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

20 May 2010

**In response to the remarks by the Secretary of State for  
European Affairs of France**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Secretary of State,

We welcome you and are grateful that you have found the time to share some interesting thoughts with us on the extremely topical and important issue of updating the security architecture in Europe. Russia greatly values France's intellectual and practical contribution to the creation on the European continent of a truly collective and competent system of regional security and to the strengthening of the OSCE's role in this regard.

In this context we welcome the idea of a joint Franco-German Chairmanship of the OSCE.

We should like to take this opportunity to mention the dynamic and constructive work of the French team here in Vienna led by Ambassador François Alabrune.

It is entirely logical, Mr. Minister, that you began your statement by recalling the importance of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 20th anniversary of which we are celebrating this year, in overcoming artificial borders on the European continent. Looking back, we have to recognize the historic mission of that document, which identified the principal areas for strengthening co-operation among the OSCE countries in the interests of building a Greater Europe. We are pleased to note that many of the provisions of the Charter have found practical expression in the constitutions and laws of our countries, in subsequent CSCE/OSCE documents and in conventions of the Council of Europe.

At the same time, it must be recognized that the lofty goal set 20 years ago of creating a common and free Europe is still far from being achieved. This is most clearly reflected in the politico-military sphere. Despite the fact that the Heads of State or Government who signed the Charter of Paris in 1990 recognized the indivisibility of security and the fact that (I quote) "the security of every participating State is inseparably linked to that of all the others" (end of quote), this principle still exists only on paper. Unfortunately, the historic chance to make the OSCE the embodiment of genuine European unity has not been realized. As a result

there is no European architecture that would unite all the OSCE States without exception in a single organization based on comprehensible and legally binding principles and ensuring an equal level of security for all.

The initiative by the President of Russia calling for the conclusion of a Treaty on European Security, the essence of which is to make the principle of the indivisibility of security legally binding, is aimed at resolving this systemic problem. The Russian proposal has given a constructive direction to multilateral dialogue and has secured a place on the international agenda for discussion of the need to develop, in the entire area from Vancouver to Vladivostok, a single space of equal and indivisible security for all States, without dividing lines and areas with different levels of security.

We believe it is important to use all the available multilateral forums for dialogue to discuss this issue. The discussions surrounding the Treaty are not easy, but the main thing is that they have captured the imagination of Europe's politicians and diplomats. What is also important is that there is a growing understanding that the current system of security relations in the Euro-Atlantic region is flawed and in need of adaptation.

The Russian ideas for improving the existing mechanisms concerned with European security have helped to breathe fresh life into the OSCE, within the framework of which the Corfu Process was launched. A rethinking of the role of the OSCE and its institutions is gathering momentum, albeit slowly. Russia is not going to be satisfied with what already exists and we intend to actively promote the reform of this pan-European organization, turning it into a genuinely fully fledged international entity that would be powerful and effective and would in fact strengthen security and co-operation in all the dimensions on the basis of genuine equality and other principles of international law.

Today it is especially pleasing to recall that, in his statement on 8 October 2008 at the World Policy Conference in Evian, the President of France was one of the first European leaders to express his support for a serious discussion of the Russian initiative. And in your words today, Mr. Lellouche, we see shared views as regards the priorities in ensuring pan-European security. The idea of using a possible OSCE Summit to draw up a unifying draft designed to help form a security community in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area is, as we see it, in many respects in keeping with the Russian proposals to create a common space in terms of politico-military security so as to finally put an end to the legacy of the Cold War.

We welcome this approach by our French partners and we trust that intensified dialogue will continue with all interested countries to determine the best ways of strengthening European security. This naturally also involves finding mutually acceptable ways of overcoming the crisis in which the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe currently finds itself.

We are also impressed by your proposal, Mr. Lellouche, regarding the need to improve the co-ordination and agreement of the activities of different organizations dealing with a broad range of security problems in the Euro-Atlantic region. A first step in that direction could be a meeting this year of the heads of the main organizations concerned with security – the European Union, NATO, the OSCE, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Commonwealth of Independent States – to compare their positions as regards the forming of an indivisible security space.

We should like to thank you once again, Mr. Minister, for your interest in the work of the OSCE and for your detailed proposals that are so useful for our day-to-day dialogue.

Thank you for your attention.