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**PRESS RELEASE****OSCE Office in Tajikistan supports co-ordination on free economic zones**

DUSHANBE, 27 April 2010 - The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade with the support of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan held the first meeting of the Co-ordination Council on Free Economic Zones today.

"This meeting is very important to help us co-ordinate actions in an area which involves several dimensions of Tajikistan's economic development and long-term security," said Ambassador Ivar Vikki, the Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan. "It is an example of working together and supporting the Tajik Government to address development issues in an increasingly self-sufficient manner."

The meeting included all involved governmental agencies as well as representatives of embassies and international organizations to discuss co-ordination activities for the 2010-2011 periods.

On 29 March the OSCE Office and Tajikistan's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade signed a memorandum of understanding on the OSCE's involvement in enhancing the Ministry's capacity to co-ordinate the involvement and activities of international and national organizations for the development of free economic zones in the country. The Co-ordination Council on Free Economic Zones was created under this agreement.

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