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**CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. AZAT BEKTUROV, DEPUTY
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, AT PART I OF THE 18th MEETING
OF THE OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

Vienna, 2 February 2010

Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As the country holding the Chairmanship, we sincerely thank all participants in Part I of the 18th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum.

We regard this event as an important component of our Chairmanship, one of the key elements of which is to maintain and strengthen the OSCE as the largest regional forum for security and dialogue on an equal basis.

We firmly believe that the OSCE is still an excellent platform for resolving questions connected with the strengthening of the common transport security architecture and the simplification of border-crossing procedures.

Over the last two days we have discussed the removal of physical and non-physical barriers, eliminating the different obstacles to movement, reducing unnecessary hold-ups for vehicles by the various controlling bodies and ensuring safe transportation. We hope that the discussion will be continued in a logical manner and that the results of this Forum will help in the implementation of co-ordinated measures.

The second preparatory conference for the 18th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum will take place in Minsk on 15 and 16 March with a focus on rail transport. We look forward to meeting again to discuss the establishment of favourable conditions for reliable and safe rail transport connections in the OSCE region.

In this regard, we appeal to our distinguished colleagues to demonstrate political will and strategic foresight and, supported by the decisions made by the OSCE participating States and the institutional memory and backing of the Secretariat, to direct their joint efforts towards the identification and introduction of new and effective measures and schemes for management and control of crossing points with a view to creating a uniform working mechanism to establish a favourable international transport regime and safeguard security in the region.

I should like to take the opportunity of briefly drawing the attention of the Forum participants to a practical example of enhancing co-operation in the transport sector, namely the international conference “Role of logistics on the way Europe-Asia” held in Almaty on 29 January. The conference, which was organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Transport of Lithuania and Kazakhstan, provided a platform for discussing the development of public-private dialogue in this sector, encouraging best practices in transport logistics decisions and optimizing transcontinental freight transportation across the borders of the various countries.

The event was attended by 184 delegates from government bodies in Kazakhstan, Lithuania and Russia and 62 companies from Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, the United Kingdom and other countries.

The conference discussed the situation and problems in the development of transport logistics in Europe with particular focus on Lithuania’s potential in this regard and the experience of European countries in organizing the logistics of transport corridors to ensure the rapid transport of goods.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a country located in the very centre of the Eurasian continent, Kazakhstan will be in a good position to assist within international organizations such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Co-operation Organization, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, Shanghai Co-operation Organization, Eurasian Economic Community, Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia, United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia and others in strengthening the common transport security architecture and simplifying border-crossing procedures.

We believe that our work together within the Economic and Environmental Forum will bear fruit and that the decisions adopted with a view to creating favourable conditions for reliable and safe transport on the continent will foster economic growth in the countries of the region.

I should like to express my particular gratitude to Ambassador Vytautas Naudužas, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Transport Issues, whose active participation in the Forum and in the international conference in Almaty marks an auspicious start to his work. We are confident that his activities as Personal Representative will make an important contribution to strengthening the transport dimension in the OSCE area.

In conclusion, I should like to express my hope that we can continue to work actively, intensively and fruitfully together within this second OSCE basket.

I should like to wish all of you good health and success in your noble work.

Thank you for your attention.