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

15 March 2012

**Regarding the statement on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)
rights in Russia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank our colleagues for their interest in events taking place in our country. Our position on the subject raised was set out in detail at the meeting of the Permanent Council on 16 February. I see no sense in repeating it.

I might mention just one point. The concepts of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” are not mentioned in universal international treaties or among the commitments of the OSCE. Calls on Russia to implement certain commitments in this area are therefore unfounded. We see no sense in using the Permanent Council as a platform for the discussion of topics which, as the representative of the Holy See rightly mentioned, do not belong to the area of competence of the Organization.

Thank you for your attention.