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

11 November 2010

**In response to the report by the Director of the
OSCE Academy in Bishkek**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have listened attentively to the report by Mr. Maxim Ryabkov and are grateful to him for the ideas that he has expressed. It is our belief that the institution of higher education that he heads is playing an important role in advancing the principles and values of the OSCE in Central Asia. In that sense, the Academy's role far exceeds that of an individual project under the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

What is more, this institution of learning provides a unique platform for an exchange of views on the topical issues involved in the development of the region, helping not only to understand these issues in a purely academic sense but also to work out common approaches in responding to emerging threats to security.

For us it is also important that the Academy is making it possible for promising young people from Central Asian countries to enter into dialogue with one another and to establish contacts, thereby harmoniously helping to overcome the contradictions that, regrettably, emerged so strikingly during the recent events in Kyrgyzstan.

We believe that the Academy is providing a clear example of how it is possible to assist in a non-intrusive manner in tackling the difficult problems confronting Central Asia, whether having to do with disputes regarding water or energy supplies or the sensitive area of inter-ethnic relations. One need only recognize that the people of the region are by themselves capable of regulating the areas in which they can work together, free of any attempts to impose particular forms of assistance.

Russia, with its long historical ties with Central Asia and its extensive experience in co-operating with the region, is prepared to make available to the Bishkek Academy academic and expert support. Teachers from our country have been instructing the students since virtually the first day of the Academy's existence, with experts from Russia playing an active role in the seminars and forums conducted by that institution. It is our hope that this partnership will not only continue but will also take on a fresh dynamic.

In conclusion, permit me to wish Mr. Ryabkov and all his colleagues from the Bishkek Academy further success in their interesting work.

Thank you for your attention.