

PC.DEL/606/11
23 June 2011

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

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

22 June 2011

**In response to the statement by
His Excellency Eamon Gilmore, Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland**

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome His Excellency Eamon Gilmore, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, and thank him for his interesting and informative statement outlining the priorities of the upcoming Irish Chairmanship of the OSCE.

Minister,

The fact that you have come to Vienna is evidence of Ireland's serious attitude to these honourable and at the same time responsible functions. We are impressed by Ireland's intention to act as an honest broker and strive to involve all participating States positively in resolving the tasks facing us. We welcome the intention to present a set of priorities that will ensure a balanced approach to our Organization's work across all three dimensions. In this context, we support the goal of continuing to elaborate the action plan for implementing the decisions of the Astana Summit which was begun by the Lithuanian Chairmanship.

Achieving concrete results in the politico-military dimension is the key to the success of efforts to further a single indivisible security community in the OSCE region. We trust that through our joint efforts we shall make specific progress in this area. In this regard, your comments on the vital importance of continuing work on updating the Vienna Document 1999 resonate with us. We cannot but welcome your attitude to overcoming the impasse in the area of establishing effective arms control regimes.

We are in full agreement with the significance noted by the Minister of increasing efforts in the area of combating transnational threats and challenges. Adopting a substantial package of decisions in this regard at the Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius, including the OSCE counter-narcotics concept, will create the necessary political conditions for this work.

We welcome the aim of the next Chairmanship to take steps towards the peaceful resolution of the remaining conflicts in the OSCE area within existing formats for negotiation and in accordance with the principles of international law. The positive experience which Ireland accumulated in finding a peaceful resolution to the Northern Ireland problem will undoubtedly be of great assistance in this work.

An issue which is just as pressing for Russia is further increasing the effectiveness of the OSCE itself, completing its establishment as an institution, which we associate above all with the drafting and adoption of a constituent document. We trust there will be positive progress in these issues and, naturally, that the Irish Chairmanship will be open to specific initiatives for increasing the effectiveness of the Organization.

We note that Ireland has placed the human dimension at the top of its list of future priorities. This is certainly one of the key areas of the OSCE's activity together with the other dimensions which are equally significant. There are a large number of issues which are of special interest to Russia, particularly ensuring the right of freedom of movement and also the liberalization of the visa regimes. The commitments adopted by the OSCE in this area are an extremely important element of the total "package" of fundamental human rights and freedoms. They include countering intolerance and discrimination and defending the rights of national minorities.

It is well known that the elections which have taken place recently in a number of participating States revealed an ambiguous attitude to the assessments of the monitoring missions of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). All this testifies to the urgency of introducing significant revisions to the ODIHR's methodology and practice in its election monitoring work. We trust that the Irish Chairmanship will devote due attention to this problem.

Minister,

Your statement coincides with a sad day. Exactly 70 years ago, Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union. The exhibition of photographs on display here in the Hofburg reminds us of the terrible days at the beginning of that war. We hope that in planning its work in the human dimension, the Irish Chairmanship does not forget the importance of countering any manifestations of neo-Nazism.

For our part, we confirm Russia's determination to contribute in any way we can to the success of the Irish Chairmanship. We are willing to co-operate closely and productively both here in Vienna and in Dublin.

Thank you for your attention.