

PC.DEL/645/10
25 June 2010

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

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

25 June 2010

Regarding a possible OSCE summit

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation has repeatedly confirmed at the highest level its support for Kazakhstan's proposal for holding a meeting of the heads of the OSCE participating States this year in Astana. A similar position has been taken in the relevant decisions by the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

We regard a summit as a historic opportunity, so to speak. The very fact that after 11 years the leaders of the 56 countries of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region meet, and in a year in which major anniversaries in the history of the pan-European process are being commemorated, will emphasize the heightened significance of this event for stepping up collective efforts to create a system of equal and indivisible security in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region and jointly combat new threats and challenges to regional and global stability. We are also talking here about a meeting of the leaders of the countries that make up all the key international and regional organizations operating in the vast geographical area extending from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

It is for this reason that we believe that a summit must not be limited to the agenda of the OSCE but should be geared towards the consideration of major problems of common security that directly touch upon the vital interests of our countries and peoples. This is how we see the formation of a common and indivisible security space, free of dividing lines and areas with different levels of security. We hope that the Russian initiative for the drawing up of a Treaty on European Security will also be the subject of discussions between Heads of State or Government.

We believe it necessary to reaffirm, at the level of Heads of State, commitments under all the fundamental CSCE/OSCE documents, primarily the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Charter for European Security.

We firmly believe that the necessary strengthening of the existing tools in the area of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, along with the potential for

combating terrorism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and organized crime, will create additional favourable conditions for the development of co-operation in other areas ranging from joint economic projects to free contacts between people. And this is a direct way of strengthening confidence between countries and peoples, which is after all the goal of fundamental CSCE/OSCE decisions, beginning with the Helsinki Final Act.

We believe that a summit must encourage the participating States and the international organizations concerned with security to form this kind of common security space or, as our Kazakh and French colleagues have proposed, a “Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community”. It is clear that this kind of goal must be backed up by real steps to overcome the crisis with respect to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) and also the modernization of the Vienna Document 1999 on confidence-building measures in the military sphere. We believe that all these elements should be reflected in a comprehensive general political declaration, outlining the basic areas of our joint work for the foreseeable future. We are confident that this kind of broad approach will in fact be in keeping with the level of the meeting to be held in Astana.

Of course, the construction of a “security community” is impossible without strengthening the institutional basis of the OSCE and transforming it into a fully fledged international organization operating on the basis of a constituent document. Many countries support the idea of drafting such a document, and we hope that this position will in one form or another also be set out in a final declaration.

We are aware of the need to strengthen co-operation in countering transnational threats and challenges, including those stemming from the territory of Afghanistan. We believe that a separate section of the declaration could deal with the resolution of these issues.

We also support a further important and relevant topic proposed by the Kazakh Chairmanship for discussion at a summit, namely intercultural dialogue and tolerance.

As regards the problems of conflict prevention and resolution, we urge that this issue not be turned into a “bone of contention”, as has happened in the past on many occasions, and that we try instead to work out a common vision of how to resolve existing conflicts quickly and effectively and how to prevent the emergence of new hotbeds of crisis.

On the whole, however, we take the position that long-term objectives should be identified in the declaration and impetus provided for the adoption of urgent measures.

Lastly, we are convinced that the venue for a summit meeting must be the capital of Kazakhstan – a country that meets all the conditions for holding such an event. In this connection, we cannot but mention that the constant calls heard within the OSCE for increased attention to be paid to Central Asia, and the words spoken about the importance of the Kazakh Chairmanship as the first Central Asian country to chair our Organization, should be backed up by concrete decisions in support of its capital city being selected as the venue for the proposed summit. This will be a test as to whether the statements made are in line with the true intentions of the participating States in support of the Chairmanship.

Thank you for your attention.