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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1021st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 October 2014

On the parliamentary elections in Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

We, too, welcome the early parliamentary elections held in Ukraine on 26 October, which allowed Ukrainian citizens to make their choice democratically. In the Russian Federation, six polling stations were opened where citizens of Ukraine voted.

We respect the choice that Ukrainian citizens made. Russia is ready to work with constructive forces in the new Ukrainian Parliament and with the new Ukrainian Government.

Ukraine is now at a critical stage in its development. The decisions that the authorities have to take will be momentous, to say the least. There are high expectations of the new Ukrainian Parliament and the future Government. This has to do, in the first place, with the formation of national consensus and the implementation of long overdue reforms.

The new Government's most important task is to ensure national unity. For this to happen, all citizens of Ukraine, regardless of which language they speak and what political views they profess, must have an equal place in Ukraine, so that no one is persecuted for political or other reasons.

We trust that the path taken by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to achieve peace and restore national harmony and reconciliation in Ukraine will be supported by the majority of the new Ukrainian Parliament.

We understand that the supporters of a peaceful settlement will have to go through some trying times, especially given the atmosphere in which the election campaign, the vote and the vote count took place. Candidates were intimidated. There were threats and heavy pressure. There were cases of voter bribery. Unauthorized persons were present at the polling stations, to the point of interfering with the work of the election commissions. To call the situation with the Ukrainian media merely censorship would be an understatement. All of

these facts are recorded in detail in the preliminary report of the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Election Observation Mission.

In terms of positive features, it can be noted that, in the party list voting, the 5 per cent hurdle was not cleared by such extremist and ultra-radical movements as Right Sector and Svoboda. We hope that we will no longer hear the detestable, hate-mongering utterances of Iryna Farion.

Nevertheless, to relax and talk about the fact that neo-Nazism “did not triumph” in Ukraine is premature. The Right Sector militias have not disbanded. The leader of Right Sector, Dmytro Yarosh, won about 30 per cent of the votes in a single-mandate district. With a similar result (33.5 per cent), Andriy Biletsky, commander of the Azov battalion, also landed in the Verkhovna Rada. Quite a few other active members of militia groups in the eastern part of the country, many of them very likely to have taken part in violations of international humanitarian law and crimes against the peaceful population of Donbas, were also elected to Parliament. How strong their influence will be on the realpolitik of the Ukrainian authorities, time will tell.

All in all, we hope that a new power structure has taken shape in Ukraine, one that will deal with the real problems facing the State and ensure national unity, so that all of its citizens can have an equal place in Ukraine and no one will be subject to political persecution.

Thank you for your attention.