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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 January 2010

**In response to the statement by Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos,
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Spain and
President of the European Union**

Mr. Chairman,

We sincerely welcome Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Spain, the country currently holding the Presidency of the European Union and a friendly State, with which Russia enjoys a many-sided and highly developed relationship that it greatly values.

The Spanish Presidency comes during a difficult period when the European Union is having to adapt itself to operating on the basis of the Treaty of Lisbon. We have an objective interest in the successful completion of this stage and in the strengthening and enhancement of the effectiveness of the Union. In supporting the Spanish Presidency's motto "renewing Europe", we hope to see a qualitative improvement in our relations with the European Union.

We attach particular importance to the fact that Minister Moratinos's first foreign visit this year was to Moscow. We see in this not only a wish to impart a fresh impetus to the dynamically developing bilateral political dialogue but also a desire to expand co-operation between the Russian Federation and the European Union. We are counting on progress on a whole range of issues, including the drawing up of a new basic agreement between Russia and the EU, progress towards a visa-free regime and the formalization of co-operation agreements on crisis management and on energy. We also hope for a continuation of the discussions on the proposal by President Medvedev to conclude a Treaty on European Security.

These topics are in many respects also of relevance to the OSCE's current agenda. I am referring primarily to the creation of a security space from Vancouver to Vladivostok where security is the same for all and to the enshrinement in international law of the indivisibility of security. Both the European Union and the OSCE will unquestionably benefit from this. The strengthening of confidence in the Euro-Atlantic region will profit from genuine progress in restoring the viability of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) and in updating the Vienna Document 1999 of the Negotiations on

Confidence- and Security-Building Measures. We once again take this opportunity to call on all our partners to begin intensive work to resolve the issues concerned with hard security.

We are impressed by Mr. Moratinos's view regarding the importance of a collective response to common challenges and threats to security, including the adoption of the necessary measures for conflict prevention and resolution. It is important first of all to ensure stability in the South Caucasus and not to allow any repetition of adventures involving the use of force. We expect that the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia will help to stabilize the situation in that region. No less pressing a task is that of reaching an agreement within the OSCE on uniform principles for crisis response, which would be followed by all countries and international organizations active in the Euro-Atlantic area. The Russian Federation has submitted a draft document on this subject, and we are ready for a constructive discussion on this matter both in the Permanent Council and in the Forum for Security Co-operation.

The achievement of the goal of the Spanish Presidency as regards a stronger, more united and more effective Europe is unthinkable without freedom of movement and the elimination of the remaining dividing lines. We are pleased to note that the Russian and Spanish approaches in this regard largely coincide. We trust that this mindset will come to prevail in the other EU member countries as well. No less pressing for the OSCE is also the problem of ensuring freedom of movement. We should like to take this opportunity to urge our European partners not to forget their commitments in such an important area for human rights and to remember the vital interests of the tens of millions of citizens of Russia and other countries that are not part of the European Union.

We firmly believe that an effective and sound OSCE will help to strengthen co-operation between the two organizations, something that is impossible unless our Organization undergoes comprehensive reform and unless the problem of its legal status is resolved. The drawing up of an OSCE Charter is a matter of paramount importance. We fully share the position taken by Mr. Moratinos, as set out by him in 2007 as the then Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, regarding the importance of imparting fresh impetus to the discussions on strengthening the legal basis for our Organization, including the possibility of agreeing on a constituent document. I might add that the adoption of the Treaty of Lisbon, which defines the mechanisms for the adoption of decisions within the European Union and strengthens its legal foundation, is a graphic example of the necessary adjustment of the procedures governing the operation of an international organization, something that the OSCE greatly requires.

It is our hope that it will prove possible this year to revive the momentum of inter-organizational co-operation among different international, regional and subregional structures on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security, which was adopted by the OSCE in 1999 and to which the European Union made a significant contribution.

We share the view regarding the need for a heightened role by the Central Asian countries in the work of the OSCE. Kazakhstan's Chairmanship is clear evidence of the growing significance of these States in the context of common security problems. Indeed, these countries have much that we can learn from. Close attention, in particular, should be given to Kazakhstan's successful experience in maintaining peace in a multi-ethnic and multi-faith society where people of different ethnic groups and religions live as one single family, without being divided into citizens and non-citizens.

As for the pressing problem of Afghanistan, we support Minister Moratinos's view that the Ministerial Council decision adopted in Madrid in 2007 on the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan was a major step in the provision of assistance by our Organization to that country. That ministerial document retains its relevance today, at a time when there is a need for agreed collective efforts on the part of all countries and organizations in support of the Afghan authorities.

Allow me to conclude by wishing the Spanish Presidency and you personally, distinguished Minister, every success.

Thank you for your attention.