

PC.DEL/60/08  
24 January 2008

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Kyrgyzstan

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RINA PRIJIVOIT,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TO  
THE OSCE, AT THE 697th PLENARY MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 January 2008

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished colleagues,

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to warmly welcome our distinguished guest, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Mr. Dimitrij Rupel, to today's meeting of the Permanent Council.

It is a great honour for me to congratulate you, Mr. Minister, on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on your assumption of the presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) and to wish you and your team every success.

It should be noted that relations between the countries of Central Asia and the European Union are entering a qualitatively new stage, following the entry into force of a strategy for a new partnership.

The fact is that many problems facing our countries as part of the globalization process equally affect Europe and Central Asia and require a pooling of efforts to deal with them.

Strategic issues of security and stability; the promotion of economic development, trade and investment; the strengthening of power and transport systems; and also the protection of the environment and the quality of water resources — all of these concerns require the closest possible co-operation.

Kyrgyzstan supports the EU's special programmes in the areas of law, environmental security and the use of water. European Union investments for the future of our countries — young people and education — are seen as extremely important. In this context, Kyrgyzstan is prepared to continue the constructive co-operation between the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the European Union. That successful undertaking in our country is serving as the basis for the establishment of a water power academy.

It is our hope that co-operation with the EU on the use of water resources will contribute to economic development and the strengthening of regional security.

Bilateral relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and the European Union are moving forward on the basis of the Agreement on Partnership and Co-operation. This involves a constructive and open dialogue on all aspects of Kyrgyz-European co-operation. Last year was noteworthy for the signing of an agreement on air traffic and of a joint declaration by the Ministry of Transport of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission.

Of great practical importance were the discussions regarding possibilities of gaining access for Kyrgyz goods to the European market. In the light of the new EU policy, there has been a two-fold increase in the budget for the technical assistance programme.

In other words, bilateral ties between the European Union and Kyrgyzstan are developing on the basis of mutual understanding and constructive co-operation. We think it important to continue to promote this ongoing trend.

As you are aware, under its new strategy the European Union is offering Central Asia an active political dialogue. We consider it useful to maintain and deepen this dialogue as part of day-to-day activities at OSCE meetings as well.

Central Asia has great potential and it should be used to achieve stability and ensure prosperity for the peoples living in the region. Kyrgyzstan welcomes the readiness of the European Union to establish special contacts with such regional organizations in Central Asia as the Eurasian Economic Community, the Shanghai Co-operation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Thank you for your attention