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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 925th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 October 2012

Regarding the parliamentary elections in Georgia

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, we should like to point out that the elections to the Georgian Parliament, just like elections in any other State, are an internal affair of that country. At the same time, I think it would be appropriate here to join in congratulating our Georgian colleagues on the elections.

I will make no secret of the fact that in Russia we have been carefully following the preparations for and holding of these elections. We believe that the results of the voting have clearly shown how the Georgian people view the socio-economic situation and the state of democracy and human rights in the country and how they regard the policy of the current Georgian leadership on security issues in the South Caucasus.

We regard the outcome of the voting as a clear expression of the will of the Georgian people in favour of change. We hope that ultimately the election results will allow the new Georgian authorities to begin to normalize the situation and establish constructive and respectful relations with all their neighbours, including Russia, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We in Russia would of course welcome such a development.

Just as we always do in our relations with other States, we shall judge not according to words but according to deeds.

Thank you for your attention.