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PC.DEL/189/14
28 February 2014

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
985th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
27 February, 2014

In response to H.E. Rashid Meredov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

Mr. Chairperson,

We warmly welcome H.E. Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, at the OSCE Permanent Council and thank him for presenting the priorities of Turkmenistan in the OSCE. Your presence here is a demonstration of importance Turkmenistan attaches to the OSCE.

Mr. Minister,

Our Delegation is pleased to underline an increasing level of bilateral cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. Our countries enjoy good neighborly relations premised on common history, culture and traditions. We are convinced that these shared values serve as a sound basis for expanding our bilateral ties as well as our partnership in regional and sub-regional multilateral frameworks.

Over the past two decades the Caspian Sea, which unites our nations, has gradually become a strategic crossroad linking Europe with Asia and Northern part of our continent with the Southern one. We very much value such a positive dynamic of developing bilateral and multilateral cooperation at the Caspian, which is aimed at fully utilizing its transit opportunities and integrating our countries into regional and global markets.

Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan are natural partners contributing to energy security of OSCE participating States and cooperation in this area has a great potential for development. Trans-regional projects that we realize and discuss have already brought new realities into the Caspian region, strengthened our independence and sustainable development and significantly improved confidence and stability in the Caspian Sea.

Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan pursue joint efforts aimed at overcoming risks and challenges to regional security. Our law-enforcement and economic structures established good contacts and cooperative relations for fighting transnational threats and simplifying trade and border-crossing procedures at the Caspian Sea.

We are confident that advancing such a mutually beneficial cooperation is in the interests of our nations and we are determined to promote and expand it.

In conclusion, Mr. Minister, we wish you and your able team in Vienna led by our friend Ambassador Nurberdiyev every success in your activities.

Thank you.