



WELCOMING REMARKS
by H.E. Ms. Aurélie Bouchez, EU Ambassador to Kazakhstan and to Turkmenistan,at

1st Steering Committee meeting of the TRACECA Civil Aviation project

Astana
12 September 2012

Dear Vice Minister Bekturov,

Dear Secretary General Biriucov,

Distinguished guests,

Dear Participants,

For me it is a pleasure to welcome you to Astana on behalf of the European Union.

This Steering Committee meeting is in fact the first regional gathering after the launch of the project in February of this year.

I welcome the coincidence of the meeting with the IATA Aviation Safety Days. It provides you with greater opportunity to discuss recent developments in the sector of civil aviation as well as better chance for coordination.

The project is an important component of the TRACECA Program that seeks to provide optimal connection of the international transport TRACECA corridor into Pan European Corridors and Trans-European Networks.

Your project is very much relevant to connectivity between Europe and Asia.

Aviation is crucially important for the relations between the European Union and Kazakhstan. Considering the landlocked geographical condition of Kazakhstan, the air transportation becomes a major vehicle to bridge the distances, to reach out to each other. Other countries from among the participants in the project can serve as similar examples.

Furthermore, we, on the EU side, hope very much that the success of your project will make a difference for all the countries involved, not least for Kazakhstan. By this I mean sustainable development of civil aviation in the beneficiary countries, harmonising regulations and working practices to comply with international (ICAO) standards, introducing international best practices and preparing for the implementation of international standards and EU regulations concerning security, ATM and the environment.

The current project is based on the individual needs of partner countries striving to respond to their different agendas and challenges. Stakeholders should benefit from creating prerequisites for negotiating, concluding and implementing Common Aviation Area agreements with the European Union. Common Aviation Area agreements, aimed at a gradual market opening and regulatory convergence through the implementation of a comprehensive part of EU aviation

legislation, are expected to bring benefits both to consumers and the aviation industry. The work with Central Asian TRACECA countries aims at improving the civil aviation oversight systems so that they will meet ICAO requirements.

I wish the project team and their partners as well as all participants in the meeting, an efficient cooperation and excellent results.

Aurélia Bouchez