



PC.DEL/372/10
7 May 2010

**PERMANENT MISSION
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

ENGLISH only

**Statement by Ambassador Naci Sarıbaşı,
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE,
in response to the Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia
and Herzegovina, Ambassador Gary Robbins.
(808th meeting of the Permanent Council, 6 May 2010)**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We also welcome Ambassador Robbins to the PC and thank him for his presentation.

We commend the valuable support of the Mission to the host country in the fields of community engagement at local level, culmination of a non-discrimination law, addressing division and ethnic bias in the education sector, monitoring hate crimes, increasing the capacities of democratic institutions and arms control.

Turkey believes that promotion of a better understanding among the peoples in the country, as well as extending this understanding to the regional level is a key to achieving progress in all areas. Bearing in mind the significance of regional ownership and the need for confidence building within Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond, Turkey has initiated the establishment of two trilateral consultation mechanisms at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, namely Turkey-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Serbia, and Turkey-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia.

This process has been consolidated by the Trilateral Balkan Summit among the Turkish, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbian Presidents on 24 April in Istanbul. This meeting which, for the first time, gathered the three leaders in such a format, was by all means an important step towards the full normalization in the Balkans. We are pleased to see that these mechanisms have already produced positive outcomes, which are mentioned in the İstanbul Declaration of

April 24. My delegation or the Serbian delegation can provide the text of this declaration to those who are interested in.

Turkey also actively supports the process of integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Euro-Atlantic institutions. In this respect, we welcome the decision on MAP.

Lastly, let me say that the decision of the High Representative Inzko to close down South Mostar office has increased the importance of the OSCE field offices in Mostar and Livno in terms of engagement with the local authorities and civil society. The activities of these field offices in the region are perceived as an indication of the importance that the international community attaches to the stability of Bosnia Herzegovina.

We wish and hope that the important election in the month of October will yield results that will bring happiness for every citizen of B-H.

In concluding, we share the main thrust of the EU statement, delivered by the Ambassador of Spain.

I would like to wish Ambassador Robbins and his colleagues every success in their work.

Thank you.