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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 921st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 July 2012

**In response to concerns about the draft law on protecting children from
unlawful information**

Mr. Chairperson,

Strengthening the child protection system is one of the priorities of Russian domestic policy and the aim of the draft law on introducing amendments to the Federal Law on protecting children from information detrimental to their health and development and certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation is precisely to improve legislation in this area.

I should like to note that on 11 July, when this draft law was adopted by the State Duma at its third reading, the deputies of all the party factions represented in the lower chamber of the Russian parliament voted for it virtually unanimously. And yesterday the draft law was supported by the members of the upper chamber, the Federation Council. This vote by the members of parliament is convincing evidence of where Russian society stands on the adoption of this law.

Our position on this issue was already set out in detail at the last meeting of the Permanent Council. I should like to recall that the law provides for the establishment of a single Register of domain names and web addresses containing information whose circulation is prohibited in Russia. The Register will be drawn up either by an authorized federal body of the executive branch, or by the courts. The draft law also provides for appeals in legal form against the decision to include any site in the Register.

As we have already mentioned, when the draft law was prepared, note was taken of the practice in other countries and the opinions and positions of Russian non-governmental organizations taken into account. As a result, during the second reading, the content that would cause a site to be closed pending a trial was specified: distribution of pornography involving minors, narcotics propaganda and information about ways to commit suicide. I hope that no one present would object to such restrictions. I honestly do not understand what the European Union's cause for concern is here. We are doing only what many countries present here have done, and no more.

Mr. Chairperson,

We call on our colleagues to step up their efforts to ensure children's rights, in particular by implementing the Madrid Ministerial Council decision on combating the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet. We reiterate the willingness of Russia to share its positive experience and best practices with interested countries.

We are open to dialogue with OSCE participating States on ensuring human rights and expect the same from the European Union countries that have yet to provide the Permanent Council with information on a whole range of concerns we have in this regard.

Thank you for your attention.