



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1051st Special Meeting of the Permanent Council,

May 11, 2015

*in response to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain,
H.E. Mr. Jose Manuel Garcia Margallo*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes H.E. Jose Manuel Garcia Margallo, the minister of foreign affairs of Spain to the Permanent Council and thanks him for insightful presentation on Spain's foreign and security policy priorities, as well as the place and role of the OSCE, in this regard.

Azerbaijan values its relations with Spain, which are based on shared interests and mutual respect. We believe that large potential of Azerbaijani-Spanish relations remains untapped and we are committed to take further steps to explore this potential.

Mr. Minister,

Your appearance at the Permanent Council comes at a time of serious crisis of European security caused by ongoing violations of fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act, in particular, use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

Azerbaijan is strongly against the unilateral changes of internationally recognized borders and firmly believes that military occupation must not be tolerated in the 21st century.

In this context, we would like to take this opportunity to renew our gratitude to the Government of Spain for its principled position in rejecting the illegal "elections" recently held in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as expressed in relevant statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain issued on May 1, 2015. We consider this statement as a clear demonstration of Spain's support to the norms

and principles of international law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms

In conclusion, we thank once again Mr. Minister for his presence in the Permanent Council and wish him, as well as his team in Vienna every success in their future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.