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**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR YUSUF BULUÇ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
IN RESPONSE TO MRS. EVA BIAUDET,
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND COORDINATOR FOR COMBATING
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

(22 November 2007, Permanent Council)

Mr. Chairman,

We warmly welcome Mrs. Biaudet to the Permanent Council and thank her for both her presentation today and her written report which complements her Annual Report circulated earlier this month. As we joined the statement made by the European Union in alignment, my remarks will be complementary and brief.

The activity reports of the Special Representative clearly indicate that in the first year of her tenure, she was prompt in acquainting herself with the setting and the circumstances in the OSCE area regarding trafficking in human beings through country visits, contacts with other international organizations and NGOs. We also appreciate that she is in direct contact with the victims and the organizations which try to assist them.

The Special Coordinator has put high in her agenda that all forms of trafficking are tackled with equal determination in line with the OSCE commitments. Her active engagement in the preparations for a Ministerial Council decision on combating trafficking for labour exploitation has been very useful in channeling the relevant recommendations put forward by the experts during the Alliance Conferences since 2005. This contribution should be regarded as a good practice for the interaction

between the participating States and the institutions of the OSCE in the Human Dimension Committee.

We support the priorities set by the Special Representative for the year 2008. Child trafficking and the question of prevention are indeed pressing issues that require extra attention and focus. Her intention to explore the linkages between trafficking in human beings and the structural problems which enable exploitation is also appreciated by my delegation.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, as for the recent developments regarding Turkey's efforts in the fight against trafficking in human beings, I am pleased to inform you that a new and updated Action Plan has been prepared and soon to be approved. 2006 Report on Combating Human Trafficking has been approved by the National Task Force. The Report is available also in English. Furthermore, our efforts to foster regional cooperation on anti-trafficking continue unabated. In October this year, Turkey, as the Chairman of both the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and the Budapest Process, organized in Istanbul a Conference on "Trafficking in the Human Beings in the Black Sea Region" in cooperation with the UNODC. The conclusions of the Conference will be available through electronic distribution today. Several references in the Report to the OSCE and to its competence in setting standards should be read as evidence of the compatibility of what is done regionally with the collective objectives we pursue.

In concluding, let me assure Mrs. Biaudet our continued support to her personally and to the activities of her Office. Given her successes so far, she has set herself a pretty high yardstick to measure her achievements in the years to come.

Thank you.