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**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY,  
AMBASSADOR YUSUF BULUÇ, IN RESPONSE TO  
H.E. BENITA FERRERO-WALDNER,  
EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND ENP**

**699<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
31 JANUARY 2008**

We warmly welcome the distinguished Commissioner in our midst. Her appearance before the Permanent Council, coming on the heels of H.E. Dr. Rupel's address to the Council last week, represents and confirms the mutually felt necessity of intensified communication and close cooperation between the EU and the OSCE. Today, this cooperation is of crucial significance as, in view of a few issues facing our community, failing to do so will carry equally significant penalties.

While I shall do my utmost not to repeat the elements of my address to Minister Rupel, the theme of ENP is one that is worth being repetitive. The initiatives undertaken within the European Neighborhood Policy and the enlargement strategy demonstrate not only the gravitational pull of the European Union but also the will for a pro-active engagement on the EU side with the candidates and neighbours alike, with a view to addressing the increasing uncertainties in its periphery.

Turkey, both within and beyond the commitments and responsibilities derived from its accession relationship with the European Union, has a high stake in the search to attain enhanced security, stability and prosperity in its region. We share the future as well as the underlying challenges with the countries that the EU has so wisely established contractual relationships through action plans and some other policy devices. Challenges such as terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in human beings, corruption, discrimination, and policies which curtail the enjoyment of democracy by the peoples.

South Caucasus sadly hosts three of the four so-called frozen conflicts in Europe. The success or failure in reaching peaceful and lasting solutions to these protracted conflicts will have repercussions well beyond the region. Likewise, intensified relations with the states of Central Asia will offer a multitude of new opportunities. EU, through its encouraging opening towards its neighbours, has contributed to the emergence of promising perspectives in this region.

The risks posed to the stability and security in the Balkans are high on the agenda of the EU and the OSCE. It should be recalled that existing stabilizing compromises have been accomplished through hard work and skilful diplomacy. The OSCE as well as the EU have huge responsibilities in addressing the legitimate European aspirations of the Balkan people while promoting peaceful co-existence of multi-ethnic societies.

Turkey will continue to support the EU in its efforts to achieve pluralistic democracy and sustainable economic growth which are the main pillars of the stability in its neighborhood. Turkey's membership in the EU will achieve greater validity and soundness to these policies by creating territorial continuity between the current EU geography and some key current and future neighbours.

The present intervention I hope will reaffirm that Madame Commissioner with the high office she is holding enjoys equal doze of appreciation and popularity as Commissioner Rehn does in Turkey.

Thank you for being with us today.