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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, DEPUTY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

8 July 2010

In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Office in Baku

Mr. Chairperson,

We associate ourselves with the words of welcome addressed to Ambassador Bilge Cankorel. We have carefully familiarized ourselves with the written version of the report on the work of the OSCE Office in Baku and listened with interest to the additional thoughts by its Head. We should like to make the following comments in response.

We believe that the Baku office is on the whole endeavouring to adhere to the provisions of the mandate issued by the Permanent Council. The senior officials and staff of the mission have established and are maintaining close working contacts with the representatives of the Azerbaijani authorities and public. It is important to continue close consultations with the host country and to carry out project activities and other programmes, including extrabudgetary ones, at its request and with its consent.

We regard as essential the development of mutually respectful dialogue between the field operation and Baku as a fundamental condition for maintaining Azerbaijan's confidence in the OSCE.

We would urge the Office not to excessively monitor the internal political situation in the host country and to provide more information on the results of the specific projects carried out in the different dimensions. We would also like to get a constantly updated "picture", so to speak, of what is happening on the ground so that we have an impression of to what degree the OSCE and its field presence are assisting Azerbaijan in dealing with the tasks facing the country as regards its socio-economic development.

This information is necessary for an objective assessment of the practical benefits of the Office's work, if you like, to identify the degree of efficiency.

It is important to remember that an OSCE field activity is not something constant and is not set in stone in terms of form or content. It is a living organism in need of constant improvement and adaptation to the changing conditions. It would be useful to inform the participating States on a regular basis which provisions of the existing mandate have in its

view been implemented and which are still relevant so that possible improvements can be made in the Office's work.

We might recall that the main task of the field operations is to assist the host country in building its own capacity and expertise so that it can deal with the issues covered by the OSCE presence's mandate itself, with a view to a gradual transfer of the operations of the field presence to the host country. We trust that this side of the work of the Baku office will be properly reflected in its reports to the Permanent Council.

We should like to wish Ambassador Cankorel and his staff every success in the interests of promoting the stable development of our friend Azerbaijan.

Thank you for your attention.