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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1025th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 November 2014

**On the growth of racism, extremism, aggressive nationalism and
neo-Nazism in the OSCE area**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have repeatedly drawn our OSCE partners' attention to the danger posed by the spread of racism and aggressive nationalism and the revival of neo-Nazism, manifestations of which are seen virtually throughout the OSCE area and are a problem for us all.

Russia is also facing attempts by individual groups to promote extremist ideas. We pay the utmost attention to combating such trends and fostering in society a rejection of xenophobic, anti-immigration and, even more so, neo-Nazi ideas. So-called "Russian Marches" took place in our country recently. Despite considerable efforts by the local authorities to prevent this promotion of hateful ideas, these marches unfortunately went ahead in a number of cities. However, there were considerably fewer violations this year. This was due in no small part to the condemnation of such phenomena by the Russian authorities and the timely response of the police, who clamped down on these events, up to and including the institution of administrative and criminal proceedings.

We note with concern the rise in manifestations of racism and extremism and attempts to trivialize Nazism and rewrite history in different OSCE participating States.

Not long ago, Paul Goma, a Romanian philosopher and Holocaust denier, was nominated for a national prize in Moldova. In his essay *Red Week: 28 June – 3 July 1940 or Bessarabia and the Jews* he openly justified the Holocaust, describing the actions of the Antonescu regime in Bessarabia and Transdnistria as "just retribution and revenge".

A show glorifying Herbert Cukurs – a man who had the lives of Latvian Jews, including children, on his conscience – ran in Latvia this October in Liepaja and Riga. It is reassuring that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia condemned the staging of this scandalous show, referring to it as being in "bad taste". However, this is not simply a question of "bad taste". This is a dangerous trend, especially since the police simply refused access to the theatres in Liepaja and Riga to human rights activists and anti-fascist protestors

who had purchased tickets for this shameful musical and were dressed as Salaspils concentration camp prisoners, denying them the right to conduct a silent protest in the theatre. Our Western partners have themselves actively campaigned for this form of silent protest recently.

In the same vein, the apparent revival of the cult surrounding the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and its leaders Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych is extremely worrying. Among the manifestations of this revival are the initiative by Lviv City Council to restore the title of Hero of Ukraine to Bandera and Shukhevych, who had shamefully collaborated with the Nazis and taken part in the Volhynian massacre, and the decision by Kyiv City Council to unveil a memorial plaque to Stepan Bandera. Similarly, the President of Ukraine decided to move the Ukrainian Defender of the Fatherland holiday to Bandera's birthday. The human rights community viewed this as an insult to the memory of the tens of thousands who died at the hands of the UPA during the Second World War.

Unfortunately, the virus of radicalism, extremism and neo-Nazism is spreading rapidly even in very prosperous countries. For example, ethnic and religious clashes are becoming more widespread in Germany, which, as we are all aware, pays particular attention to the fight against manifestations of racism and neo-Nazism. Support for the Hooligans against Salafists movement is snowballing. In early October, 50 people went out on to the streets in Frankfurt, and then around 400 did so later in Dortmund, and on 26 October more than 4,000 were involved in clashes in Cologne between football hooligans, neo-Nazis and Salafists, in which around 50 police officers were injured.

The independence day demonstrations by several thousand people in Poland on 11 November once again degenerated into violent clashes with the police, provoked by radical elements. The police were forced to restore order, resulting in the injury of some police officers themselves.

There have been numerous anti-Semitic demonstrations and protests in many European countries recently involving racist and Nazi slogans – in the United Kingdom, France and Germany. According to the British non-governmental organization Community Security Trust, the number of reports of anti-Semitic incidents has increased fivefold in the last few months, while the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities received as many reports in a single week in August as it had in the entire previous year.

Manifestations of religious intolerance, the desecration of memorials, religious sites and cemeteries and the harassment of priests are also cause for concern. Among other things, commemorative plaques in Nordhausen and Buchenwald concentration camps have been vandalized, as has one in Leipzig. Attacks on synagogues (Belfast and Kyiv) and mosques (Berlin, Cognac and London) continue. Christian churches also fall victim to such attacks. For example, there have been an arson attempt at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church in the suburbs of Belfast, the desecration of churches in Verdun, Thonon-les-Bains and Plabennec in France, attacks on Orthodox churches of the Moscow Patriarchate and cases involving priests being threatened and beaten up in Ukraine (Igor Sergienko of the Alexander Nevsky Church of the Moscow Patriarchate, Vladimir Navozenko of the Holy Protection parish, and archpriest Yevgeny Podgorny of the Amvrosievka district were all beaten up).

These examples confirm the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin's comment that humanity had received a good vaccination against Nazism after the Second World War but that Europe's immunity to Nazism was beginning gradually to wear thin.

In this connection, we believe that the OSCE should send a clear signal to those forces that are trying to drag Europe into a new round of nationalism and radicalism that we have not forgotten the historic lessons of the Second World War and the decisions of the Nuremberg Trials and that together we shall counter this threat and support the creation of an atmosphere within society that rejects any radical, nationalistic or neo-Nazi ideas.