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**STATEMENT BY MR. OLEG BURMISTROV,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 April 2011

In connection with the demonstration in Baku

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to say a few words about unauthorized gatherings and meetings, which are frequently discussed in this room.

We do not in any way deny the right of citizens of any democratic State to organize gatherings, meetings, processions or demonstrations but nevertheless believe that this right should be exercised in strict compliance with the laws of the country concerned. Moreover, the maintenance of public order and the absence of threats to the life and health of the population are indispensable prerequisites for such activities. In our opinion, another important condition is the binding agreement of the local authorities on the time and place for such meetings and demonstrations.

We believe that these considerations should be taken into account when assessing the events of 2 April in Baku.

Thank you for your attention.