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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1009th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 July 2014

On the situation regarding Nadezhda Savchenko

Mr. Chairperson,

In response to the concerns raised by the Ukrainian delegation, I should like to inform you that the Ukrainian embassy's request to visit Nadezhda Savchenko, the servicewoman who is being detained in Russia, was granted. Yesterday, the adviser on consular matters of the embassy of Ukraine to the Russian Federation, Gennady Breskalenko, visited Ms. Savchenko, who has been charged with complicity in the murder of Russian journalists, at detention facility No. 3 in Voronezh.

Nadezhda Savchenko was provided with a court-appointed defence lawyer, Nikolay Shulzhenko. However, at the insistence of relatives, other Russian lawyers – Mark Feigin, Nikolay Polozov and Ilya Novikov – will defend her. Mr. Feigin and Mr. Polozov also met with Ms. Savchenko yesterday.

As for the various interpretations of the circumstances surrounding her detention and other issues, we believe it is premature to make any statements or draw any conclusions until the investigation is over. We shall of course inform the Permanent Council of the outcome of the investigation.

Thank you for your attention.