



DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
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**Statement by Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the
International Organizations in Vienna at the 1191st meeting of the
OSCE Permanent Council in response to the report by Harlem
Desir, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
(5 July, 2018)**

Thank you Mr.Chairperson,

Delegation of Kazakhstan thanks OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Harlem Desir for his comprehensive report to the Permanent Council.

At the outset, let me reiterate our appreciation of the close and constructive cooperation built over the years with the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Freedoms of opinion, expression and media are fundamental for the democracy.

Mr. Desir, I believe that you were able to closely get acquainted with issues of media freedom during your first visit in current capacity to Kazakhstan on 22 - 24 May, where you attended the 15th Eurasian Media Forum.

Your bilateral meetings in the margins of Media Forum with high ranking representations Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Information and Communications gave you possibility to discuss issues of media freedom.

I hope that Conference on Internet freedom and development in Central Asia hosted in Almaty on 17 - 18 May 2018 was another good opportunity for your Office to better understand the last developments in Kazakhstan.

Under substantial reforms initiated in accordance with the Plan of Nation "100 concrete steps" a new law on mass media was adopted on 28 December 2017, which had been thoroughly discussed by experts and population. Aiming at promoting freedom of expression and mass media, the new law ensures the legal regulation of public relations in the field of the media, broadcasting, information and communication, information security. These amendments will positively affect the level of governmental bodies' transparency to the population through media.

Availing this opportunity, I would like to announce that Kazakhstan intends to host 20th OSCE annual Central Asia Media Conference this year, concrete date and venue will be defined soon.

As regards the issues related to Kazakhstan, most of them have already been discussed at the Permanent Council. I shall therefore refrain from repeating today the detailed information which we have already provided. Nevertheless, the content of your report will, as always, be carefully examined by governmental authorities.

We strongly encourage you to continue to stick to the impartial and objective approach in observing media developments in the entire area OSCE and helping participating States in implementing their commitments in the area of freedom of expression and free media.

In this regard, we welcome your constructive cooperation with our delegation.

Mr. Chairperson,

28 June is a journalists professional day in Kazakhstan. Many outstanding representatives of media and journalists were awarded by special “Nur Sunqar” award and “Urker” national prize for promoting freedom of media. I hope members of Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, who were present on “journalists day” in Kazakhstan could feel all these festive atmosphere and special attention given to the representatives of media and journalists.

In conclusion, we would like to once again thank the Representative and his dedicated team for their important work and wish them every success.

I thank you.