



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

**IN RESPONSE TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, H.E. MR. GILBERT SABOYA I SUNYÉ,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA**

**(932<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council, 22 November 2012)**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

I would like to join the previous speakers in warmly welcoming the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra to the Permanent Council, and in expressing our gratitude to him for outlining the priorities of his country during its six-month Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Turkey congratulates Andorra on assuming the Chairmanship for the first time and is confident that the Andorran Government will ably carry out this responsibility. We appreciate Andorra's intention to strive for continuity with the efforts of the previous Chairs.

We note that in line with the presentation made by the delegation of Andorra during the last Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, indeed, education and activities aimed at youth will be among the priorities of the Andorran Chairmanship. We fully agree that education, which fosters diversity and inclusion, is the most effective method of combating intolerance and discrimination. Given its rich historical background and experience in maintaining peaceful coexistence of different religious, cultural and linguistic groups, we believe that Andorra has significant contribution to make in our joint efforts aimed at combating against intolerance, xenophobia and discrimination.

Measures in the field of education which will instill in children the values of respect for diversity and a sense of appreciation for living together in harmony with existing diversities will lay the groundwork for future societies built on tolerance and inclusion. We believe that the OSCE, with its comprehensive approach to security, can and should also contribute to this objective and repeat our call to OSCE institutions, particularly ODIHR, as well as to participating States to more actively pursue the various issues within the scope of the tolerance and non-discrimination agenda.

Turkey also welcomes Andorra's interest in strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my country's support for further coordination and joint activities between the two organizations. Ensuring complementarity between them will serve to increase synergy and avoid duplication, to the benefit of both the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

We are pleased that the Andorran Chairmanship will press forward with the reform of the Council of Europe. As a recent Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Turkey also subscribes to the priority of continuing with efforts geared towards the organization's political reform. If we succeed in the aim of strengthening the political relevance of the Council of Europe within the European architecture and transforming it into a more efficient and flexible organization, this will undoubtedly bring with it a favorable impact on the entire OSCE area and contribute to our objective of creating and strengthening a security community.

Allow me to conclude by wishing Andorra every success in the fulfillment of its objectives and priorities as the current Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and by assuring you, Mr. Minister, of our readiness to positively contribute to those efforts during our work together in Strasbourg.

Thank you.