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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1009th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 July 2014

In response to the report by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Baku

Mr. Chairperson,

We join in welcoming Ambassador Alexis Chahtahtinsky and thank him for the detailed and interesting report on the work of the field presence headed by him.

Almost a year has elapsed since the decision was adopted here in the Permanent Council to establish the Office of the Co-ordinator. Since then, the difficult process of adapting this field presence to its tasks under the new mandate has been under way. The reviews of the Office's work are positive. We understand what kind of burden has been placed on the shoulders of the new field presence head and his staff. We are pleased that the Office is now already fully operational and successfully carrying out its mandated tasks. We welcome the progress in the talks on a Memorandum of Understanding and hope to see it approved as soon as possible.

It is no small achievement that the leadership of the field presence has managed from the very outset to establish close and constructive co-operation with the Azerbaijani authorities, preserving in this way everything useful that had been developed during the previous years of co-operation between the OSCE and Azerbaijan.

We support the projects being implemented by the Office on countering trafficking in human beings and domestic violence, promoting religious tolerance, and providing legal services to the public. We attach great importance to the projects on combating terrorism and cybercrime which are currently being finalized with the host country.

We hope that in the future the Office of the Co-ordinator will also begin – naturally at the request of the host country – to implement economic and environmental projects, an area in which the OSCE and Azerbaijan have considerable experience in terms of co-operation.

We also trust that the Office of the Co-ordinator will continue to fulfil its mandate in strict accordance with the requests of the host country and closely co-ordinate all its activities with the Azerbaijani authorities. We believe that the field presence's work should focus on solving the practical problems set out in its mandate.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Ambassador Chahtahtinsky and his staff every success in their work in the future.

Thank you for your attention.