



STATEMENT BY THE TURKISH DELEGATION

In Response to the Report of Ambassador Ivo Petrov Head of Centre in Ashgabat

(1002nd Permanent Council, 29 May 2014)

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Petrov back to the Permanent Council. We express thanks for his detailed presentation.

The Centre's report highlights a period of unprecedented development in the cooperation and collaboration between Turkmenistan and the OSCE. The first invitation extended to ODIHR to follow the parliamentary elections of December 15, 2013; and the first ever address by H.E. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, are only two among important concrete steps within this ambit. The steadily growing cooperation in all three dimensions, as underlined in the report, is pleasing. We wish to see this positive trend continue.

In his address to the Permanent Council, Minister Meredov emphasized Turkmenistan's commitment to a broad and constructive partnership with the OSCE and the participating states in the interest of peace, security, stability and sustainable development. We encourage the Office to continue making best use of this commitment to ensure further progress in engagement with Turkmenistan in all areas of potential cooperation.

On our part we are lending full support to such cooperation. The visit by high level Turkmen officials to observe penitentiary facilities in Turkey, and that by officials from the Turkmenistan Traffic Department to the Training Centre of our Ministry of Interior are concrete examples in this regard.

I also wish to refer to the active and important role Turkmenistan has been playing in the area of energy security and sustainability, highlighted by the trans-Caspian natural gas pipeline project together with other projects that are either ongoing or under consideration. We need to build further upon the already high level cooperation we entertain with Turkmenistan in the field of energy security. Within this context, the increasing need to strengthen regional energy cooperation, and to ascertain security and reliability of energy transport and infrastructure, point to the importance of enhancing regional cooperation while promoting sustainable energy solutions and increasing energy savings and efficiency. I would be amiss if I did not commend our Turkmen brothers at this juncture for having hosted the high level international conference on "Energy Security and Sustainability; the OSCE perspective" last October in Ashgabat.



Mr. Chairperson,

Turkmenistan correctly follows the current situation and the period ahead in Afghanistan very closely. Within this context, we welcome Turkmenistan's contribution and assistance to Afghanistan, engagement in regional dialogue, and promotion of regional ownership.

Lastly, I wish to emphasize how Turkey and Turkmenistan enjoy excellent relations and an exemplary cooperation in a wide array of areas including economy, commerce, energy, agriculture, health, tourism, culture and education to name a leading few. Our bilateral relations are solidly based on interaction between our peoples who enjoy a common culture.

While concluding, we would like to reiterate once more our support to the continuing work carried out by the Office and to wish Ambassador Petrov and his able team every success in their future undertakings.

Thank you.

