

PC.DEL/387/11
19 April 2011

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Kyrgyzstan

**STATEMENT BY MS. LYDIA IMANALIEVA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TO
THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 April 2011

Mr. Chairperson,

Even before we met I had been made aware of the full range of impressions and emotions experienced by our colleagues during their stay in my country. We felt the warmth that they brought with them from Kyrgyzstan. The assessment expressed by the esteemed Ambassador, Mr. Heiner Horsten, on behalf of all the participants in the trip will certainly be transmitted to our capital.

I should like to point out in particular that the arrival and subsequent meetings in Bishkek and Osh by the group of ambassadors – and this was no small group but rather a large one – coincided with the anniversary of the April revolution in Kyrgyzstan. I have to admit that until the very last moment there was a question mark hanging over the trip to Osh because of the unstable situation there and the need to ensure the safety of the entire group.

We all remember perfectly well last year, 2010, when the dramatic events began and when, beginning in April, there was not a single meeting of the Permanent Council at which the question of the situation in Kyrgyzstan was not discussed. Let me say frankly, last year was for my country a critical year and at the same time one of the most difficult.

Today Kyrgyzstan is developing along democratic lines. In every ministry public oversight councils have been set up. The republic has succeeded in establishing freedom of speech and assembly, something that a year ago was difficult even to imagine. Almost every day sees demonstrations and meetings at which people are able to express their views. The media are also freely expressing their opinions, with no prohibitions by anyone on their work.

Today we are witnessing a struggle not only with such forces of evil as crime and illicit drug trafficking but also with corruption. For example, audits and reviews are under way at six energy distribution companies, something that was previously never done. A public oversight mechanism is being established. Much is being done not only to stabilize the situation within society but also to ensure that life returns to normal for all segments of the population.

For all of this, however, many problems remain. This was openly discussed at all the meetings held with my colleagues in Bishkek. The President of Kyrgyzstan, Ms. Roza Otunbayeva, shared with them her views on these matters in an open and forthright manner along with her concerns and ideas on how they might be addressed.

Our Head of State spoke of a number of priorities, including the reform of the judicial system, the combating of organized crime and the question of border security. The distinguished ambassadors were able to see this directly for themselves. They were given all the necessary information at first hand. I am deeply convinced that this offers clear confirmation that Kyrgyzstan is more open today than ever before. It simply needs support at what for it is a difficult time of transition. There are things for us to work together on with you. And we are prepared to do so.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.