



**ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ
ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ**

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

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**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the OSCE, Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov
at the 722nd Permanent Council meeting
17 July 2008**

Thank you, Mr.Chairman,

Let me warmly welcome H.E. Mr. Bernard Kouchner, Minister for Foreign Affairs of France at today's meeting of the Permanent Council and express appreciation for delivering his address that contains very informative vision of the EU Presidency priorities for the next six months.

We consider those priorities as fundamental ones which give us a comprehensive outlook at the political and socio-economic situation within the European Union and beyond its borders.

Kazakhstan attaches a significant importance to the role of the European Union in maintaining international peace and stability as well as addressing the effects of the world market volatilities. In this regard, we commend France's intentions to continue the EU policy to further focus its efforts on addressing the most pressing contemporary issues which are also of the OSCE agenda. We extend our full support to EU engagement in enhancing effectiveness of our Organization, promoting its efficiency and increasing its authority.

Kazakhstan pays special attention to the further implementation of the EU Strategy for Central Asia. We continue to believe that the Strategy is a very important document that has yet to fully realize its huge potential. We hope that during its Presidency France will have a real success in intensifying the dialogue between the European Union and Central Asian states within the format of the Strategy.

Mr. Chairman,

Decision to grant the OSCE Chairmanship to Kazakhstan in 2010 has led us to develop a specific programme named as "Path to Europe". This document reflects our interest to a wider interaction with European countries in energy,

transport transit, technology transfer, education and humanitarian areas of cooperation. One of the main goals of the Programme is to develop Kazakhstan's priorities for its upcoming OSCE Chairmanship that will be in line with the goals and principles of the Organization. We believe that successful implementation of this programme could benefit the both – OSCE and EU.

In conclusion, please allow me to wish Minister Kouchner and the whole team of French Presidency every success in dealing with their duties as well as addressing the issues of today's EU activities.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.