

MC.DEL/17/13
5 December 2013

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Written contribution
Collective Security Treaty Organization
Secretary General
N. BORDYUZHA

OSCE Ministerial Meeting
December 5-6, 2013, Kyiv

The CSTO activities to provide collective security and stability were particularly multifaceted of late. Among the most significant CSTO events one could mention **the session of the Collective Security Council and meetings of the CSTO statutory bodies in Sochi**, the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly Council meeting in Bishkek, the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Military-Economic Cooperation of the CSTO States in Yerevan, the “Interaction-2013” exercises of the Collective Rapid Response CSTO Forces in Belarus as well as the most representative peacekeeping exercises to date, “Unbreakable Brotherhood -2013” in the Chelyabinsk Region near Chebarkul, the International Conference on Afghanistan-2014 in Bishkek and the multi-day international auto rally “Together We Are Strong”, dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the CSTO.

At the Sochi session **Russia has accepted rotating presidency in the CSTO** “from the hands” of the Kyrgyz Republic with the aim to continue development of the political and military cooperation, expand the CSTO potential in the area of counteracting new challenges and threats to security.

It was noted at the session that **CSTO was concerned with the development of the situation in Afghanistan** due to forthcoming reduction in the foreign military presence in the year 2014. It was stressed that quite possible further degradation of the situation in that country should not be allowed to negatively affect the entire region including CSTO member-states.

The main plank in this area was to provide military-technical assistance to Tajik border troops in order to strengthen the Tajik-Afghan border because clashes with groups violating the borderline occur more and more frequently there.

CSTO considers the 20th OSCE Ministerial meeting as a very useful “platform” for the exchange of views on the building of dialogue within the OSCE, with the involvement of partners and cooperating international organizations. One of the aims of the dialogue is to determine the optimal areas of practical cooperation, especially on such important and topical issues for all as the Afghan problem in the context of the “factor-2014”.

One should note the **importance of the real start-up of the “Helsinki +40” process**, which all Member States of the CSTO support, regarding it as a conceptual strategy document, developing the OSCE principles, establishing a unified vision of the goals and objectives of its reform. This process should form the basis for a qualitative strengthening of the OSCE, adapting it to the new geopolitical realities, transforming it into multifunctional international organization able to deal effectively with the problem of collective security in its area of responsibility.

Paying attention to the **proximity of the CSTO and the OSCE tasks in the area of collective security** and the fight against transnational threats and challenges, it must be emphasized that in many respects the CSTO most closely cooperates with the OSCE: carries out **consultations with Mr. Lamberto Zannier, Secretary-General**, the heads of the major departments of the OSCE Secretariat; contacts with the field missions in the countries of Central Asia, etc.

The regular working meetings permit a mutual exchange of experience, ideas, information, as well as to plan joint activities. Now the attention is focused on **how to prevent the further aggravation of the situation on the borders with Afghanistan and within the Central Asian States** in the year 2014 after the withdrawal of the main part of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan.

CSTO joint activities with the OSCE for the coming period (which may involve the Afghan issue) are now under consideration. Summing up, the status and prospects of cooperation with the OSCE are encouraging. This is a testimony of mutual interest and trust.

Thus, against the background of positive evolution of the CSTO system of collective security in all directions, the effective development of cooperation with the OSCE is going on, with the common aim of bringing peace and stability to the areas of shared responsibility.