



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1053rd Meeting of the Permanent Council,

21 May 2015

visit of the agents of the illegal separatist regime to France

Mr. Chairperson,

According to reports of the Armenian mass-media, the agents of the illegal separatist regime established in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan visited France. According to media reports, separatists held meetings in the French Senate and National Assembly, as well as in some municipal authorities.

In this connection, on 20 May 2015 the Ambassador of the French Republic to Azerbaijan had been summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and a note of protest was handed over to the French ambassador.

The Azerbaijani side noted that this visit, as well as French parliamentarians' participation as "observers" in the so-called "parliamentary elections" held in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan run contrary to the spirit of growing friendly and cooperative relations between France and Azerbaijan and is not in line with this country's role as an OSCE Minsk Group co-chair. These incidents impede the negotiations for the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

Our Delegation, on several occasions, called on the OSCE participating States not to engage in any interaction with the illegal separatist regime, stop the practice of issuing visas for its representatives, thus allowing them opportunity to enter the territories of the OSCE participating States and promote the illegal entity

established in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. We have also distributed a number of notes verbale of the Mission on this issue.

In this regard, the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan reiterates the need for consistency in policy and approach by OSCE participating States vis-à-vis the separatists, who violently challenge the constitutional and legal order on the territories of the OSCE participating States. Separatists, regardless of their area of activities should be treated in the same manner, in accordance with international law and basic tenets of the rule of law. Any manifestation of double standards is unacceptable, in this regard.

We call on the French authorities to stop issuing visas for agents of the separatist regime, facilitating their visit to France or courting them. We strongly encourage the Government of France to undertake necessary measures corresponding to its role of mediator and co-chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group, vital for progress in the negotiations and solution of the conflict.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.