



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Centre in Dushanbe

Opening Statement of Ambassador Pryakhin for the regional workshop on Demining held in Dushanbe 7 July 2009

Your Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure to be invited here to present a brief opening statement on behalf of the OSCE at the opening of this auspicious occasion. There is also more than just a touch of honour and pride of our organization's history of involvement in mine clearance activities within Tajikistan over the last 6 years.

The OSCE understands that the mine contamination situation within the region presents not only internal difficulties for nations affected, but a security issue as a whole. We believe that the OSCE within its capacity as a regional political presence can contribute towards a mine free region. This process is viewed as an important confidence and security building measure.

The organisation plans not only to continue to support Tajikistan's efforts in meeting its obligations as a signatory of the Ottawa Treaty,

- to continue to help create a sustainable Tajik National Humanitarian Demining Capacity,

- to support OSCE border management activities affected by the landmine contamination;

- but has recently initiated a project utilizing its capacity as a political organization to initiate regional dialogue and cooperation in the field of mine clearance issues.

The OSCE looks forward to providing an ongoing contribution within the framework of cooperation within the international demining fraternity. We will continue to add value to this process in accordance of the request of the Government of Tajikistan as stipulated within our national mandate. Keeping in mind the political challenges facing us in ensuring a mine free Tajikistan, the OSCE will continue to support a regional approach.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your time, and I sincerely wish you all success in your endeavours,

H.E. Ambassador

Vladimir Pryakhin.