we are dealing with broadly similar issues, related to ensuring robust socio-economic development, raising citizens' standard of living and integration into the global economy. As Minister Sergey Lavrov said exactly three days ago, Russia and Ukraine set the priorities for their European policy individually, but are united by a common motivation to construct a single Europe without dividing lines. Russian-Ukrainian

relations are characterized by intensive political dialogue and co-operation at all levels, including in international organizations, among them the OSCE. We are certain that they will continue to be an important factor in pan-European stability and make a substantial contribution to collective efforts to define the future of our continent.

Mr. Kozhara, we sincerely wish you and all our Ukrainian colleagues success in a challenging, but responsible field – being at the helm of the OSCE. The Russian delegation stands ready to provide any necessary assistance.

Thank you for your attention.