



DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
TO THE OSCE

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**STATEMENT BY KAZAKHSTAN
ON THE PERMANENT COUNCIL DECISION ON
AN OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN ASTANA**

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

Throughout this year, Kazakhstan acted on the new mandate in the most transparent, constructive and flexible way.

I should admit that this lengthy process of negotiations on transformation of the OSCE field operation in Kazakhstan, which started in the beginning of 2014, which is the Year of Horse, according to oriental horoscope, looked somewhat surrealistic. Our efforts to align the mandate with the needs and priorities of the host country met with a strong resistance from our partners which never hosted an OSCE field operation, that I've got an impression that they applied the well-known wisdom: "Don't look at the teeth of a donated horse". However, Kazakhs as nomads are good experts in horses, and I believe that, at the end of the day, we all got the best racehorse.

Kazakhstan is very grateful to all participating States who expressed full support to our proposal on transformation of this field operation. We are particularly grateful to the Chairman-in-Office, Chairperson of the Permanent Council and their staff for strong efforts to achieve consensus.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT
BY KAZAKHSTAN ON THE PERMANENT COUNCIL DECISION ON
AN OSCE PROGRAMME OFFICE IN ASTANA**

Mr Chairperson, the Delegation of Kazakhstan would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure in connection with the adoption of the Permanent Council decision on an OSCE Programme Office in Astana.

1. Kazakhstan will apply the following interpretation of the mandate of the newly established Office with regard to the scope of its mandated activities and to the scope of its reporting.

(a) According to tick one of operational paragraph 2, the Office shall implement programmatic activities designed in the priority areas outlined in operational paragraph 3. Any activity in an area other than those listed there shall be treated as a non-priority activity and may be implemented by the Office provided that all priority areas listed in operational paragraph 3 are fully addressed by the Office.

(b) Operational paragraph 2 of this decision shall be understood as restricting the scope of reporting of the Office only to its own programmatic activities. While the Office must closely follow and keep itself informed about developments in the host country in order to be able to implement its project activities, the Office must refrain from reporting on or assessment of any political, social, economic or other contextual developments in the host country in all its written and oral reports to the OSCE Permanent Council or its informal subsidiary bodies or in any other types of communication to all the participating States or general public.

2. Tick two of operational paragraph 2 should not be understood as creating a bottleneck in approval of project activities of the Office by the host country. To the contrary, the Office will benefit from having a focal point, single “clearing house” or “one-stop-shop” within the government of Kazakhstan, namely the Foreign Ministry, which will ensure that all project activities of the Office match the needs and priorities of the host country, that OSCE resources are used in the most effective, efficient and transparent way, and that projects of the Office are approved as fast as possible.

3. With regard to operational paragraph 6 of this decision, which represents a commitment by the Permanent Council, Kazakhstan calls on incoming OSCE Chairmanships to ensure that annual reviews by the Permanent Council of the relevance of this mandate to current realities be held sufficiently in advance of the submission of the OSCE Unified Budget

Proposal on 1 October of a given year, so that the Office was able to submit its annual resource requirements on the basis of the most updated mandate.

4. In general, the newly adopted mandate should be considered as an effort by Kazakhstan to contribute, in good faith, to strengthening the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of all OSCE field activities and to the ongoing dialogue within the Helsinki plus 40 process.

Kazakhstan strongly believes that the mandate of any OSCE field operation must clearly define what it is mandated to do; must be kept up to date with the evolving needs and priorities of the host country and current realities; must enable the assessment of progress in the mandate implementation and eventual closure of the field operation; and must not be designed or updated on the basis of a “one-size-fits-all” approach or a dogmatic reliance on precedents.

In other words, the mandates of OSCE field operations must be SMART - specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. Last but not least, OSCE field activities should not be restricted in their geographic scope and must be dispatched wherever need arises for the OSCE to ensure peace, security and compliance with OSCE principles and commitments.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision in question.