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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. OLEG BURMISTROV,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 April 2011

On the statement by the United States of America on “strategy 31”

Mr. Chairperson,

In its statement, the delegation of the United States of America once again touched on the question of freedom of assembly in Russia. We should like to make the following comments in this regard.

As far as we aware, the national legislation of many OSCE participating States contain provisions regarding the procedure for the conduct of meetings and demonstrations. Russian law is no exception and having informed the Permanent Council of its provisions on a number of occasions we see no need to do so again.

Russian citizens make active use of the right to free assembly. The individual occasions on which participants have been arrested apply only to unauthorized activities that violated Russian administrative law. The cases mentioned in the statement by the United States of America belong to this category.

As far as we know, freedom of assembly is not absolute in the United States of America itself. There are many examples of this, but we see no sense in recalling them today.

In view of the fact that the relevant legal provisions and law-enforcement measures in OSCE participating States, particularly with regard to freedom of assembly, are similar on the whole, we do not see any particular need to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to every instance in which unauthorized acts are stopped and legal demands of the law-enforcement authorities are not complied with.

Thank you for your attention.