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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1076th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 November 2015

**In response to the reports by the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and
the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, Mr. Sergey Kapinos, and the Director of the OSCE Academy in the Kyrgyz capital, Mr. Maxim Ryabkov, and thank them for the detailed reports on the work of the structures they head.

We note that the OSCE Centre in Bishkek is assisting the host country authorities in various areas. In that connection, it operates – and this is crucial – within the framework of the financial resources available, in line with the comprehensive programme of reforms being implemented by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and guided by the priorities set out in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development for 2013 to 2017. The OSCE Centre's leadership works closely with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries and departments in order to provide optimum assistance. This approach, whereby the host country itself determines what may be borrowed from the experience of other OSCE participating States with account taken of its national characteristics and current needs, was conceived by the founding fathers of the OSCE. This philosophy is enshrined in paragraph 41 of the Charter for European Security. We trust that the other OSCE field missions will also adhere to this principle.

The fact that the OSCE Centre in Bishkek has developed a mechanism for co-operating with other international organizations present in Kyrgyzstan in order to avoid duplication of effort is also commendable.

In view of the extremely unstable situation in Afghanistan and the continuing conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, we believe it absolutely justified for the Centre's programmatic activities to focus on supporting the measures being taken by Bishkek to strengthen the national borders and capacity-building to counter various threats. We note the co-operation between the border authorities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as contacts with the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and other field missions of the Organization in

Central Asia. This is important and timely work, seamlessly complementing regional co-operation under the auspices of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

We should also like to highlight the OSCE Centre's programmes in important areas such as strengthening national unity and inter-ethnic harmony, and combating terrorism, the drug threat, corruption, money-laundering and trafficking in human beings. We attach great importance to the project to train Kyrgyz customs officials in the light of the country's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union. The efforts to support the major police reform by the Kyrgyz authorities along with reforms in the justice and prison systems also deserve a mention. We look forward to the successful transfer of the Community Security Initiative project to the host country authorities. In conjunction with project activities in other areas, this enables the OSCE to make a concrete contribution to strengthening State institutions in Kyrgyzstan, facilitating a more effective solution to the challenges facing the country.

Now for a few words about the activities of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. We believe that throughout its work the Academy has proved itself to be a successful project, facilitating in practice not only training but also dialogue and rapprochement among young people from Central Asian countries. It is difficult to overestimate this aspect of its work. The Academy's plans to develop research programmes and improve educational methods and various aspects of the learning process as a whole are commendable.

Mr. Chairperson,

The strategic alliance between the Russian Federation and the Kyrgyz Republic is based not only on geographical proximity but also on their historical experience, shared language, similar mentality and a multitude of kindred, cultural and human ties between the peoples of our two countries. We firmly believe that the Kyrgyz Republic's recent accession to the Eurasian Economic Union will contribute to continuing national development, strengthening multilateral ties with neighbours in the region and increasing the prosperity of its citizens. As Kyrgyzstan's close and long-time friend, the Russian Federation intends to remain a reliable partner in the future as well.

In conclusion, we should like to wish the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, Mr. Kapinos, and the Director of the OSCE Academy, Mr. Ryabkov, continued success in their activities.

Thank you for your attention.