

STATEMENT
by H.E. Mr. Erkin Mamkulov,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
at the 12th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
Sofia, December 6-7, 2004

Thank You, Mister Chairman,

I would like to express our deep gratitude to the Bulgarian Chairmanship for graciously hosting us in Sofia and for having made every endeavor to ensure a more active OSCE response to the broad range of security challenges during Your term in office.

Today we extend our sincere gratitude also to H.E. Jan Kubis who is going to leave the post of the OSCE Secretary General.

Mister Chairman,

We are all aware that the rapidly changing world of the new millennium has brought about new challenges and we have to adjust our policies according to the emerging new situations. The OSCE should indeed become a more efficient instrument to secure peace and stability in and around its region. And one of the main tasks of the essential OSCE activity should focus on the problem of international terrorism.

Three years ago the Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia was held in my country. This Conference had made comprehensive decisions. One of these is the Bishkek Program of Action. In my view the Bishkek Program of Action remains a solid and practical reference for the work of the OSCE in combating terrorism.

I would like to stress the need for empowering the OSCE mechanisms in addressing economic and social problems, those exploited by terrorists. In this regard my Government is ready to further our cooperation within the OSCE as well as other institutions according to the Security Platform Decision of the Istanbul Summit, with particular attention over regional security issues. In this

connection I would like to mention once again the importance of building dialogue between the OSCE and Organization of Islamic Conference. In this regard I have the pleasure of suggesting to convene the meeting of the Secretary Generals of the OSCE and the Organization of Islamic Conference in Bishkek. My Government will welcome such a meeting for cooperation.

Mister Chairman,

My Government remains committed for the follow up work as far as the improvement of the substance and form of the OSCE tasks are concerned. We welcome important steps to strengthen all OSCE Dimensions, including its measures for making the education as the international links between young generations of various countries. In Kyrgyzstan there are two important projects in force under the bilateral responsibility of the OSCE and the Kyrgyz Government. These are – national project "Integration through Education" and the "OSCE Academy". The last one has grown in prestige and has turned into an important regional academic establishment for Central Asia. And I have a privilege to express my great appreciation to Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland and Turkey for their additional support. We hope that all Member-States appreciate and support also this important endeavor.

Mister Chairman,

Parliamentary and presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan are to be held next year. In this respect I would like to underline that we wish to see the OSCE high standards of democratic elections being implemented in our country. We shall spare no effort from ensuring this. In this process we encounter some setbacks and obstacles. But the main and basic roadmap that we follow is solid. We will try to achieve success in fully democratizing the Kyrgyz society as it is the target goal for our people which was set forth by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic with the target principle: "Kyrgyzstan – Country of Human Rights".

Thank You for attention.