

PC.DEL/524/11
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

**On the statement by the United States of America regarding the
gay parade in Moscow**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the representative of the United States of America for the attention given to events in our country. We note the desire of our American partners to pack the agenda of the Permanent Council with new subject matter, which, if we understand them correctly, is designed to increase the OSCE's contribution to the strengthening of common and indivisible security from Vancouver to Vladivostok. If our distinguished colleagues believe that the problem of the self-expression of individual representatives of sexual minorities deserves greater attention within the walls of our Organization, we are prepared to discuss this matter in the Human Dimension Committee.

In response to the concerns that have been voiced regarding the gay parade in Moscow, we should like to reply with a single phrase from the recent statement by the distinguished Ms. Carol Fuller in connection with the breaking up of a demonstration in Tbilisi: "The meeting was illegitimate since it had been banned by the authorities". We have nothing to add.

Speaking personally, I would merely note that the Moscow police acted in a way strictly consistent with the law, taking decisive action to prevent clashes between the participants in the march and citizens whose attitude was one of protest.

Thank you for your attention.