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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement

**On the Non-Compliance of Turkey to the OSCE Commitments
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1018th Meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council**

October 09, 2014

Madam Chairperson,

In the light of the ongoing crises and challenges in the OSCE area, we reaffirm our perception of the role of our Organization as a platform for dialogue to tackle the problems in a peaceful manner, on the basis of the OSCE values and fundamental principles and norms of the international law. During our discussions in Permanent Council and informal meetings we have stressed a number of times the need for political will, constructive engagement, seeking compromises and making good use of the vast OSCE toolbox in order to address long running problems on the basis of our common, agreed commitments.

Having said this, we would like to share our views and concerns on the current stalemate in Armenia's relations with Turkey and the reasons behind it. The attempt to normalize relations was made 5 years ago, when the "Protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey" and "Protocol on development of relations between of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey" were signed on October 10, 2009 in Zurich as a result of intensive process of negotiations.

This process was initiated by the President of Armenia with the good faith and the aim to set the foundations for normalization of our bilateral relations, building trust and reconciliation between our societies. The expectations of international community were also high in this respect.

Regrettably, later developments chilled our optimism. Turkish government lacked political will and stepped back from the agreements. Thus, Turkey returned to its usual practice of setting preconditions for the establishment of diplomatic relations and lifting unilateral blockade, imposed more than 20 years ago.

The reasons behind such a policy become very obvious: the blockade of Armenia by Turkey is aimed at undermining the social and economic development of Armenia. There are no any legal grounds for Turkey to inflict such step, which constitute a

flagrant breach of the international law which we are bound to respect not only by its virtue but also through commitments undertaken in the Helsinki Final Act. Moreover, the Helsinki Final Act clearly states the inadmissibility of political, economic and other coercion exercised against other participating state.

This Illegal and unilateral blockade, which on countless occasions has been qualified by many as unacceptable do not belong to OSCE toolbox, refusal to have diplomatic relations cannot be perceived as constructive engagement and kinship solidarity has nothing to do with OSCE principles and values. With these medieval style instruments in its toolbox Turkey makes unsuccessful attempt to assume the role of a mediator in our Organization, while it needs mediators itself to interact with its neighbors.

Armenia's president recently made yet another positive step and extended invitation to his Turkish counterpart to visit Armenia and participate in the events, commemorating the darkest page in the relations between our peoples.

To restore its credibility Turkey needs to exert political will, to respect its agreed commitments.

Thank You.