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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1024th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 November 2014

**In response to the report by the OSCE Representative to the
Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Napiontek,

We are grateful to you for your highly professional approach to carrying out your mandate, a fact that is also borne out by your current report.

Russia greatly appreciates the OSCE's contribution to the work of the Commission, the activities of which affect the interests of more than 12,000 people. We believe that this is one of the most effective mechanisms for providing practical assistance in ensuring the basic rights of one of the most socially vulnerable population groups – military pensioners.

Alongside some progress in this area, a number of problems remain that require ongoing attention.

Some military pensioners continue to live in denationalized houses and apartments, and the threat of eviction remains. There are still some disagreements in the interpretation of individual provisions of the 1994 Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Social Protection of Military Pensioners of the Russian Federation and Their Family Members Residing on the Territory of the Republic of Latvia. This reflects adversely on the possibility of receiving adequate social protection under the Agreement for some 2,000 military pensioners. Furthermore, questions regarding the reimbursement of medical expenses in the context of a law about to be adopted in Latvia have not been entirely resolved.

Overall, there are still many questions regarding the work of the Latvian-Russian Commission that require the participation of the OSCE Representative and the use of his potential for resolving contentious issues in the interests of ensuring the social protection of military pensioners and safeguarding their rights. We are ready to consider his proposals on improving the OSCE mechanism for the work of the Commission.

We should like to wish Mr. Napiontek continued success in his difficult, but undoubtedly necessary, mission in 2015.

Thank you for your attention.