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

Statement

**in response to the Address of Thorbjorn Jagland, Secretary General of the
Council of Europe
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 968th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council**

October 24, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to warmly welcome Mr. Thorbjorn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe and express our gratitude for his pragmatic but yet encouraging address.

Both the OSCE and the Council of Europe remain highly relevant regional organizations, shaping the collective efforts of their participating and member states to maintain peace, security and stability in our wide region through active promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, rule of law and democracy.

As it has been stressed on various occasions, further promotion of targeted and result oriented cooperation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE is a priority for the Armenian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

OSCE is one of the main partners of the Council of Europe in its efforts to promote respect for human rights, the rule of law and democracy, and the level of cooperation between the two Organisations with a regular pattern of consultations, high-level meetings and personal activity and dedication of Secretaries General, is yet another evidence of that. I would like to recall the address of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee of Ministers at the OSCE Permanent Council in June, where particularly he stressed the importance to encourage the two organizations to enhance the co-operation, to exchange information and to coordinate their activities with a view of developing synergies and avoiding duplication, in the context of their *acquis* on thematic issues, which continues to reflect the different yet complementary mandates and working methods of our two Organisations.

The cooperation between OSCE and the Council of Europe has enhanced in the field of protection of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, freedom of media, combating trafficking in human beings, fight against terrorism and promotion of tolerance. Another important area of cooperation between the two organizations is the election related activities, including election observation. We value in particular the latter one as a down-to-earth and extremely important undertaking between the two standard setting organisations. We cannot afford setbacks here and any failure to speak in one voice should become a subject to scrutiny.

The potential of cooperation between the OSCE and CoE has not been fully utilized. In our view their wide toolbox could be implied in combined way particularly in the third dimension of the OSCE through further promotion of human rights and creating the conditions for reconciliation, thus shaping the way for establishment of European community based on indivisible human security.

Mr. Chairman

We would like to take this opportunity and express our gratitude to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General for the constant support and cooperation rendered to the Armenian Chairmanship in realization of its priorities and programmatic activities. In particular, we appreciate participation of Mr. Thorbjorn Jagland and Mr. Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe in the High Level Conference "Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Europe" held in Yerevan on October 21-22.

At the end, I would like to stress that Armenia, as an active member of the Council of Europe, will continue to contribute to the objectives, values and principles of the Organization.

Thank You.