



Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1091st Meeting of the Permanent Council, 03 March 2016

in response to report of the Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan welcomes Ambassador Janina Hrebickova to the Permanent Council and thanks her for comprehensive report on the activities of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

Azerbaijan and Montenegro enjoys excellent relations at bilateral level guided by shared interests and objectives. Regular high-level dialogue and strengthening legal framework of our bilateral relations have been instrumental for boosting our ties in all fields of common interest, most notably in trade, tourism, investments and energy, to name just a few. Azerbaijan is one of the strategic investment partners of Montenegro. We are interested in further increasing our share in investing tourism and banking sectors of Montenegro. Further development of humanitarian cooperation between our countries is of equal importance and visa-free travel regime and educational exchange programs are especially worthwhile to be mentioned in this regard. We are of the strong view that bilateral cooperative relations and common interests should guide our engagement with and within relevant multilateral formats, including the OSCE.

Azerbaijan attaches importance to continuation and further deepening of reform processes in Montenegro that would ensure stability, well-being and prosperity in the country. As outlined in the report of the head of mission, independence of the judiciary, fighting against corruption, and promotion of transparency in activities of state structures, as well as in provision of public services, and ensuring freedom of religion are the areas that need special attention. We encourage relevant Montenegrin structures to pay adequate attention to these fields making best use of the assistance offered by the OSCE Mission.

In conclusion, we once again thank Ambassador Hrebickova for her presence at the Council today and wish her every success in her future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.