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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY
CO-OPERATION AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 June 2010

**In connection with the incident concerning the “humanitarian flotilla” for
the Gaza Strip**

Mr. Chairperson of the Permanent Council,
Mr. Chairperson of the Forum,

Russia has already expressed its condemnation and concern at the incident that has taken place, particularly at the death and injury to members of the “humanitarian flotilla”. The facts in connection with the incident need to be clarified in their entirety.

It is evident that the use of arms against civilians and the interception of ships on the open sea without any legal basis is a serious violation of generally accepted international law.

At the same time we regard the incident as confirmation of the need for the Israeli blockade of Gaza to be brought to a rapid end and for realistic steps to be taken to alleviate the humanitarian and social situation of the people living there.

Thank you for your attention.