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

3 September 2009

**Regarding the report by Ambassador Arsim Zekolli,
Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat**

Madam Chairperson,

We join in welcoming Ambassador Zekolli, the distinguished Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat. We thank him for his informative and, in our view, balanced presentation on the work of his field mission during the period covered by the report. At the same time, we would propose that in future reports there be a greater focus on the practical aspects of the mandate and less on the description of the internal political situation in the host country.

We support the Centre's concentration on the problems of countering the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and arms and also of combating transnational crime and terrorism. We welcome the steps that are being taken to assist in training Turkmen specialists in these areas for the national agencies concerned.

We note the Centre's considerable efforts in the areas of economic development and environmental protection. We regard as important the help being given to the Government of Turkmenistan in matters involving support for agriculture, the improvement of the transport infrastructure, the rational use of water and earth resources, and in other areas.

We also support the development of a constructive dialogue between the field mission and the authorities of the host country on such matters as combating trafficking in human beings, informing the public about their rights, and reform of the prison system.

On the whole, we should like to note in a positive manner the OSCE Ashgabat Centre's efforts to expand and strengthen co-operation with the Government of Turkmenistan and to implement projects in full accordance with the wishes and consent of the host government. We regard this kind of approach as a key condition for the successful planning and implementation of projects, including extrabudgetary projects. At the same time, we think it important that Ashgabat participate actively not only in the formulation but also in the actual carrying out of various programmes.

Only in this case can one speak of the creation and strengthening of a national potential for independently solving the problems with which the Centre is primarily concerned and for gradually transferring its functions to the authorities of the host country. We repeat that, in accordance with paragraph 41 of the Charter for European Security, this is the ultimate objective of every OSCE mission.

In conclusion, we should like to wish Ambassador Zekolli and the staff of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat every success in their future work.

Thank you for your attention.