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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE OSCE

Statement by the Head of Delegation of Tajikistan Ambassador Nuriddin Shamsov at th 808th OSCE Permanent Council Meeting (Vienna, 6 May 2010)

In response to Spain/EU Delegation's Statement on the railway shipment dispute between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

Chairperson,

Delegation of Tajikistan thanks Spain/EU Delegation for statement on Tajik railcars blocked in the territory of Uzbekistan states the following.

Since our last statement at the Permanent Council Meeting on 29 April, 2010 we note that, regrettably despite the unilateral efforts of the Government of Tajikistan to initiate friendly negotiations on wide-range bilateral issues, the situation remains unchanged and concerned. Uzbek authorities continue strictly blocking the transit of goods and commodities to Tajikistan through Amuzang railway point connecting Uzbekistan with Khatlon the southeast province of Tajikistan.

My Delegation reminds that according to updated information provided by Tajik railway authorities, currently total number of Tajik impeded cargo railcars in the territory of Uzbekistan has exceeded 2000. As we stated before, the blocked cargos include fuel, wheat, fertilizers, medicines equipment and machinery as well as other commercial provisions and goods. As a result, Government of Tajikistan continues to face huge economic losses of hundred millions of USD.

We refer to recent statement by representatives of Tajikistan's NGO-s, business and private community to the international community and organizations, including the OSCE and expression expressing their discontent with the situation, as well as appeal to assist in finding solution. Tajik entrepreneurs believe that the current situation will have negative implication on Tajikistan's economy, social and health sectors, investment climate etc. since due to the delay in the delivery of goods. In this regard, Delegation of Tajikistan regrets the missing of such paramount aspect of the situation in the OSCE current reports.

In conclusion, noting multilateral character of the situation, Delegation of Tajikistan reiterates its request to the OSCE and Kazakh Chairmanship to take within its mandate pro-active and effective action to meet implementation of proclaimed by the OSCE principals and commitments in the field of security of transport border crossing and freedom of movement.

Thank You Chairperson,