

PC.DEL/1008/12
9 November 2012

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 929th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 November 2012

Regarding the elections in the United States of America

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all we should like to congratulate our United States colleagues on the conclusion to a tense election campaign in which the Democratic Party candidate, the current President of the United States Barack Obama, won by a large majority. The Russian President Vladimir Putin sent President Obama a congratulatory telegram in which he particularly noted the results achieved in the development of relations between Russia and the United States in the previous years and expressed the hope for further constructive joint work, both on issues on the bilateral agenda and on the solution of serious international and regional problems. The Russian Head of State particularly emphasized the crucial significance of co-operation between Russia and the United States for ensuring a stable and secure world.

Clearly, no one intends to cast doubt on the election results. As far as the procedures for conducting the election campaign itself and their compliance with OSCE commitments are concerned, Maxim Grigoriev, the chief observer from the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, concluded that by no means all voters were able to vote in the elections and that foreign observers were restricted in what they could do. We reserve our right to return to this matter in one form or another when the findings and conclusions of the monitoring mission sent by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly regarding the results of the general elections in the United States have been analysed.

Thank you for your attention.