



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՊԱՏՎԻՐԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement
in Response to the Report of Ambassador Andrey Sorokin, Head of the
OSCE Office in Yerevan
delivered by Ambassador Arman Kirakossian at the 1005th Meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council

June 19, 2014

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to warmly welcome Ambassador Sorokin to the Permanent Council and thank him for the comprehensive report.

At the outset, we would like to reiterate our strong support to the activities of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. The close and efficient interaction between my Government and the OSCE Office clearly reflects the high level of cooperation of Armenia with OSCE. It also indicates the resoluteness of Armenia in implementation of its OSCE commitments in all three dimensions.

The current report does not merely cover the implementation of the Armenia's OSCE commitments and the contribution of the Yerevan Office to that end. It entails a comprehensive assessment of Armenia's democratic development throughout last year and its consideration here in the Permanent Council tends to be transformed into a peer review of one participating state.

On various occasions there were certain voices on necessity of voluntary peer review in the OSCE and yet only those countries undergo similar procedure who host full-fledged OSCE offices. It should be mentioned that the Yerevan Office remains the only fully fledged OSCE field mission in the South Caucasus. Without thoroughly dismissing merits of assessing country performance in general, we will encourage participating states to use any occasion for voluntary peer review on the implementation of their OSCE commitments as well.

We were pleased to note that the Head of the OSCE Office shares our assessment on the close cooperation and support from my Government, which creates positive and conducive environment for steady progress of the Office's programmatic activities.

While acknowledging the successful performance of the OSCE Office we should stress that it is based on strong national ownership and the solidarity of my Government, all political forces and the Armenian society on the need to ensure further irreversible progress in democratization and sustainable development of Armenia.

Let me turn to evaluation of some programmatic activities of the Office from the point of view of the host country.

Political-Military Dimension: The key programmes of the OSCE Office in this dimension continue to focus on further strengthening trust and confidence between the society and the Police through enhancing the new model of community policing to the regions of Armenia and supporting modernization of Police educational institutions. The continuity and sustainability of our cooperation in the field of police reform and democratic policing is the key prerequisite of success of this programme. Another important programme in the first dimension continues to be strengthening democratic control of Armed Forces, the important elements of which are: supporting Armenia in implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct, raising the awareness of the military personnel on their rights, training of international humanitarian law and supporting the comprehensive security sector reform. We would like to commend the ability of the Office to coordinate the contribution of other international stakeholders in this area, namely the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the Government of Austria and creating synergy in their efforts.

We are proud to mention that these programmes have already resulted in decrease of number of human rights violations in our Armed Forces. Therefore, they could serve as best practices for countries of our region and wider OSCE Area.

Economic and Environmental Dimension: In this dimension the flagship programme, as Ambassador Sorokin eloquently mentioned continues to be the regulatory framework reform which already has positive impact on our GDP rate.

Human Dimension: Strengthening democratic structure and promoting human rights standards stands high in the agenda of my Government. The Office was active in implementation of third dimension programmes and it contributed to development of democratic institutions, and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms. We made remarkable progress especially in the field of freedom of media and combating trafficking in human beings. While commenting the Offices's activity in the third dimension we should also highlight the interaction and partnership with the OSCE institutions, in particular with the Representative on freedom of the Media.

In the end, we would like to take the opportunity to commend the personal role of Ambassador Sorokin in successful performance of the Office and wish him further success in his responsible mission.

Thank you.