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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE 912th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 May 2012

**Regarding the revocation by the Estonian authorities of the  
visa for Igor Korotchenko**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to draw attention to an incident connected with the revocation by the Estonian Government of the visa for the Russian journalist Igor Korotchenko.

This well-known political analyst and editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Natsionalnaya oborona* (National Defence) arrived in Tallinn on 6 May to give a talk at the invitation of the Estonian media club Impressum. At Tallinn Airport, however, the Estonian border authorities revoked his entry visa, which he had received from the Estonian embassy in Moscow, citing instructions from the Estonian Security Police Department. The representatives of the Estonian Border Service did not explain their actions to the Russian journalist. As a result, Igor Korotchenko was forced to spend the whole night in the airport in order to return to Moscow in the morning.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a special comment on this issue, stressing that it was inappropriate for the Estonian Government to impose visa restrictions on representatives of the Russian media.

In this room we are constantly being urged by our Western colleagues to respect freedom of speech and not to prevent media representatives from travelling abroad. As reality shows, however, these words are sometimes at variance with the facts. And the case of Igor Korotchenko clearly demonstrates that there are double standards in this regard. We hope that the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Ms. Dunja Mijatović, will duly respond to this incident.

Thank you for your attention.