



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1056th Meeting of the Permanent Council,

04 June 2015

in response to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta, H.E. George Vella

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes H.E. George Vella, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta to the Permanent Council and thanks him for the comprehensive presentation on foreign and security policy of Malta.

We are pleased to observe steady development of Azerbaijani-Maltese relations in recent years. Intensification of high-level dialogue between our countries has been crucial for exploring vast potential of our bilateral relations in different areas of mutual interest. In this regard, recent visit of the Maltese Prime Minister to Azerbaijan and signing of Memorandum of Understanding on strategic cooperation in oil and gas sector is particularly worthwhile to be mentioned.

Azerbaijan remains ready to further improve the legal framework of our relations and looks forward to continuation of high-level bilateral dialogue with Malta.

Mr. Minister,

Your appearance at the Permanent Council comes at a time when the OSCE participating States are seeking the ways out of the crisis in European security. Threats to sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States, such as attempts to acquire territory and change internationally recognized borders by force lies at the very core of ongoing crisis within the OSCE. In the meantime, growing threat of terrorism and violent extremism, as well as radicalization and intolerance continues to endanger stability of the OSCE region and undermines the well-being of its peoples.

In this context, we highly value your reaffirmation of Malta's unwavering adherence to the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, in particular those related to respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States. We commend your country's vision of enhancing peace and security in the OSCE area through maintaining stability in neighboring regions, for which strengthening the OSCE's Mediterranean partnerships is of particular relevance.

We would like to once again thank Mr. Minister for his presence at the Permanent Council and wish him and his team in Vienna led by Ambassador K. Azzopardi every success in their future endeavors.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.