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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY AMBASSADOR
YUSUF BULUÇ, IN RESPONSE TO H.E. DR. DIMITRIJ RUPEL, MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SLOVENIA**

**697TH MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
24 JANUARY 2008**

Warm welcome to Minister Rupel in his capacity representing the Presidency of the EU.

His visit comes fast in the footsteps of the CiO Minister Kanerva of Finland. That the Permanent Council is addressed in a quick succession by two Ministers in leading roles of international politics fills its participants with a sense of pride and instills a somewhat boosted sense of self importance.

Minister Rupel needs no introduction to the Permanent Council of the OSCE. Driven by the challenges of OSCE Chairmanship just over two years ago the Minister awed us with his dedication to this Organization, impressed us with his energy, deep understanding of our issues and candidness in sharing his assessments and with the transparency in his actions. Together with his team of able hands, he translated Slovene Chairmanship into a model for skilled diplomacy and proved the value of compactness as a key to effectiveness. If succeeding Chairs have and are enjoying a bit of tranquillity and predictability we partly owe it to Slovene stewardship.

We recall the tenure of Slovenian Chairmanship also for the admirable conviction with which Minister Rupel has put Tolerance and Non-discrimination as a key plank of the Slovenian agenda that resulted in a Ministerial Council decision in Ljubljana. The momentum created by Minister Rupel's initiative, while it may have lost some of its propelling power, continues to stimulate the relevant work of the OSCE. The emphasis he placed to inter-cultural dialogue today underscores the EU Presidency's and his personal sustained commitment to the subject.

Listening to the addresses by the two Ministers of Finland and Slovenia, the first yardstick one applies to judge the merit and potential benefit to the community of the policies

enshrined in these statements is whether they complement each other and apply deliberate measure to avoid duplication. Let me express satisfaction in the observation that they do.

The perspectives in addressing global security challenges and enhancing cooperation regarding the political prospects in the Western Balkans and Central Asia provide more evidence for a welcome dose of complementarity.

Not wishing to be unduly gloomy, but our forecast is that there lies ahead of us several potential developments which may test the ability of the OSCE and the European Union to work together and benefit from the optimizing synergies of doing so. The ensuing experience will yield several lessons, no doubt. An important one would be that there is greater premium to be had by the two Organizations when they work in complementarity and each institution is empowered to do what it does best.

Not just the Balkans, that my remarks imply, but also the Caucasus will need synergy and complementarity in action in the coming period. My country with its central geostrategic location and its mutually supportive policies will remain a close collaborator, a party which has express interest in the success of these policies and actions, not least in the achievements of ENP.

A country which has embarked on the road to EU membership as a candidate Turkey is eager to reap the mutual gains that this journey will engender for all its fellow travellers, member and candidate alike, provided that the time tested principle of “pacta sunt servanda”, grounded in international law, and mutual obligation to adhere to reciprocal commitments will be the compass of that journey. Our legitimate expectations from the Slovenian Presidency will have been conveyed to Minister Rupel in other and more appropriate settings.

Thank you for being with us once again Minister Rupel. Thank you Chairman.