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Observers
Partners for Co-operation
Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Copenhagen, 4 March 2008

I have great pleasure in inviting you to the Seventeenth Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which will be held in Astana from 29 June to 3 July 2008.

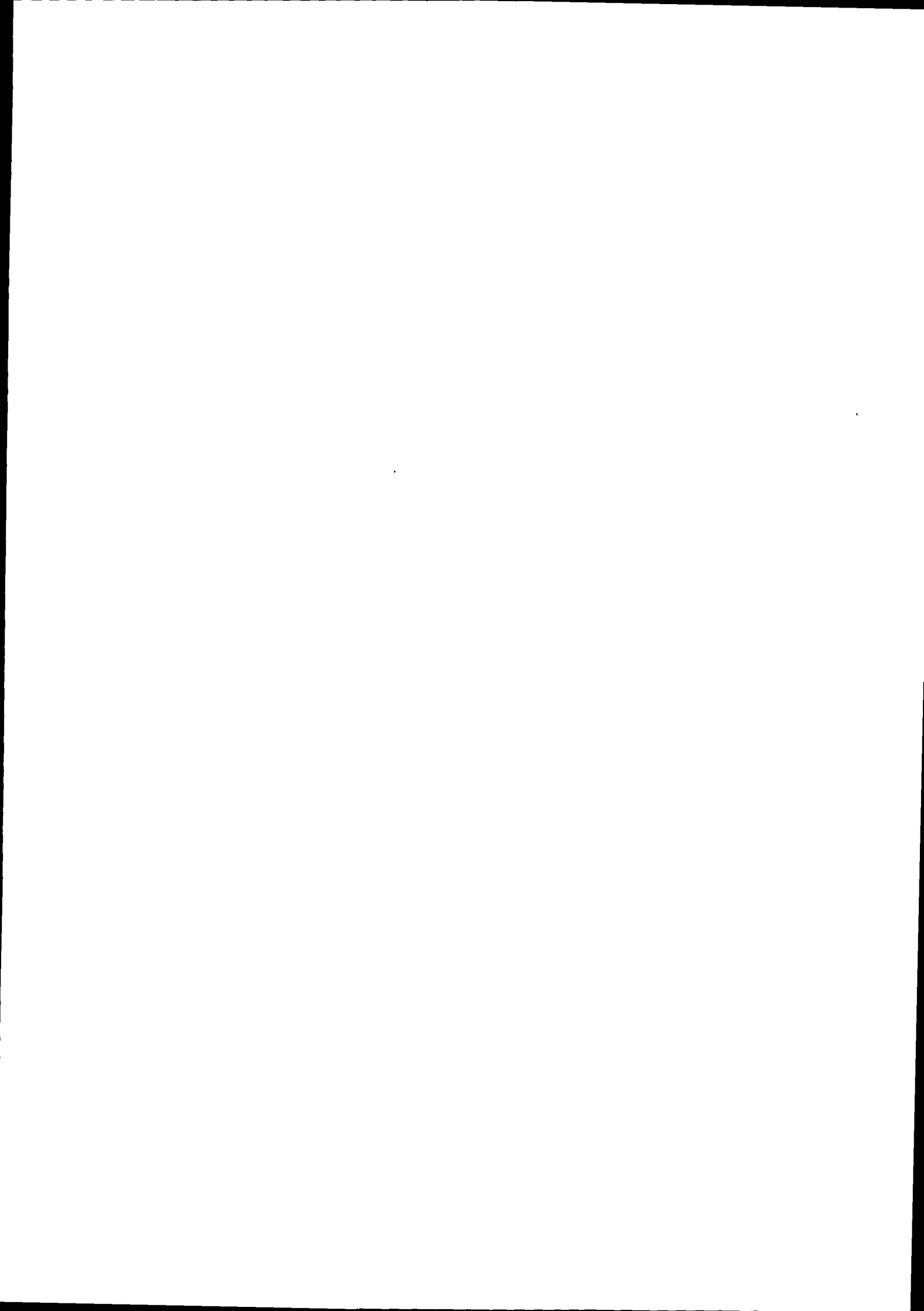
The opening ceremony and all other meetings of the Session will take place at the Conference Center of the Hotel Radisson SAS in Astana. Please find attached a letter of invitation from the Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The General Information, Official Registration and Hotel Reservation Forms are also enclosed. The Programme will be forwarded to you in due time.

I look forward to seeing you in Astana.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Spencer Oliver', is centered below the text 'Yours faithfully,'.

R. Spencer Oliver
Secretary General





ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ
ПАРЛАМЕНТИ СЕНАТЫНЫҢ
ТӨРАҒАСЫ

CHAIRMAN
SENATE OF THE PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

Astana, February 15, 2008

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

On behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan I wish to extend a cordial invitation to you to attend the 17th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to be held in Astana from 29 June to 3 July 2008.

Kazakhstan is geographically located at the junction of the two continents – Europe and Asia, in the very center of Eurasia, at the crossroads of civilizations, cultural traditions and religions.

As a peace-loving and multi-confessional state we voice our readiness to make a concrete contribution to the cause of achieving harmonious development of the human community in understanding key issues of the modern world.

By practical deeds and consistent policy Kazakhstan has proved its strong commitment to the democratic values, while acknowledging OSCE obligations with regard to human rights, political pluralism and civil society.

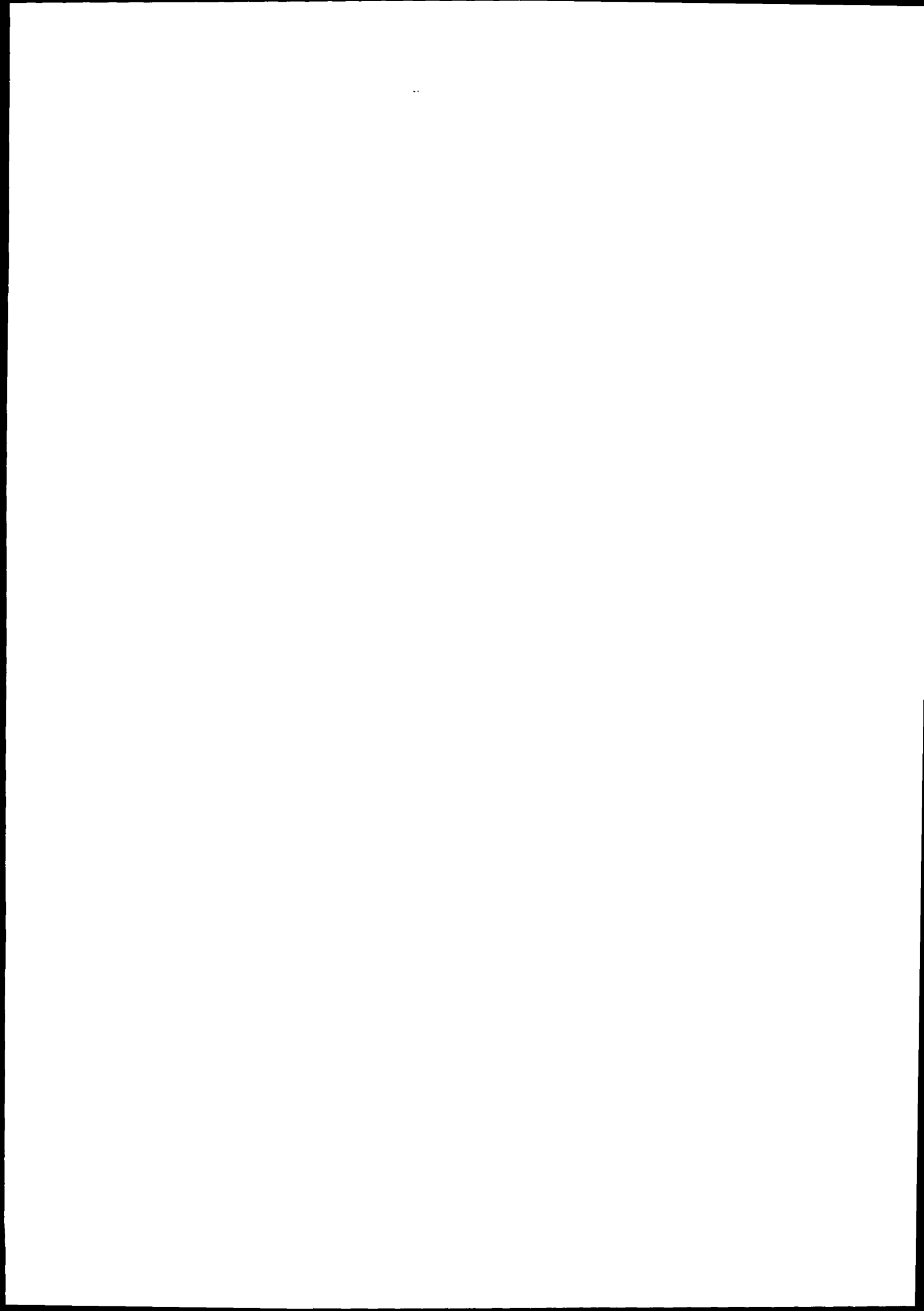
In the context of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in the OSCE in 2010 it is a great honour and privilege for us to host this first ever major parliamentary forum in Central Asia which is supposed to facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation as well as to increase comprehensive involvement of the region in achieving main objectives of the OSCE.

Please, find enclosed practical information, which will be helpful in planning your participation in the Annual Session of the Assembly and staying in Astana. Should you have any additional questions, please, do not hesitate to contact the people in charge as suggested on the information sheets.

Looking forward to meeting you in Astana this summer.

Yours sincerely,

Kassym-Jomart TOKAYEV
Chairman of the Senate of the
Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan





17th Annual Session
ASTANA, 29 June - 03 July 2008

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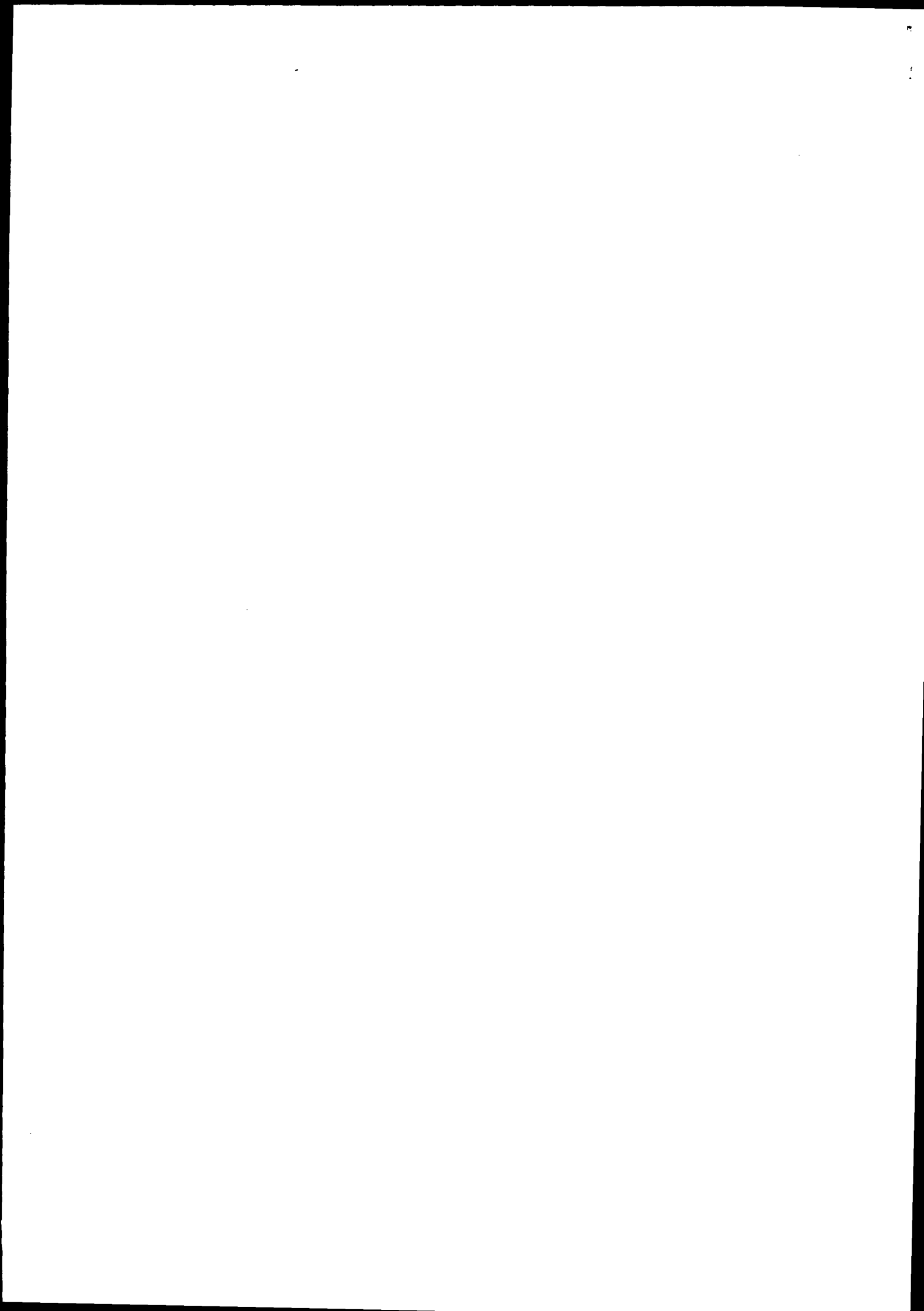
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

AS (08) PG E – Draft

**PROGRAMME
OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION OF
THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

Transparency in the OSCE

Astana, 29 June to 3 July 2008



The Inaugural Plenary Session and all other official meetings of the Assembly's bodies will take place on the premises of the RADISSON SAS HOTEL ASTANA.

Saturday, 28 June

- 12.00 – 20.00 **Registration desk will be open on the premises of the Radisson SAS Hotel**
- 18.00 – 19.00 Briefing for **secretaries of delegations** (*Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor*)
- 19.00 – 19.30 **Reception for Secretaries of delegations hosted by the Parliament of Kazakhstan**

Sunday, 29 June

- 09.00 – 12.00 **Meeting of the Standing Committee**
(*Sary Arka 4 – 2nd floor*)
- 12.00 – 14:00 Lunch Break
- 14.00 – 15.30 **Inaugural Plenary Session**
(*Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor*)
- Call to order and remarks by Mr Göran Lennmarker, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly;
- Address by H.E. Nursultan Nazarbaev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Address by H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Speaker of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan
- Address by H.E. Aslan Mussin, Speaker of Majilis of Parliament of Kazakhstan
- Address by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, followed by a question/answer session
- 15.30 – 16.00 **Coffee break**
- 16.00 – 18.00 **Plenary Session (cont'd)**
- Addresses by the Presidents from the invited Parliamentary Assemblies;
- Address by Mr. Marc Perrin De Brichambaut, OSCE Secretary General, followed by a question/answer session;
- Report by Ms Tone Tingsgård, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues followed by a debate;
- Consideration of Supplementary items
- 19.00 – 21.00 **Concert followed by a reception hosted by H.E. Nursultan Nazarbaev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Palace of Peace and Unity)**

Monday, 30 June

- 07.00 – 08.45 **Time reserved for meetings of various groups**
- 09.00 – 11.00 **General Committee on Political Affairs and Security**
(Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor)
Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee;

Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur;
Debate
- 09.00 – 11.00 **General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology
and Environment**
(Sary Arka 4 – 2nd floor)
Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee;
Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur;
Debate
- 11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee break**
- 11.30 – 13.30 **General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian
Questions**
(Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor)
Opening remarks by the Chair of the Committee;
Introduction of the Draft Resolution by the Rapporteur;
Debate
- 14.30 – 18.00 **Excursion**
- 19.30 – 21.00 **Reception hosted by H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Speaker of the
Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan (Reception House “Saltanat
Saraiy”)**

Tuesday, 1 July

- 07.00 – 09.15 **Time reserved for meetings of various groups**
- 09.00 – 10.30 **General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions**
(Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor)
Debate (cont'd);
Consideration of amendments
- 09.00 – 10.30 **General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment**
(Sary Arka 4 – 2nd floor)
Debate (cont'd);
Consideration of amendments
- 10.30 – 12.00 **POSSIBLE INFORMAL SIDE EVENT ON CENTRAL ASIA**
(Interpretation only English / Russian)
- 11.30 – 13.00 **General Committee on Political Affairs and Security**
(Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor)
Debate (cont'd);
Consideration of amendments
- 13.15 – 14.45 **Working Lunch on Gender Issues hosted by the Parliament of Kazakhstan**
- 15.00 – 16.30 **General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment**
(Sary Arka 4 – 2nd floor)
Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution;
Supplementary items
- 15.00 – 16.30 **General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions**
(Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor)
Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution;
Supplementary items
- 16.30 – 17.00 **Coffee break**
- 17.00 – 18.30 **General Committee on Political Affairs and Security**
(Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor)
Consideration of amendments and adoption of Resolution;
Supplementary items
- Return to the hotels**
- 19.30 – 21.00 **Reception hosted by H.E. Aslan Mussin, Speaker of Majilis of Parliament of Kazakhstan (Duman Center)**

Wednesday, 2 July

- 07.00 – 08.45 **Time reserved for meetings of various groups**
- 09.00 – 11.00 **General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment**
(Sary Arka 4 – 2nd floor)
Supplementary items;
Election of the Committee Officers
- 09.00 – 11.00 **General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions**
(Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor)
Supplementary items;
Election of the Committee Officers
- 11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee break**
- 11.30 – 13.30 **General Committee on Political Affairs and Security**
(Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor)
Supplementary items;
Election of the Committee Officers
- 13.30 – 15.00 **Lunch break**
- 13.30 – 14.00 **Meeting of the Bureau**
(Sary Arka 2 – Ground floor)
- 15.00 – 18.00 **Plenary Session**
(Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor)
General debate
- Evening **Reserved for Diplomatic missions**

Thursday, 3 July

07.00 – 09.15

Time reserved for meetings of various groups

09.30 – 12.30

Plenary Session

(Sary Arka 1 – Ground floor)

Report by the Treasurer

Report by the Secretary General

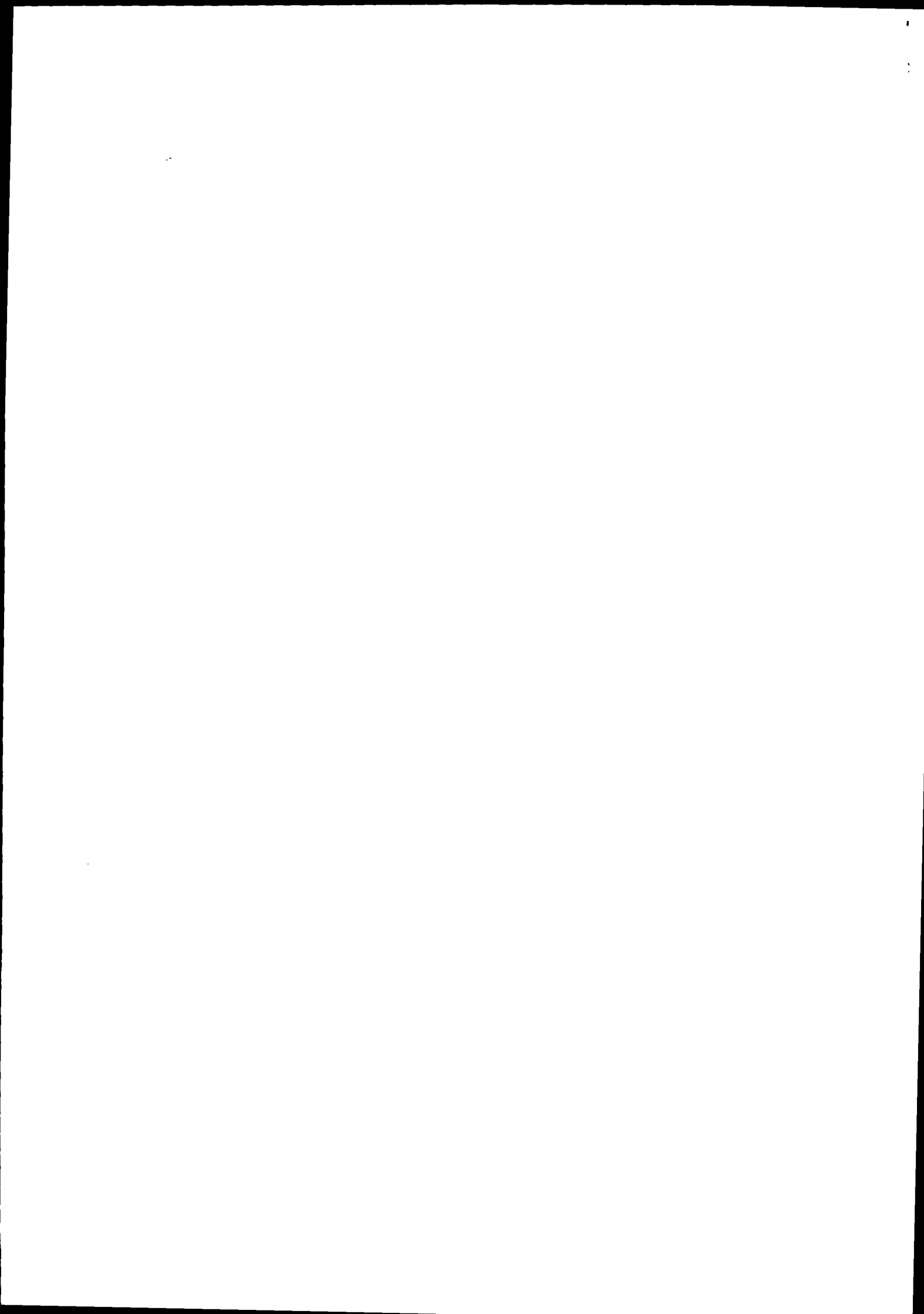
Consideration of Committee Resolutions

Adoption of the Final Document

Election of the Assembly Officers

12:30

Adjournment immediately followed by a reception offered by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly





17th Annual Session
ASTANA, 29 June - 03 July 2008

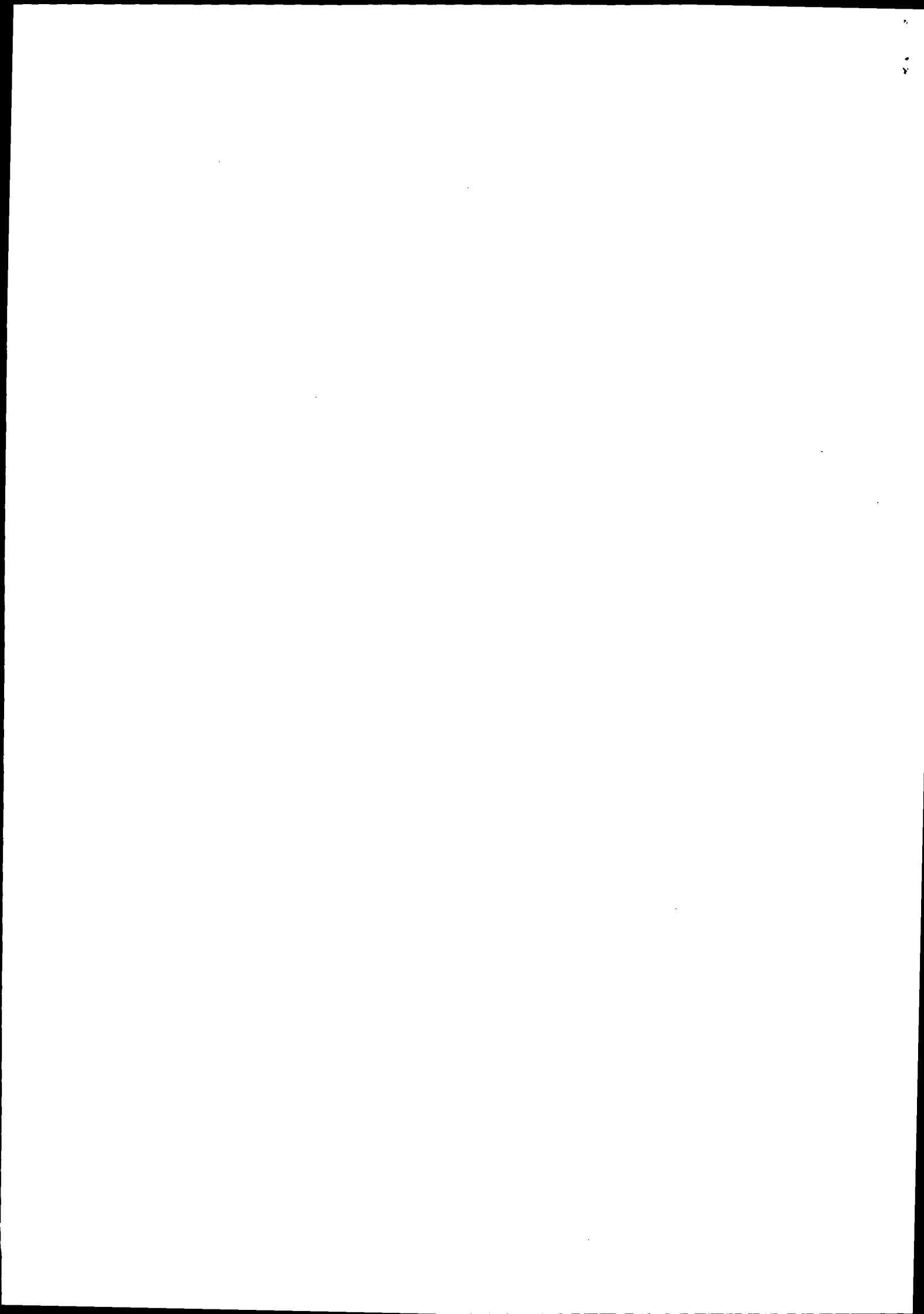
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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

GENERAL INFORMATION

17th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Astana, 29 June - 3 July 2008



Information concerning the 17th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Venue of the Session

All meetings will be held at the "Radisson SAS" hotel, in the center of Astana.
Astana, Sary Arka street, 4
Tel.: (+7 7172) 99 00 00
Fax: (+7 7172) 99 22 22

The Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan will make the arrangements for the Annual Session. For information please contact the staff listed below:

Senate of Parliament of the Kazakhstan Republic

Tel: (+ 7 7171) 74 70 98; 74 71 42, 74 70 97, 74 72 44;

Left bank

Fax: (+ 7 7172) 20 85 12; 74 72 21

010000 Astana

Web-site: www.parlam.kz

Kazakhstan

Astana Annual Session Working Group

Mr. **Murat Nurtleuov**, Head of the Senate Administration, Head of the Annual Session Working Group

Tel.: (+7 7172) 74 70 22

Fax: (+7 7172) 74 72 21

Mr. **Berik Aryn**, Head of the Department of Interparliamentary Relations and International Cooperation of the Senate Administration

Tel.: (+7 7172) 74 71 30

Email: aryn_b@parlam.kz

Mr. **Satybaldy Burshakov**, Deputy Head of the Department of Interparliamentary Relations and International Cooperation of the Senate Administration (**contact person on general coordination issues**)

Tel.: (+7 7172) 74 70 98

Fax: (+7 7172) 20 85 12

Email: satybaldy@parlam.kz

Mrs. **Zhanna Sartbaeva**, Deputy Head of the Department of Interparliamentary Relations and International Cooperation

Tel.: (+7 7172) 74 70 97

Email: janna@parlam.kz

Mr. **Bakhtiyar Arykbaev**, Staff of the Department of Interparliamentary Relations and International Cooperation (**contact person on hotel accommodation issues**)

Tel.: (+7 7172) 74 72 41

Fax: (+7 7172) 20 85 12

Email: arykbaev@parlam.kz

Mrs. **Lyazzat Rysymbetova**, Staff of the Department of Interparliamentary Relations and International Cooperation (**contact person on delegation welcoming and registration issues**)

Tel.: (+7 7172) 74 72 44

Fax: (+7 7172) 20 85 12

Email: lyazzat@parlam.kz

Majilis (lower chamber) of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. **Talgat Kassymbekov**, Deputy Head of the Department of the International Affairs and Protocol of Majilis Administration

Tel.: (+7 7172) 74 62 90

Fax: (+7 7172) 74 62 91

Email: kassymbekov@parlam.kz

Mrs. **Nailya Mukanova**, Staff of the Department of the International Affairs and Protocol of Majilis

Tel.: (+7 7172) 74 63 85

Fax: (+7 7172) 74 62 89

Email: nailia@parlam.kz

OSCE PA International Secretariat

Mrs. **Odile Lelarge**, Conference Co-ordinator

Tel.: (+45) 33378034

Fax: (+45) 33378030

Email: odile@oscepa.dk

Hotel Accommodations

Participants can make reservations in the following hotels of Astana:

Radisson SAS Hotel (A1)

Astana, Sary Arka street, 4

Tel.: (+7 7172) 99 00 00

Fax: (+7 7172) 99 22 22

Email: Farah.Willey@RadissonSAS.com

www.astana.radissonsas.com

Contact Person: Farah WILLEY

Rixos President Hotel Astana (A3)

Astana, Pervaya street, 7

Tel.: (+7 7172) 24 50 50

Fax: (+7 7172) 24 27 60

E-mail: reservation@rixosastana.com

www.rixos.com

Contact Person: Asel BELGOZHINA

Hotel Okan Intercontinental Astana (A2)

Astana, Abai avenue, 47

Tel.: (+7 7172) 39 10 00

Fax: (+7 7172) 39 10 17

E-mail: okhomyakova@interconti-astana.kz

www.ichotelsgroup.com

Contact Person: Oksana KHOMYAKOVA

Hotel Akku (A4)

Astana, Ryskulova street, 22

Tel: (+7 7172) 32 41 99; 75 27 00

Fax: (+7 7172) 32 41 99

E-mail: akku@mail.ru

Contact Person: Mukazhanova Aliya

Hotel Tengri (A5)

Astana, Vavilova street, 1

Tel: (+7 7172) 41 38 41

Fax: (+7 7172) 41 38 38

E-mail: res-tengriastana@mail.ru

Contact Person : Vitaliy LI

Hotel Diplomat (A6)

Astana, Tauelsizdik street, 29/1

Tel: (+7 7172) 92 86 46

Fax: (+7 7172) 92 86 46

E-mail: sales@hoteldiplomat.kz

or koshkina-o@yandex.ru

www.hoteldiplomat.kz

Contact Person: Olga Koshkina

All reservations should be made using the appropriate Hotel Reservation Form (**Appendix A**) and sent by fax or email directly to the hotel. Reservations should be made by **1st of June 2008**. As the number of rooms in some of the hotels is limited, the reservation requests will be treated on first-come, first-serve basis. After the reservation deadline the host Parliament cannot guarantee room availability, but will do its best to

provide hotel reservations for the delegates and delegations who do not reserve hotel rooms before the deadline.

Delegation Secretaries who wish to reserve rooms by making a block booking should fill out a form for each individual attending.

Copies of submitted forms need to be sent to Mrs. Odile Lelarge at the OSCE PA International Secretariat (by email: odile@oscepa.dk or fax: +45 3337 8030) and to Mr. Bakhtiyar Arykbaev (by email: arykbaev@parlam.kz or fax: +7 7172 20 85 12) at the Senate of Parliament of Kazakhstan.

Information about your credit card will be required for your hotel room reservation. Booking confirmation will be sent to your e-mail address or fax number. Payment will be made directly to the hotel while you stay in Astana. Please refer to the Hotel Reservation forms for information about cancellation policies.

For further information on amenities in the individual hotels, please consult the hotels' individual websites or call the contact person at the hotel.

An information desk will be located in the lobby of each hotel throughout the session. Parking is available at all of the hotels.

Travel to Astana

Arrival in Astana

Participants are kindly requested to indicate their Flight Numbers or Train Schedules, as well as dates of arrival and departure from Astana on both the Registration Form and Hotel Reservation Form in order to facilitate their welcome and appropriate transfer.

The Astana International Airport is situated 18 km from Astana. Participants will be offered transportation from the airport to the hotel upon their arrival and from the hotel to the airport upon their departure. For participants arriving at the Astana Railway Station, there will also be transportation provided upon arrival and departure.

Additional information:

The Astana International Airport web-page:

<http://www.astanaairport.kz/>

Arrivals info:

<http://www.astanaairport.kz/timetableE.htm>

Departures info:

<http://www.astanaairport.kz/timetableE.htm>

Delegates and accompanying persons arriving in Astana on June 27 or 28 will be welcomed by host country at the Astana International Airport or the Astana Central Railway Station. Shuttle coach service between the conference hotels and the airport will be provided July 3-4. The host country will arrange facilitation of customs and passport control for the participants.

Entry Procedures

A list of countries whose nationals require entry visas can be found in **Appendix C**. Visas will be issued by embassies, diplomatic or consular missions of Kazakhstan, a list of which can be found in **Appendix D** and on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan web-page: www.mfa.kz

Foreign citizens applying for a visa must have a valid passport, and will be asked for the general invitation letter from the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and a completed visa form with a photo attached. The visa form can be found on web-pages of respective Kazakhstan Embassies or on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs web-page: www.mfa.kz

Participants to the OSCE PA Annual Session in Astana will be exempt from paying the visa application fee.

Please Note: For OSCE Member Countries where there is no diplomatic or consular mission of Kazakhstan, consular functions are performed by Kazakhstan embassies and consular representations in other countries a list of which can be found in Appendix D.

Customs Control

Customs regulations of Kazakhstan ban or restrict the import and export of certain goods. To avoid misunderstandings, please check the relevant Customs Rules and Regulations on the website: <http://www.customs.kz/en/>

Registration and Information Desk

The Registration Form (**Appendix B**) should be sent to Mrs. Odile Lelarge at the OSCE PA International Secretariat (Fax: + 45 33 37 80 30; Email: odile@oscepa.dk) before June 1st, 2008. Please send a copy to Mrs. Lyazat Rysymbetova at the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan (lyazzat@parlam.kz)

A Registration and Information Desk will be open in the lobby of the conference center of the Radisson SAS Hotel from 12:00 to 19:00 on Saturday, June 28th, and from 08:00 on Sunday, June 29th.

Please register as soon as possible after your arrival in Astana. All participants will be able to collect identity badges, handbooks, and further conference literature upon registration.

Security

For security reasons all participants and persons accompanying them, observers, supporting staff, and mass media representatives will be required to wear their **identity badges** at all sessions, official meetings and social functions, as well as when taking transport provided by the organizers.

There will be no admittance to any programme functions without the appropriate identity badge. In case of loss of your personal badge, please report to the Registration and Information Desk immediately. For security reasons, participants should also be in possession of some other means of identification and be prepared for identity checks.

Transportation During the Session

A shuttle coach service will be provided during the session for all of the session hotels.

Coach transport will be provided to and from all social functions and for the accompanying persons' programme.

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation into six OSCE working languages (English, French, Russian, Spanish, German and Italian) will be provided at all sessions.

Insurance

Personal and health insurance is the responsibility of individual participants. The Senate of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan does not bear any responsibility for loss of the baggage, money, personal belongings and any medical expenses.

Medical Facilities

First aid stations will be opened during the session in Radisson SAS hotel and other hotels hosting participants. First aid stations will be open from 28 June to 3 July from 8 am to 10 pm. Participants will be responsible for covering the costs of medical service or costs of hospitalization. Delegates taking medicine should bring enough to cover their needs and ensure that they have accurate insurance.

Please do not forget to bring your Health Insurance card or documents. If you have to pay any costs up front, these documents should **guarantee reimbursement of health care costs** after your return home.

Participants with Special Needs

Secretaries of Delegations should inform the Annual Session Working Group in advance about participants with special needs in order to make the necessary transportation and other arrangements in advance.

Embassy and Consulates in Astana

Address and contacts information of embassies and consulates located in Astana are posted on the website of MFA of Kazakhstan: www.mfa.kz

Accompanying Persons

A programme for accompanying persons has been arranged while delegates are engaged in conference sessions. Accompanying persons will also be welcomed on the cultural events organized by the Astana City Hall on June 30. The accompanying persons programme will be open to orange badgeholders. Accompanying persons will be asked to wear their badges during participation in any part of the programme.

Dress Code

Business attire (or an appropriate equivalent for ladies) is required for official meetings and formal occasions. Casual wear is suitable for accompanying people during the excursions. It is recommended that participants have comfortable shoes for informal meetings, excursions and walking tours.

Time Zone

At the time of the Annual Session, the time zone in Astana is six hours ahead of GMT.

Temperature

The climate in Astana is extreme continental. The average temperature in Astana in June-July is 25 Celsius. Weather is mostly sunny with a slight chance of rain.

Currency

Kazakh national currency is the teng (KZT) - equal to 100 tyins - the only currency used in Kazakhstan. VISA, American Express or Master Card credit cards are accepted in hotels, some supermarkets, pubs and restaurants, but can not be used in smaller retail trading points. It is recommended that participants exchange currency in banks or exchange offices.

Exchanging Money

Exchange offices can be found throughout the city, including inside the hotels. Exchange offices are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Cash machines are available 24 hours a day.

Electricity

Power voltage in Kazakhstan is 220 Volts (50 Hz). Kazakhstan uses European style sockets. Power adapters for lower voltage are not easy to acquire, thus participants are recommended to bring their own adapters to Astana.

Telephone

The international dialing code for Kazakhstan is +7; Astana's city code is 7172. To call Astana from abroad, dial +77112 and the six digit telephone number. To call a mobile number in Astana, dial +7, the three-digit number of the mobile operator and the seven-digit mobile number. Codes of the most popular mobile operators in Kazakhstan are: 701, 777, 702, 700, and 705.

Information about making international calls, sending faxes and internet connection can be found on the websites of the hotels.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in all public places and transport. Places where smoking is permitted have special signs.

