

ENGLISH only

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EU statement on Kyrgyzstan

The EU would like first to draw delegations' attention to the following statement made on 28 June by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton on the constitutional referendum in Kyrgyzstan:

"I welcome the peaceful conduct of the Constitutional referendum in Kyrgyzstan on 27 June, which marks an important step towards the reestablishment of the constitutional order and democratic process in the country. It testifies to the resilience of the citizens of Kyrgyzstan and their desire to build together a stable foundation for the sustainable development of their country. The European Union stands ready to assist Kyrgyzstan in that process. In that context, I call on the Kyrgyz authorities to build on the progress achieved and take immediate and resolute measures to remedy significant shortcomings identified by ODIHR before the forthcoming parliamentary elections".

The EU remains concerned about the fragility of the overall situation in Kyrgyzstan and the security challenges it continues to raise. We call upon the Provisional Government to take appropriate measures to address this fragility, including by applying the rule of law equally across ethnic groups and by promoting inter-community dialogue.

The EU reiterates that the situation in Kyrgyzstan requires a rapid mobilization of OSCE capabilities in full, on the basis of the PC statement of June 15. In this spirit, and as a matter of urgency, we welcome and will study carefully the report of the Needs Assessment Mission on the possible deployment of an OSCE Police Task Force to Kyrgyzstan, which was published last night.

The EU also looks forward to plans for assistance in other areas such as reconciliation activities, especially through the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities. We support an independent enquiry into the causes of the latest crisis in Kyrgyzstan.

Finally, we hope that the OSCE response to the situation in Kyrgyzstan will demonstrate the good will of the Participating States and the OSCE capacity to address crisis situations effectively.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, AZERBAIJAN and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.