

PC.DEL/162/10
12 March 2010

ENGLISH only

**ATƏT YANINDA
AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASİNİN
Daimi NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ**



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement
at the 797th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

*In response to report by Mr. Goran Svilanovic,
Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities*

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes Mr. Goran Svilanovic, Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and thanks him for his comprehensive and informative report.

Azerbaijan fully supports the 18th Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) process which focused on road transport facilitation, landlocked countries and good governance at border crossings. My country attaches high importance to discussion of substantive issues of integration by means of utilizing its unique strategic advantages in the development of transport and transit potential linking Europe with Central Asia and beyond. The issue of increasing efficiency of existing transport corridors is perhaps the most vital on our way to upgrade and further develop economic cooperation and interaction among the participating States.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to share the views of my delegation on the future orientation of the second dimension. We believe that Economic and Environmental Dimension and especially EEF needs more continuity, as the annual change of Forum topic probably leaves no time for detailed analysis, preparations and proper follow-up of its decisions and recommendations. At the same time we are confident that we could achieve even more, if the Forum themes will be selected within the areas where OSCE has comparative advantages

and substantial expertise, such as, good governance, various applicable aspects of security and etc. Selection of several core themes for a few years to come could be an option.

Using this opportunity, here I would like to touch upon briefly the activities of the OSCE Field Offices. We are firmly convinced that economic activities of the Field Offices should be more balanced and more versatile. In this regard we adhere to the opinion that the close consultations with host governments in order to identify the local needs and priorities should be a task of primary importance.

Finally, my delegation thanks the Kazakh Chairmanship and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for their productive work within the second dimension and expresses its satisfaction with current transport theme which we believe would promote an effective dialogue among the participating States on regional cooperation issues.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.