

ENGLISH only

**ADDRESS BY MR. JANDOS ASANOV,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF
TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES TO THE OSCE PERMANENT
COUNCIL**

19 December 2013, Vienna

Check against delivery

Дякую Вам, шановний Посол!

Distinguished Ambassadors,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk for his invitation to deliver speech here in this august gathering.

Availing myself of this opportunity I would like to congratulate Ukraine on successful chairmanship in the OSCE and wish every success to the upcoming Chairmanship of Switzerland in their future endeavours.

It is an honour for me to address the OSCE Permanent Council today. As you are aware, last year in September my predecessor already addressed the Permanent Council for the first time and honourable members of the Permanent Council were informed in detail about activities of our organization, its tasks and objectives.

Ambassador Halil Akıncı, Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States has given update of information on the activities of the Turkic Council as well as of the pace of cooperation among Turkic speaking countries. Both of our organizations are meant to coordinate ably and efficiently comprehensive cooperation of Turkic states and, of course, we are conscious of our tasks and responsibilities.

Since you have been already informed of the current state of cooperation among the above-mentioned countries I would like to brief you on the evolution of cooperation among Turkic countries as well as on its future outlook.

The Turkic speaking nations and communities have always had close ties throughout the history. Geopolitical changes that took place in the 90s of the last century led to the emergence on the political map of the globe new Turkic speaking states, and relations among them were established and started deepening and expanding. The scope of these relations is diverse and covers many areas. For example, on 12 July 1993 in Almaty, Kazakhstan the agreement on founding the International Organization of the Turkic Culture (TÜRKSOY) was signed and it has facilitated the popularization of the cultural legacy of the Turkic nations and communities in the world as well as their rebirth and revival.

Since the 90s cooperation in the field of education has been quite productive. During these years many educational facilities of Turkey were opened in other Turkic countries and currently there is a vast opportunity for our students to go to another Turkic speaking country and study at local universities.

The past years saw mutual penetration of media and TV products and currently information flow among the countries is growing day by day.

After the ties among Turkic countries had reached significant levels the demand for the structures that deal with many issues arising in the interstate relations and coordinate multifaceted cooperation in the Turkic world had grown. As its result in 2008 TurkPA and in 2009 the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking Countries (Turk Kenesi) came into being.

The main objective of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking Countries is formation of legislative base for the ever growing ties among the Assembly's member countries. In one word TurkPA is the parliamentary dimension of the Turkic world.

Any member-state of TurkPA is a nation rich for domestic developments, with speedy economic advancement. However, there are many areas for joint work among the Turkic speaking countries. For example, President Nursultan Nazarbayev in his speech at the Third Summit of Turk Kenesi in Gabala, Azerbaijan emphasized on the need "to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation among the brotherly peoples and neighbouring countries" and drew attention to the fact that while the joint GDP of the Turkic countries constituted \$1 trillion 150 bln., the trade turnover among them was well below the existing potential.

Indeed the overall economic capacities of our countries are increasing year by year. Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkey are the countries that have their own space programmes. Besides that all the four TurkPA member-countries are introducing into their economies new technologies and innovations, thus developing local value added industries. Hydrocarbon pipelines, motorway and railway networks are being constructed or renovated: in the next two years the Kazakh section of the international Western China – Western Europe motorway line will be completed, Kazakhstan has already commissioned Qorghas – Jetigen and Western Kazakhstan – border with Turkmenistan railway links and it is building an extensive railway line that connects the Central Kazakhstan with the Western Kazakhstan; next year Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway link will be completed, shipment between the sea ports Aqtau and Baku is growing. All these projects should lead to the revitalisation of the age old Great Silk Road and further increase trade and investment flow within the format of Turkic cooperation.

I would also like to draw the attention to the following. Our countries are the members of various international and regional organizations. If some Turkic speaking countries are members of various structures in the CIS, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Collective Security Treaty Organization, Black Sea Cooperation Organization, etc., then Turkey is a member of NATO and other Euro-Atlantic structures. That is why the Turkic structures have the potential to act as a bridge between various intergovernmental organizations of the East and West, North and South.

The agenda of Turkic cooperation is getting congested, since year by year the existing levels of relations are growing and becoming diverse with new content. Therefore the task of TurkPA is to timely improve legal framework for multilateral cooperation among the member-countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

TurkPA is firmly committed to the principles and norms of the UN Charter. Apart from that all of our countries are the members of the OSCE and share this organization's goals and objectives.

In spite of fact that our organization brings together a particular group of countries, it does not take an exclusive approach. On the contrary, TURKPA seeks to establish and develop relations with other national parliaments and international organizations in the

region. Moreover, TURKPA attaches particular significance to strengthening a common inter-parliamentary platform for dialogue at global and regional levels. As a result, the Assembly was granted an observer status by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC).

Close cooperation of TURKPA with leading international organizations contributes to strengthening security and cooperation in the region. We believe that interaction between TURKPA and OSCE and its institutions would represent an additional platform for constructive dialogue in all the fields. It is worthy to emphasize that all of our member countries are also the OSCE participating states, playing an active role in their respective regions. Being the parliamentary dimension of the Turkic cooperation, TURKPA attaches particular importance to inclusive participation in the activities of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. During the last three years our Assembly has attended, as a guest, the OSCE PA annual and winter sessions. In parallel, TURKPA is privileged to attend the meetings of the OSCE Council of Ministers, including the last one in Kyiv.

While concluding my speech I would like to emphasize that as ever TurkPA seeks to maintain as well as to widen its relations with the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.