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**STATEMENT BY MR. ALIKBEK DJEKSHENKULOV,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC,
AT THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Brussels, 5 December 2006

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to join other speakers in expressing my gratitude for the effective work of the Belgian Chairmanship and particularly Mr. Karel De Gucht and his staff. I should also like to express my gratitude for the excellent preparation of our meeting and the warm hospitality we have received here in Brussels.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the OSCE participating States for their appreciation of our problems and the full support they have provided regarding the reforms under way in my country.

One of the most successful projects to have been implemented is the OSCE Academy, whose contribution to education increases every year, attracting the attention not only of the countries of Central Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) but also of countries further afield.

Mention should also be made of the successful programme of reform of the Kyrgyz law-enforcement agencies, which demonstrated their effectiveness and professional approach in particular during the passionate rallies that took place in November. We intend to continue this programme, which is of great importance for the reform of the law-enforcement system in our country.

We welcome the adoption of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, a document of considerable importance, and believe that we need a bold and dynamic approach to further strengthen the OSCE. We are firmly convinced that our Organization has the necessary potential to play a significant role as an effective mechanism for Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Asian security.

The reform of the OSCE should be aimed at adapting both the structures of the Organization and its political agenda to the present-day realities, the specific needs of the participating States and current threats and challenges. The OSCE was set up to resolve problems of universal importance to all its participants. In this connection it is important to

achieve a balance between the three OSCE dimensions and for its institutions to act in accordance with the political priorities defined by the participating States.

It is of vital importance for the field missions to direct their activities towards the resolution of the problems existing in the participating States. In this respect, we welcome the work of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek in the economic and environmental dimension. Indeed a solid socio-economic foundation is a fundamental prerequisite for maintaining stability today. We are well aware of the OSCE's possibilities but are nevertheless convinced that it has sufficient potential and has within its power the ability to help resolve both economic and environmental problems.

In the past year the situation in Kyrgyzstan has undergone significant changes. A new constitution has been adopted based on a text drafted by a conciliation commission. This basic law regulating the transition from a presidential to a presidential/parliamentary form of government is more progressive and democratic. One extremely important innovation is the major increase in the significance and role of political parties. More than half of the members of parliament will be elected by a proportional system and the winning parties will participate in forming the government. These changes will help to further develop democracy, the party system and the involvement of civil society in Kyrgyzstan, which has also been notable in the past for its dynamism and initiative. Most importantly, these changes are a good recipe against clannishness and tribalism and will serve as a means of ensuring stability in the country as well as balance and equilibrium in all branches of authority.

The threats and challenges facing Central Asia today are international terrorism, religious extremism, illicit trafficking in drugs and arms, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings. Ensuring security and stability, territorial sovereignty and independence of the region is one of the main tasks of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to its participation in this organization's activities and is in favour of intensifying integration measures in this sphere.

Kyrgyzstan's membership of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) is designed to encourage economic development of the region backed by guarantees of military technical co-operation. The SCO today has succeeded as a unique international organization offering an interactive platform for the exchange of opinions and the elaboration of mutually acceptable mechanisms for security and the expansion of commercial, economic, cultural and humanitarian co-operation.

Kyrgyzstan actively supports the integration of the countries of Central Asia. In this connection I should like to express my firm support for the candidature by the Republic of Kazakhstan for the Chairmanship of the OSCE. Kazakhstan today is a dynamically developing country with a burgeoning economy, which is striving to build a secular and just society. It is an active player in the world arena and its initiatives at the regional and international level are widely acclaimed. The election of Kazakhstan to the Chairmanship of the OSCE will give a powerful stimulus to democratic development not only in Kazakhstan itself but also in other countries of Central Asia and will also provide a spur to all the countries of the CIS.

Mr. Chairman,

I should also like to wish my colleague the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain every success in the performance of his duties as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE in 2007. I can assure him that Kyrgyzstan is ready to co-operate closely and actively in all of the activities conducted by our Organization. A striking example of this is the successful organization in Bishkek of the first preparatory conference for the Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. The successful outcome of this conference, which was the first activity organized by Spain as future OSCE Chairman-in-Office, gives us reason to hope that the Spanish Chairmanship will work constructively in 2007, first and foremost in its efforts to resolve some of the important and urgent problems facing our Organization.

Thank you for your attention.