

PC.DEL/138/12
20 February 2012

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

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

16 February 2012

Regarding the presidential elections in Turkmenistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to make the following comments regarding the discussion today of the presidential elections in Turkmenistan on 12 February.

The election campaign was closely followed by international observers, including representatives of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and its Interparliamentary Assembly and Executive Committee. The Russian representatives took an active part in the observation process as members of the CIS mission and of the Russian Central Election Commission.

The CIS observers reported positively on the elections, noting that the electoral campaign was conducted in a calm and businesslike atmosphere with a high voter turnout.

The President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev, congratulated the victorious incumbent head of State, Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov, and expressed his conviction that the common desire for mutually beneficial co-operation by Russia and Turkmenistan will make it possible to continue to successfully implement the significant potential offered by the bilateral relations in various fields.

Thank you for your attention.