



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY**

*In Response to the Report by Ambassador Markus Mueller
Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan*

(1003rd Permanent Council, 5 June 2014)

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I join the previous speakers in welcoming Ambassador Müller back to the Permanent Council and would like to express our thanks for his informative presentation. We are pleased that the constructive relationship between the Office and the Tajik Government gives rise to fruitful projects as well as productive and effective activities not only across Tajikistan but the whole region.

As we have been expressing time and again, the transition period in Afghanistan puts the efforts for regional security and stability with the ownership of the countries in the region high on OSCE's agenda. In this regard, we appreciate the focus of the Office on engaging and assisting the host government in countering regional security threats. Particular focus on integrated border management on the Tajik-Afghan border covering not only the security aspect but also other related areas such as trade and transportation is both timely and necessary. The training provided on competent patrolling, which is a key element of efficient border management, and the efforts to facilitate cross-border cooperation between border security agencies and their counterparts in neighboring states deserve our appreciation.

Furthermore, we believe that regional dialogue is key for finding peaceful solutions to border related issues. For this reason, we welcome all efforts directed to assist the relevant structures.

Turkey strongly supports the activities of the Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in contributing to border security. This is an excellent example of capacity building through training. We are pleased to observe that in the last five years since its establishment, the BMSC has strengthened its scope and international outreach, and is now actively contributing to a transfer of expertise and best practice to border staff, not only in Tajikistan but also in Afghanistan. As one of the donors of this exemplary institution, I take this opportunity to express once again our earnest belief that BMSC should be included in the Unified Budget.

Mr. Chairperson,

We observe with appreciation that the activities related to economic and environmental issues constitute a considerable part of the Office's efforts. Moreover, the efforts towards promoting regional economic cooperation, improving business climate and combating corruption are valuable tools for enhancing the economic situation in the country and beyond.



On the other hand we welcome the progress that Tajikistan has made in the third dimension, particularly on preventing torture and ill treatment. Tajikistan's cooperation with the Office and the support given to the relevant authorities on this issue are important.

Last but not least, we want to emphasize that enhanced cooperation between the Office and the embassies of the participating states in Dushanbe will pave the way for more productive results in terms of the OSCE's effectiveness in Tajikistan. We encourage you in this direction. Actually our views in this regard were thoroughly expressed during yesterday's informal meeting.

Before concluding, we wish to underline our conviction that Tajikistan's steady progress and the Office's contribution to this will continue in the future. We thank Ambassador Müller and his team for their work and wish every success in their future endeavors.

Thank you.

