



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

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to
the OSCE, Ambassador Doulat Kuanyshev
at the 646th Permanent Council meeting
18 January 2006**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Let me warmly welcome Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany H.E. Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier at today's meeting of the Permanent Council and thank him for his very informative address that contains a comprehensive outlook of the EU Presidency priorities relevant for this Organization.

We have thoroughly studied those priorities and appreciate that they are strongly fundamental on the realistic evaluation of the existing socioeconomic and political tendencies both within the European Union and beyond its borders.

We sympathize with the aspiration of Germany to focus its efforts on the most pressing issues. We wish you, Mr. Minister all success in this endeavor.

Of course, we paid special attention to the part of the report dedicated to strategy of the EU towards Central Asia.

Mr. Minister,

Let me assure you that Kazakhstan is a firm supporter of the initiatives outlined in the report and of their subsequent implementation. Furthermore we share your intention to concentrate on forging solid and long-term cooperation between the Union and Central Asia.

For the last years the relations between Kazakhstan and European Union has been developing in this direction on their way to transform into strategic partnership. Common interest in enhancing strategic partnership; creating an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect have led to significant expansion of the political and economic links between Kazakhstan and the EU. I would specifically mention, in this context, the role of Germany that with more than 3 billion US dollars of bilateral trade turnover with Kazakhstan is our leading European partner.

From our perspective, we are ready to assist Germany as the EU Chairman by all possible means in achieving goals of our cooperation. Those goals include: maintaining peace and stability; strengthening energy partnership; environment

protection; developing regional ties; assisting in developing democratic processes in Central Asian region.

We are confident that upcoming visit of the President Nursultan Nazarbayev to Berlin at the end of this month will further promote cooperation of my country with you and will become an important step in ever-strengthening Kazakh-German partnership.

Mr. Minister,

Astana and Berlin cooperate fruitfully in many areas including the OSCE. In this sense, I would like to commend the German delegation at the OSCE headed by Ambassador Berg for our cooperation in Vienna.

The EU and OSCE agendas are closely connected. Here in the OSCE we also try to find rational, cross-dimensional, balanced ways of interaction that may ultimately contribute to the consolidation of security, stability and cooperation on the OSCE area.

In this regard, I would like on behalf of my Government to express our sincere gratitude to Germany for supporting our aspiration to contribute to stability and cooperation as Chairman in 2009.

Let me conclude, Mr. Minister, by informing you that in Astana we hope to welcome you again in March second time in less than 6 months, at the meeting of Foreign Ministers of EU Troika and Central Asian states.

Thank you.