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

11 November 2010

**In response to the statement by Mr. Pavel Klimkin,  
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Esteemed Pavel Anatolyevich,

We take pleasure in your visit to Vienna and in your statement at today's meeting of the Permanent Council, in which you confirmed Ukraine's intention to assume the direction of our Organization in 2013.

I should like to recall that the Russian Federation was one of the first countries to speak out officially in support of the Ukrainian candidacy. This position is clearly contained in the joint statement issued by the presidents of our two countries in Kiev on 17 May.

We are certain that, as part of its preparations for the respected and responsible role of the country heading the OSCE, the Ukrainian Government will take into account the interests of all participating States in order to conduct in that capacity a balanced and objective policy. The grounds for this certainty are to be found in Ukraine's current foreign policy with its affirmation under law of that country's bloc-free status and the establishment of constructive relations with all States, particularly neighbouring ones. In that context, we note with satisfaction the positive dynamic in our bilateral ties in the most varied areas, something that is having a tangible effect on the strengthening of the atmosphere of co-operation and security in Europe.

Esteemed Pavel Anatolyevich,

As you correctly noted, we all hope that the forthcoming OSCE Summit in Astana will impart a serious political impulse to the work of our Organization in strengthening security and stability in the entire area stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. It is extremely important that future chairmanships, including the Ukrainian, should actively assist in implementing a strategic policy aimed at consolidating equal and indivisible security for all OSCE participating States without exception.

The achievement of this task depends in large measure also on the elimination of visa barriers on a pan-European scale and in ensuring, not in words but in deeds, freedom of movement, without which the establishment of a single “security community” is unthinkable. We trust that this task will also be included among Ukraine’s priorities when it assumes the chairmanship.

Future chairmanships will also be faced with the very pressing task of transforming the OSCE into a fully fledged international organization, something that will require efforts to strengthen its normative basis and to provide it with the appropriate legal status. We hope that by the time Ukraine “takes the wheel” of the OSCE, our Organization will have in place all the necessary attributes, including a charter/constituent document, enabling it to become an equal player in the international arena.

I should like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that, as they prepare to perform the functions of the chairmanship, our Ukrainian partners can count on comprehensive assistance from Russia, which is sincerely interested in Ukraine’s success in that important post.

Thank you for your attention.