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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
ON BEHALF OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
MEMBER STATES OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION, AT THE
1161st MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 October 2017

**In response to the address by the Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian
Economic Commission, Mr. Tigran Sargsyan**

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the permanent representatives of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and my country, the Russian Federation, we should like to welcome Mr. Tigran Sargsyan, Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission, to this meeting of the Permanent Council and thank him for his informative statement. It is important for the head of the unified regulatory body of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) to inform the representatives of the OSCE participating States and partner countries at first hand on co-operation in the vital work carried out to establish a single market within the EAEU and to create an integral modern supranational regulatory framework in a number of key economic sectors.

The EAEU has a really extensive agenda, and plans have been mapped out for the development of Eurasian integration until 2025. Entrepreneurs in the EAEU today can choose without any discrimination the country in which they wish to do business on the basis of common legal standards, which facilitate the development of business activities, protect property rights and remove superfluous administrative barriers.

The EAEU was established initially and is developing as an economic association. We are living today in an era of global interdependence in which the barriers to the movement of capital between countries are disappearing and the conditions for transborder co-operation are being established. The creation of an integration association is a logical step aimed at stimulating economic growth in the Member States through the formation of common markets with universally applicable rules of functioning. This is an example of flexibility and adaptation to the new realities within the economic system.

Recognition of the need for interaction and the rejection of protectionism, closed borders and a policy of one-sided sanctions, which is a clear vestige of the Cold War, are emerging as the new principles.

The EAEU is open to co-operation with other States and the various international and regional structures. A free trade agreement has been concluded with Vietnam, and talks are being held with Iran, China, India, Egypt, Singapore, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Negotiations on a trade and economic agreement between the EAEU and China have effectively been completed, and work has started on the interlinking of the EAEU structure and China's Silk Road Economic Belt initiative. Transportation movements that make effective use of the transit potential of the EAEU countries are also being developed.

Great attention within the EAEU is being paid to the promotion of dialogue and interaction between different integration and co-operation structures, which could make an important contribution to the creation of a common space without dividing lines from the Atlantic to the Pacific that would benefit States and peoples and ensure harmonious, mutually reinforcing and mutually profitable development.

In that connection, given the OSCE's unique composition and the great potential for expanding its economic "basket", it is a highly suitable platform for discussing this subject, which is complex but also important for the entire region.

The dividends for intensifying pan-European economic co-operation are huge. There is outstanding potential for strengthening co-operation in the areas of transport, trade, energy, infrastructure, industry and agriculture. The competitive advantages of Eurasia in the context of the emergence of new centres of economic power can be maintained only through the linking of integration processes in the west and east of the continent. There is no doubt that this would foster economic growth, investments and job creation, particularly for the younger generation, who are just embarking on their careers.

These aims are served directly by the concept of "integration of integrations". One of its undoubted benefits would be the identification of mutually acceptable forms of inter-integrationist co-operation, so that States that do not belong to any given association will not be faced with an artificial "either-or" choice.

The draft decision proposed by us for the forthcoming Ministerial Council meeting in Vienna is designed to strengthen connectivity and the merging of integration processes. We shall be presenting it in the near future and hope that consensus can be reached on what is a depoliticized and constructive initiative.

In conclusion, we once again thank Mr. Sargsyan for his statement and wish him and all the members of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission continued success in the future.

Thank you for your attention.