

PC.DEL/1051/14
8 September 2014

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1015th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 September 2014

**Regarding the attack in the United Kingdom on the
Russia Today presenter Mr. George Galloway**

Mr. Chairperson,

The British parliamentarian, writer, journalist and Russia Today television presenter George Galloway was assaulted in London on 30 August. He was admitted to hospital with a suspected fractured rib and broken jaw.

Mr. Galloway is known for his oppositional views, which frequently differ from the official standpoint of the authorities, particularly with regard to Palestine. He spoke out in the 1990s and early 2000s against the introduction of economic sanctions against Iraq and against the invasion of that country in 2003.

We are seriously concerned about the pressure exerted on journalists and members of the mass media in the United Kingdom and the attacks on them. They represent a threat to the freedom of expression and the pluralism of the media.

In a press release yesterday, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, expressed concern about the access by the police to confidential sources of information of the *Sun* editor Tom Newton Dunn. This illegal act by the police raises all the more concern because the same newspaper conducted an investigation in 2012 about an affair involving parliamentarians and members of the police. The continuing story with Mr. Newton Dunn may be construed as an attempt to pressurize dissenting mass media in the United Kingdom.

We hope that the assault on Mr. Galloway will also be given due attention by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and that the British authorities will ensure that a rigorous investigation is conducted and that the guilty party is suitably punished.

We have heard that the police have managed to arrest the assailant. In that connection, we would ask our British colleagues to keep us informed of the course of the investigation, the reasons for the assault on a well-known politician and journalist, and any connection there might be with his work as a television presenter for Russia Today.

Thank you for your attention.