



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
In response to the Statement of the Permanent Representative of Armenia
(981st Meeting of the Permanent Council, 23 January 2014)**

Thank you Madam Chairperson.

Let me express my thanks and appreciation to my distinguished Armenian colleague for bringing this matter to the attention of the Permanent Council.

While expressing our deep sorrow for the demise of Mr. Hrant Dink and cherishing his memory as a prominent journalist, on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of his murder, I would like to inform the Permanent Council that in May of last year, the Turkish High Court of Appeals confirmed the sentences handed out to the two perpetrators. Oğün Samast, who fired the shots which killed Mr. Dink, has been sentenced to 22 years and ten months in prison, due to his legal status as being a minor at the time of the crime. The instigator, Yasin Hayal, has been sentenced to lifetime imprisonment. The High Court of Appeals also affirmed that Mr. Dink's murderers did not act alone, but were part of a conspiracy. In line with this decision, the Istanbul Public Prosecutor's Office has been conducting an investigation which aims to bring the masterminds behind Mr. Dink's murder to justice. Therefore the legal process is still ongoing.

The tragic case of Mr. Dink's murder is also being closely followed by the Turkish public opinion and the media. The anniversary of his death, as my distinguished Armenian colleague referred to, was observed with a well-attended ceremony and demonstration in Istanbul. We all expect that justice will be served fully and swiftly.

In any event, it would be only logical and therefore advisable for those who have an interest in this matter to wait for the results of the legal proceeding instead of attempting to politicize the issue.

Thank you.

