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STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE

Vienna, 20 October 2010

Economic and environmental dimension (EED) Session 4: Economic cluster (continued) – Migration; energy security; the way forward

Distinguished colleagues,

Migration can be considered to be both the cause and the result of a variety of economic, demographic and other processes that often have a political dimension.

Migration management should aim to maximize the benefits and minimize the risks both for countries of origin and destination and for the migrants themselves.

We believe that one effective mechanism for managing migration flows is to create more favourable conditions for legal labour migration. It is important to bring in simpler and more transparent procedures for obtaining work permits and entry on the register of migrants. Concerted efforts are also required to substantially increase employers' liability for recruiting illegal migrants.

There is also a need to develop and improve integrated approaches to resolving migration-related problems, which include the social adaptation of the migrants to the host society, for example through professional and language training, medical examinations, information on customs and institutions and cultural orientation for migrants.

It is important to pursue the OSCE efforts to further international co-operation on developing models for the effective management of migration based on the conclusions of the Economic Forum in Athens in 2009. We stand ready to support the Greek-Slovenian initiative for setting up migration contact point networks within the OSCE (along the lines of the OSCE Counter-Terrorism Network launched by Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/03). We believe that this innovation will improve the co-ordination of measures to regulate migration processes, promote the exchange of examples of best practices and information on programmes for combating illegal migration, staff training and new legislation.

Energy security issues are moving ever higher up the international co-operation agenda and efforts are being made to address them at national as well as international and regional levels.

While the various States and multilateral bodies define energy security differently, and the interests of the producers, consumers and transporters of energy materials and products are not the same, there is nevertheless a shared interest in ensuring that energy markets remain stable and safe from the upheavals resulting from interruptions to energy supplies and major price fluctuations. There is also an increasing recognition of the need to improve the current legal and regulatory basis for energy co-operation, as the exchange of views at the OSCE expert meeting on energy security in Vilnius in September confirmed.

Russia has consistently called for a new structure for energy co-operation in line with the interests of all stakeholders. In 2006, it sponsored the adoption by the Group of Eight of a declaration on global energy security. In Helsinki in 2009, the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, advocated a conceptual approach to a new legal basis for international co-operation on energy incorporating a proposal to establish a new, universal and international legally binding document encompassing all aspects of global energy co-operation. Building on the ideas in the conceptual approach, Russian experts drafted a convention on international energy security that was officially announced for the first time at the expert meeting in Vilnius.

We expect a wide-ranging discussion on this matter at the OSCE. We believe that such a discussion will help us to reconcile our approaches, leading to a more lively debate within the international community on the key aspects of global energy security.

We should like to make it clear where we stand on the proposals by a number of our partners on developing new OSCE instruments for the early warning of conflicts on energy supply issues. We believe that simply transferring a mechanism that already exists within the framework of the Russia-European Union energy dialogue to the platform of the OSCE would contribute little added value.

We are in favour of unifying and standardizing the technologies for safeguarding crucial energy infrastructure facilities and support an exchange of state-of-the-art experience in this area. We believe that the OSCE is the ideal platform for this.

We support the suggestions for increasing energy efficiency and energy savings. It would be useful to look into holding seminars and conferences on these subjects. The office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities could put together some guidelines with examples of the latest experience and the most effective solutions in this area.

We do not object to discussion in the OSCE on transparency in the processes of the extraction, transport and use of energy resources, although we believe that activities in the context of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative are global rather than confined to the Organization's area of responsibility. We are certain that the application of a similar approach in an OSCE context would be of very limited utility.