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

12 January 2012

**Regarding the invitation to the OSCE  
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to monitor the  
presidential elections in Russia to be held on 4 March 2012**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Esteemed colleagues,

I should like to inform you that on 30 December 2011 Mr. Vladimir Churov, the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, sent an invitation to Mr. Janez Lenarčič, the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), to participate in monitoring the holding of the presidential elections to be held on 4 March of this year. At the present time, the questions concerning the arrival in Russia of the members of the ODIHR mission, their accreditation and the issuance to them of entry visas are being resolved.

Very shortly invitations will be issued to other international organizations that have participated in observing the elections to the State Duma. The Russian Government is counting on constructive co-operation with all observers, including the representatives of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Thank you for your attention.