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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY
CO-OPERATION AND THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 July 2010

**Regarding the presentation of the OSCE Chairmanship's interim report on
the Corfu Process**

Mr. Chairperson of the Permanent Council,
Mr. Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation,

First of all, we should like to congratulate the Chairmanship on the completion of the comprehensive and difficult work connected with the preparation of the interim report, in which the discussions held within the framework of the Corfu Process are outlined and the proposals put forward by the participating States are summarized. In this way, the Kazakh Chairmanship has fully met its commitments in terms of the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/09 adopted in Athens.

It can indeed be said that an enormous amount of work has been done, which has made it possible to bring together various, frequently inconsistent ideas and proposals by many countries, including the Russian Federation. All in all, there are more than 50 position papers, so-called food-for-thought papers, touching on various aspects of the OSCE's work. We share the view of the Chairmanship and many States that all the ideas are equal and that there should be no attempt to arrange them in some kind of hierarchy or to draw up a list of priorities.

Of course, Russia is by no means happy with everything in the interim report – we do not agree with quite a number of findings and assessments presented in it. We set out specific comments and thoughts in detail in our statement on the draft report on 23 June, and there is hardly any sense in repeating them again now. In addition, we take the position that the document belongs to the Chairmanship and is of a non-consensus nature.

Nevertheless, it is important that as a result of that document a capacity has been created for the discussion of many constructive initiatives aimed at increasing the effectiveness and improving the work of the OSCE as well as strengthening its role in the formation of a new system of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security.

No less important is the fact that the Corfu Process has helped to restore confidence among the OSCE participating States and made it possible to revive the role of our Organization as a political forum for mutually respectful dialogue on the basis of equal rights.

Now the time has come to move on to the next, more qualitative level. The participating States have to analyse the vast array of proposals and deal with this “intellectual baggage” in a sensible manner. We believe that it would be worth while to do this within the framework of the existing OSCE collective bodies, primarily the Permanent Council, the Forum for Security Co-operation and other working bodies. There is a chance at this new stage to begin work on specific draft decisions likely to obtain the necessary consensus. This is how we see the real value of the Corfu discussions for the interests of all participating States.

We could also continue the practice, as necessary, of holding informal meetings at the level of permanent representatives to discuss unresolved or recurring issues, but they should not take place too frequently, as has been the case this year.

An important milestone will be the informal meeting in Almaty, where the ministers will evaluate the work done and determine the next steps, *inter alia* with regard to the prospects for convening a meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE countries this year. We believe that the agenda proposed by the Kazakh Chairmanship for the informal Ministerial Council meeting will on the whole make it possible to concentrate on the key tasks.

The Corfu Process has contributed to the preparations for the Almaty meeting and a summit. It has made it possible to test strategic ideas shared by many States, the implementation of which would form the basis for our future work. I am referring here primarily to the initiative put forward by France and the Kazakh Chairmanship for the formation of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community. As the discussions have shown, many share this idea. It appeals to us too.

The main thing, however, is that this will make it possible to rise above the traditional OSCE agenda and focus a summit meeting on examining the most important problems of common European security that directly affect the vital interests of our countries and peoples.

It is important that we should agree on substantive content. In our view, key elements that could form the basis for this idea may include the following:

- Creating a common and indivisible security space, free of dividing lines and areas with different levels of security;
- Strengthening strategic partnership among the key organizations operating in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security, with a view to creating a new security architecture and more effectively countering new threats and challenges;
- Reaffirming the basic norms of international law and the principles of inter-State relations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the Charter for Co-operative Security and other CSCE/OSCE decisions and documents;

- Adopting specific steps to overcome the crisis in the area of conventional arms control in Europe, to modernize the pan-European regime of confidence- and security-building measures, *inter alia* through the drafting of a new version of the Vienna Document, and also to approve a programme for further OSCE activities in the area of arms control and confidence-building measures;
- Giving a new quality to co-operation in countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime, as well as threats emanating from the territory of Afghanistan;
- Enhancing the effectiveness of the OSCE, including the drafting of a legally binding constituent document, the strengthening of the decision-making bodies and the agreement of rules for the work of the executive structures;
- Strengthening co-operation and the exchange of positive experience in questions of tolerance and intercultural dialogue.

In conclusion, I should like to stress once more a pivotal thought: under no circumstances must we give up the unique chance of arriving at a summit in Astana at the end of the year with a truly comprehensive and solid document to enable us to form a new “security community” from Vancouver to Vladivostok and to set out the OSCE’s tasks for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your attention.