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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YUSUF BULUÇ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN STROHAL,
DIRECTOR OF THE ODIHR**

(1 November 2007, Permanent Council)

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome and thank Ambassador Strohal and his dedicated team for the overview of the discussions at the HDIM as well as of the state of implementation of the Brussels Ministerial Council taskings. The EU statement just made to respond Ambassador Strohal remains under consideration and advisement in Ankara. The broad thrust of what has been delivered coincides with and parallels our assessments. Pending alignment, I would like highlight the following points:

- We have witnessed once again a lively and inspiring debate at the HDIM thanks to the increasing participation of the NGOs. Participating States will have been able to identify some worrying trends in implementation, on the one hand, exchange views on effective response strategies and best practices on the other.
- Increasing number of NGOs does not necessarily result in a balanced geographical spread. Perhaps we should encourage a more balanced NGO participation across the OSCE region, bearing in mind that self-criticism is essential for the credibility of criticism addressed to other Participating States.
- If partial alignment was technically possible, we would readily align with the section on fundamental rights and freedoms in the EU statement as we agree entirely with the views expressed by the EU on this matter. HDIM demonstrated, however, implementation in this area has yet to attain a more desirable level and effectiveness. We need to maintain candid discussion.

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- On tolerance, based on the discussion at the HDIM,
 - o We support the recommendation to encourage joint efforts by Parliamentary Assemblies to highlight the important role of Parliamentarians and political parties in the fight against intolerance and discrimination,
 - o We welcome ODIHR's Hate Crimes Report, launched during the HDIM, as a tool to closely follow incidents and to report its findings. In line with the 2004 Ministerial Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, this report should also be taken into account in deciding on priorities for the work of the OSCE in the area of intolerance.
 - o The work carried out this year under Spanish Chairmanship should be reflected in a separate decision on tolerance to be adopted in Madrid by Ministers.

- Secondly, we should continue to underline the necessity to protect the rights of migrants, particularly preventing discrimination and identifying effective measures for their integration. It is advisable to reflect this point also in the tolerance decision. I hope that the Presidency of the European Union will take note particularly of this remark and oblige us by including protection of the rights of migrants in its preferential list of topics for next year's human dimension deliberations.

- Thirdly, we support the Chairmanship for aiming for possible additional commitments in the field of trafficking for labour exploitation. We note with satisfaction some progress in the discussions on the draft decision has been achieved recently.

In closing, let me reassure Ambassador Strohal our close association with his Office and reaffirm our continued cooperation with him to share the successes of his work.

Thank you.