



**DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE
in response to Ms.Dunja Mijatovic, the Representative on Freedom of the
Media at the 907th meeting
of the OSCE Permanent Council
29 March 2012**

Dear Mr. Chairperson, dear colleagues,

The delegation of Kazakhstan warmly welcomes Ms. Mijatovic, the Representative on Freedom of the Media at today's meeting of the Permanent Council. We thank the Representative for her report with a comprehensive and detailed overview (even too detailed on Kazakhstan) of the activities of her Office since November 2011.

We value the efforts and important role of the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media in facilitating media freedom in the OSCE region and assistance of her Office in this regard.

My government strongly believes that freedom of the media is one of the vital pre-requisites for building a genuine democratic security community. We would like to reiterate Kazakhstan's firm adherence to our OSCE commitments in this area.

As the report has shown, there is a constructive dialogue and regular exchange of letters between the Kazakh government and the Office of Ms.Mijatovic. We thoroughly investigate every issue raised by the Representative and provide detailed response to her inquiries.

While respecting the freedom of expression, nevertheless one should not forget that the Internet is widely used nowadays not only to spread knowledge and information but also to spread terrorism ideas, national, religious and other forms of hatred and to call for the annihilation of people belonging to a different faith or ethnic groups. Taking into account the fact that Kazakhstan is a multi-ethnic society with its citizens belonging to different religions or faiths, the hate speech in the Internet advocating for national, racial or religious hatred becomes the matter of our big concern. In this regard, we will be grateful if Representative and her Office will assist us and give her practical advices in order to tackle this challenges.

Availing of this opportunity let me inform that Ms.Mijatovic has been invited as a guest speaker to the Eurasian Media Forum (EAMF) to be held on April 26-27, 2012 in Astana.

In conclusion, we express our gratitude to Ms.Mijatovic and her able team for their consistent and persistent work in ensuring media freedom and wish them every success in their future endeavours and are looking forward to see Ms.Mijatovic in Astana in April.

Thank you, Mr.Chairperson.