

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. ANDREY KELIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1061st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 July 2015

On the events in Armenia

Mr. Chairperson,

In relation to the protests in Yerevan, at which demands of an economic nature were made, mentioned by our European Union colleagues at today's Permanent Council meeting, we should like to make the following comments.

We cannot agree with a number of assessments we have heard which echo the one-sided reaction to the events in Yerevan in the comments by Ms. Dunja Mijatović, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and Mr. Michael Georg Link, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

We are also closely watching the events in our brother nation Armenia. We trust that the situation will be resolved as soon as possible in accordance with the constitutional and legal framework. It is the residents of Armenia themselves who can and should seek answers to the questions that have arisen. We welcome the willingness shown by the leadership of the country to seek a compromise with the protesters. To our knowledge, it has already taken a number of steps towards meeting the economic demands of the persons assembled on Baghramyan Avenue and Freedom Square in Yerevan.

We commend the professional restraint shown by the Armenian police and its competent actions to ensure public order and prevent possible provocation in areas where there were mass gatherings of people.

We hope that our Armenian brother nation will be able to resolve the differences that have arisen as soon as possible and restore peace to the streets of Yerevan.

Thank you for your attention.