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**Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office
928th Meeting of the Permanent Council, 1st November 2012**

I would like to remind delegations of the Chairmanship's Thematic Event on Intolerance and Discrimination against Migrants is taking place 09.00-13.00 on Monday morning the 5 November. The meeting aims to serve as a platform to raise awareness and deepen the understanding among OSCE participating States of the importance of migration in the context of relevant OSCE commitments, and to identify remaining implementation gaps in this areas. The thematic event will also encourage the sharing of good practices among OSCE participating States and suggest possible ways forward to address challenges they continue to face. There is a strong speakers list including representatives from the International Organisation for Migration, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the Migration Policy Institute Europe, the Institute of Race Relations, and the Immigrant Council of Ireland.

I have just returned from the Mediterranean Conference which this year took place in Rome. The theme of this year's event was Economic Cooperation with Mediterranean Partners in the democratic transition processes and political reforms, reflecting the acknowledgement by the countries of the region that they need to address urgently the economic dimension. The Conference saw a lively debate on economic development versus democratisation and it was accepted that while the OSCE is not a development organisation, it has much to offer our Mediterranean Partners as they seek to build and enhance democracies governed by the rule of law. The Conference provided a new impetus to our dialogue and cooperation and we have returned to Vienna with a considerable fund of ideas to work on, including an interesting proposal put forward by Italy to establish a Focal Point for the OSCE dialogue in the Mediterranean Region as a Track II initiative. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Italian Foreign Ministry who hosted the event at their magnificent headquarters and to pay tribute to the External Cooperation Unit and the Ukrainian Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group for their hard work in putting together an excellent programme with a range of interesting speakers including representatives from the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and a number of academics and other experts from the region itself.