

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished audience,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I was honored to receive an invitation to join you for this meaningful event and I very much regret not being able to be with you here today. My gratitude goes to our hosts, CSIS and the Institute for New Democracies, for their worthwhile endeavor to organize a conference dedicated to the incoming Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship in Office when the debate over the future of the European security framework is deepening.

As I had the privilege to serve as chairman in office of the OSCE, it is my pleasure to convey a message of confidence and support to the 2010 OSCE CiO. As we prepare for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Helsinki Final Act was signed, we mark another historical achievement: Kazakhstan will become the first Central Asian country to assume the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). At the Istanbul Summit of 1999, Romania has been given a vote of confidence by the OSCE participating states. We understood the mission and the challenges of this assignment and they became a profound lesson of leadership and responsibility in the process of promoting of the OSCE shared values and commitments. In particular, it was a landmark moment for Romania's foreign policy achievements, after 1989, that led us further to the successful integration in NATO and EU.

I sincerely believe it is not by chance that Kazakhstan will take over a similar mission next year. Its profile and vocation of an active member of the international community will be highlighted in implementing the overarching OSCE agenda. Just to briefly sum up: OSCE, as a very important platform for cooperative security in Europe, it helps fight asymmetrical threats like terrorism, illegal trafficking and organized crime and assists states in laying and developing the foundations of a democratic society. Fostering human rights, civil society, and institution building can discourage extremist attitudes and approaches and deprive them of fertile breeding ground.

I am confident that Kazakhstan's ambitious agenda will encourage further transition in the region towards OSCE values and proves the international community's readiness to take notice of Central Asia's growing importance in the world community.

I thank you for offering me the opportunity to congratulate the future CiO and wish Kazakhstan the best of luck in successfully completing its mandate.