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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 956th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 June 2013

**Regarding the statement by Belarus on the wiretapping in the
United States of America**

Mr. Chairperson,

We share the concern expressed by the delegation of Belarus at the growing scandal in the United States of America in connection with the tapping of telephones and the collection by the intelligence service of private information from users of major Internet services. These actions run counter to the provisions of fundamental international documents concerning the right to privacy, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and the European Convention on Human Rights (1950). Moreover, they fail to comply with OSCE commitments, notably the Concluding Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE (1991), in which the participating States reconfirmed “the right to the protection of private and family life, domicile, correspondence and electronic communications.”

We hope that the United States delegation will be able to shed further light on the situation regarding the limitations on freedom of speech and the media, which is guaranteed, incidentally, by the American Constitution, and on the right to privacy. We would be interested to know whether the collection of information applies only to American residents or also to foreign citizens, including Russians, and on what basis such information is collected.

Thank you for your attention.