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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY,
AMBASSADOR YUSUF BULUÇ**

**746TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
15 January 2009**

Madame Minister,

I take the floor on a national basis in order, in the first instance, to amplify, in my own words, the remarks of warm welcome and pleasure addressed to you, Madame, in the EU joint statement with which we have aligned ourselves. I think you would expect nothing less from the Mission of your neighboring country. Thank you for being with us and inaugurating not just the Greek Chairpersonship, but also the first working session of the Permanent Council in 2009.

You would recall that we were among those of your partners who have made haste in conveying their congratulations to Greece on its assumption of the political leadership of this Organization, which we highly value. That was mainly out of enlightened self interest, as we saw the Greek Chairmanship, to be followed by that of Kazakhstan, as a trend for the gravitation of the Organization's ownership towards East. We believe this to be a very welcome sign of more than symbolic significance.

In putting forward your candidature to take on the stewardship of this Organization your chancery will have studied the performance and modus operandi of prior chairmanship. While they may have all come in in pursuit of success and glory, admittedly some have concluded their watch with greater success than others. The climate of international relations, even the chemistry of leaderships in personal interaction do indeed either help or hamper success. But respective track records will demonstrate that those who took the principles of intense and thorough consultations, transparency, openness and inclusiveness as key part of their political vocabulary and candidly implemented them, have gone in the annals of the OSCE history with gratifying distinction. Both in practice and in rule the essence of chairmanship is defined as a responsibility to be shouldered in the service of the OSCE community and in their collective

interest. The titles of special or personal representatives should not mislead us. They are not an exception to this rule as prescribed in the provisions of the relevant decision so carefully formulated and adopted by the Ministerial Council in Porto in 2002. I say this not without respect for Chairs' prerogatives. But, they must be exercised with caution and discerningly, as I am sure Greece will do.

Madame Minister, as pointed out in the EU joint statement, we broadly share the priorities set out in your address. The wide canvas of proposed actions you have offered already promise that we should look forward to a highly productive year. That is not withstanding the reality you have so wisely recognized in your speech, I quote "Greece assumes the OSCE Chairmanship at a time when the quest for security in our region has become ever more complex, and when rapid, unpredictable change seems to be the only constant in international relations." unquote. Inadvertently, but perhaps fortunately, succeeding chairperson inherits an agenda from the preceding CiO. While all Chairs should have desired to have their distinct hallmark to define the quality of their leadership and scope of their efforts, they are all required to address that finite agenda. You acknowledged, Madame, that Greece has also inherited one from Finland, whose Chairmanship has also been dotted with several daunting challenges, and expressed a willingness, as a matter of continuity to exercise your leadership in a number of key areas, foremost, in regard to pernicious conflicts, one of which has regrettably proved its destructive potential in 2008. That is a welcome commitment, as several critical ones occur in Turkey's immediate neighborhood, and their progressive settlement would complement our own efforts to propagate stability and prosperity on to the same geography.

Madame, in sharing your vision and perspectives for 2009, you also gave us a list of areas and items of business that are indisputably high on the international agenda and high in the minds of our citizens, as they effect their daily lives. Environment, energy, migration, financial crisis are issues which, by virtue of their definition, are comprised in the concept of comprehensive security. The fact that they are somehow captured in the broad net our activities do not necessarily qualify the OSCE as the most appropriate body to address these questions. While accepting their relevance to security, we should be guided by the criteria of competence, added value, optimization in the application of resources and avoidance of duplication in determining which of those questions we should take on board and within what scope. Maintaining the balance in the pursuit of dimensions, reasonable and equitable allocation of resources, especially under the current dire and worsening economic climate will yield a special premium for a successful Chairmanship.

I am reminded by this reference to current and perhaps prolonged economic crisis leading to shrinking prosperity and opportunities for employment that this phenomenon is likely to exacerbate the dynamic for discrimination and

intolerance. I need to underline that this Organization would not be carrying its weight if our effort were to be confined to addressing just the issues of Roma and Sinti.

In the quotation I borrowed earlier from your address, Madame Minister, regarding the complexity of the international security setting, no doubt, enshrined is the ever so pressing and threatening menace of terrorism. We should be mindful that our efforts to meet our commitments to fight this scourge do not afford to have gaps; they should be seamless. As I cannot forecast that terrorism will relent in 2009, Chairmanship of Greece to lead this effort, also by example, should bring a qualitative difference to the effectiveness of our endeavors in this vital part of our agenda.

In closing Madame, let me underline the sense of reassurance you gave us by emphasizing that implementation of existing commitments and keeping the Organization strong and relevant will remain the highest goals of your tenure. They are our goals too.

We wish you and your team much success.