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ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ВЕНАДАҒЫ
ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO
THE OSCE
IN VIENNA**

**Statement by
Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE,
at the 846th (special) plenary meeting of the Permanent Council,
13 January 2011, Vienna**

**Mr. Chairperson-in-Office,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. Minister, for your kind words addressed to the State Secretary – Minister Saudabayev.

On his behalf and on behalf of my Government, I would like to wholeheartedly welcome you on the occasion of your inaugural address to the Permanent Council as the Chairperson-in-Office of our Organization.

Last year was very fruitful for the OSCE, bringing us to that highly significant and historic achievement, the Summit Meeting, with its comprehensive political declaration. Looking back, I would say that the Istanbul Summit in 1999 opened the door to the 21st century, but the Astana Summit gave the impetus to the Organization to “cross the Rubicon” at last.

As has often been the case in history, such a threshold does not represent the fairy-tale story-ending: “and they lived happily ever after”. Quite the opposite, it opens a new chapter – this time a chapter of hard work aimed at filling the words “OSCE family” and “security community” with substantial content.

This is a great honour and a great challenge for the Lithuanian and following OSCE Chairmanships. Indeed, to a certain extent, it represents even more of a challenge than did attaining the goals of the past year. It was very difficult to achieve the ultimate goals of the Summit and the Declaration, but it will be even more difficult to keep up the momentum and inject the needed added value. Therefore, Kazakhstan stands ready, and feels its responsibility, to work shoulder-to-shoulder with the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship to fulfill this task.

We all recognize that, today, the realities and threats to security are quite different than those of 35, 20 or even ten years ago. However, at all times, especially during critical periods for Europe and the world, the OSCE’s goals and principles have remained a good basis and provided guidelines for maintaining and strengthening security in the vast Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area.

We don’t have a single doubt that the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship will establish and continue to develop good and fruitful relations with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Secretariat and Institutions, field missions and delegations in Vienna, as Kazakhstan had last year.

That was once again proved in Astana, where our Organization was able to cross the threshold. It was a difficult step, but it became a unifying success for the entire Organization.

Now it is necessary to continue the joint work unabated. The favourable political atmosphere that the Summit generated should be used to the fullest. All the proposals made in Astana should be thoroughly analyzed and taken into account.

Taking this opportunity, I would like once again to draw your attention to the proposals put forward by our President, for example, for developing a document on the topic, “The OSCE: Towards tolerance in a new decade”, applying the experience and potential of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination in the OSCE area, for updating the Maastricht document, and others.

I am convinced that the spirit of Astana will carry over into the future activities of this Organization.

Mr. Minister, Excellencies,

The priorities of the Lithuanian Chairmanship are ambitious, but they reflect a very realistic vision and propose steps that are necessary in order to contribute to building the common Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community we all committed ourselves to in Astana.

This work is a team effort. And just as the Kazakhstan OSCE Chairmanship was able to build upon the accomplishments of Finland and Greece, and to enjoy the support of all 56 participating States, the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship can also rely on the support of Kazakhstan in its capacity as a member of the OSCE Troika and as the holder of the chairmanship of the Forum for Security Cooperation in the last trimester of 2011.

We would like to wish you and your very able team in Vienna, led by Ambassador Renatas Norkus, success in your noble mission.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.