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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY**

***IN RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF
THE CABINET OF MINISTERS AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF TURKMENISTAN H.E. RASHID MEREDOV***

**985th PERMANENT COUNCIL
27 February 2014**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I wish to warmly welcome Minister Meredov here at the Permanent Council.

Mr. Minister, thank you for your presentation.

We deem it important to hear your valuable views regarding the current state of affairs in Turkmenistan, as well as your reflections on the situation in your region which bears a significant importance for the OSCE. The excellent special ties we entertain at the bilateral level constitute another important source for our interest in your insightful comments.

We closely follow the increasing interest of Turkmen authorities in all three dimensions of the OSCE. Her “open doors” and “active neutrality” policies allow Turkmenistan to make contributions to global and regional peace, welfare and stability. They also serve to enhance Turkmenistan’s standing in international fora.

In a crucial year that we are in with the scheduled troop withdrawals from Afghanistan, we welcome Turkmenistan’s contributions to efforts aiming at stabilization the situation in Afghanistan and engagement in regional dialogue processes.



Mr. Chairperson,

Energy security is of paramount importance for security at the state level. It remains a top political and economic agenda item for both producer and consumer countries. In this context, I wish to highlight the active and praiseworthy role Turkmenistan has been playing in energy security and sustainability, exemplified by ongoing projects like the trans-Caspian natural gas pipeline and others currently at the planning phase. Hosting an important event on energy security testifies to the determination of Turkmenistan to make a tangible contribution to efforts within the OSCE in this key area.

Before concluding, I want to touch upon with pleasure the excellent relations between Turkey and Turkmenistan, covering an entire range of fields including but not limited to economy, commerce, energy, agriculture, health, tourism, culture and education. The solidarity, cooperation and interaction between the Turkish and Turkmen nations provide us with solid ground to further develop our bilateral ties, marked with frequent official and working visits reciprocated between our political leaders. I am only pleased to state my confidence that our relations will continue to progress in the future.

Mr. Minister I would like to thank you once again for your address and wish you every success in your future endeavors.

Thank you.

