

**ADDRESS**  
**of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan**  
**Hamrokhon Zarifi**  
**on the opening ceremony of the OSCE Conference on the “Prospects for**  
**the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation**  
**through Central Asia until the year 2015, Dushanbe, 23-24 October**  
**2007.**

Dear Mr. Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear friends,

First of all, let me on behalf of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan His Excellency Emomali Rahmon, the Government and personally warmly welcome all of you - the participants of the OSCE Conference in Dushanbe on the Tajik Land and wish you successes and fruitful work.

From ancient times the roads being a main factor of development and trade and economic progress were and are still the most important mean of strengthening multi-faceted links between the nations of the Central Asia. The bright illustration of that is the history of each of our countries, which used to be elements of the common Silk Road in the past.

Today, the Central Asia is considered to be one of the richest and dynamically developing regions of the world, in which huge deposits of raw minerals and human resources are concentrated.

Further involvement of our countries economies in the world economy, enhancing globalization and integration processes in the world and the region make it open for investments and industrial development. Co-operation of our intra-continental landlocked countries in the sphere of transit transportation, removal of existing barriers on the way of free movement of people and goods opens a perspective of access to totally new world markets and transportation linkages and significantly increases the economic and export-import capacities of each separately taken state.

In that perspective, the OSCE Conference in Dushanbe along with collective efforts of states of the region and international organizations, such as the UN, Shanghai Co-operation Organization, Eurasian Economic Cooperation,

Echo and others, is designed to give a new impetus to further development of co-operation in the sphere of transport and communications not only in the Central Asian region, but also in the Caucasus. Its very concept built on enhancing regional cooperation and integration, removal of various barriers, gradual tariffs reduction should provide us with economic progress, thus strengthening regional security and stability.

Recognizing the extreme importance of the transport and communications sphere in enhancing regional economic co-operation and national economic growth, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan stands for multilateral development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all countries of the region and creation of a kind of trust and good neighbourhood zone along the entire perimeter of their own borders. This is greatly facilitated by its co-operation within the OSCE framework. Aims and objectives formulated in the Decision of the Brussels Ministerial Council “On future transportation dialogue in the OSCE”, as well as in the Document – strategy in the field of economic and ecological dimension adopted in Maastricht in 2003, etc. envisage comprehensive development of OSCE participating States economies and are compliant with the policy chosen by the Government of Tajikistan towards acceleration of social and economic reforms in the country.

Over the recent years, taking into account the importance of the problem of transport and communication network development in Tajikistan, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon has launched as one of priority tasks of the Government the construction and modernizing roads, bridges, tunnels, designed to provide not only transport communication within the country, but also to connect transport arteries of the Central Asia and Europe with the countries of the Southern Asia and seaports of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf.

The construction of several bridges on the Pyanj River connecting Tajikistan with the neighbouring Afghanistan has a special place in this process. The last one, with the carrying capacity of up to 1000 automobiles a day, the opening ceremony of which has taken place in the late August this year, is meant to give an impetus to the development of the Afghan national economy, to play the role of a crossroad on trade ways between the West and the East, as well as become an important factor of stability and security in the region.

Tajikistan urges the international community and international financial institutions to continue providing comprehensive support of further integration processes in the region and allocate necessary funds for the completion of undergoing projects and creation of new transport corridors.

Dear participants of the Conference,

Taking advantage of the opportunity, I would like to express hope that the outputs of this Dushanbe OSCE Forum will become another stimulus for further deepening the transit transportation dialogue in the region of the Central Asia and the Caucasus. I am deeply convinced that our countries do have sufficient potential and determination to achieve considerable successes in this vitally important sphere of cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.