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MC.DEL/52/20
4 December 2020

ENGLISH only



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RAUF ENGİN SOYSAL
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE
(Right of Reply)**

27th OSCE Tirana Ministerial Council, 4 December 2020

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

Yesterday, in his speech here at the Ministerial Council, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu emphasized that with the recent agreement between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia, there is real chance for peace after three decades. He stressed that this will certainly have positive implications on regional stability as well as Azerbaijani-Armenian and Turkish-Armenian relations.

On the other hand, given the significant developments, it is disappointing and it is sad that the Armenian delegation chose to continue its smear campaign.

We totally reject the allegations which were brought yesterday afternoon. They are baseless.

Such an ill-conceived approach will benefit neither the region nor the respective country itself.

Frankly, it is time to turn the page and try to be a part of the solution. It is difficult given the hard feelings on both sides, but it is doable. We all need it; the OSCE needs it; and we must all help realize it.

Turkey believes that the way for sustainable peace and stability can be paved together. New opportunities will arise and the whole region will benefit from this process. We sincerely believe that the Armenian people will ultimately also be winners in the peace. For that, we need the Government of Armenia to change course.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.