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PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE

## Statement by Ambassador Naci Sarıbaş, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE, in response to the address by the CICA Executive Director, H.E. Ambassador Çınar Aldemir (860<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council, 5 May 2011)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to welcome Ambassador Çınar Aldemir, Executive Director of CICA, and thank him for informing the Permanent Council on developments concerning CICA and sharing his views on the cooperation between OSCE and CICA.

Highly valuing CICA as a forum for dialogue and cooperation, Turkey took over the Chairmanship last year from Kazakhstan for two years. As pointed out by Ambassador Aldemir, CICA's main objective is to move gradually towards a common and indivisible area of security in Asia through dialogue and cooperation. In line with this objective, Turkey has chosen "Constructing Cooperative Security in Asia" as the theme of its Chairmanship. With this understanding, Turkey intends to create a conducive environment for cooperative security in the CICA geography through enhanced political and military dialogue. Implementing confidence building measures in politico-military field constitute a very important goal of our strategy. We believe that it would be difficult to conduct economic and commercial activities in an environment where there is no security and stability. Turkey wants to enhance the three dimensions of security in a balanced fashion within CICA context, as recognized by the OSCE.

During Turkish Chairmanship, relations between OSCE and CICA have continued intensively. Enjoying an observer status at the CICA, OSCE has been regularly represented at the Senior Officials Committee meetings and representatives from CICA have also participated in many important OSCE gatherings. Turkey has recently invited ODIHR Director Ambassador Janez Lenarcic in the upcoming Senior Officials Committee meeting, which will be held next June in Antalya, to inform the CICA members on the activities of ODIHR.

We agree with Ambassador Aldemir that there is a considerable scope for collaboration and cooperation between CICA and OSCE, including CBM's in politico-military, human, economic and environmental dimensions, including in the field of new threats and challenges and their solutions.

We also support Ambassador Aldemir's proposal concerning the collaboration of the CICA and OSCE Secretariats to identify the issues and nature of the cooperation between the two organizations.

Thank you again, Ambassador Aldemir, for your presentation. We highly appreciate the work of you and your staff. We wish you the best of success in your difficult and important task.

Thank you. Mr. Chairman.