



**Speech of Mrs. Aurélia Bouchez, Head of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan
at the Consultation meeting with Regional Organizations
Co-organized by CTITF and UNRCCA**

**The Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the
United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia**

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 21-22 June 2012

Elements of Speech

- Introduction:
 - Thanks to the hosting government of Kazakhstan
 - Thanks to organizers UN, UNRCCA and CTITF
 - Welcome CA governments and other participants

- The EU is pleased to participate in the meeting which is, as stated in the Ashgabat Declaration, an important follow-up of the initiative which led to the adoption of the regional Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

- I would like to stress the importance of reaching such an achievement, especially in the view of the on-going revision of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the upcoming meeting in the UN in a week time. As one of the key deliverables, this revision should underline the focus on international cooperation and importance of national and regional CT-strategies. In this regard, Central Asia is a step ahead and the EU stands ready to give support to Central Asian countries on this path.

- I believe that the EU could bring an added value in two ways: firstly, by its own experience of European integration; secondly, by its continuous support to international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism and promotion of the UN legislation.

- It should not be forgotten, that the European integration itself is one of the most successful projects of peace building and conflict mediation. The EU was created to mediate between the countries which had been combating with each other during the World War II. It has also contributed to the integration of European countries in the post-Cold War environment.
- Even if the internal security is an exclusive competence of the EU MS, the European Union created mechanisms and instruments of mutual cooperation which allowed to fight transnational crime in an effective and timely manner (as an example can be mentioned the European Arrest Warrant, the principle of mutual recognition in criminal matters, etc)
- Terrorism is identified as one of the strategic component of European security. The EU MS have experienced homegrown terrorism, but there is also an external dimension and there are threats which are coming to Europe also from outside. To this end, the EU not only intensified cooperation amongst the MS but engages actively also international partners and international organizations.
- In the aftermath of London and Madrid bombings, the EU developed in 2006 its own Counter-Terrorism Strategy which promotes democracy, dialogue and good governance to tackle the root causes of radicalization. To combat terrorism effectively, the EU has increased cooperation with third countries and international organizations, in order to promote the respect for human rights and religious freedom, prevent new recruits to terrorism, better protect potential targets, investigate and pursue members of the existing networks and improve capability to respond to and manage the consequences of terrorist attacks. The EU's strategic commitment is to combat terrorism while respecting security and human rights. These are mutually supportive goals. Only a comprehensive strategy can produce sustainable results.
- The second element of the added value of the EU and one of the key elements of our strategy is to work together with partners to ensure universal adherence to and full implementation of all UN Security Council Resolutions, UN Conventions and Protocols relating to terrorism. Deepening the international consensus and enhancing international efforts to combat terrorism remains a key objective for the EU. The EU fully supports the UN's key role in the prevention of, and fight against, terrorism and promotes compliance with the recognised international standards.
- In this regard, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its holistic approach are fundamental for the EU policies and action. We appreciate that the UN Strategy expanded the global counterterrorism framework to include not only law enforcement and other security measures, but also the underlying conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, which include among other things, prolonged unresolved conflict, lack of the rule of law, violations of human rights and social, economic and political marginalization. Therefore, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a complete set of measures which must be implemented in its totality. It offers an opportunity to develop balanced responses to the threat of terrorism by bringing together security, the rule of law and development objectives with a view to the MDGs.
- I would like to underline the role that the Central Asian countries play for the security of the entire region. The challenges linked to the issues Afghanistan government is

facing, the narco trafficking and the spread of radical Islamist movements pose a threat to the security not only to the Central Asia countries, but to the region as a whole.

- I would like to congratulate the CA countries for their efforts to adopt a regional approach on counter-terrorism. The Ashgabat Declaration and the Regional Plan of Action are milestones and examples for other parts of the world..
- The EU believes that enhancement of co-operation is the most effective way to tackle security threats of cross-border nature, such as terrorism. In this regard, the EU stands ready to support the CA countries and the UN in the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action.