

PC.DEL/1097/12
22 November 2012

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 932nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 November 2012

In response to the address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Minister,

We are pleased to welcome you to today's meeting of the Permanent Council. We are grateful for your detailed outline of the priorities of your country's chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

We note with satisfaction that a number of the proposals you mentioned are in line with our vision of the most crucial tasks in the Council of Europe's work. We are struck by the fact that the Andorran chairmanship focuses on tolerance, increasing the effectiveness of the justice system and combating corruption and trafficking in human beings. In our view, Andorra's experience in building a multicultural and multilingual community could be used in a number of OSCE countries where considerable problems exist in this particular area.

We support Andorra's initiative of forming a culture of tolerance among young people, including the promotion of democratic values, respect for human rights and the development of intercultural dialogue. We believe it important to supplement this work by fostering in the younger generation a steadfast rejection of radical and extremist ideas and of xenophobic and nationalistic attitudes.

Like you, Minister, we are interested in developing co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE that would focus on the most pressing issues in the four areas for collaboration without any unnecessary duplication. We believe that both organizations should pay particular attention to the problems of national minorities in a number of European countries, especially discrimination against so-called non-citizens, who are deprived of basic political and socio-economic rights.

No less urgent is the task of countering through joint efforts the rise in aggressive nationalism and racist and neo-Nazi incidents. Our delegation has repeatedly drawn attention to the urgency of this problem and believes it necessary to adopt a decision on this subject at the forthcoming OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin.

In our view, the formation of a common and indivisible security community and the strengthening its common legal and humanitarian space are a primary objective for both the OSCE and the Council of Europe. An integral element in establishing such a community is that of surmounting the “visa barriers” that divide our countries. The joint initiative by Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan to adopt a decision at the ministerial meeting in Dublin on freedom of movement and the liberalization of visa regimes is designed to overcome precisely these barriers.

We hope, Minister, that Russia’s wishes in this regard will be reflected in Andorra’s work in chairing the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, including in the development of relations between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. We wish you every success in this difficult task.

Thank you for your attention.