

Conference
**“Strengthening regional co-operation in Central Asia for promoting stable and
reliable energy within Eurasia “**
Ashgabat, 3-4 May 2010

Closing Remarks
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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have spent two exciting days in Ashgabat and on behalf of the OSCE and my Office; I would like to express gratitude to the host government of Turkmenistan for providing for us an excellent opportunity and warm hospitality. I would also like to thank the Chairmanship of the OSCE, Kazakhstan, for their support in this organization, together with other sponsors of this conference, governments of USA, France and Spain. But, without your active participation and engagement we would not have been able to achieve goals we have set at the beginning, so I thank you all.

In the last two days we have addressed increasing interdependence between producing and consuming and transit countries, through co-operative dialogue which promoted global energy security with due regard to the interests of all stakeholders.

Efforts have been made to discuss the diversification of energy supply and demand, energy sources and transportation routes. I believe that I can say that we have agreed that there is a need to increase flexibility of energy transport systems through multiple supply routes and interconnections between suppliers and consumers.

While discussing prospects for energy growths we have learned that for the next twenty years fossil fuels will continue to dominate global energy use. Demand for natural gas will grow for the immediate future. A strong increase in the interregional trade is developing all over the world particularly with the development of liquefied natural gas. This evolution will increase the role of the transit of energy. For this reason, within the framework of the 63rd Session of the UN GA, Turkmenistan successfully initiated a Resolution underlining the importance of reliable and stable transit of energy in ensuring sustainable development and international co-operation which was unanimously adopted.

This conference on Strengthening Regional Co-operation in Central Asia for Promoting Stable and Reliable Energy within Eurasia, organized in cooperation between the government of Turkmenistan and the OSCE centre in Turkmenistan, with the support of the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, was another step forward in pursuing goals set in the UN Resolution mentioned above. But also, very important for us in the OSCE, this Conference serves as yet another important

and valuable effort we have done in implementing the MC Decision on energy security which was brought in Athens last December. We, in the OSCE, will continue engaging in the implementation of the MC Decision on energy security through preparing high level expert conference before the end of this year, which will assess the role of the OSCE in the field of energy security and potentials for our future engagement.

Here in Ashgabat, we have gathered together representatives of the OSCE participating States in Eurasia in charge of energy, energy companies operating in the OSCE region and international organizations involved with energy security. In the discussion we elaborated the legal instruments aimed at ensuring a more reliable and stable energy transport process on multilateral basis. It was noted that at this moment The Energy Charter is broad legal framework which may best serve this purpose. Initiatives to improve The Energy Charter Treaty or to develop a new framework have also been thoroughly discussed during the last two days. I think I can say on behalf of all of you that there is a need for an evolution of the Energy Charter Treaty because we recognize common interest for all inclusive legal frameworks for energy co-operation.

I would like to say in the way of concluding that we have all recognized the richness of the potential of Central Asia in energy production (huge reserves of fuel and gas, abundant amount of water and suitable topography for power generation). But we have also recognized the need for the strengthening of energy cooperation in this region as well as for the establishment of stable and reliable common energy market.

Participants and speakers have expressed readiness to engage in two ways. One is to pursue investment potential of this region and this is why I am grateful for the engagement of the representatives of different companies in this Conference.

Another one is to engage existing Central Asian regional organizations or to establish new ones, in ever closer cooperation with a view to add to the overall stability and security in this part of the world through stable energy supply. For this goal to achieve it was very important to have representatives from all five OSCE participating States from Central Asian states including our partner for cooperation, Afghanistan, as well as representatives from regional organizations, academia and business as well as from non governmental sector. We, in the OSCE, hope for the continuation of this cooperation with all of you.

Last, but not the least, I would like to say that this Conference would not be possible without engagement of able team from the OSCE centre in Ashgabat, led by Ambassador Arsim Zekoli. They were helped by colleagues from my Office, Mr. Patrice Dreiski and Mylene Lichtenberg, and I thank you all.