



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY**

In Response to the Reports by the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference and the Head of the High-Level Planning Group (HLPG)

(1025th Permanent Council, 13 November 2014)

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to join the previous speakers in welcoming the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference back to the Permanent Council and thank them for their comprehensive presentations. Since it is his first appearance among us, we especially wish Ambassador Andrieu from France much success in his new important mission. We also warmly welcome the Head of the High-Level Planning Group to the Permanent Council, reporting for the first time ever on the activities of the Group.

As a member of the Minsk Group, Turkey remains committed to supporting all efforts to find a just, viable and lasting solution to the conflict through peaceful means. As the tension in the region heightens from time to time as has been the case with the recent unfortunate incident of yesterday with the potential danger of escalation, it is clear that the status-quo is neither sustainable nor acceptable. Therefore, the peaceful resolution of all conflicts in the South Caucasus should remain high on OSCE's agenda. Such an outcome will not only contribute to the political stability and economic prosperity of all countries concerned, but also will open up new possibilities for both bilateral and regional cooperation, that would lay the ground for peace and stability in the entire region.

Mr. Chairperson,

Turkey continues to value the OSCE Minsk Group process as the appropriate platform to find a solution to the conflict and hopes that with fresh ideas a new impetus could be brought to the process to instigate the political will of the sides to the conflict to reach a lasting settlement without any further delay. In this vein, we appreciate the Minsk Group Co-Chairs' latest efforts leading to the Paris Summit that was held on 27th of October between the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia. We are encouraged with the intensified direct contacts between the two leaders in the last year after a long break. We take this as positive sign indicative of the political will on both sides hopefully for solving their differences through intensified and structured negotiations. It will be to the benefit of all concerned to maintain this positive and hopefully result producing momentum.

Last but not least, HLPG has an important role to play for the OSCE in the settlement process of the conflict. Therefore we extend our continuous support to its activities. Participation in the Personal Representative's monitoring activities on the Line of Contact constitute an important asset for the HLPG. However we expect that all members of the HLPG which is a body that OSCE had created with an international character would be able to participate in the monitoring activities on both sides of the Line on an equal basis, without any discrimination.

By way of conclusion let me reiterate our thanks and appreciation to the Co-Chairs, the Personal Representative of the CiO and the Head of HLPG and wish them success in their future endeavors.

Thank you.