

Statement by
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
H.E. Yerzhan Kazykhanov
at the International Conference “Kazakhstan – Europe:
Results and New Horizons of Cooperation”
(24 November 2011, Astana)

Dear Participants of the Conference!

Dear Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

[First of all I would like to welcome and thank everyone for participating in today's conference hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on eve of the 20th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

During these years our country has achieved considerable success both in its internal development, as well as in foreign policy due to the activity of First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev] - **in the Kazakh language.**

I am pleased to welcome all participants of this conference, in particular Chairman of the Constitutional Council of Kazakhstan Igor Rogov and prominent French statesman and politician Roland Dumas, who took part in the development of the first Constitution of independent Kazakhstan. The main Law of our country has become a solid basis for growth in the democratic potential of society and a guarantee of stability and prosperity -

just what today is called abroad as 'the Kazakhstan way of development'.

Today, our country is regarded by the international community as a generator of stability in Central Asia. The successful Chairmanship in the OSCE, the Astana Summit, the Chairmanship in the OIC and the SCO, and the implementation of a number of major foreign policy initiatives of Kazakhstan undoubtedly evidence about high authority in the international arena.

The 20-year old stage in the development of our cooperation with many European countries has principally changed the relationship between Kazakhstan and the EU. We have done a great and effective work to create an extended partnership with Europe, which brings the bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level.

The State Programme "Path to Europe" is one of the key initiatives of the Head of our State put forward and successfully implemented in recent years.

Through this programme, the European Union has firmly occupied the position of a leading trade and investment partner of Kazakhstan. Today, the EU share accounts for 50% of the Kazakhstan foreign trade and the third part of investments involved in the country. The foreign trade turnover of Kazakhstan with the European Union only in the first half of 2011 amounted to 25.4 billion USD (for comparison, 18.6 billion USD in the first half of 2010). During the period of 1993-2010, the gross inflow of

direct investment from the EU countries into Kazakhstan's economy comprised more than 52 billion USD, including 10 billion USD in 2010. The European Investment Bank has entered the Kazakh market in 2010.

Our country is the third (after Russia and Norway) largest energy supplier in the EU from the OPEC non-member countries.

Over the past three years, we have signed the Agreement on Strategic Partnership with France, Italy, Spain and Turkey.

The intergovernmental Action Plan within the Partnership for the Future has been signed with Germany. The Year of Germany in Kazakhstan (2010) has successfully completed. I would like to take this opportunity to send warm congratulations with happy birthday to attending Ambassador of Germany Mr. Herz, who recently presented credentials to the Head of our State. I wish you good health, prosperity and a fruitful stay in our country.

The European countries, taking into account the high level of technological development, continue to be our key economic partners in the implementation of the Programme of Forced Industrial Innovative Development of Kazakhstan.

The Kazakh-European dialogue in recent years has been peculiar with the strengthening of regional aspect. We are interested in further implementation of the EU Strategy for Central Asia, which contributes to stability and integration in Central Asia.

The solid core of strengthening bilateral relations is to maintain the political dialogue at the highest level.

As you know, in 2010, the Head of our State has paid an official visit to the EU headquarters in Brussels. This year, President Nursultan Nazarbayev has met President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso and President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy. During the meetings, the parties have advocated consistent strengthening and expanding of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The outstanding evidence of the successful implementation of the State Programme “Path to Europe” was that the preparation of the new RK-EU Extended Partnership and Cooperation Agreement had been launched. Kazakhstan and the EU are focused at signing the comprehensive document based on long-term goals of our collaboration. It is about creating a qualitatively new legal framework for the multifaceted mutually beneficial partnership between Kazakhstan and the EU.

On October 12 this year, Astana has hosted the first official round of negotiations on the new RK-EU Agreement, which generally resulted in the structure and concept for a new document being agreed upon.

The issue of transition to the simplified travel regime for the citizens of Kazakhstan and the EU is among the priority areas of cooperation with the European Union. We have made certain progress with a number of the European countries on this matter.

We actively develop the dialogue in the field of law, legal assistance and human rights. The Subcommittee on Justice and Legal Order will hold regular meetings, as well as the structured

Dialogue on Human Rights in Brussels on 29-30 November this year.

The cooperation with the European Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the OSCE Parliamentary Assemblies, the Council of Europe and the NATO is also being dynamically developed.

Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjorn Jagland has made his first visit to Kazakhstan on 11 October this year as part of the process for expanding and deepening the relations of Kazakhstan with the Council of Europe. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has recently approved the application of Kazakhstan for full-fledged membership in the Venice Commission filed within his visit.

Dear Participants of the Conference,

The issues of security, both in Europe and Central Asia, are among the important points on the Kazakh-European agenda. In order to address these issues, comprehensive and effective measures are required.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan in the OSCE in 2010.

According to the Cooperation Partners of the OSCE, Kazakhstan has been demonstrating a confident and effective way of working as a 'political manager' of the Organization during the whole year of 2010. It has showed dynamism and a balanced

approach in all three OSCE dimensions, as well as it has ensured the continuity of activities of the Organization.

The first in the new millennium OSCE Summit, which was held on the initiative of the Head of our State, has become a significant contribution to the revitalization of the Organization, strengthening of trust and mutual understanding in the entire space of the OSCE. The Astana Declaration adopted at the summit has clearly marked the challenges and threats facing the Organization. For the first time ever, it has enshrined the notion of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security space, as well as considerably strengthened the credibility of the OSCE in the international arena.

The Astana Declaration contains specific instructions for the future chairmanships, including the preparation and adoption of the action plan based on the practice of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship.

In addition to the ongoing participation in the OSCE "Troika", we pursue another important mission: from September to December 2011 Kazakhstan chairs the Forum for Security Cooperation. At this post, our country continues its work to promote constructive negotiations on updating the 1999 Vienna Document.

We hope that the outcomes of the upcoming OSCE Ministerial Meeting on 6-7 December in Vilnius will enhance our joint efforts to build a common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We use the practical experience gained in the OSCE now during the period of our Chairmanship in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which unites 57 countries with a population of over 1.5 billion people. As a Chairman of the pan-European Organization last year and a Chairman of the Islamic Organization today, we understand the responsibility and in some ways the uniqueness of this mission, and we strive to entirely promote the mutual understanding between the Islamic world and the West.

Again and again we are tested by time. The Middle East and North Africa are suffering from shocks. The developments in Libya, Syria and overcoming of the humanitarian disaster in Somalia are constantly in focus of the OIC CFM Chairman.

The world is still suffering from the growing threat of international terrorism, which no one is safe from. The problem of drug trafficking and other cross-border challenges is extremely acute as well. The problem of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, climate change, illegal migration, natural and manmade disasters are also very severe today.

In this context, we stand for a comprehensive, long-term and constructive cooperation with the EU and other European countries.

In order to improve security in the region, facilitate legitimate trade and transit, and reduce illicit movement of goods and

people, the Regional Border Management Programme for Central Asia (BOMCA) is under effect, aimed at gradual adoption of modern border management methods by the Central Asian countries.

Last year, the 5th three-year phase of the Central Asian Drug Prevention Programme (CADAP) has been officially launched. It is aimed at promoting the regional strategy to combat drug trafficking.

The regional security issues are increasingly important in the context of the launched ISAF withdrawal from Afghanistan until 2014. Thus, we should make sure, through joint efforts, that the steady flow of international aid into the country continues, even after the Government takes over full responsibility for maintaining security in the country. We need to keep on humanitarian and economic assistance, and developing the political dialogue within the country.

Kazakhstan, for its part, has been taking strenuous efforts in addressing the identified problems. We have implemented a number of large-scale social projects, and the humanitarian food aid has been provided for several years. As you know, an important meeting of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan has been held recently in Astana.

During our Presidency in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), we have made an important contribution on the Afghan track. Today, as a chair of the Contact Group on Cooperation with the OSCE Asian Partners, we

advocate the Organization's increased role in addressing problems that face Afghanistan.

As the current Chairman in the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Astana has played an instrumental role in opening the Organization's Permanent Mission in Kabul. Greater emphasis has been placed on the work of the OIC Trust Fund, and the role of the OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy on Afghanistan has been enhanced. We have also held a meeting of the Contact Group on Afghanistan at the headquarters of the Organization in Jeddah.

Today, it is clear for everyone that real reconciliation negotiations among all Afghan forces are critical for the establishment of normal political environment in the country and its stability and development.

Considering the NATO as an important partner in ensuring international and regional security, Kazakhstan, from the very beginning of the international coalition campaign in Afghanistan, has been assisting to the continuous supply of the International Security Assistance Force.

Kazakhstan is the most advanced partner of the North Atlantic Alliance in Central Asia. We have achieved a great and largely unique experience of political dialogue and practical cooperation based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit. Currently, the preparation of the Third Round of the Individual Partnership Action Plan between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the NATO for 2012-2013 has begun. We

consider that this will facilitate further strengthening of effective partnership with the NATO, as well as intensify the joint contribution to regional security.

Dear Friends,

I would like to note that the completion of the implementation of the State Programme “Path to Europe” has coincided with the completion of the diplomatic mission of Head of Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan – Ambassador Norbert Jousten. In this connection, I would like to thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for fruitful work and wish you success in your future activity on the new place.

I am confident that the discussions during the conference will give a comprehensive look at the current state and prospects for cooperation of Kazakhstan with the European Union and other European countries.

I wish successful work to all the participants.