



**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1095th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
7 March 2016**

*in response to the Report by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental
Activities, Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden*

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan joins the previous speakers in thanking Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden, OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities for his comprehensive and insightful presentations on the activities of his Office.

The Coordinator and his Office have indispensable place within OSCE's overall role to strengthen security and stability in its region through dialogue and co-operation. We express our support for the work plan of the Coordinator Office for 2016, with a focus on good governance, combating corruption, anti-money laundering, countering financing of terrorism, transport, trade and customs facilitation. These are areas, in which we believe that the OSCE can make a significant contribution and provide added value.

The Azerbaijani side underlines the importance of continuity of the activities of the Coordinator Office with the priorities of the German OSCE Chairmanship in the second dimension with a view to revitalizing the second dimension and utilizing its untapped potential for enhancing security and stability in our region. We are of strong view that effective public-private partnerships and increased economic connectivity within the OSCE region can be an important measure in this context.

Azerbaijan as an initiator and active participant of regional and trans-regional transport corridors, especially welcomes Chairmanship's priority to promote economic connectivity, transport corridors and trade facilitation within the second dimension, and remains ready to offer its contribution. The establishment of an informal Working Group by the Delegations of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey on promotion of the East-West Trans-Caspian Trade and Transport Corridor serves to this aim. We rely on the support of the Coordinator in realization of the objectives of the Group and remain open for further consultations in this regard.

It is also within this context that we welcome the intention of the Chairmanship to organize Conference on “Connectivity for Commerce and Investment” in Berlin. We believe that the conference will provide a platform for strengthening economic connectivity and exploring the ways to enhance public-private partnership. The Azerbaijani side is looking forward to actively participating in this event, together with its partners within the East-West Trans-Caspian Trade and Transport Corridor, with high-level delegation composed of representatives of the Government and private sector.

In conclusion, we would like to thank once again to Dr.Yigitguden and his able team for their contributions to the activities of the Second Dimension and wish them every success in their future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson