



**ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՊԱՏՎԻՐԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ**  
**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Statement**

**In response to the address by the Secretary General of the Cooperation Council  
of Turkic Speaking States, Ambassador Halil Akinci  
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 936<sup>th</sup> of the OSCE  
Permanent Council  
December 20, 2012**

Mr. Chairperson,

We took note of the statement made by Ambassador Akinci.

As you may know there was a proposal to invite the Cooperation Council of Turkic speaking countries to the Dublin Ministerial Council along side with the international organizations and Armenia was among those countries who objected this invitation. Since the General Secretary of CCTS Ambassador Akinci is again invited to the PC, we deem it appropriate to explain our position here one more time.

Armenia attaches great importance to the development of global and regional cooperation. However, when cooperation is based on particular solidarity stemming from perceptions of common origin and kinship and covers not cultural but security and political relations among states we approach the issue with certain caution.

We openly communicated our concerns last year during the first appearance of this organization in the Permanent Council which took place under similar circumstances.

We recalled the statement delivered at the founding Nakhichevan summit by a leader of one member state of this organization who explicitly referred Armenia as a country that territorially separates Turkic world and is created on the Turkic lands. We also recall that similar ideas were nurtured by a certain political movement a century ago and they became an ideological justification for the first genocide of the 20th century. As we understood then from the clarifications offered by Ambassador Akinci, the organization itself does not necessarily share all views expressed by the leaders of member countries.

However, the certain statements of the leadership of the organization and personally Ambassador Akinci indicate that our concerns were more than justified. Here, first of all I mean the statement made by Ambassador Akinci on February 17 of this year in Istanbul which is available at the official website of CCTS. The statement is full of racist and xenophobic remarks against Armenians and on certain instances it comes pretty close to hate speech. However, the most shocking part of the statement is condemnation of those Turkish intellectuals who try to reconcile with the past of their nation by offering apology and understanding to others. According to the statement

the motives of such reconciliatory actions of Turkish intellectuals are ignorance and desire to please foreigners.

We sincerely hope that these remarks are not shared by all members of CCTS, since we have excellent bilateral relations with certain members, while trying to find ways to move toward the reconciliation with other countries.

The OSCE has been taking completely different approach to the issues of regional cooperation and reconciliation. 57 countries whose languages may resemble each other may not, whose origin can be traced similarly or differently are united to advance the cause of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community free of dividing lines.

Thus we find inappropriate to invite an organization whose concept of cooperation drastically departs from the values we believe in the OSCE.

Thank you.