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

4 November 2010

**On the statement by Mr. Nikolay Soldashenko,
Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome to today's meeting of the Permanent Council Mr. Nikolay Alekseevich Soldashenko, the Deputy Minister for Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, a man who in his own country enjoys an outstanding and well-deserved reputation. We have listened with great interest to his report, which attests to the serious intention of the Republic's leadership to introduce substantial improvements in the work of the country's law enforcement bodies and to establish proper inter-ethnic relations.

As you are aware, parliamentary elections were held on 10 October in Kyrgyzstan, and, although there is still some element of uncertainty, one can hardly speak of the possibility that there will be a repetition of the events with which we are all familiar. Today we are observing in the Republic a somewhat different internal political situation than the one that existed during this summer. This fact gives us reason to think that the idea of deploying in Kyrgyzstan an OSCE Police Advisory Group (PAG) is no longer consistent with the situation that is unfolding there and the realities of the present time. What is more, to be blunt, that idea had in any case not been accepted by the Kyrgyz authorities or public. As we all know, although it was intended to assist in a reconciliation effort, the PAG very nearly provoked a new round of tension. And we understand perfectly well the position taken by our colleagues who did not agree to sign the memorandum of understanding, which would have discredited the country's authorities in the eyes of their own people and might have had far-reaching negative consequences.

For these reasons, we view positively the proposal by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Internal Affairs to adapt the Police Advisory Group to the new realities and to restructure it in accordance with the interests of the host country. By meeting this proposal halfway, our Organization can kill two birds with one stone. In the first place, we shall provide Kyrgyzstan with real and well-needed assistance and, in the second place, we shall be able to escape the present no-win situation involving the deployment of a Police Advisory Group that casts a shadow on the image of the OSCE and undermines its authority.

It is obvious that had we from the very outset acted differently, in a balanced manner and with greater circumspection, taking into account Bishkek's opinions, the Kyrgyz people might possibly today be already enjoying the fruits of our efforts. However, our hastiness in reaching a decision and a certain short-sighted pushing have resulted in a situation whereby nearly five months after the June events the Republic of Kyrgyzstan has yet to receive from the OSCE the assistance that it was expecting.

In effect, we nearly succeeded in killing with our own hands the idea of the PAG. Now, however, thanks to Bishkek's initiative in meeting us halfway, that idea has, as it were, been given a second chance for rapid implementation in a modified and appropriate form.

On the eve of so important an event as the forthcoming Summit, we call on the participating States to show flexibility, a balanced approach and the ability to listen to the views of their partners. We ought to be guided not by some kind of ambitious aspirations but by common sense and the consideration of mutual interests. It is only in this way that our Organization will be able to live up to its purpose and to enhance its role. Otherwise, the OSCE will continue to become increasingly sidelined in European politics.

As far as Kyrgyzstan is concerned, I should like to re-emphasize that the Russian Government has no doubts as to the ability of that country's authorities to ensure the necessary stability and law and order in the Republic.

Thank you for your attention.