

Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



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Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

Canadian Delegation
OSCE Permanent Council
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Current Issues: Response to Uzbekistan on Demining State Borders

Canada warmly welcomes Uzbekistan's readiness to consider the issue of demining state borders and examining alternative concepts of border security. This represents engagement on two areas of importance to OSCE activities in Central Asia as to the Canadian Delegation: mine action and border issues.

This is also a welcome indication of Uzbekistan's consideration of the humanitarian impact of antipersonnel mines against their well-known military shortcomings.

Canada would be pleased to work closely with Uzbekistan to identify sources of financial and other support for their efforts to clear mines and to find alternate means of border protection. However, this would require Uzbekistan to make a strong political decision leading to a legal commitment to refrain from any further use of mines.

Uzbekistan's accession to the Ottawa Convention would afford it access to the wealth of resources available through the 43 OSCE participating States that are already States party to the Convention.

Like our EU colleagues, we will strongly support the engagement of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent in assisting Uzbek authorities to follow up this announcement. The experience of the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe may also be instructive in this regard.