

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1061st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 July 2015

**On the refusal of entry to Finland for the delegation of the Federal
Assembly of the Russian Federation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to draw attention to the decision by the authorities in Finland to refuse entry to the head of the official delegation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and chairman of the State Duma, Mr. Sergey Naryshkin, and five other members of the delegation to take part in the 24th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly taking place in Helsinki from 5 to 9 July this year.

This is evidently in line with the approach of those countries that are pursuing the flawed practice of imposing unilateral sanctions on Russia, including the drawing up of “blacklists”. Russia has repeatedly criticized these intemperate and irresponsible measures, which also damage the countries of the European Union themselves. It is regrettable that Finland has yielded to such pressure. European Union decisions cannot serve as justification for Finland to ignore its international commitments as organizer of the annual meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The refusal to allow representatives of participating States deemed undesirable by some capitals to take part in OSCE events creates a dangerous precedent.

It is also regrettable that the decision by the Finnish authorities was taken shortly before the 40th anniversary of the CSCE Final Act signed in Helsinki. All this runs contrary to this fundamental OSCE document, which sets out commitments by participating States to refrain from acts of coercion and also to develop co-operation in all areas and facilitate contacts between people. What we are seeing is the erection of barriers to the principles of democracy and parliamentarianism and hindering dialogue on a scale not seen even during the Cold War.

It is a blow to the Helsinki+40 process, which was so desired in the current situation as a common platform for addressing systemic problems in the area of pan-European security. It also wrecks the efforts of the Chairmanship, which is working energetically to promote the Helsinki+40 process. Instead of creating conditions conducive to widening

dialogue, including the participation of parliamentarians, on ways out of the crisis in European security, and of concentrating on issues of general interest and on shared problems, a different, confrontational path has been chosen. As a result, the foundations of pan-European security and co-operation, including their parliamentary component, are being undermined.

Given the seriousness of this situation we prepared and distributed on 1 July a draft Permanent Council decision “On the Inadmissibility of Preventing Participation in Official OSCE Events”. We request that the Chairmanship organize discussion on it in the near future.

Thank you for your attention.