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**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1137th Meeting of the Permanent Council,
16 March 2017**

*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 thanks Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden, OSCE Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities for his comprehensive presentation.

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 are pleased that over past years the Office has successfully discharged its functions under able leadership of Dr. Yigitguden.

We take note that in 2017 the Coordinator Office will be guided in its activities by the priorities of the Austrian Chairmanship. Azerbaijan stands ready to support the Chairmanship's focus on good governance, greening the economy, fighting corruption, reducing environmental risks and promotion of renewable energy sources.

Further development of connectivity between participating States is of special interest for us. Azerbaijan firmly believes that trade facilitation, promotion of intra- and trans-regional transportation links, including through development of efficient multimodal transport corridors can contribute to sustainable economic connectivity and economic growth in participating States.

In this regards, we reiterate that the Hamburg MC decision on strengthening good governance and promoting connectivity, which reaffirmed the relevance of, and our full respect for all OSCE norms, principles and commitments related to our co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension should serve as the basis for the OSCE activities in this field. In accordance with these principles and commitments, further development of mutual economic relations between the participating States and their cooperation in this field should take place in full respect for the principles guiding relations among participating States as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude to Dr.Yigitguden for his remarkable contribution to the work of the OSCE in his capacity as the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.