

PC.DEL/522/11
3 June 2011

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

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

2 June 2011

Regarding the arrest of Ratko Mladić

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the arrest on 26 May on the territory of Serbia of Ratko Mladić, who is accused by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, we should like to note the following points.

The position of Russia as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and guarantor of the Dayton Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina remains unchanged. According to the relevant Security Council resolutions, all persons responsible for war crimes on the territory of the former Yugoslavia must appear before the court regardless of their ethnic affiliation or citizenship. We wish to stress that guilt for crimes committed is individual and cannot be placed on States or ethnic entities.

We trust that the forthcoming trial of Ratko Mladić will be fair and impartial. We expect that the consideration of this case will not be used to artificially drag out the activities of the Tribunal. We stress the need for the earliest possible conclusion of the Tribunal's work in line with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and for its conversion into a mechanism of residual competence.

Thank you for your attention.