

Delegation of the Russian Federation

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

3 November 2011

Regarding the presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Chairperson,

In Russia, we closely followed the presidential elections of 30 October, which represented a significant milestone in Kyrgyzstan's democratic development.

The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, sent a message of congratulation to Mr. Almazbek Atambayev, in which he referred to his success in the elections as evidence of the aspirations of the Kyrgyz people to democracy and socio-economic stability. The Russian Head of State said that Russia stood ready for active joint work to strengthen the traditionally friendly relations between our countries and to realize the potential for bilateral co-operation for the benefit of our countries' citizens in the interests of peace and security in Central Asia.

The Prime Minister of Russia, Mr. Vladimir Putin, having congratulated Mr. Atambayev on his conclusive victory, stressed that the results of the vote fully confirmed the deep faith of the Kyrgyz people in the President-elect.

As the head of a mission of observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Mr. Sergei Lebedev, announced at a press conference, the elections in Kyrgyzstan were held in accordance with national legislation. He particularly noted the transparency of the vote counting procedure. Kyrgyzstan's electoral legislation is gradually approaching general democratic norms. Many of the actions taken were informed by the aspirations of the country's leadership and political groups towards making the electoral process more open.

The CIS observer mission pointed out several shortcomings that nevertheless did not have a major impact on the results of the vote. Concrete recommendations were made on further improving the electoral process. The mission will publish a detailed report on the elections in a few days' time.

We hope that the elections will lend an impetus to the socio-economic advancement of Kyrgyzstan. We wish every success to the Kyrgyz people and the new leadership of a

country with which we have long-standing ties of friendship, close co-operation and genuine alliance.

Thank you for your attention.