

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 992nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 March 2014

Regarding the situation with Konstantin Yaroshenko

Mr. Chairperson,

We are once again forced to raise the question of the critical state of health of the Russian pilot, Konstantin Yaroshenko, who is being held at Fort Dix correctional facility in the United States of America. We have still not received any clarification on this matter from the United States delegation.

Moreover, the situation is deteriorating. It was only following heavy pressure from the Russian Federation that the prison administration allowed our compatriot to be examined by its own doctors in February 2014. Russian physicians, however, were categorically forbidden from participating in the medical examination of Mr. Yaroshenko as they, it was claimed, are not licensed to practise in the United States. Yet everyone knows that in this specific case it is not a question of medical practice but of participation in a board of doctors. It is also a question of the objectivity and transparency of the conclusions reached about the health of this Russian citizen.

Russia's request that it be provided with the results of the examination and the case record was met with the excuse that this could not be done without Mr. Yaroshenko's written consent. And once it became clear that such consent was indeed in place, the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in New York was informed that it would take three weeks to process the request – without any guarantees. And this was a fee-paying service.

It has now emerged that the prison authorities are refusing to allow Mr. Yaroshenko to have an operation recommended by United States doctors.

It seems that the United States is not only consciously obstructing access to impartial information on the health of this Russian citizen, but through its actions is cynically playing with the life of a person who is the victim of politicized justice United States style.

We call once again on the United States to provide urgent medical care to the Russian citizen and pilot, Konstantin Yaroshenko, and to inform us of what measures are taken.

Thank you for your attention.