

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1053rd MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 May 2015

**In response to the report by the
Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Natalia Zarudna, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, to this Permanent Council meeting. We thank you for the detailed report on the work of the presence under your leadership.

We believe that the revision of the field presence's mandate in December 2014 in the light of Kazakhstan's increased capacity, and the adaptation of the mandate in view of the changed needs of the host country, have contributed to greater effectiveness in the activities of the Programme Office in solving specific problems within the framework of its mandate.

We commend the field presence's efforts, undertaken in close co-operation and co-ordination with the authorities of Kazakhstan, to facilitate penal, administrative and judicial reforms.

We welcome the Programme Office's work in carrying out important projects for training the country's police, border and customs officers, detecting explosives and countering corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

We note the success in holding an impressive number of international conferences, seminars and training sessions.

We believe it important that such important issues for regional security remain among the priorities of the field presence in the future.

We continue to believe that the opinion and requests of Kazakhstan's authorities should remain decisive here, as they are better able than anyone else to determine the scale and format of assistance necessary from the OSCE.

Mr. Chairperson,

Relations between Russia and Kazakhstan are developing at a rapid pace. The signing of the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in May of last year provided a massive boost to this rapprochement. The EAEU now also includes Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. This document is of historic significance and takes our States to a fundamentally new level of co-operation and integration, opening up the broadest opportunities for economic development and increasing the prosperity of our citizens.

The whole array of agreements concluded between our countries in recent years is clear evidence of the systematic strengthening of ties between Russia and Kazakhstan at various levels, which provides a basis for a genuine strategic partnership between our two countries. We firmly believe that our bilateral ties will continue to develop just as energetically and as successfully as they have in recent years.

In conclusion, allow me to wish Ambassador Zarudna and all the staff of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana further success in their work.

Thank you for your attention.