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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 the Commissioner for Human Rights of the
Council of Europe, H.E. Nils Muižnieks
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 985th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council**

February 27, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to warmly welcome Mr. Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights, and express our gratitude for his interesting and comprehensive address.

Both the OSCE and the Council of Europe are 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.

We welcome Your willingness and readiness to cooperate with OSCE respective partners. Here we would like to particularly mention Your positive interaction with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the ODIHR. We would like to encourage You to continue in the same vein, as we firmly believe that such cooperation will contribute to creation of synergy between our organizations in their efforts towards protection and promotion of human rights.

Being a commissioner for the Council Europe is a demanding task - especially when those values are challenged and contested as a result of difficulties faced by our societies, including economic crisis, rise of unemployment, migration, cuts of social benefits and, as a consequence, rise of intolerance and xenophobia towards the others.

We fully share Your concerns on the rise of racism and hate crimes. In this regard we would like to take the opportunity and thank You for Your active participation in the High-Level Conference “Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Europe” organised under Armenian Chairmanship last October in Yerevan.

In this context we acknowledge and value Your approach to raise the awareness on issues, which have or might have in future negative impact on the situation with human rights in the area of responsibility of Council of Europe.

We are looking forward to Your visit to Armenia and reiterate our readiness to continue the close and result-oriented cooperation with You.

In the end, we would like to wish you, Mr. Commissioner, every success in Your endeavours.

Thank you.