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***PERMANENT MISSION  
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE***

**TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN ILDEM,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE,  
AT THE ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE  
JUNE 30, 2011**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to start out by extending my warm personal welcome to Secretary General Rasmussen with whom I had the pleasure of working closely during the last months of my assignment as Permanent Representative to NATO. Thank you Secretary General Rasmussen for a thought provoking presentation. For the sake of brevity, I wish to take this opportunity, both to respond to your presentation, as well as to put on record some of Turkey's observations regarding this year's ASRC. May I also add at this point that we fully share the views contained in the EU statement. Unfortunately, the current EU practice by which alignment with EU statements denies aligning countries the right to make additional national statements does not allow us to officially align ourselves with the EU statement today.

As you yourself have succinctly put it Secretary General, the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian community face a number of challenges. And we face them collectively! Coordination and complementarity between institutions responsible for our common security space has never been more relevant or necessary. Turkey will continue to support a greater synergy between the OSCE and NATO, but also between this Organization and other relevant institutions, as set down in the Platform for Cooperative Security adopted at the OSCE Summit in Istanbul.

In his farewell speech just a few days ago, Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut put it so aptly when he said that "the OSCE remains a laboratory of ideas". I wonder where we would be today without the OSCE's efforts at conceptualizing security? I can personally testify that, most notably at NATO, we have all benefited from the OSCE's seminal concepts of comprehensive, indivisible and cooperative security. And now we are confronted with the challenge of carrying forward our work by refining our concepts to respond to present day needs. In this light the elusive concept of a "security community" has yet to be defined. Turkey regards this as one of the priority areas of OSCE work in the period ahead of us, and one, which by its very nature requiring the consolidation of commonly agreed positions of participating States, acts as the best confidence building measure, enhancing mutual trust.

A veritable and functioning “security community” needs to be constructed not only on the solid foundations of the three core pillars of the OSCE and the comprehensive OSCE acquis, but also needs to take into account the realities and developments in our proximity. Positioning the OSCE to effectively respond to arising challenges in our Partner countries like Afghanistan and those in North Africa as well as the reform process heralded by the “Arab Spring” is of crucial importance while recognizing the inextricable link between the security of the OSCE area with that of its neighbouring countries. I think these are considerations relevant to different international actors and I am pleased to note that in both your statement Mr. Secretary General and that of Deputy Secretary General Helga Schmidt this important issue has been referred to.

I should be remiss were I not to briefly also dwell upon the politico-military aspects of security as an integral part of the “security community” we all desire to achieve. Inter-state security is firmly back on the agenda of the OSCE. This is as should be. Turkey is fully supportive of ongoing efforts to update the Vienna Document, as well as to overcoming the current impasse clouding the future of the CFE Treaty. Since we will be addressing these issues under a specific agenda item, I will not dwell upon them any further here. Nevertheless, taking this opportunity I would like to register our hope that the pause that we decided to have for the CFE consultations at “36”, which we qualify it to be a “reflection period” should not last long so as not to lose whatever momentum that we could be able to achieve in the past months.

Trans-national threats have emerged as the fourth pillar of security at the OSCE. It has not always been an easy task to define a unique niche for an inter-governmental organization such as the OSCE, while at the same time refraining from duplicating ongoing work in other relevant bodies, in addressing security challenges emanating from non-state actors. Nevertheless, admirable work has already been achieved. We believe this work should now be taken forward with additional efforts, most notably in addressing cyber threats, energy security, terrorism and proliferation of WMD ton on-state actors.

And last but not least, without robustly addressing and resolving the so called “frozen conflicts” which continue to poison so much of the atmosphere here at the OSCE and elsewhere, Turkey believes that the construction of a functional “security community” will remain but a pipe dream.

Before concluding, allow me to put a question to you Mr. Secretary General. We all recognize the need for different international actors to better coordinate with and complement each other in line with what you call “Comprehensive Approach” at NATO. Both of our organizations have a value added to offer in dealing with the new security challenges. You have alluded to certain ways to have a greater practical institutional coordination between OSCE and NATO and I would be most pleased to hear your views on what would be the scope for such an increased engagement knowing that there are regular staff-to-staff consultations between these two organizations.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.