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Delegation of Uzbekistan

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE  
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 October 2010

**In response to the statement by Mr. Nuriddin Shamsov,  
Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the OSCE**

Mr. Chairperson,

We have listened attentively to the statement by the delegation of Tajikistan regarding the transit by rail through Uzbekistan of goods destined for the Republic of Tajikistan, which are alleged to have been held up on the territory of Uzbekistan.

To avoid any misunderstanding and to present the Permanent Council with objective information, we should like once again to point out the following.

Uzbekistan works purposefully and continuously to improve its transnational corridors and to create the most favourable conditions for increasing the volume of freight in transit on the country's transport system.

The import and export potential and the economic trade relations of all of the countries in Central Asia are rapidly growing year by year. This consequently calls for an improvement in the capacity of the transit corridors, both in Uzbekistan and in the region as a whole.

Moreover, in spite of the steady increase in goods traffic, the Republic of Uzbekistan continues to meet the obligations undertaken in the framework of international agreements to allow the passage of non-military and humanitarian goods to Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, this fact is not understood by our Tajik partners and clearly distorted reports in some media serve as a catalyst to exacerbate the situation.

Statistics show objectively that Uzbekistan is making every effort to ensure the timely transit of goods through its territory in compliance with its commitments.

Between January and August this year, the volume of goods transported by rail through Uzbekistan on its way to and from Tajikistan amounted to 52,291 rail freight cars carrying 2.85 million tons of freight, in other words 248,000 tons more than in the same

period a year earlier. This shows that there has been a steady growth in the volume of Tajik freight in transit.

Moreover, according to official statistics from the Tajik Ministry of Finance, Tajikistan's gross domestic product grew by around 6 per cent compared with the same period in 2009. According to the Tajik Customs Committee, duty collected at the border remained at the same level as the previous year. We should like to point out that if there had been a "blockade", as is alleged, Tajikistan's economic performance should have deteriorated considerably. Draw your own conclusions.

According to my information, on 17 September 2010 there were 1,164 freight cars on the site of the State joint-stock railway company Uzbekiston Temir Yullari waiting to move in accordance with the freight transportation charts. The brief delays in the rolling stock with freight for Tajikistan were exclusively of a technical and logistical nature.

As far as I know, the transit of freight to and from Tajikistan during this time took place in a timely manner without any delays.

In conclusion, we should like to reiterate that Uzbekistan believes that is counter-productive and unacceptable to give this matter a political overtone and inadmissible to involve international bodies in the resolution of questions that are of a strictly bilateral nature.

Thank you for your attention.