

PC.DEL/290/10
22 April 2010

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Uzbekistan

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 April 2010

**In response to the statement by the Permanent Representative of
Tajikistan to the OSCE, Mr. Nuriddin Shamsov**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have listened with interest to the statement by the Tajik Ambassador, Mr. Nuriddin Shamsov, outlining the views of the Government of Tajikistan regarding the alleged “transport blockade” imposed by Uzbekistan on goods bound for Tajikistan that are currently on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

We should like to put the record straight with respect to this matter.

Considerable efforts are currently under way in Uzbekistan to ensure that railway wagons loaded with commercial goods bound for the Republic of Tajikistan can get through.

Tajik import-export goods in transit through the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan are transported along three routes to designated stations located on the Dushanbe, Kurgan-Tube and Sogd segments of the Tajik railway.

As at 12 April of this year, 1,298,100 tons of transit goods had been transported, including 1,081,500 tons into Tajikistan and 216,600 tons out of Tajikistan.

A total of 374,800 tons have been transported via the border station at Bekabad to the Sogd segment of the Tajik railway and 790,500 tons of transit goods have been transported via the border station at Kudukli to the Dushanbe segment.

On 12 April 2010, 1,203 wagons with freight bound for the Dushanbe segment of the railway and 225 wagons bound for the Sogd segment, all operating according to schedules for the delivery of freight, were on the railway company’s territory.

There are no problems as regards the passage of transit goods at the border stations of Bekabad and Kudukli bound for Dushanbe and Sogda.

It should be mentioned that the current situation is having a negative effect on Uzbekistan's economy (losses incurred as result of railway wagons standing idle amount to approximately 3.5 million US dollars per year).

In addition, we are facing certain difficulties regarding the transit of freight bound for Kurgan-Tube because of the massive increase in freight traffic and the heavy burden being placed on the railway infrastructure at this segment in connection with Uzbekistan's commitments under international agreements to ensure the passage of non-military and humanitarian goods for Afghanistan as well as a considerable increase in freight traffic and in the volume of goods transported during the first quarter of 2010.

I should like to inform the Permanent Council that during the period between April 2009 and March 2010 a total of 14,900 containers and 120,000 tons of freight bound for Afghanistan were transported across the territory of Uzbekistan. A total of 15 trains pass through our country each month.

Despite the fact that the problems regarding the delayed transit through the territory of Uzbekistan of railway wagons with goods bound for Tajikistan are largely of a technical and logistical nature and due to a massive increase in freight traffic and the heavy burden being placed on the Republic's railway infrastructure, the Tajik side is accusing Uzbekistan of violating the regulatory documents concluded earlier regarding international freight transit and is trying to politicize this matter.

In this connection, we should like to stress that Uzbekistan believes it is unacceptable to give a political slant to this question and inadmissible to involve international organizations, including the OSCE, in the resolution of matters of a bilateral nature. We firmly believe that their discussion in such a format is counter-productive.

Thank you for your attention.