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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
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AT PART II OF THE 18th MEETING OF THE OSCE
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 24 May 2010

**Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of
land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and
rail in the OSCE region**

Opening Session

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We join in welcoming the participants in today's conference and thank the Kazakh Chairmanship and the Office of Mr. Goran Svilanović for the excellent organization and interesting and full agenda. We should also like to take the opportunity of thanking the Czech Government for its assistance and co-operation in holding this event.

We are called upon here to take initial stock of the discussions held within the framework of the 18th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, which is devoted to transport problems. In the next few days we shall not only analyse the initiatives, assessments and general concerns but also formulate specific recommendations that could form the basis for corresponding draft decisions by the executive bodies of our Organization.

In our opinion, there is a fairly good chance that the Prague meeting will produce significant results. First, no one can be in any doubt right from the outset about the judicious choice of the basic theme of this Forum. The great significance of transport for ensuring the basic conditions for life in society and the attainment of the most important social, economic and political goals is evident. It is equally evident that it is not possible to resolve the transport security problems that exist today and to modernize the international transport infrastructure without the concerted efforts of all countries involved in world economic relations.

Second, the efforts of the Kazakh Chairmanship and the organizers of the preparatory conferences and the first part of this Forum have produced an impressive array of factual material relating to current transport problems as well as draft concepts and technical projects

to resolve these problems. Specific proposals for mobilizing the potential for inter-State transport co-operation have also been formulated.

Mention should be made in particular of the work carried out by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the proposals by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities regarding the security of land transport and the creation of interregional transport networks and a single transport space in the OSCE region, including support for initiatives for the trans-Eurasian transport of containers by block trains. In the light of the global economic and financial crisis, the simplification of customs and border procedures so as to minimize delays and expenses at frontiers is highly relevant. Equally, there is a need to harmonize national transport strategies and improve transport management.

In a word, we have an extensive and substantive basis today. It is important to ensure that future activities by the OSCE in the transport sector are aligned with work that has already been undertaken by participating States, relevant international organizations and financial institutions with a view to providing added value.

In accordance with the particular focuses established for each of the Forum sessions, special attention will be devoted in Prague to the security of land transport. We believe that there are fairly good prospects for co-operation by the OSCE participating States in this area, with advantage taken, needless to say, of the appropriate expertise of specialized United Nations agencies, particularly the UNECE, and the necessary assistance of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

For our part, we are willing to share our experience in the creation of large-scale State systems for ensuring transport security, in which great attention is paid to the elaboration of the norms and requirements for facilities and means of transport so as to combat terrorism. The norms and requirements that we have established are at least on a par with and in some cases more exacting than those of institutions such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the World Trade Organization.

We believe that the special session to review the implementation of OSCE commitments in the transport sector will be extremely useful as a means of determining future OSCE transport security activities. Russia attaches great importance to the efforts made in the last few years to improve the review of commitments and is grateful to the UNECE for its contribution to this process.

Finally, it is traditional during the Prague conference to consider the basic focus of the next Economic and Environmental Forum. The experience of previous years has demonstrated the importance of ensuring that the problems discussed in the Forum are of relevance to all participating States. This being the case, we believe that it would be useful to continue discussion of transport security, simplification and harmonization of border and customs procedures in 2011 so as to foster the development of transport and trade. We trust that the Lithuanian Chairmanship will ensure continuity in the consideration of these topics and will retain the subject of transport as a focus of attention within the Forum.

Thank you for your attention.