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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Tajikistan's Foreign Minister to address OSCE Permanent Council**

VIENNA, 29 March 2011 – Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Khamrokhon Zarifi will address the OSCE's Permanent Council on Thursday, 31 March.

In his address, he will present the strategic vision and the priorities of Tajikistan regarding security in the OSCE region in all three dimensions. Special focus will be on the Central Asian region, in particular, threats emanating from Afghanistan, co-operation in combating terrorism, violent extremism and drug trafficking, as well as in demining, strengthening security of borders with Afghanistan and providing assistance to this country, including in the fields of energy supplies and transport infrastructure. The Minister will also speak about addressing problems related to water and energy resources, as well as environmental aspects of security.

The Permanent Council is a key decision-making body of the 56-country OSCE. It meets weekly in Vienna to discuss developments in the OSCE area and to make appropriate decisions.

The media are invited to listen to the speech at 10:00, on 31 March, in the Neuer Saal of the Hofburg Congress Centre. Following his address, Minister Zarifi will hold a news conference in room 201, tentatively at 11:00.

For admittance to the Hofburg Congress Centre, please bring a valid press card to the security desk (main entrance from the Heldenplatz). Parking is available for the press during the event in the OSCE-reserved parking area on Heldenplatz. Temporary parking permits must be collected from the security desk.

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