

PC.DEL/436/15
30 March 2015

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1046th MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 March 2015

**In connection with the arrest in Serbia of persons suspected of involvement
in the tragedy at Srebrenica**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Belgrade's efforts to assist in the investigation of the tragedy that occurred in Srebrenica in July 1995, including the recent arrest by the Serbian authorities of persons suspected of involvement in this crime. We regard this step by Serbia as a concrete contribution to the multilateral efforts to promote the restoration of peace and stability in the region, build confidence and strengthen good-neighbourliness between the peoples inhabiting the region following the bloody conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina of 1992 to 1995.

Russia's position, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a guarantor of the Dayton Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, remains unchanged. All persons responsible for war crimes on the territory of the former Yugoslavia should be brought before a court regardless of their ethnicity and citizenship. The degree of guilt of every suspect should be thoroughly investigated and proven.

We trust that the memory of this tragedy at Srebrenica, shared by all peoples of this country that has suffered so much and the entire Balkan region, will not become a pretext for mutual accusations and external incitement. The only right thing to do will be to use the upcoming sorrowful date of the 20th anniversary of the tragedy at Srebrenica to pay tribute together to the memory of those who died during the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to redouble the efforts to strengthen a climate of reconciliation, co-operation and mutually beneficial relations between the Balkan States.

Thank you for your attention.