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

4 November 2010

**In response to the report by the OSCE Representative to the
Joint Latvian-Russian Commission on Military Pensioners**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to join in welcoming Mr. Helmut Napiontek, the OSCE Representative to the Joint Latvian-Russian Commission on Military Pensioners.

The Russian Federation values highly the Representative's personal efforts and his contribution on behalf of the OSCE to the work of the Commission. We continue to regard the Commission as an extremely effective mechanism for making available practical assistance in ensuring basic rights for one of the most socially vulnerable population groups – military pensioners, persons of advanced age.

We note with satisfaction the absence in recent times of individual applications to the Commission by military pensioners. This is in large measure the result of the difficult and painstaking work carried out by the OSCE Representative. Nevertheless, not all the issues that fall under the Russo-Latvian Agreement of 1994 have been resolved, and it is still too early to draw any conclusions as to the further role of the OSCE in this process. For example, a number of the military pensioners continue to live in privatized houses and apartments, where the threat of their eviction can at any moment again become a reality. For this reason, we think it extremely important that Mr. Napiontek continue to take part in the work of the Commission in dealing with the full range of issues involved.

We also regard as necessary the efforts of the OSCE Representative with respect to the interpretation of certain provisions of the aforementioned Russo-Latvian Agreement.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish Mr. Napiontek every success in his difficult but undoubtedly necessary mission in 2011.

Thank you for your attention.