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

16 December 2010

Regarding the elections to the Kosovo Assembly

Mr. Chairperson,

We do not regard as legitimate the elections held on 12 December 2010 to the Kosovo Assembly for the reason that those elections were organized by the authorities of the self-proclaimed “Republic of Kosovo”. It is noteworthy that the international election monitoring agencies have from the outset declined to certify these elections.

Also noteworthy is the fact that the participation in these elections of the Serbian community within the territory was extremely limited and that in the north of Kosovo the Serbs totally boycotted this event.

A source of concern is the “success” in the elections of the extremely radical Kosovo-Albanian parties and, in particular, the “Self-Determination” movement, which is in favour of the creation of a “Greater Albania”.

The observers speak of serious violations during the voting process. Machinations involving voter lists, the use of counterfeit ballots and repeated voting by the same persons were encountered.

Another confirmation of the dysfunctionality of the Kosovo quasi-State can be seen in the evidence pointing to the involvement of highly placed government figures of the so-called “Republic of Kosovo” in criminal activities. These facts were uncovered earlier and have again been reconfirmed.

I am referring specifically to the report by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe prepared by Mr. Dick Marty of Switzerland on the inhuman treatment of persons and on the illegal removal of human organs. The report contains facts and serious accusations against Hashim Thaci, the present leader of the Democratic Party of Kosovo, who until recently held the post of head of the Kosovan Government. He is accused of directing organized criminal associations that for a number of years were engaged in smuggling narcotic drugs and weapons and that were directly involved in notorious cases having to do with murders and the trade in human organs.

This situation explains the reasons for the inability or, possibly, the unwillingness of the “authorities” of the territory to combat the high level of crime as well as other serious problems, primarily the regularly occurring cases of intimidation of and attacks on the non-Albanian population of Kosovo. Among the vivid examples of this that might be cited I might mention the disconnection of electric power to coincide with the beginning of the heating season in a number of communities with non-Albanian residents, including persons of Serbian and Croatian origin, and to the Serbian medical centre in Caglavica and Vrbovac, the Serbian primary school in Kamenica and the primary and secondary school in the village of Vrbovac. During the last month alone the Orthodox church in the village of Donja Budriga was looted, Serbian graves in Decani were desecrated, bullets were fired at a Serbian cemetery in Suva Reka and a refugee’s house was set alight in Petric, not to mention two incidents in the Serbian village of Zac, which I, unfortunately, am regularly compelled to mention in my statements.

We believe that the international community does not have the right to remain indifferent in the face of circumstances when illegitimate elections are organized in the territory and when odious personalities, who not for the first time stand accused of cruel crimes beyond the limits of human morality, proclaim themselves the victors.

Thank you for your attention.