



Introduction by
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Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) represents an important step for the OSCE as it celebrates its 35th Anniversary. Kazakhstan is the first Central Asian, former Soviet and predominantly Muslim country to chair the OSCE – an organisation that includes 56 countries including the United States. We at FIRST are delighted to publish this official report on the Republic of Kazakhstan to mark the OSCE Summit of Heads of State under the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan.

The last OSCE Summit of Heads of State took place in November 1999 in Istanbul and marked the 25th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 10th Anniversary of the Paris Charter of a New Europe. President Nursultan Nazarbayev felt that given the emergence of new security challenges facing the OSCE member countries, a summit of Heads of State should be convened in order to encourage closer consultation among the members and greater security coordination.

The leadership of Kazakhstan aims to focus the OSCE organisation on four clear objectives: to identify the primary security issues, to assess the existing security threats and formulate effective common responses, to examine the work and capabilities of other security organisations (such as NATO, The Collective Security Treaty Organisation – CSTO – and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation – SCO) and to promote an integration process between Central Asia

and the Euro-Atlantic Region.

It is hoped that by concentrating on these clear goals the OSCE can give a strong new impetus to its work. It can work out practical responses to challenges such as the development of the Corfu Process, the reconstruction of Afghanistan, the examination of energy and water security and the fostering of a transatlantic, European and Eurasian security dialogue.

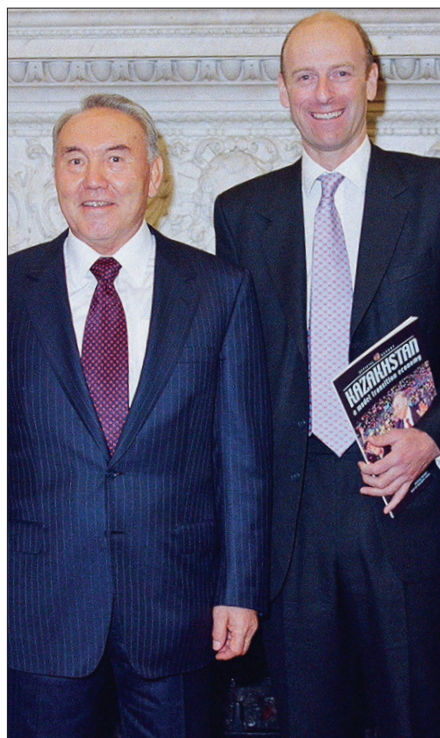
Kazakhstan, with its strategic geographic location and dominant position in Central Asia, is well placed to pursue the ambitious targets it has set for its Chairmanship of the OSCE. Since declaring independence in 1991, the last Soviet Republic to do so, it has steered a careful course from a command economy to an open market-led economic structure. President Nursultan Nazarbayev has placed much emphasis on establishing stable relationships with Kazakhstan's neighbours. Kazakhstan plays an increasingly prominent international role as a member of the United Nations, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the NATO Partnership for Peace Programme, as well as being a member, and this year's Chairman, of the OSCE. Kazakhstan is also an active member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Economic Cooperation Organisation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). In cooperation with Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Kazakhstan has also become an integral partner of the Eurasian Economic Community in working to create a free trade zone under a Customs Union.

Kazakhstan's international role is bolstered by strong economic growth rates in recent years – a result of its booming energy sector as well as economic reforms, good agricultural harvests and increasing foreign investment. Kazakhstan's energy export capacity has been significantly increased with the opening of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium in 2001 (connecting western Kazakhstan's Tengiz oilfield to the Black Sea). The Atasu-Alashankou portion was completed in 2006 and the Kenkiyak-Kumkol section of the pipeline to China in 2009. The country has also embarked on an industrial policy designed to diversify the economy away from an over-dependency on the oil and mining sectors towards the development of its manufacturing potential.

This experience of economic transition, of managing significant energy resources along with Kazakhstan's strategic, geopolitical location and stable international relations, should provide a good foundation to achieve the ambitious objectives that Kazakhstan's leadership has developed for the OSCE. *The Corfu Process* which aims to restore international confidence and develop a constructive dialogue on broad European Security issues, continues to make progress. The coordination of state building in Afghanistan is also a central concern for the OSCE and the transit corridor for NATO supplies to Afghanistan underlines the strategic importance of the Central Asian states. As a major energy producer, Kazakhstan also has an important perspective on energy and water security which is a primary issue for the OSCE.

Following the preparation of this report we have received a copy of the Astana Commemorative Declaration which has been adopted by all member states of the OSCE. This important document, which reaffirms the principles of the OSCE, is testament to the success of the Summit.

The 35th Anniversary of the OSCE and Kazakhstan's Chairmanship provides an opportunity to analyse Kazakhstan's global role and to weigh carefully the avenues for further cooperation amongst the OSCE members. We at FIRST are delighted to have been asked to produce this official publication and hope that it contributes, in a small way, to the promotion of the OSCE's important work and to underline the significant international role of Kazakhstan. **F**



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President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and Rupert Goodman, Chairman and Founder of FIRST