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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 910th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 May 2012

**Regarding the meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response
Mechanism in Gali scheduled for 24 April**

Mr. Chairperson,

We share the opinion as to the importance of the work of the joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRMs) at the borders of Abkhazia and South Ossetia with Georgia, as was noted by all participants at the recent 19th round of the Geneva Discussions.

As has been mentioned at today's meeting of the Permanent Council there is indeed a problem in connection with the scheduled meeting of the IPRM in Gali on 24 April 2012.

I should briefly like to recall the background. At the last round of the Geneva Discussions, General Andrzej Tyszkiewicz, head of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia, in reply to the Abkhazian appeal, refused to give details of the incidents that had occurred in the border region, including murders, and insistently demanded that representatives of the EUMM be given access to the entire territory of Abkhazia. As we all know, this is outside the mandate of the Mission and runs counter to the existing agreements reached by all participants in the Geneva International Discussions on security and stability in the Trans-Caucasus being held with the participation on an equal basis of delegations from the Republic of Abkhazia, Georgia, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the Republic of South Ossetia and also the Co-Chairmen from the European Union, the United Nations and the OSCE.

We believe that it is the representatives of the European Union who have the main responsibility for finding solutions to the situation that has arisen so as to permit a continuation of the normal work of the IPRM, which makes an important contribution to safeguarding security in the border regions of Abkhazia and Georgia. This should be done in communication with the Sukhum as a fully fledged participant in the Geneva Discussions.

I should also like to draw attention to the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on 26 April regarding the cancelled IPRM meeting in Gali. We believe that the description of the Republic of Abkhazia and the unfounded accusations against Russia contained in it only increase tension in the region and do not improve the atmosphere of the

Geneva Discussions, the only international platform for direct dialogue between Georgia and Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Thank you for your attention.