

PC.DEL/415/09
4 June 2009

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

4 June 2009

**In response to the report by Ambassador Alexandre Keltchewsky,
Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana**

Madam Chairperson,

We should like to join in welcoming Ambassador Alexandre Keltchewsky, Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana, to the Permanent Council and thank him for his detailed and, in our view, balanced report on the Centre's activities during the period covered by the report. We would nevertheless recommend that there should in future be a greater focus on the practical aspects of the Centre's mandate.

We believe it is inappropriate to talk about how much the Republic of Kazakhstan's domestic legislation has improved in specific areas. In striving to meet international standards, Kazakhstan is taking its own particular features into account and improving its lawmaking practices in line with the development needs of its society and the State.

We have repeatedly mentioned the importance of close co-operation between any OSCE field presence and the authorities of the host country. In that connection, we welcome Astana's active involvement not only in the elaboration of various projects but also in their implementation.

For the most part, we support the basic areas of the Centre's work.

Particular attention should, in our view, be paid to border security issues and combating terrorism, extremism and illicit drugs. We believe it would be worth taking a closer look at the useful experience gained by our partners in Kazakhstan within the multilateral organizations operating in the region, notably the Collective Security Treaty Organization. It would probably also make sense for the Centre to employ these practices in its day-to-day activities, thereby developing the potential for a collective response to new threats and challenges.

We support the efforts to assist Kazakhstan's authorities in preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism as well as combating corruption. As for the Centre's involvement in programmes to develop cross-border trade and transport routes in

Central Asia, we believe that measures of this kind should be implemented in co-operation with other regional structures, in particular with the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC) of which Kazakhstan and its neighbours are active members. Quite a number of interesting initiatives aimed at facilitating cross-border economic activity are being realized within EURASEC.

No less important is assistance to the Kazakh authorities in countering trafficking in human beings and resolving gender issues.

Kazakhstan is about to face a serious test of its responsibility in its forthcoming Chairmanship of the OSCE. We trust that the Centre's senior officials will provide our colleagues in Kazakhstan with the most extensive help and advice.

We should like to wish Ambassador Keltchewsky and all the staff at the Centre continued success.

Thank you for your attention.