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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 914th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

31 May 2012

**Regarding the report by the OSCE Special Representative and
Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

Mr. Chairperson,

We join in welcoming Ms. Giammarinaro, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. We thank her for her detailed report on the work of her Office in this important and relevant area of the OSCE's work.

The ideas contained in the report on stepping up the OSCE's efforts in preventing and countering this modern-day form of slavery deserve attention. Overall, we are impressed by the Special Representative's comprehensive and systematic approach to responding to this transnational challenge.

Considering the variety of forms of trafficking in human beings and how many cases go undetected, we believe it is important to continue efforts to improve national legislation and law enforcement practice, raise civil society's awareness of the trafficking problem and create socio-economic conditions that would prevent this type of crime from occurring.

At the same time, harsh measures are required against criminal gangs that are the main organizers or intermediaries in the illicit trading in "live goods". The urgent need to strengthen co-operation between law enforcement bodies in the countries of origin, transit and destination was confirmed at the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on the rule of law framework for combating trafficking in human beings that was held in Warsaw recently. A professional international exchange of experience that would enable the most effective method of countering trafficking in human beings to be developed is also becoming increasingly necessary. In particular, we welcome the joint round table of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the OSCE and the Council of Europe on combating trafficking in human beings that was held in St. Petersburg in April this year.

The OSCE must be guided in this work by the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the corresponding OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings of 2003 and the Ministerial Declaration on Combating All

Forms of Human Trafficking adopted at the Vilnius Ministerial Council meeting. In recent years, the Organization has mainly focused its attention on countering labour exploitation, which has enabled a substantial set of commitments to be developed. Nevertheless, efforts to eliminate sexual exploitation, including that of children, are just as pressing and necessary.

Senator Dick Marty's report, which identified the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army's involvement in the trade in human organs, sent out disturbing signals to the international community regarding the necessity of intensifying efforts to combat the trade in organs. We welcome the OSCE's increasing attention to combating this kind of criminal activity and commend the fact that comprehensive research is being undertaken in this area. We are convinced that it should focus on all aspects of combating the trade in human organs. The Kosovo "case" is no exception.

We also call on the OSCE's executive structures, above all the mission to Kosovo, to actively use their potential to assist in the conduct of a thorough investigation into the facts identified by Senator Marty. We are not convinced by references we have heard to the fact that these crimes belong to the category of "war" crimes and should therefore not be investigated by the OSCE. Criminals, including those who are in power, must not be allowed to go unpunished.

In conclusion, we should like to wish the esteemed Ms. Giammarinaro and her team continued success in their endeavours.

Thank you for your attention.