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**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RINA PRIJIVOIT,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGZ REPUBLIC TO
THE OSCE, AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE
PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 July 2008

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Kyrgyzstan, which currently holds the chairmanship of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), allow me to welcome Mr. Sergey Lebedev, the distinguished Chairman of the Executive Committee and the Executive Secretary of the CIS, and to thank him for his interesting and informative statement. Since 5 October 2007, you, Mr. Lebedev, have headed the CIS Executive Committee. This is a difficult and painstaking job, but you are not a person to shy away from difficulties.

As the holder of the chairmanship of the CIS this year and as a member country of the Commonwealth, the Kyrgyz Republic is interested in further strengthening the structure and mechanisms of the Commonwealth of Independent States so as to be able to resolve existing problems, enhance the effectiveness of the organization's activities and enable the participating countries to achieve a high level of co-operation in the process of its reform.

For the good of the entire Commonwealth we wish you every success in your responsible position.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.