

PC.DEL/1128/12
30 November 2012

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 933rd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

29 November 2012

**In response to the report by the OSCE Representative on
Freedom of the Media**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank you, Ms. Mijatović, for the attention being paid to our country. During the time you have been in office as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, you have visited Moscow on a number of occasions and held many meetings with officials and representatives of civil society. We note the objective and positive assessments you have given of the efforts being made by the Russian authorities to strengthen freedom of expression. We are also aware of critical comments, although we do not consider them to be justified.

I should like to clarify one point with regard to the report that we have just heard. The terms used in your statements and press releases are sometimes not entirely accurate. One such example is the fact that the concept of “new media”, “social media” and so on is used somewhat freely. I wish to stress that in our documents the reference was to “the dissemination of information on the Internet by means of social networks, and also broadcasting”. It is important to understand precisely what we are talking about here.

In this connection, we have already repeatedly mentioned the need to devise a unified approach by the OSCE participating States to new phenomena stemming from the development of the Internet. It is not just a matter of declaring rights. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights clearly defines the conditions under which freedoms should be restricted. The Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms also contains provisions on this subject. In that regard, there is no legal basis for the calls to adopt documents proclaiming absolute freedom of the use of the Internet without any mechanisms regulating the associated risks.

In view of the effect of the World Wide Web on contemporary processes, we firmly believe that the adoption of decisions of a fragmented nature will not help matters. What is required is a systematic and balanced approach, under the auspices primarily of the United Nations, taking into account the positive aspects and the obvious risks connected with the Internet. We therefore regard as premature OSCE decisions on the Internet with a bias

towards making freedoms absolute without a clear definition of the scope of responsibility of States.

The Representative on Freedom of the Media takes a balanced and objective approach for the most part to the implementation of her existing mandate, which covers the entire OSCE region. We trust that you will continue to act in this way. These efforts should be based on the principles of impartiality, objectivity and transparency. It is important that your office also continues to develop constructive co-operation with States on the basis of their requests and wishes. The Russian Federation is available for collaboration of this type.

Thank you for your attention.