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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1120th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 November 2016

**In response to the report by the
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, and thank him for his detailed report.

We appreciate the Office's contribution to the success of the 24th Economic and Environmental Forum and note its assistance in the fruitful work of the Permanent Council's specialist committee.

It is important for the Co-ordinator to continue to focus on combating corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. We believe that the OSCE can supplement the work of the United Nations and contribute to combating these global challenges. A good example of this was the presentation of the OSCE Handbook on Combating Corruption at the seventh meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Prevention held from 22 to 24 August this year in Vienna.

We note the Co-ordinator's work on migration and expect it to be carried out within the framework of the existing resources and mandate. We believe that the Office's work on the control of labour migration could be useful to States forced to deal with the difficult task of accepting and resettlement of migrants. At the same time, it is important to avoid overlaps with the work of other international bodies and to rely on existing instruments.

We all have to deal with the challenges presented by the growth in environmental and material damage as a result of natural and man-made disasters. We believe that the Office should continue to help States with the exchange of relevant information and the removal of obstacles to timely and effective international aid to the countries concerned. For example, it might be useful to create some kind of database in the OSCE of forces and resources that participating States could make available for mutual assistance in the event of emergency situations.

We have studied the information on the Co-ordinator's assessment of the influence of climate change on security. We still have serious doubts about the added value of an involvement by the Office in the complex discussions on this question conducted for the most part in the United Nations. It is important for the Co-ordinator's work to make a practical contribution to the resolution of problems rather than fanning the flames of dissension. Regarding the Environment and Security Initiative, we remain convinced that the OSCE should become involved only at the request and with account taken of the interests of the host countries.

We approve the co-operation by the Office with the Aarhus Centres on the understanding that the leading role should be played by the secretariat of the relevant Convention in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

We hope it will be possible to reach a consensus on the draft decision of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg on good governance and connectivity. This would create a good blueprint for the future and would allow us to concentrate on our search together for collective solutions to urgent socio-economic problems.

We supported the proposal by the future Austrian Chairmanship to make "green economy and resource efficiency" the theme of the 2017 Economic and Environmental Forum. Russia is willing to make a constructive contribution to the discussion in store.

Regarding the plans of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for next year, we stress the importance of organizing them with account taken of the general strategic task of improving the unifying potential of co-operation. No one expects the OSCE to elaborate a concrete economic strategy or to propose ways, for example, of combating protectionism in trade. Specialist bodies exist for that purpose. In our opinion, the OSCE's role should be to provide expertise in support of joint efforts by participating States to create a single economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok as the economic foundation for a future security community, to assist in fostering co-operation between integration communities in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian regions and to eliminate existing dividing lines.

In conclusion we should like to wish Mr. Yigitgüden, who is shortly to leave his position as Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, every success in his future career and also to hope for all of us that further creative work can be achieved in the OSCE's second basket.

Thank you for your attention.