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

5 May 2011

**In response to the statement by Mr. Çinar Aldemir,
Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and
Confidence-Building Measures in Asia**

Mr. Chairperson,

We listened with great interest to the statement by Çinar Aldemir, who covered in detail the milestones in the establishment and current activities of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and also shared his thoughts with us on the strengthening of co-operation between the CICA and the OSCE.

Russia supports the Executive Director's efforts to step up the Conference's work in line with the decisions of the third CICA summit held in Istanbul last June, at which Turkey took over the chairmanship of that forum from Kazakhstan. We are pleased to note that there is an overlap in terms of the vision of the main goals and tasks of the CICA and the ways to further develop this important forum for co-operation on regional security issues. The consultations held by the Executive Director with senior officials at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April are a clear example of constructive collaboration with the CICA Secretariat.

There are similarities between our own approach and that of the CICA to the creation of a common and indivisible security space in Asia, in which all countries could coexist peacefully and constructively. This idea is fully in line with the strategic task set at the OSCE Summit in Astana as regards the formation of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community, free of dividing lines and zones with different levels of security.

We share your assessment, Executive Director, that no individual country or regional grouping is able to deal with the new global challenges on its own. For that reason, like the leadership of the CICA, Russia is in favour of establishing constructive dialogue and co-operation among the various regional organizations and structures. We believe that this kind of co-operation would in fact help to ensure collective security throughout the entire OSCE area.

In this context, we regard the discussion of the practical implementation of confidence-building measures in the politico-military dimension of the CICA area as a matter of urgency. It is clear that the CICA member countries could, to some extent, take on board the OSCE's experience and best practices in this area.

We support your focus on a balanced promotion of all the areas of collaboration within the Conference. As one of the countries responsible for co-ordinating the development of co-operation in the economic sphere, Russia is ready to facilitate progress in this area. Specifically, the CICA Business Forum on small and medium-sized enterprises held in Thailand at the end of March may serve as a model for constructive co-operation on the part of the co-ordinating countries – Russia, Thailand and Kazakhstan.

We also agree with the point you made regarding the importance of countering new threats and challenges, in particular drug trafficking. In this context, the adoption within the CICA of a concept and action plan to combat illicit drug production and trafficking in narcotic drugs and their precursors is to be welcomed. It is our hope that this year the OSCE will also be able to adopt its own concept for work to combat drug trafficking. In this way, through pooled efforts we shall be able to counter this evil, which threatens the security of European and Asian countries alike.

We should like to wish you, Executive Director, every success in your responsible work.

Thank you for your attention.