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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 955th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 June 2013

**On the meeting of the Incident Prevention and  
Response Mechanisms in Ergneti**

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, we should like to emphasize that we agree on the need for the work of the Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRM) in the border region between Georgia and the republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. These mechanisms are important practical instruments for maintaining stability and security in the region and direct platforms for the exchange of information between those involved. They are used to resolve specific transborder problems affecting the everyday life of the people living in the border zone.

We note the discussion of a wide range of questions at the last meeting of the IPRM in Ergneti on 31 May this year and take cognizance of the information by the Chairmanship on the plans to continue the discussion at the next round of the Geneva talks on security and stability in Trans-Caucasus on 26 June.

In connection with the comments heard at today's meeting of the Permanent Council, we should like once again to note that all activities concerned with infrastructure development at the State border between the Republic of South Ossetia and Georgia are carried out at the request of the Government of the Republic and in accordance with our bilateral agreement of 2009 on the joint protection of the border.

The aim of the fencing measures is above all to advise the local population of the existence of the border line, to prevent unauthorized crossings and, as a consequence, to reduce the number of detentions and, in some cases, arrests.

The fencing does not extend along the entire length of the border between the Republic of South Ossetia and Georgia but exists only at a number of sections presenting potential danger to the local population.

We would point out that the fencing work at the border is now in its second year and we are therefore somewhat surprised at the sharp utterances in this regard and also the

allegations regarding the arbitrary shifting of the border line – all the more so in the absence of any delineation work.

Thank you for your attention.