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

27 January 2011

Regarding the adoption by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of a resolution on illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo

Mr. Chairperson,

We have carefully followed the examination by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of the report by the Swiss senator Dick Marty on the investigation of the accusations regarding inhumane treatment of persons and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo. We are gratified that, following the discussions, an appropriate resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly was adopted by an impressive majority of votes.

That resolution expresses the most serious concern at the fact of the inhumane treatment of persons in the territory, at the numerous crimes uncovered in Senator Marty's report, and at the involvement in those crimes of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army. The Assembly has called on the international agencies, specifically the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX), with the assistance wherever possible of the member States of the Council of Europe, to intensify their efforts to investigate what has happened, without paying attention to what positions the potential suspects may hold and to what may have been the origin of the victims, doing everything possible instead to shed light on the criminal disappearance of human beings, reports on the illicit trafficking of organs taken from them, corruption and deals between organized groups and criminal political circles.

The resolution upholds the Russian position as to the need to carefully investigate all the facts that have come to light and sends an important signal to the international community about the inadmissibility of remaining silent in the face of cruel crimes in Kosovo. We are convinced that the subject of illicit trafficking in human organs must remain at the focus of attention of the world community.

We think it important to provide all possible assistance to the international inquiry aimed at establishing the truth as regards the complicity of the Kosovo-Albanian "upper circle" in what are in terms of their cruelty and inhumanity unprecedented crimes in the most recent history of Europe. In our view, the OSCE must not remain on the sidelines in this matter.

To remain silent, to cover up or to deny the truth in this matter is equatable with the villainy of the crimes that have been committed. Only disclosure of the truth and punishment of the criminals can help to restore confidence and create the necessary conditions for inter-ethnic reconciliation in the Serbian territory and indeed in the region of the West Balkans as a whole – and also, incidentally, to bring back respect for the international community. There is no other way.

Thank you for your attention.