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

1 September 2011

**Regarding the sanctions against Belarus**

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the question raised today by our Belarusian colleagues regarding the introduction of sanctions by the United States of America against a number of enterprises in that country, we should like to make the following statement.

Russia believes that any measures of economic pressure and coercion taken on a unilateral basis are counter-productive. Their application can have only one result – the worsening of the socio-economic situation of the Belarusian population. We do not believe that this will be conducive to the creation of a constructive atmosphere for the development of dialogue with Belarus with a view to involving it in multilateral processes, carrying out economic reforms and strengthening democracy.

Furthermore, acts of this kind are patently at odds with the goal declared at the OSCE Summit in Astana of forming a common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, free of dividing lines and zones with different levels of security.

Thank you for your attention.