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ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE (16 to 23 August)

OSCE Chairman-in-Office welcomes Russia's suspension of extraditions of refugees, praises Kazakhstan for positive steps

BRUSSELS, 16 August 2006 - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, issued a statement saying that he was pleased by Russia's decision to suspend the extradition of 12 refugees and an asylum-seeker to Uzbekistan following a ruling by the European Court for Human Rights.

Minister De Gucht also praised Kazakhstan for its decision to hand over an Uzbek refugee to UNHCR for resettlement.