

## OSCE Academy: 17 March 2010, Vienna: opening remarks

Distinguished OSCE Chairman-in-Office, dear Secretary General, dear Board Members,

It is a great pleasure and indeed fitting, during this period of the first Central Asian country to chair the OSCE that the OSCE Academy's Board of Trustees meets at the permanent seat of the OSCE in Vienna. We are privileged that the meeting is opened by the Chair of Kazakhstan and the Secretary-General. This is the second time the Board has met in Vienna, the first being in May 2006.

I want to thank both the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General for kindly giving us their time and support.

And I also want - once again, as always - to thank Kyrgyzstan for hosting the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.

Today we have a full agenda before us. The agenda reflects the spirit of dynamism and change at the Academy. You will shortly hear in more detail from the Director of the Academy. But I want to underline the firmer direction that the Academy is taking not only to realize the shared values and commitments of the OSCE's fifty-six participating States but also to attune the Academy to the specific and individual priorities and needs of the Central Asian neighborhood.

This direction has encouraged us:

Firstly, to pursue **the regional recognition or accreditation** of the Academy's Master's programme

Secondly, to propose to the Central Asian Nations a trainee internship programme (called the Junior Professional Programme) in order to support **professional understanding and recruitment into the public (or civil) service**.

Thirdly, to consider widening our successful research programme on **oral history** (or living memory) beyond Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to the other Central Asian States

Fourthly, to consider the adaptation of our Master's curricula and our training programmes to include **emerging regional issues** such as the security implications of pressure on natural resources, on energy and agricultural demands, of human migration and of climate change.

Fifthly, to strengthen the **financial and regional sustainability** of the Academy by exploring alternative sources of funding and networking better with regional educational and informational representatives.

I am pleased now to have the support and advice of a Co-Chairman from the region, the distinguished Dr. Murat Laumullin from Kazakhstan, in order to pursue this forward-looking agenda.

With these brief remarks, I would like to close and invite Dr. Laumullin to add his remarks before we move to agenda item number 2.

