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**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT PART II OF THE 18th MEETING OF THE
OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 26 May 2010

**Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of
land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and
rail in the OSCE region**

Closing Session

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to thank the Kazakh Chairmanship, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the Czech Government for the excellent organization of the closing session of the 18th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

In our opinion, the exchange of views has been productive and useful with respect to the elaboration of recommendations for the future. We have a solid set of proposals that could form the basis for decisions by the collective OSCE bodies.

The discussions that have been held clearly demonstrate the multifaceted nature of transport problems. They have confirmed the need for continuity in the dialogue on the issues raised and for the retention of the subject of transport as a priority item on the agenda of the OSCE's second dimension. We believe that the task of ensuring the security of land transport is especially relevant.

We should like to dwell particularly on the closing session. The presentations by the distinguished speakers on the task of strengthening borders and combating corruption were interesting and necessary. At the same time, we are not completely clear what the statement by Mr. Struan Stevenson, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Environmental Issues, has to do with the theme of the Forum as approved by the Permanent Council. We do not dispute, of course, that the problems touched on by him are important and demand attention, but this should be done in other formats.

We should like to draw the attention of the moderator of the meeting and the present and future Chairmanships to the need to stick to the theme of the Forum when directing the discussion and not to allow other issues to erode it.

This episode once again confirms the vital importance of agreeing on the Forum agenda as instructed in the Rules of Procedure so as to avoid similar digressions in future.

We ask that these concerns be reflected in the consolidated summary of the Prague segment of the 18th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

Thank you for your attention.