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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1025th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 November 2014

**In response to the statement by Mr. Ilkka Kanerva,
President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Kanerva,

We are pleased to welcome you to the Permanent Council meeting as the new President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We are confident that with your experience, including from your time as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, you will be able to make a useful contribution to the work of the OSCE parliamentary institution and increase its contribution to the solution of pressing European security issues.

Russia attaches great importance to the Assembly's work, and the Russian parliamentary delegation takes an active part in all its events. We appreciate your recent visit to Moscow, during which you had useful meetings with the Russian leadership, which, we believe, enabled a better understanding of Russia's approach to key items on the current OSCE agenda.

The parliamentary dimension of the OSCE's work is an important part of our common efforts to find ways of improving the current European security situation on a unifying basis.

It is important that the members of the Parliamentary Assembly and its leadership remain committed to dialogue and joint work to find ways of overcoming the lack of trust in the OSCE area. The Interparliamentary Liaison Group on Ukraine established during the recent OSCE Parliamentary Assembly session in Baku could make an important contribution to a settlement. Unfortunately, owing to the position of a number of delegations, its work is, to all intents and purposes, frozen.

The current European security crisis is not the cause but the consequence of a host of problems that have accumulated in this area over the past few decades. The task set at the Astana Summit of building a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community has become even more relevant now. We know that the

Parliamentary Assembly attaches great importance to the strengthening of the pan-European security architecture and firmly believe that the parliamentarians can make a significant contribution to this undertaking. In this connection, we welcome the constructive discussions which are being held by the parliamentarians as part of the Helsinki+40 process, in particular the first meeting in Moscow.

We note that the Parliamentary Assembly pays significant attention in its work to transnational threats – combating terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings. The instability and unpredictability of the situation unfolding in North Africa and the Middle East, especially in the light of the so-called Islamic State, involves an increase in risks to the entire OSCE region as well.

The surge in manifestations of aggressive nationalism, neo-Nazism and other radical ideologies requires a prompt response. Attempts to revise the outcome of the Second World War and glorify former members of the SS and their accomplices are extremely dangerous.

It is time to deal in earnest with the problem of “non-citizens” in a number of OSCE participating States. We are concerned about the growing trend of labelling whole population groups because of their determination to defend their beliefs or lifestyle. The parliamentarians can play an active role and facilitate progress in ensuring freedom of movement and the liberalization of visa regimes.

We note the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s involvement in election observation and in the discussions on improving election monitoring. We believe that the development of uniform, clearly understandable and transparent rules and principles, acceptable to all, for the observation of elections will considerably improve work in this area.

Mr. Kanerva,

We listened with interest to your views on the activities and future work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We believe that the instruments at its disposal, including procedural ones, are quite sufficient for it to deal effectively with the challenges ahead. We see no need to change anything in this regard. The democratic principle of consensus, on which the OSCE is based, fully reflects the sovereign equality of all the participating States. It should remain the basis for decision-making in the Organization. The work of the parliamentarians within the Parliamentary Assembly should naturally complement the efforts of the OSCE.

I should like to wish you every success in your post in the interests of strengthening the unifying basis of the Parliamentary Assembly and raising its profile.

Thank you for your attention.