



DELEGATION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
TO THE OSCE

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Statement by Ambassador Kairat Sarybay,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International  
Organizations in Vienna at the 1189<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in  
response to the Address by the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of  
Europe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of  
Croatia, H.E. Marija Pejčinović Burić  
(14 June, 2018)

**Thank you Mr.Chairperson,**

We warmly welcome the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, H.E. Marija Pejčinović Burić to the Permanent Council and thank her for the insightful presentation. We welcome the priorities of Croatia at the CoE Committee of Ministers, which include fight against corruption, protection of national minorities and vulnerable groups, and protection of cultural heritage. They correspond fully to the priorities of my country.

We welcome continuous cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe. We positively note Joint Reports prepared by the Focal Points of both Organizations in the two priority areas: the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination and the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities presented this March.

Kazakhstan and the Council of Europe enjoy fruitful cooperation in such areas like education, culture, fight against corruption and money laundering, judiciary and constitutional law.

I am pleased to inform that Kazakhstan has implemented essential constitutional reforms aimed to further democratize the country's political system and to further modernize its economy. Kazakhstan has fulfilled five institutional reforms declared by President Nursultan Nazarbayev in 2015. Which aiming, establishing a professional and autonomous state apparatus. Second, solidifying rule of law. Third, achieving industrialization and economic growth. Fourth, unifying as a single nation for the future. Fifth, functioning as a transparent and accountable government. These reforms are being implemented in accordance with the strategic goals of Kazakhstan's development until 2050. Modern instruments and standards of public administration are being introduced as part of the reforms that unconditionally respect human rights and freedoms, confirm our commitment to pluralist democracy based on the rule of law.

I would like to particularly note that last November in Copenhagen the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe adopted a resolution on "The relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan" which provides information on recent reforms aimed at strengthening democratic governance.

Also this report argues for expanding the current cooperation under the "Neighborhood Cooperation priorities for Kazakhstan", which is currently focused on the reform of the justice system, to other key areas where the Council of Europe can make a meaningful contribution.

We are delighted that the Parliamentary Assembly in its report recognized Kazakhstan's "positive contribution to dealing with major international problems such as the nuclear programme of Iran and the crisis in Syria, as well as leading role in addressing challenges faced by Central Asia, including terrorism, drugs trafficking and security issues related to the situation in Afghanistan".

As we have already informed, in December 2013 the CoE Committee of Ministers approved the "Priorities of good-neighborly cooperation for Kazakhstan: cooperation on Council of Europe conventions in criminal matters", which will be successfully finalized in July 2018.

A joint program of the European Union and the Council of Europe "Support of the Kazakh authorities in improving the quality and efficiency of the justice system of Kazakhstan" started in 2015 will also be completed in September 2018.

We believe that the successful implementation of these instruments will make a significant contribution to strengthening the effectiveness of Kazakhstan's judicial and penal systems, as well as creating more favorable conditions for Kazakhstan's accession to the Council of Europe Conventions in the field of criminal justice.

Moreover, in the light of the results of the implementation of "Neighborhood Cooperation priorities for Kazakhstan" and other cooperation activities, the PACE in aforementioned report invited the Committee of Ministers and the member States of the Council of Europe to reconsider the position on Kazakhstan's accession to CoE legal instruments in the fields of criminal justice and the fight against corruption.

In this context, I would like to attract your attention, Madam Minister, to a side event organized by Kazakhstan in Strasbourg on 26 June where Deputy Foreign Minister Roman Vassilenko and representatives of Supreme Court, General Prosecutor's Office and Ministry of Internal Affairs will contribute to a discussion on the results of active and successful cooperation between Kazakhstan and Council of Europe that we have enjoyed so far.

In conclusion, let me wish you every success in your future endeavours.

I thank you.