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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

29 April 2010

**Regarding the report by the OSCE Secretary General on
police-related activities**

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to thank the Secretary General for his interesting statement and informative report on the implementation of Permanent Council Decision No. 914 on further enhancing OSCE police-related activities.

We regard that document as providing detailed information on the commitments and work of the OSCE in the areas concerned.

In their analysis of the efforts of the Organization's executive structures in the field of police-related activities, the document's authors have touched on the full range of problems associated with the development and reform of law enforcement services, the strengthening of co-operation between the police and the public and also increased efforts to counter various forms of transnational organized crime, including illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, the financing of terrorism and money-laundering, trafficking in human beings, cyber threats, hate crimes, the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, and corruption.

On the positive side, we note that the report contains assessments of the effectiveness of OSCE police-related activities, an analysis of the resources and funds available as well as specific proposals and recommendations for the future.

On the whole, we agree with the principal findings as regards the importance of ensuring sustained efforts by the OSCE executive structures and of co-operation with specialized international institutions operating in this field. We believe that the OSCE is bringing added value to their work.

We agree with the recommendation that the number of programmes carried out by the Organization should be properly brought into line with the funds available to it. We firmly believe that the Organization's focus should be on the development of co-operation between law enforcement agencies, the enhancement of the capabilities of participating States to combat transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, assistance in the

implementation of international instruments of a legal nature dealing with these matters, the strengthening of criminal justice systems and democratic institutions, and also the dissemination of best practices and information exchanges.

We are prepared to consider specific proposals concerning the development of tools to provide early warning of new emerging threats and challenges, the enhancing of the Secretariat's ability to forecast and analyse events as part of the effort to combat various forms of organized crime, *inter alia* with the assistance of the POLICE Network, and closer co-operation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in the fight against illicit drugs and trafficking in human beings.

However, we believe that not enough attention has been paid in the report to the problems of countering the drugs threat – this despite the fact that the spread of Afghan heroin and other narcotic drugs has become a major factor negatively affecting the OSCE region. It is in fact shocking to realize that annual deaths among the civilian population of NATO countries as a result of heroin overdoses are 50 times higher than the military losses of those same countries in Afghanistan.

In addition to the harm directly inflicted on the life and health of the citizens of participating States, the production of narcotic drugs is giving rise to and fuelling transnational organized crime in Eurasia and is also, something that is extremely dangerous, providing terrorist and extremist organizations with a major source of funding and recruitment.

The Russian Federation fully endorses the UNODC's appeal to the OSCE that it step up its work to combat narcotic drugs, including assistance in devising an effective and comprehensive international approach to the problem of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs throughout the OSCE area, support to participating States in acceding to and conscientiously implementing the three United Nations anti-narcotics conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988, and also the continuation of the tried and tested practice of convening annual OSCE conferences in Vienna on the subject of drug trafficking. We are in favour of greater collaboration with the International Narcotics Control Board and the UNODC within the framework of the Paris-Moscow process, and with the CSTO and other specialized agencies.

We reiterate our view that there is a need to enhance the counter-narcotics potential of the OSCE Secretariat. We support the proposals by the Secretary General regarding the continued implementation of measures and programmes designed to combat drug trafficking and aimed at deepening regional co-operation, and also regarding the organization of training courses at the Domodedovo centre and the publication of various applied manuals and guides.

We regard as useful the report's recommendations on co-operation between the OSCE and other organizations involved in police-related activities. In our view, there is a need to put into place more effective co-ordination mechanisms between the OSCE and the UNODC, the European Union, NATO, the CSTO and the Central Asian Regional Information and Co-ordination Centre, specifically through a regular exchange of information, the holding of consultations on project activities and the establishment of a network of contact points.

We also view as reasonable the ideas of an organizational and institutional nature having to do with the strengthening of the co-ordinating role of the OSCE Secretariat's

Strategic Police Matters Unit, the introduction of regular reports by field missions and institutions, about which the participating States would be subsequently informed, and also the formulation of an exit strategy for the timely completion of field mission projects.

We have no objection to the continuation of the practice of issuing guides and manuals on different aspects of police-related activities, but we do think it ill-advised to elevate these documents, which are not after all the product of any consensus, to the level of political commitments.

On the whole, we should like to hope that the report presented to us will be of genuine help to the participating States in carrying out a comprehensive review of OSCE police-related activities, in studying the possibilities available for improving this work and also in agreeing on additional steps in this field. The Russian Federation is prepared to take part in future substantive discussions involving specialists from the various countries, *inter alia* within the framework of the forthcoming Annual Police Experts Meeting to be held in May and the Annual Security Review Conference to be held in June.

Thank you for your attention.