

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1001st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 May 2014

**In response to the reports by the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek
and the Director of the OSCE Academy**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome our compatriot Sergey Petrovich Kapinos, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, and Mr. Pál Dunay, Director of the OSCE Academy, and thank them for their detailed reports.

We agree with Ambassador Kapinos that the unpredictable consequences of the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force from Afghanistan are one of the main external threats to the progressive development of Kyrgyzstan and all of Central Asia. In addition, the return to the region of radical extremists who are currently fighting in Syria may become a destabilizing factor. At the same time, Kyrgyzstan's socio-economic problems, which are having a major impact on the internal situation there, should not be forgotten. Under these circumstances, it is important to continue to prioritize the strengthening of the Kyrgyz Republic's institutions so that its authorities can solve the country's problems more effectively.

We note that the OSCE Centre's activities across the three dimensions fully cover the aforementioned "problem" areas. We commend the fact that the field presence is carrying out its mandate in close co-operation and co-ordination with the host authorities in line with the comprehensive reform programme being implemented by the Kyrgyz Government. It is important that its efforts do not duplicate those of other international donors, including Russia, which aim to help Kyrgyzstan to achieve the goals of its National Sustainable Development Strategy for the period from 2013 to 2017.

We welcome the Centre's active contribution to supporting the measures undertaken by Bishkek to enhance the security of the country's borders and counter threats emanating from the territory of Afghanistan. These efforts harmoniously complement the significant work being done by the Collective Security Treaty Organization. We are certain that the participation of Russian experts in implementing the Centre's initiatives in this area will continue to be necessary in the future.

We support the important projects of the field presence in the area of countering terrorism, corruption, money-laundering and trafficking in human beings. We see a clear added value in the activity of the field presence in the second dimension. We note the host country's interest in receiving assistance from the OSCE in this area and hope that the benefit from this will only increase.

We commend the work of the Community Security Initiative in the south of the country, in which five representatives of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs are participating. We trust that the costly Police Matters Programme of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek will provide tangible assistance in enhancing the potential of the Kyrgyz police.

The OSCE Academy in Bishkek has already proven its worth in teaching and developing a dialogue between youth representatives from the countries of Central Asia and contributing to their mutual understanding. Russian lecturers and academic centres are working closely with the Academy. We support the greater emphasis on the region-wide problems of Central Asia in the Academy's educational and research programmes. The analysis of the impact of the threats to the region emanating from Afghanistan is also of interest.

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to underscore the strategic alliance represented by Russian-Kyrgyz relations. These relations are based on friendship and the commonality of interests of our peoples and are geared towards equitable and mutually beneficial co-operation in various areas. We consistently support stepping up collaboration with Bishkek as part of integration processes including the Customs Union. We are convinced that this will contribute to the progress of Kyrgyzstan in harmony with its national traditions and the surrounding States. Russia will continue to strengthen multilateral ties with Kyrgyzstan in the future, in the interests of our countries and in order to strengthen security and stability in Central Asia.

Owing to its historical and geographical proximity, Russia itself has a vital interest in the stable development of the Central Asian republics. There are now more than 5 million citizens from those countries in Russia, and over 50,000 students from Central Asia are being educated in our country. There are around 5.6 million Russian compatriots living permanently in the region. We provide significant and multifaceted assistance to our partners. In the last five years Russia has provided humanitarian and preferential assistance to the region to the value of 4.5 billion US dollars.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Ambassador Kapinos, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, and Mr. Dunay, Director of the OSCE Academy, and their staff continued success in their activities.

Thank you for your attention.