

Peace based on common values

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Kazakh society has a sound foundation based on tolerance, peace and accord of all 140 ethnic groups and 46 confessions

The Astana Summit celebrates the sound idea of continuing to move together towards a secure future for our nations, a path that we embarked upon three and a half decades ago. The Helsinki process was developed originally on the basis of a conception of a pan-European home from the Atlantic to the Urals. The creation of the OSCE confirmed the principles of European security from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Today we are setting out on a third stage, moving towards a new level of security and co-operation on a wider scale from ocean to ocean. The idea is to form a single security space bound by four oceans: from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Arctic to the Indian.

The Astana Summit revives a tradition established at the Istanbul Summit 11 years ago of holding meetings at the highest level. This is also a sign of the renaissance of the Organisation. We are seeing the start of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian community of common and indivisible security. The Summit is taking place for the first time in a new country that gained its independence to a large extent thanks to the provisions and principles contained in the Helsinki Final Act. I am talking about the right of states and nations to freely choose their development path, and about sovereignty and territorial integrity. We are creating democracy in a part of the world where it has never been before.

Stability in Kazakhstan above all means steady economic growth. From the outset we have developed the economy so that poverty does not disgrace our young democracy. Kazakh society has a sound foundation based on tolerance, peace and accord of all 140 ethnic groups and 46 confessions.

We have created a unique institution in the form of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan and have managed to combine Western values with Eastern traditions. Our people have experienced for themselves the cruel cost of the Cold War, notably in the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. My decree to close it and the rejection of nuclear arms were the first contribution by Kazakhstan to the pan-European process. We also call on the OSCE partners to support our initiative to adopt a universal declaration for a nuclear-free world.

The Summit is also unique for taking place in the centre of Eurasia, 1,000 kilometres from the geographical border of Europe. In our view, this above all reflects the changed paradigm of European security. At the start

of the twenty-first century, the sources of the most dangerous threats and challenges to stability on the European continent are located beyond its borders. Some 43 OSCE participating states are involved in the knotty problem of Afghanistan. We support the elaboration of a comprehensive strategy for settlement in Afghanistan and a restoration of the economy and peaceful life.

The acute political crisis in Kyrgyzstan could be a catalyst for new conflicts in Central Asia. Together with the leaders of the United States of America, Russia and other partners we have been making effective use of all of the OSCE's instruments to prevent an escalation of the conflict and to stabilise that country. Major sources of drug trafficking, illegal migration, trafficking in human beings and also the threat of the spread of weapons of mass destruction are to be found outside Europe today.

Many aspects of energy and economic security in Europe today depend on the situation in other parts of the world. This was also revealed by the global financial and economic crisis. Eurasian security is not a metaphor but a real geopolitical fact. The Summit in Astana therefore offers a good opportunity to analyse the OSCE's perspectives for global security. In our opinion the main task facing the OSCE in the next decades is to systematically settle conflicts and foster confidence and integration, particularly within the framework of existing inter-state bodies.

As far as the East-West axis is concerned, there is a need to organise co-operation between the European Union and NATO on one side and the Eurasian Economic Community and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation on the other. In this way, the transatlantic integration of the last century could be seamlessly supplemented by trans-Eurasian integration. In that context, Kazakhstan welcomes the breakthrough in relations between Russia and NATO.

The proposal by President Dmitry Medvedev for a new Treaty on European Security is also worthy of attention. As far as the North-South axis is concerned, there is a pressing need for the OSCE to establish close relations with a number of Asian integration bodies, notably the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia created at the initiative of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is willing to act as a link in Eurasian security. We intend to use our chairmanship of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in 2011 to build confidence throughout the entire Eurasian area.

The OSCE's efforts to strengthen economic security should be a priority

We also propose that we should start working on a comprehensive Treaty on Eurasian Security.

In a few weeks our country will have completed its mission of chairing the OSCE. We set ourselves the task of bringing the Organisation out of its crisis. I hope that our efforts will be judged by our partners on their merits. In the long term it will be our task together to renew the Organisation. I urge all countries who will head the OSCE in the future not to slacken their efforts.

The OSCE has acquired great experience in the human dimension: the development of democratic institutions, independent media and the observance of human rights and freedoms. These are extremely important conditions for our development. At the same time, there would appear to be a need to make substantive and structural changes in the development of the OSCE in order to respond adequately to modern threats and challenges.

We propose an increase in the number of baskets and OSCE institutions. First, there is a question of economic pragmatism, which is the cornerstone of security in the 21st century. In this regard, the efforts of the European Union to stabilise the economy are worthy of support. The G8 and G20 are discussing ways of overcoming the global financial crisis, although to date the search for a new configuration for the world economy and monetary system has been progressing slowly. The OSCE's efforts to strengthen economic security should therefore be a priority and financial and economic security dealt with in a separate basket.

The global economy needs a new global reserve currency. This is a question that merits close attention. We also propose that the OSCE Maastricht strategy should be supplemented by a Maastricht Plus document so as to reflect the principles of the agreed monetary and financial policy, economic co-operation and integration.

It would be useful to add councils for energy security and economic co-operation to the OSCE structure. An OSCE environmental forum could be created to deal with protection of the environment. It could contribute to the resolution of a number of problems such as the drying up of the Aral Sea or the restoration of the territory of the former Semipalatinsk test site. There is also an urgent need to devise a water and law programme to find a legal solution to water problems for those countries suffering from a water shortage.

Second, it is important to continue work on the elaboration of new treaty norms for disarmament and non-proliferation. It might be useful to create a dedicated OSCE forum to deal with this.

Kazakhstan proposes the establishment of a council at the level of OSCE ministers to co-ordinate the fight against cross-border crime, drug trafficking and illegal migration. Third, the seeds of distrust in the OSCE area can be seen above all within individual countries and only later have a negative effect on the regional

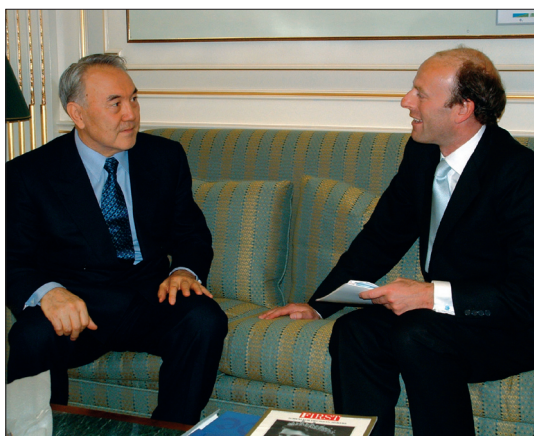
and global situation. One possible contributing factor to this phenomenon is public mockery of places of religious worship. It would be useful if Barack Obama's speech in Cairo, in which he outlined the position of the United States of America on strengthening religious tolerance, were to be followed up with specific measures within the OSCE.

We propose that inter-confessional tolerance be dealt with as a separate dimension. There is a need today for frank and open inter-confessional dialogue. The OSCE could organise this using the Congress of World and Traditional Religions established at the initiative of Kazakhstan as a platform. We believe that Christianity and Islam, Judaism and Buddhism were sent down to create peace and not hostility. I should also like to propose the elaboration together of a document on tolerance in the new decade.

Fourth, the global financial crisis, local conflicts and other challenges shaking the world were in many ways unexpected. This means that the vision for the future was defective. I believe that it would be useful to create a separate dimension in the OSCE to anticipate different security problems. As a first step I propose the establishment of an OSCE security institute.

Fifth, a uniform basis for OSCE structures throughout its entire area of responsibility could help to foster confidence and mutual understanding. This process could get under way through the establishment of institutions for monetary and financial, interreligious and forecasting dimensions in different countries, including those in the Asian part of the OSCE.

We suggest that these proposals be discussed within the framework of the *Corfu Process*. Dialogue by the leaders of great nations and creators of the history of humanity over thousands of years has started in the centre of Eurasia on the ancient soil of Kazakhstan. I regard our efforts to make Eurasia, the largest continent on the planet, into a shared area of peace based on common values – trust, traditions, transparency and tolerance – as a historic idea and also the purpose of the Summit. **F**



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