



***STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN ILDEM  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY***

***In Response to the Presentation by Mr. Dmitry Mezentsev  
Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization***

**961<sup>st</sup> PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**18 July 2013**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank the Ukrainian Chairmanship for providing us the opportunity to exchange views with Mr. Dmitry Mezentsev, Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to whom we also extend a warm welcome to today's Permanent Council meeting and thank him for his comprehensive and interesting presentation.

One of the conclusions we drew from the Secretary General's presentation is that the SCO is becoming an important organization in a vast geography and has a huge potential to contribute to security and stability of the Asian continent. Besides, expansion of activities in the field of economic cooperation among its members as well as economic and trade cooperation supported by energy cooperation could bear increasing significance in the future.

Another point that attracted our attention is that; areas such as combating of terrorism and separatism, narcotics trafficking, human smuggling, border security, illegal migration and cooperation against trans-national threats as well as enhancing economic cooperation are common to both the OSCE and SCO. In this regard and on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security we fully support the enhancement of cooperation and interaction between the two organizations.

Mr. Chairperson,

Active multidimensional foreign policy and the close bilateral relations with the member states of the Organization prompted Turkey to apply for the Dialogue Partner Status within the SCO. As you have also alluded to in your statement, Mr. Secretary General, Foreign Minister Davutoğlu and You signed the

Memorandum on Turkey's Partner for Dialogue Status within the SCO on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2013 on the margins of Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference in Almaty. We think that the Dialogue Partner Status will allow us to follow the developments in the SCO in a more closer and informed manner and to share our views with the Member States in deepening regional cooperation on a wide range of issues.

In concluding let me emphasize that we are supportive in a non-exclusive manner of regional cooperation initiatives that can contribute to the improvement of dialogue and mutual understanding as well as consolidation of peace, stability and security.

We wish Secretary General Mezentsev all our best in his endeavors.

Thank you.