



671st Plenary Meeting

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DECISION No. 797
MANDATE OF THE OSCE CENTRE IN ASTANA

The Permanent Council,

Recalling its Decision No. 231 of 11 June 1998, as well as the willingness to intensify OSCE activities in Kazakhstan, expressed by that participating State in 1998,

Reaffirming its Decision No. 243 of 23 July 1998 on the establishment and on the mandate of the OSCE Centre in Almaty, and wishing to expand that mandate to reflect priorities of the host country with regard to its activities within the OSCE,

With a view to facilitating the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 20/06 of 5 December 2006 on “future OSCE Chairmanship”,

Recalling subsequent annual extensions of the Centre’s mandate until the end of 2006, as well as Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 of 5 December 2006, according to which mandates of field operations should be of a one-year duration when the host country concurs,

Pursuant to Permanent Council Decision No. 771 of 21 December 2006, in particular the decision that the Centre shall relocate to Astana as soon as possible, and appreciating the readiness of the host country to offer premises there,

Decides that:

1. The name of the OSCE Centre in Almaty is hereby changed to “the OSCE Centre in Astana”;
2. The OSCE Centre in Astana shall perform the following tasks:
 - Promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as co-operation of Kazakhstan in all three OSCE dimensions within the OSCE framework approach to co-operative security and in the regional context;
 - Facilitate contacts and promote information exchange between the authorities of Kazakhstan and the Chairman-in-Office and OSCE executive structures and institutions, as well as co-operation with international organizations;

- Establish and maintain contacts with central and local authorities, universities and research institutes of the host country, as well as representatives of civil society and NGOs;
 - Assist in arranging OSCE regional events, *inter alia*, regional seminars and visits to the area by OSCE delegations, as well as other events with OSCE participation;
 - Provide assistance to the Government of Kazakhstan, such as — raising awareness on OSCE activities, training of designated Kazakh officials, and providing advice on the OSCE to relevant official structures, facilitate information exchange between OSCE institutions and relevant state agencies on OSCE activities;
3. Perform other tasks deemed appropriate by the Chairman-in-Office, Secretary General or OSCE institutions and agreed between Kazakhstan and the OSCE;
 4. The Permanent Council will hold regular reviews of the implementation of this mandate and the activities of the Centre;
 5. The current mandate of the OSCE Centre in Astana will apply from the date of adoption of this decision until 31 December 2007. Prolongation and any changes of the mandate will be subject to a new decision of the Permanent Council.