

**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR YUSUF BULUÇ,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY IN RESPONSE  
TO THE ADDRESS BY PRIME MINISTER KURMANBEK BAKIEV,  
ACTING PRESIDENT OF KYRGYZSTAN  
(Permanent Council, 30 May 2005)**

Mr. Chairman, Minister Rupel,

Having aligned ourselves with the EU Statement, I would like to make some additional remarks on a national basis.

I consider it a privilege to warmly welcome Prime Minister Bakiev, Acting President of Kyrgyzstan, to the Permanent Council and express our appreciation for his address on the current situation and the prospects for the future developments in his country.

It would be important to restate the highest value we attach to our close cultural, political and economic ties with Kyrgyzstan. Our bonds of kinship are strong and will grow stronger.

We have been monitoring the developments in this country very closely since the outbreak of events in March. We are pleased to have witnessed that the political forces in Kyrgyzstan have shown a high degree of maturity and restraint. Partly thanks to the assistance and close attention of the international community, but more owing to responsible and prudent Kyrgyz leadership, they have managed to resolve their differences through dialogue conducted with democratic and peaceful means. Prime Minister Bakiev's presentation gives us confidence that in the future they will continue to act in the same manner.

Kyrgyzstan, an important actor in a strategic and dynamic region, is currently undergoing a process of renovation. It is our hope that the Kyrgyz authorities would benefit from this process of renovation to upgrade the economic prosperity and democracy in the country and to make Kyrgyzstan a center of attraction and an example in its region.

Recent developments in Kyrgyzstan have ushered in a new chapter in the history of this friendly nation. We believe that the upcoming Presidential elections will be an important milestone in its democratization process and the Kyrgyz Government will do its utmost to ensure that the principles of transparency and fairness are respected in the conduct of these elections.

Not just in the OSCE, but also in other fora we voice in no uncertain terms that in this process, the need for assistance by the international community to Kyrgyzstan in economic, political and security fields is being felt more strongly and urgently than before.

The Turkish Government, moving in tandem and collaboration with the international community, has accelerated and augmented its efforts to provide assistance and expertise to Kyrgyzstan both on the bilateral basis and within the international framework. In this respect, we welcome the adoption of OSCE's Work Plan for Kyrgyzstan, which reflects the priorities of the Kyrgyz authorities. We encourage the Kyrgyz leadership to continue their co-operation with the OSCE.

The visit by the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs to Kyrgyzstan on 5-6 May 2005 offered a valuable and timely opportunity for both sides to identify the areas where Turkey can provide assistance. I would like to reiterate our thanks to the Kyrgyz Government and its people for the hospitality accorded to our Minister and his delegation, and also the opportunity given to the Minister to address the Kyrgyz nation on television.

The results of this visit are being pursued in operational terms and as a matter of priority. In this context, the Turkish Government, at the invitation of the Kyrgyz authorities, will shortly send a delegation to provide expertise on constitutional law. Possible areas of substantive assistance to the Kyrgyz police are also under active consideration.

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to conclude my remarks by stressing that the Turkish people and the Government continue to stand together and in solidarity with the Kyrgyz people on their way leading to the establishment of a democratic system and its institutions and economic prosperity, thereby enabling Kyrgyzstan to fulfil its OSCE commitments more comprehensively than ever before.

Thank you.