



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1059th Meeting of the Permanent Council,

11 June 2015

in response to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Macedonia, H.E. Nikola Poposki

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Macedonia, H.E. Nikola Poposki to the Permanent Council and thanks him for comprehensive statement outlining foreign and security policy priorities of Macedonia.

Macedonia and Azerbaijan enjoys friendly bilateral relations and high-level political dialogue based on common interests and mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We believe that there is a vast untapped potential in our bilateral cooperation, especially in areas, such as trade, investments, energy and infrastructure. To this end we need to further improve bilateral legal framework and intensify contacts between the business circles.

Macedonia is one of our key partners in the Western Balkans; the region is among the foreign policy priorities of Azerbaijan. We attach high importance to maintaining security and economic prosperity in the region and value Macedonia's constructive role in this regard. Macedonia's adherence to strengthening good-neighborly relations in the region based on respect for each other's sovereignty and commitment to address the challenges through dialogue and cooperation is commendable. The tragic events in Kumanova last month demonstrated once again that violent extremism continues to be threat to regional security and thus, necessitates joint and coordinated actions by all regional actors. In this context, we reiterate our sympathy with the people of Macedonia and reaffirm our support for Macedonian partners on the path of strengthening independence of and stability in the country.

We thank once again Mr. Minister, for your appearance at the Permanent Council and wish you and your able team in Vienna led by Ambassador K.Ilioski every success in your future endeavors.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.