

Delegation of the Republic of Armenia

30th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Vienna, 17 May 2021

Statement (1) - Agenda Item 1

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Allow me to first of all congratulate you Mr. Chair and all delegations on convening the 30th Commemorative Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Mr. Chair,

We have listened carefully to the statements made by the distinguished Ambassadors of Azerbaijan and Turkey.

With regard to the statement of Ambassador of Azerbaijan, I would like to mention that it is surprising to listen Ambassador of Azerbaijan questioning the wisdom of the Chair of the Eastern European Group, claiming that the EEG has submitted the nomination of Armenia for the position of the 3rd Vice Chair of the CCPCJ without consensus within the Group. Let me emphasize that the Chair of the EEG has submitted to the CCPCJ the uncontested nomination of Armenia for the mentioned position, which has been duly endorsed by consensus in accordance with the long-established practice of the EEG. This questioning of the wisdom of the Chair of the Eastern European Group is even more surprising, if we take into account that the endorsed candidature of Armenia was submitted to the CCPCJ by the Note Verbale of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan on 2 February 2021 in its capacity as the Chair of the EEG at that time.

Mr. Chair,

According to the long-established practice within the Eastern European Group and I believe in other regional groups as well, when the consensually endorsed candidature is submitted on behalf of the Group to the outside partner, in this case the CCPCJ, it effectively departs from the agenda of the group and is no more a matter of its consideration.

We know that one month after the submission of the endorsed candidature of Armenia to the CCPCJ, the delegation of Azerbaijan has declared that it has changed its mind and decided

to withdraw its agreement to the nomination. We understand that this decision is due to the narrow political agenda of Azerbaijan, which has nothing to do with the CCPCJ and should not keep the work of the Commission hostage.

Therefore, we call on Azerbaijan to revisit its non-constructive behavior, as it might risk damaging the long-established practice within the CCPCJ and may challenge the fragile architecture of multilateralism in Vienna, the well-known Vienna Spirit.

Thank you Mr. Chair