

**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE***Check against delivery*

**Statement by
Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE,
at the 858 (special) plenary meeting of the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 13 April 2011**

**Mme. President,
Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of my government, I would like to wholeheartedly welcome you, Mme President, to the OSCE Permanent Council. It is great honour for us to have this unique chance to host you, Mme President.

Taking this opportunity we would also like to commend active role of the Chairperson-in-Office, the delegation of your country, especially Ambassador Renatas Norkus and his able team, in their efforts to run effectively the Organization as a Chairmanship-in-Office.

The Lithuanian Chairmanship assumed its duties in a very challenging period of our history after the Astana Summit which gave the impetus to the Organization to “cross the Rubicon” on its way forward to the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community we all committed ourselves to in Astana.

This is a great honour and a great challenge for the Lithuanian and following OSCE Chairmanships. At this stage it is vital to continue the joint work unabated, to make concrete steps in all three dimensions. As Mme President rightly noted we have heavy agenda ahead of us, and goodwill as well as mutual respect and tolerance are essential in achieving solid results. I am convinced that the Lithuanian Chairmanship will carry over the spirit of Astana into the future activities of this Organization.

Allow me also to thank you personally, Mme President, for active participation in the Astana Summit and enormous support rendered to the Kazakhstan Chairmanship last year.

We share the view that protracted conflicts, transnational threats and Afghanistan as well as human dimension should continue to be in focus of the Organization. However the Astana Declaration, being a comprehensive document, covers much wider scope of issues. Therefore we believe that the economic and environmental dimension should have its proper place in the to-do list.

Mme President,

My delegation took note of a very important topic in your presentation regarding the ODIHR. Kazakhstan has been wholeheartedly supporting its activities for many years, especially during our Chairmanship last year. Based on the latest lessons we have learnt from the recent elections in my country, my delegation is convinced that there is still space for improvements in the elections observation performed by the ODIHR as well as in the election system of my country.

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. The first steps have been already taken. Last month the next phase of our security dialogue also known as the Corfu Process – the V to V dialogue was launched where we had an opportunity to have another round of discussions on conflicts and conflict cycle, which we hope, would help us to perform deliverables by the Vilnius Ministerial meeting.

There is still a long way to go and the forthcoming Ministerial meeting would be a litmus test for our determination to realize taskings of the Astana Summit, in particular building the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community.

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 Co-operation in the last trimester of 2011.

We would like to wish you, Mme President, your country and your very dedicated teams in Vienna, led by Ambassador Renatas Norkus, and the Task Force in Vilnius, led by Ambassador Rytis Paulauskas, success in your noble mission.

Thank you.