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**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

ENGLISH only

**Statement**

**In Response to Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden, Coordinator of OSCE Economic and  
Environmental Activities  
delivered by the Permanent Delegation of Armenia at the 1137th Meeting of the  
OSCE Permanent Council  
March 16, 2017**

Mr. Chairman,

We join other colleagues in welcoming Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitguden and thank him for outlining activities and plans of his Office.

The Delegation of Armenia subscribes to the views of number of other delegations, which took the floor before us, that building confidence and trust between OSCE participating States is the key role of the OSCE second dimension. This is relevant for inclusive and non-discriminatory economic connectivity, cross-border water management, tackling natural disasters and many other areas of activities of the OCEEA.

In the same vein we welcome the focus of the OSCE Austrian Chairmanship on the topic of building partnerships in the conflict areas and expect strong attention of the OCEEA to the social and economic rights of people residing in conflict areas, since their well-being and security should be at the forefront of our political efforts.

There is also untapped potential of the OSCE second dimension in addressing the problem of unilateral coercive measures and blockades.

We support the focus of the OCEEA on good governance and combating corruption. In this regard we would appreciate more attention on the bribery of foreign and international public officials, which is a relevant topic for our security Organization.

We are pleased to note continued cooperation of the OCEEA with OSCE field operations, network of Aarhus centres and ENVSEC, which promote implementation of our commitments and delivery of practical results on the ground.

On the final note, since this is last appearance of Dr. Yigitguden in the PC, we would like to thank him and his able team for the work done throughout these years and wish him all the best in future endeavours. We congratulate and warmly welcome incoming Coordinator, Ambassador Vuk Zugic and wish him all success in his responsible mission. He can count on Armenia's support.

Thank You.