

PC.DEL/609/14

30 May 2014

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1002nd MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

29 May 2014

**In response to the report by Ambassador Ivo Petrov,
Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Ivo Petrov to this room once again, and thank him for his informative report on the activities of the field presence.

We commend the level of co-operation and co-ordination in the OSCE Centre's project activities with the Turkmen authorities. We believe that this kind of approach is crucial for the successful work of any OSCE field presence, which should be focused on strengthening the national capacity of the host country.

We note the Centre's contribution to ensuring the security of Turkmenistan's land borders. The assistance in this area is particularly important in view of the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force from Afghanistan. As a result of the reduction of foreign troops, "hotspots" in the spread of transnational threats are moving increasingly closer to the borders of Central Asia. An incident on the border with Afghanistan in February this year is evidence that Turkmenistan is beginning to feel the negative consequences of this.

We welcome the continuation of the Centre's assistance with the training of Turkmen counter-narcotics police. Representatives from the Russian Federal Drug Control Service regularly participate in the events organized by the field presence. We are ready to continue to exchange experiences with the Turkmen authorities in the counter-narcotics area, including as part of the projects of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat. In the light of the measures being undertaken by the host country to develop civil aviation which Ambassador Petrov mentioned, we believe the Centre's contribution to strengthening the security of the airports and travel documents is useful.

We support the close co-operation of the Centre with the Turkmen authorities in areas such as combating corruption, money-laundering and trafficking in human beings, managing water resources, legal education and the reform of the penitentiary system and national legislation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Turkmenistan has always been and remains one of Russia's main partners. We value the intensity of the Russian-Turkmen political dialogue, which enables us to resolve important questions on the bilateral agenda in a spirit of strategic partnership and develop co-operation in international forums. The negotiations on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, in which another three littoral States, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Iran, are taking part, are no exception. In the current environment, it is extremely important to keep the Caspian region as a zone of peace, friendship and good-neighbourliness. Russia intends to continue to observe existing agreements on resolving all the main Caspian issues, including security, solely within the framework of the "group of five", whose members have exclusive sovereign rights to the Caspian Sea and its resources.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Ambassador Petrov and his team success in their useful work in Turkmenistan.

Thank you for your attention.