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**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Statement**

**In response to the statement of the US Delegation,  
delivered by Mr. Vaheh Gevorgian, Deputy Head of Delegation, at the 940<sup>th</sup>  
Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
February 7, 2013**

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to thank the distinguished US delegation for its statement and particularly for the condemnation of the shooting of Mr. Hayrikyan, Leader of Self-Determination Union Party, who is a presidential candidate in the upcoming elections in Armenia.

Mr. Hayrikyan was shot and wounded on January 31 and is currently successfully recovering.

Armenian high ranking officials, including the President of the Republic, presidential candidates, political parties and civil society representatives strongly and unequivocally condemned this attack.

A criminal case has been opened into this incident on the charges of “assassination attempt against political, state or public official” and the investigation is underway.

Mr Hayrikyan, according to the Armenian legislation, was entitled to initiate the procedure of the postponement of the election. However, he decided not do so. Hence, the campaigning will proceed and the elections will take place as scheduled on February 18.

The Armenian authorities are fully determined to register strong progress in conducting free and fair elections.

Thank you