



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY**

**In Response to the Report of  
Ambassador Sergey Kapinos, Head of Centre in Bishkek and  
Dr. Pal Dunay, Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek**

**(1001<sup>st</sup> Permanent Council, 22 May 2014)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

We join the previous speakers in warmly welcoming Ambassador Kapinos back to the Permanent Council and would like to express our thanks for his comprehensive presentation. We appreciate the balanced and objective approach that highlights his report. It underlines the progress Kyrgyzstan achieved in further aligning its policies with OSCE commitments, and the developments it has achieved in its reform path. It is pleasing to see the fruitful cooperation and the Centre's close engagement with the Kyrgyz authorities and civil society.

Enjoying deep-rooted cultural and historical bonds, the bilateral relations and cooperation between Turkey and Kyrgyzstan have evolved rapidly since early 1990s and reached the level of strategic partnership. We have been cooperating with our Kyrgyz friends to alleviate the hardships they face in the transformation process of their country. We maintain our close cooperation also in regional organizations such as Turkic Council and TURKPA, as well as in other international platforms. The exemplary nature of our relations was once again manifest during the meeting between Prime Minister Erdoğan and Prime Minister Otorbaev in Ankara last week. This visit provided a propitious opportunity to reaffirm at the highest level our countries' determination to further strengthen the entire range of our bilateral cooperation to our mutual interest, particularly in the economic field, as also referred to in Centre's report.

Turkey welcomes the steps that Kyrgyzstan has taken in its democratic transformation process. The five strategic priority areas set forth by the Centre are also at the basis of our bilateral cooperation. We support the Centre's efforts to achieve concrete results in those key areas.

Turkey, with its longstanding policy of contributing to peace and stability in and around Central Asia, provides financial and personnel support both to the Community Security Initiative (CSI) and the ongoing police reform program in Kyrgyzstan in addition to its engagement with Kyrgyz national authorities at the bilateral level. CSI's role in improving the relations between the national police and Kyrgyz people as well as its efforts to build trust and confidence among different ethnic communities deserves our appreciation. Turkey will maintain its assistance to this successful project which has achieved concrete positive results in a short period.



Mr. Chairperson,

Kyrgyzstan is located in a region that faces serious security challenges. In this sense, the international community's sustainable support to the countries in the region to strengthen their capacity to cope with these challenges is of utmost importance. With this frame of mind, we provide expert training to the Kyrgyz security forces in countering terrorism, preventing violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT), and fighting organized crime. Kyrgyzstan's increased engagement with Afghanistan, to which the Centre contributed significantly, is pleasing in terms of regional security and stability.

Finding a sustainable solution to bring border conflicts to an end and to ensure their prevention would constitute another important contribution to regional security and stability. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the Kyrgyz authorities, in cooperation with the Centre, to enhance their dialogue with neighbouring countries on border matters. Likewise, the coordination and cooperation between the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the OSCE Office in Tajikistan in border related issues provide a good example for other OSCE field missions in this direction.

We also welcome the Centre's efforts in the human dimension, which is an indispensable component of the security concept in Central Asia. In this regard, the penitentiary reforms and the works on preventing torture and ill-treatment deserve particular appreciation. We encourage the Centre to benefit more from Turkey's experiences in this field.

Mr. Chairperson,

We also welcome Dr. Dunay, in his capacity as the Director of the OSCE Bishkek Academy, to the Permanent Council and thank him for his insightful presentation about the programmes and activities of the Academy. As one of its donor countries, we appreciate the Academy's work in a wide range of issues related to regional security dialogue and research in Central Asia. The Academy plays a significant role to train and educate young experts on regional security and development, who are very much needed in Central Asia.

In conclusion, we thank Ambassador Kapinos, Dr. Dunay and their able team for their hard work and wish them a continued success in their future endeavours.

Thank you.