

Delegation of Kyrgyzstan

**STATEMENT BY MS. LYDIA IMANALIEVA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TO
THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

31 March 2011

Mr. Chairperson,
Minister,

We should like to welcome you warmly to this meeting of the Permanent Council. We are pleased to see you in this meeting room, knowing you to be an experienced politician and highly professional diplomat who has done a considerable amount to strengthen good-neighbourly relations between our two countries.

We thank the Minister for his succinct and readily understandable account of his country's position on many of the items on our Organization's agenda.

Your statement to the Permanent Council has once again clearly demonstrated to all of us how much Tajikistan is sought after as a partner for security and particularly border security. This is an indisputable and undeniable fact. For the OSCE the contribution made by this mountain republic, which, like my country, is landlocked, to establishing peace and stability on the long-suffering territory of Afghanistan is extremely important.

We share and support your assessment of the transnational threats, particularly aggressive drug trafficking, emanating from the territory of Afghanistan. Under these circumstances, Tajikistan is key to the implementation of the decision by the ministers for foreign affairs to step up OSCE co-operation with Afghanistan.

In this context we welcome the creation and development of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, and we agree with the Minister that it is already bearing real fruit. For the countries of Central Asia this college has become a centre for training and improving the qualifications of border officers in Kyrgyzstan and elsewhere.

This will make a substantial contribution in future to strengthening border security, which is an important component in the struggle against illicit trafficking in drugs and the penetration of terrorist and radically minded groups.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the Tajik leadership in this regard. In spite of all the complications and difficulties experienced in the economic, social and political

development, Tajikistan finds the strength to help neighbouring countries in their development and evolution.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank Tajikistan for not standing on the sidelines and for providing necessary moral, material and humanitarian support to the Kyrgyz people at a time when Kyrgyzstan was deeply embroiled in inter-ethnic conflict. This is something that will be simply impossible to forget or eradicate from the chronicles of our history.

With their shared rich and centuries-old history and culture, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan today actively assist one another both at the bilateral level in politico-military, economic, humanitarian and cultural affairs and at the multilateral level within the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and, of course, the United Nations and the OSCE. We should like to make particular mention of the friendly and close co-operation between the Kyrgyz and Tajik delegations within the OSCE.

In conclusion we should like to wish renewed success in your work to you, Minister, and peace and prosperity to the people of Tajikistan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.