

Delegation of the Russian Federation

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

27 January 2011

Regarding the terrorist act at Domodedovo airport

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We began today's meeting with a minute's silence for those killed in the terrorist act at Moscow's Domodedovo airport.

The brutal crime committed on 24 January, which claimed dozens of lives and injured more than a hundred people, was the latest challenge not only to our country but to all States. In addition to the many Russian victims, according to preliminary information, several foreigners were also among the dead – nationals from Austria, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan. Injured citizens of France, Germany, Italy, Moldova, Nigeria, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have been taken to hospital. It was no accident that the persons who organized this inhumane act chose as the target for their attack the arrivals hall at Domodedovo airport, a place where large numbers of people usually gather to meet relatives and guests arriving in our capital from all around the world. This was the desperate and cynical calculation of those who committed this atrocity.

However, the terrorists had clearly not reckoned with the international community immediately condemning this barbaric act and unanimously supporting the Russian Federation. The messages that the President of Russia has received from the heads of many foreign States testify to this, as do the statements by the senior officials of leading international and European organizations, offering their condolences and expressing their readiness to provide all the assistance needed in the fight against international terrorism.

I cannot but express our gratitude to the Lithuanian Chairmanship and many of our colleagues within the OSCE for their words of condolence and condemnation of the terrorist attack. This expression of real solidarity is extremely important to us during these difficult days.

This latest tragedy is a further indication that terrorism remains the principal threat to security. Additional measures will of course be taken by Russia in all areas, ranging from

special operations to eliminate terrorists and destroy their financial and social basis to the identification of those who helped them.

These actions will be most effective if they are based on collective and concerted efforts by the entire international community to counter and prevent terrorism, violent extremism and the conditions conducive to the spread of these phenomena. The OSCE can certainly contribute to this effort. In particular, the recent act of terror highlighted a number of problems with respect to the security of transport facilities – one of the most vulnerable targets for terrorists. In order to minimize these threats, it would make sense to use the best practices of those countries that already have an effective and tried and tested system for checking passengers and baggage. We believe that this topic could be examined within our Organization. In this context, the task of developing public-private partnership in combating terrorism is of particular importance. And if we pool our efforts we will increase considerably our chances of eliminating this evil.

I should like once again to thank everyone for their condolences and support, something that we value highly and will never forget.