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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN OSCE SUMMIT IN 2010

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Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the OSCE in 2010 underscores that the country is an increasingly important player in the Greater European and Eurasian arena. The OSCE framework itself has helped to establish such a broad security arena and the OSCE chair will enable Kazakhstan to develop its international connections. Given the security challenges that confront this extensive area, what would be the rationale for an OSCE summit during the Kazakh chairmanship? What agenda can be pursued at the summit that would be supported by consensus? And what would be the focus of the concluding document? Let me offer a few suggestions.

It would be valuable for Astana to prepare for a pan-European or pan-OSCE security summit and to formulate a preliminary agenda. However, rather than focus the summit on European and trans-Atlantic security, areas in which there are no major insecurities and regarding which there is unlikely to be consensus, or attempting to reinvent the wheel by proposing some new European or Eurasian security architecture, the summit could focus on several more realistic and overlapping topics. Let me outline four:

1. Assessing the role of the OSCE in enhancing international security by taking stock of what the organization has accomplished, what are its shortcomings, and developing a preliminary consensus on its future direction.
2. Assessing the existing and potential common security threats within and toward the OSCE area and formulating implementable common responses and possible preventive actions by more effectively using the OSCE's three dimensions.
3. Assessing the effectiveness of different security organizations active in this broad region (including NATO, CSTO, and SCO), specifically in conflict-prevention, combat missions, humanitarian assistance, and post-conflict reconstruction, and devising ways to improve cooperation between these organizations.
4. Assessing the integration process between Central Asia and the Euro-Atlantic sphere and considering how this process can be enhanced for the benefit of both regions.

To be effective, the summit should not become a means for sidelining any existing security organization, legitimizing any country's "spheres of influence" or assertions of "privileged interest," or undermining existing European security treaties, such as the OSCE and the CFE Treaty. To avoid potential summit gridlock or failure the objective should not be to forge some over-ambitious European or Eurasian Security Pact or some

hazy new security architecture that would simply create confusion and duplication without any added benefit. Instead of speculating about *architecture* the summit should examine the *foundations* of security.

Kazakhstan must be practical and goal-oriented in its approach and set targets that can be achieved. Attempts to create a “Helsinki plus” cannot be allowed to result in a “Helsinki minus.” And of course, consensus is needed between Washington and Moscow in providing support for such a summit. Perhaps if a Post-START agreement is reached between the U.S. and Russia by the close of 2009 there may be a positive atmosphere to build on at OSCE in 2010. Kazakhstan should be prepared for this eventuality.

Possible Summit Outcomes

Let me posit three potential outcomes of such a summit, and the list is by no means exhaustive but should also not be too extensive:

1. An OSCE Declaration on supporting state-stabilizing efforts in Afghanistan and specifying the importance of Central Asia’s role in securing the broader region and working more closely with the NATO allies who are on the front line against radical Islamist threats.
2. A commitment to renewing the CFE treaty and its conventional arms control stipulations ten years after the Istanbul conference. Unilateral suspensions of compliance with CFE stipulations undermine regional security.
3. Formulating and issuing a new OSCE Security Charter that specifies the common principles and goals of the organization and the basis of cooperation with other multi-national organizations. If there is no consensus on such basic OSCE principles then the prospects for some grander European or Eurasian security pact are simply non-existent.