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Delegation**

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**Permanent Council No. 563
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EU Statement on Kazakhstan

The EU thanks the Kazakhstan delegation for the information provided and notes with satisfaction that Mr Shamsiddinov and his family have been returned to the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The EU welcomes Kazakhstan's reconfirmation of its commitment to uphold the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey and Croatia ¹, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, as well as Ukraine and Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

¹ Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process