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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1039th MEETING OF  
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 February 2015

**In response to the statements by the  
Chairpersons of the Security Committee, the Economic and Environmental  
Committee and the Human Dimension Committee**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome our distinguished colleagues – the Chairpersons of the Permanent Council Committees – and thank them for reporting on their work plans for the current year.

We wish Ambassador Cristian Istrate every success in chairing the Security Committee and look forward to the successful implementation of the tasks ahead of the Committee. We take the position that in 2015 the Committee should focus on the implementation of the strategic OSCE documents on countering transnational threats: the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors, the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, the OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities and the OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism. We support the practice of active co-operation with the Transnational Threats Department, which is an important instrument for the co-ordination of all the OSCE's activities in this area.

We share the desire for discussion of the priority issues of countering terrorism and radicalization, especially in the context of the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. The associated problem of preventing the Internet being used for terrorist purposes is of particular interest. We urge the Committee to pay greater attention to interdicting illicit drug trafficking, including in the context of a possible OSCE contribution to the preparations for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in 2016.

We intend to play an active part in the activities of the working group on confidence-building measures in the use of information and communication technologies. The prospects for developing new measures will depend on how successfully the initial set of measures is implemented and on the involvement of as many countries as possible in this work.

We look forward to the fruitful work of the key events planned for this year in the first basket: the Annual Security Review Conference and the conferences on combating terrorism and drug trafficking. We are ready to play an active part in elaborating the agendas for these meetings.

We support the Chairperson's idea of closely monitoring the entire range of threats emanating from Afghanistan. In that connection, it is important to take into account the experience of regional organizations, primarily the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia. We should not lose sight of the transnational threats posed by the southern Mediterranean either.

Many of the Economic and Environmental Committee's priorities for this year outlined by Ambassador Tomislav Leko coincide with ours, particularly with regard to the issues of good water governance and fighting corruption. We believe it is important to continue the discussion of migration management and transport, primarily in the context of the development of international transport links and corridors.

We continue to doubt the added value of addressing energy security in the OSCE format. It would be more beneficial to focus on the universally relevant issues of energy efficiency and conservation.

The advisability of including the topic of climate change in the Economic and Environmental Committee's work plan raises many questions. A specialized United Nations conference is focusing on the relevant negotiation process. It may become relevant for the OSCE to become involved in this area once specific agreements have been reached, above all by encouraging the OSCE States to implement them, by analogy with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

At the same time, we should not forget the longer-term and global task of shaping a basis for economic security in the OSCE area. Our organization could help to encourage co-operation between the various integration communities so as to prevent the consolidation of dividing lines between them.

We agree with Ambassador Robert Kvile that the priorities of the Serbian Chairmanship are a good basis for shaping a unifying agenda in the human dimension.

Nevertheless, we have many questions regarding the thematic content of this year's Human Dimension Committee programme, primarily in terms of its balance and consistency.

We cannot agree with the selective approach in the choice of topics for the Human Dimension Committee. Thus, for example, the topic of election observation, which is quite relevant for many of us, has been dropped from the programme on the pretext that it "duplicates" events organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on this issue. In that case, why have the topics of freedom of the media and expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association, for which separate events are also planned, been left in the programme? There are proposals for a whole Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on freedom of assembly and association and a Chairmanship conference on the protection of journalists.

One of the most significant events this year is the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The lessons learned from the war gave a powerful impetus to the development of international humanitarian law, including the OSCE's commitments in the field of human rights. A proper place should be found for this topic in the programme of the Human Dimension Committee and on the agenda for its events.

The Human Dimension Committee should also focus on topics such as the elimination of "statelessness", the rule of law, combating hate crime, advancing intercultural, inter-ethnic and interfaith dialogue and nurturing mutual respect and mutual understanding. The issues of safeguarding human social and economic rights are still relevant. The topics of combating manifestations of aggressive nationalism and neo-Nazism, the protection of children's rights, freedom of movement and the protection of the right to a private and family life have not been addressed.

We trust that we will not have to discuss subjects on which there is neither consensus nor any kind of commitment within the OSCE.

We expect progress in the reform of the OSCE's human dimension events.

As far as the conduct of the meetings of the Human Dimension Committee is concerned, we cannot agree with the attempts to transform the Committee into something resembling the supplementary meetings. In violation of ministerial decisions and the Rules of Procedure, non-governmental organizations have been begun to be invited with increasing frequency to Human Dimension Committee meetings – there were three at the first two meetings. We remind delegates that the Rules of Procedure state unequivocally that the meetings of informal bodies of the Permanent Council are closed to the press and the public. We demand that this rule be observed unconditionally.

There are ample opportunities for exchanging views and experience with civil society during the numerous OSCE events. We also consider it advisable to look for other formats for discussing examples of best practice of States (such as expert round tables or working meetings) so as not to overload the Human Dimension Committee with voluntary reporting, blindly copying the monitoring mechanisms of the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

Overall, we urge all the Committees to focus on tasks that flow directly from the decisions of the Ministerial Council and the Permanent Council.

Thank you for your attention. I wish all three distinguished ambassadors success in their work.