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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

ENGLISH only

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR YUSUF BULUÇ,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE,
IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRIORITIES
OF THE SLOVENIAN CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE
(Permanent Council, 13 January 2005)**

Mr. Minister, Mr. Chairman,

I need not be too long or elaborate as we have subscribed to the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union and fully support the views, concerns and sentiments, but more importantly the unequivocal endorsement of the Chair's objectives and priorities expressed therein. I am prompted to make this intervention essentially to mark our appreciation of Mr. Minister's courtesy to address the Permanent Council at the inauguration of your Chairmanship and also to convey my Minister's full support to you personally Mr. Minister in the challenging and difficult tasks that lie ahead of you, as well as to express my Delegation's solidarity and co-operation with Ambassador Lenarcic and his able team throughout the course of his tenure. You have mentioned that you take the helm of this ship in choppy waters. Controlling the forces generating those proverbial waves are beyond the powers of many of us individually, however, we believe your skills will guide us safely to our desired and hopefully commonly identified destination.

Mr. Minister,

At the peril of being repetitive, nevertheless, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words in my national capacity. And indeed, one need only keep in mind the important security related issues you have highlighted in your speech, together with an appreciation of Turkey's geopolitical location, to understand why I was compelled to take the floor and to briefly put on record some of our views, which we would seek to promote.

I would like to begin with reform. The OSCE continues to offer all of us the only inclusive venue for comprehensive, co-operative and cross dimensional dialogue. Therefore, supplanting this dialogue in other fora is not an alternative. The strength of the OSCE lies in its ability to transform and to respond to changes and new challenges; to the fact that it is and that it continues to be an evolving process. However, for too long a time now, we have been looking inward; more concerned with our microcosm, while risking that developments both within the OSCE space, as well as in our neighbourhood are overtaking us. We hope that the result of the work to be initiated by our Panel of Eminent Persons will enable the Permanent Council to bring the reform process to a closure - successfully and at least for some time to come.

We at the OSCE cannot be splitting hairs, while in our societies new fault lines are being created on the perceived 'otherness' of their neighbours. The OSCE has been cognizant of these challenges and you Mr.Minister have taken the first steps towards addressing them by appointing our three representatives on combating various forms of intolerance and discrimination. In the same vein Mr. Minister, we trust that your Chairmanship will accord comparable attention to our 'outreach' activities. We are convinced that reaching out to our neighbours and Partners is too important a task to be left to a potentially subjective and un-coordinated implementation on the part of participating States only. The OSCE should play a coordinating role and offer itself as a venue for increased dialogue on our common values.

Lastly, we all seek to strengthen our Organization; to make it more relevant and more responsive to our needs. You have rightly highlighted the prevalence of dissatisfactions among some participating States regarding how our Organization functions and you have referred to the importance of achieving a balance between the three dimensions in overcoming them. Turkey has been a staunch supporter of this concept from the beginning. However, allocation of more resources and greater substantive work in the politico-military and economic and environmental dimensions are required in order to bring tangible results for the benefit of our citizens for them to deepen their ownership of this organization and hence their esteem for our work.

Once again wishing the Chairman-in-Office and his team the best of luck, I thank you for your attention.