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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY MR. KORKUT GÜNGEN, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE IN RESPONSE TO
H.E. MR. KAREL SCHWARZENBERG, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

**748TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
29 JANUARY 2009**

Madam Chairperson,

We warmly welcome Foreign Minister Schwarzenberg to the Permanent Council. Mr. Minister, we consider your inspiring address, at the outset of this year, as another demonstration of the close relationship between our Organization and the European Union, and the importance that the EU attaches to the work of this Organization.

As a candidate country to the European Union, I can confidently state that my country's position is in congruence with the priorities that you have underscored in your speech, Mr. Minister. In this vain, we will be ready to contribute to your efforts. We deem that our consultations and cooperation with the EU in this Organisation, are of utmost value and mutually reinforcing, and we trust that during your Presidency this relationship will be further strengthened.

We believe that the prevalent feature of the express goals and endeavors of the EU and the OSCE towards the region, which my country has vital interests, is complementarity.

The war in Georgia last year has led to a crisis in the OSCE area. Given the undesirable circumstances that prevail, we advocate the continuance of the OSCE's presence in this country, and we sincerely believe that its preservation will serve all, not least the countries of the region. We are determined to support efforts aimed at achieving such a result. Cooperation and coordination between our organisations, also at field level, constitute undoubtedly essential ingredients for a successful outcome.

We study the Eastern Partnership initiative with utmost interest, as its target is our neighborhood. As in the example of the EU Neighborhood Policy, convergence and complementarity are major characteristics that Turkey cherish in its policies. I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister, the Caucasus Stability and Cooperation Platform for which we are trying to lay the foundations with our regional partners.

Energy security is indeed a crucial item on the international agenda. By and large, we encourage and participate in initiatives that would propagate and establish a sound ground for exploring new avenues and cooperation in this field. Your suggestion to convene a Southern Corridor Summit is noteworthy, in this respect.

During the discussion at the luncheon at the Helsinki Ministerial Meeting on the future of the European security my Minister has shared with his counterparts our main points of departure on this very important issue. A dialogue on European security should be led by a comprehensive approach, a tenet which underlies our Organization. We concur with views that the OSCE constitutes a unique and a natural platform for a discussion on this matter.

Mr. Minister, we wish you success during your Presidency.

Thank you.