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**STATEMENT BY MR. BEKSULTAN SARSEKOV,  
DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN REGIONAL INFORMATION  
AND CO-ORDINATION CENTRE, AT PART II OF THE  
18th MEETING OF THE OSCE ECONOMIC AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Prague, 24 and 26 May 2010

**Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of  
land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and  
rail in the OSCE region**

**Plenary Session IV: Transportation facilitation and security in Central Asia and  
with Afghanistan**

**Drug trafficking as a threat to global security**

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I should like to express my gratitude to the organizers of the 18th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum for the invitation and for the opportunity to set out my views on the theme that has been selected for this meeting.

The questions placed on the agenda of today's Forum are so diverse that they not only concern virtually every sphere of life on the continent but also the problems involved in ensuring our security.

The concept of European security today goes far beyond the borders of Europe, encompassing the vast expanse of Eurasia. Consequently, the solution of many problems concerned with global security, including ensuring the stability of the European continent, depends on constructive dialogue between Europe and Asia.

For my part, in the time allotted to me I should like to call your attention to one of the key problems of global security – the drug threat emanating from Afghanistan. Solving this problem is a primary concern for Kazakhstan as the holder of the OSCE Chairmanship and it requires consistent support on the part of the entire international community.

This was confirmed by Mr. Pino Arlacchi, Special Representative of the European Parliament for combating drug trafficking, at a press conference on 14 April of this year when he urged Europe to join the war on Afghan drugs because "Europe is the number one consumer of drugs from Afghanistan, followed by Russia".

In this connection, I must regrettably point out that according to the official statistics the average age of drug addicts is 29 to 30 years, and 7 per cent of addicts are in the 18 to 20 age group. According to Mr. Viktor Ivanov, Director of the Federal Drug Control Service, each year 30,000 young people die in Russia alone as a result of drugs, on average more than 80 people a day. A similar situation is observed throughout Eurasia, where each day countries are losing irreplaceable golden potential in the form of the young generation and the future of our nations.

In terms of human losses, the threat posed by drug addiction in the twenty-first century may in fact be on a par with the most terrible event of the twentieth century, namely the Great Patriotic War.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the face of the global threat, one of the most promising projects in our view is the further development of co-operation between the OSCE and the Central Asian Regional Information and Co-ordination Centre (CARICC) for combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, established in Almaty at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

At a meeting with Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in Astana on 7 April 2010, President Nazarbayev expressed his deep concern at the drug situation in the region and set a lofty goal as a powerful impetus for the further intensification of the work of the competent agencies. The Kazakhstan-based Central Asian Regional Information and Co-ordination Centre for combating the drug threat represents an important link in strengthening multilateral co-operation to combat the flow of drugs from Afghanistan.

Our task today is to maximize the potential for sealing the channels used to transport narcotic drugs out of Afghanistan and to cut off the supply of precursors for drug production to Afghanistan.

In that connection, it should be pointed out that drug lords actively exploit the regional transport infrastructure. For example, according to analysts working for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes and the CARICC, narcotics are mainly transported by road along the northern route through the countries of Central Asia and Russia. Between 70 and 75 per cent of drugs are transported in this way. In second place are the railways, by which between 10 and 15 per cent of drugs are transported. Lastly, in third place in view of the high risk of the discovery of the drugs is transport by air, with between 8 and 10 per cent.

Since its inception the CARICC has been co-ordinating the efforts of the competent agencies in the seven member States and other partners in countering transnational drug-related crime through the exchange of information via the Centre and through joint international operations, including controlled deliveries.

Despite the short period that our Centre has been in operation, the CARICC has already co-ordinated a number of special operations to put a stop to the activities of transnational drug groups. A total of 20 international drug supply channels to Europe and

China have been closed down. Furthermore, 38 members of criminal groups have been arrested and 232 kilograms of heroin and 15 kilograms of hashish seized.

In view of the CARICC's capabilities, the Centre also has the task of co-ordinating the annual international TARCET operation to close down channels for the smuggling of precursors into Afghanistan.

This operation has already produced quite tangible results in its first stages. Most recently, less than a month ago in fact, Tajik agencies seized more than 430 kilograms of acetic anhydride on 29 April, with a co-ordinating role played by the CARICC.

In addition to the operational aspects, we are currently integrating the relatively promising experience in the use of strategic and operational analysis to deal with the tasks facing us.

A database containing a massive amount of information received from around the world has been set up and is already in operation. The Centre's specialists use the latest operational analysis methods employed by the law enforcement authorities in leading countries. We have also established protected channels for the exchange of confidential and other information.

The drug situation in the region calls for greater efforts than ever before on the part of the competent agencies of various States. The Centre's senior officials are devoting specific attention to intensifying contacts with the directors and staff of operational divisions of the relevant agencies in interested countries.

This being the case, the CARICC is beginning a new form of co-operation with its member States through the effective co-ordination of the efforts based on real confidence in the Centre's capabilities. We have operational contacts with the competent agencies of CARICC observer countries and the relevant international organizations.

We have partners around the world. At present, eight countries (the United States of America, Germany, Canada, Austria, Italy, France, Finland and Pakistan) have observer status with the CARICC, and a further three (the United Kingdom, Afghanistan and Turkey) will be admitted soon.

We have established close ties with the directors of the drug control department in Afghanistan, without waiting for them to receive official observer status. Specific agreements were reached recently on the Centre's assistance in the operational analysis of operations currently being carried out by the competent agencies in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Contacts are also in place with the relevant agencies in China and with the drug control departments in Iran and Turkey.

I should like to mention in particular the development of co-operation with the competent agencies in Italy, which is a CARICC observer country and an important donor. In March of this year we held working meetings with the directors of the central department for combating drug trafficking under the auspices of the Italian Ministry of Internal Affairs – an interdepartmental national body that co-ordinates the fight against narcotic drugs and is

responsible for international co-operation in this area. During these meetings practical aspects of co-operation in closing supply channels for Afghan drugs to Europe were discussed.

There is great potential for active collaboration with the competent agencies of the CARICC observer countries. Co-operation between the CARICC and relevant international organizations is developing dynamically.

We have extremely close contacts with Interpol, which is another CARICC observer. Similarly, we are co-operating with the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative's Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime (SECI Center).

A memorandum on co-operation and interaction between the CARICC and the World Customs Organization, the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre and the CIS Office for the Co-ordination of the Fight against Organized Crime and Other Dangerous Forms of Crime.

Co-operation is expanding with Europol, the International Narcotic Control Board, the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Interagency Operations Coordination Center in Kabul, the Serious Organized Crime Agency and the trilateral initiative organization based in Tehran.

All this confirms that the international community is seriously concerned at the problem of the spread of drug addiction in any part of the world and is ready to work together to combat this evil.

As international experts have recognized, the Kazakh Chairmanship of the OSCE has made an enormous positive contribution to resolving long-term problems not only in the region but throughout the world. For our part, we are ready to do all we can to work together with interested parties to achieve our common goal of erecting a reliable barrier to put a stop to one of the most dangerous threats to humanity, that of narcotic drugs.

Thank you for your attention.