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

27 May 2010

## In response to the report by the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere and thank him for his assessment of the recent events in Kyrgyzstan, which have brought about certain changes in the work of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.

Russia continues to be interested in stabilizing the difficult and unclear situation in Kyrgyzstan and in a rapid conclusion of the period of uncertainty. The main way in which this can be done is by confirming the legitimacy of the current leadership through a general election and restoring law and order.

At the same time, we believe that one of the guarantees for improving the situation in the country is the further development of the historical Russo-Kyrgyz relations. In this regard, Russia is considering increasing the amount of humanitarian aid to the interim government, and the first instalment of a Russian loan of 50 million dollars has already been received by the republic. Bilateral co-operation towards integration and unification is also continuing.

We are paying particular attention to the situation in Kyrgyzstan and are carefully following the work of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, which as far as can be seen is meeting with a positive response from the country's leadership. We are pleased to note the good working relations between the Centre and the interim government and also the Centre's intention to carry out programmes and projects on a scale called for by the host country.

Once again, we would like to highlight the constructive role played by the Kazakh Chairmanship, whose efforts have made it possible in a very short time to identify the areas in which the OSCE can provide assistance to Kyrgyzstan. We also welcome the prompt reaction by the Centre, enabling it to concentrate after the events in April on meeting the country's most pressing needs. We hope that this will stimulate further optimization of project activities, which should respond as far as possible to the needs of a complicated economic and political situation.

Russia supported the Permanent Council decision to grant the OSCE Centre additional resources from the Contingency Fund to provide emergency aid for the Kyrgyz authorities. At the same time, we are not convinced of the expediency of a further increase in the financing of the Centre, which would give it one of the largest budgets among the Central Asian missions. We believe that the Centre should not go beyond its present assignation and should in the first instance consider financing those projects that are most urgent and likely to produce an effective return in the present situation.

In particular, the time has come to assess the results and the need to continue in the present manner the large-scale programme of reform of the Kyrgyz law-enforcement bodies, whose reaction to the recent events in the country raised a number of questions, in spite of the years of effort by the OSCE field presence.

As to the other matters, we are willing to consider them in greater detail during the upcoming discussions on the 2011 OSCE Programme Outline. For today, we should like merely to state that we are impressed by the tight leadership of the Centre in providing assistance to the Kyrgyz authorities in combating drug trafficking and terrorism, especially the implementation of the international initiative proposed by Russia in 2006 to strengthen partnership with business and the State. We welcome the Centre's willingness to co-operate with regional organizations.

I should like to wish Ambassador Tesoriere and his colleagues at the Centre every success in their work in a situation that is far from simple.

Thank you for your attention.