

OSCE: Istanbul forum is step towards Asia- Europe dialogue

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Kazakhstan views the [Turkey](#) Forum as an important step towards the development of dialogue between nations of [Asia](#) and [Europe](#) to form a single continental space of security and cooperation, [OSCE](#) Chairman, Kazakh Secretary of State and Foreign Minister [Kanat Saudabayev](#) said at the opening of a special event "Safety and economic cooperation in Eurasia in the 21st century" in Istanbul today.

[Saudabayev](#) said Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has repeatedly stressed that "being in the heart of Eurasia, Kazakhstan keenly feels relevance of such a dialogue." Nazarbayev put forward the initiative to convene the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia in his first speech from the tribune of the General UN Assembly in 1992. It is fair to say that then the proposal by unknown leader of an unknown country was met with a certain degree of irony and skepticism," [Saudabayev](#) added.

[Saudabayev](#) said Kazakhstan has become an economically strong and democratically developed country today, a worthy partner of the international community and President Nazarbayev - a recognized leader in the world, and [CICA](#) - analogous to the OSCE in Asia, comprising 22 States, representing half the global population and one third of the gross world product.

"That is why Kazakhstan as the OSCE chairman and Chairman of the OIC Ministerial Conference -in 2011 will further strengthen its efforts to strengthen cooperation between the two entities and two continents, which we must enrich with the regular exchange of ideas and experiences," he said. "In this context, we would like to propose to discuss establishment of the OSCE -CICA Forum in this event and the upcoming Summit. The OSCE -CICA Forum could become a "permanent dialogue platform between the two structures, allowing to discuss and examine topical issues of security and cooperation in the vast Eurasian continent." "As well as the incidents such as the recent tragic incident in the Mediterranean Sea", [Saudabayev](#) said.

"As the OSCE chairman, I urge all parties to dialogue and negotiations, without which it is impossible to ensure security and stability in the region," Saudabayev said.