



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL  
TO THE OSCE

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Portugal 2007- Presidency of the European Union

## Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**683<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council**  
**25<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

### European Union Presidency Statement on the Referendum on the Kyrgyz Constitution and the New Election Law on 21 October 2007

I would like to call the attention of participating States to the European Union Presidency Statement on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007 on the Referendum on the Kyrgyz Constitution and the New Election Law on 21 October 2007, and I quote:

«The EU Presidency takes note of the preliminary results of the referendum on the Kyrgyz Constitution and a new Election Law on 21 October 2007. The EU Presidency welcomes the referendum as a step towards a solution to the protracted constitutional conflict. It hopes that the recent promulgation of the new constitution will provide an opportunity for progress on structural reforms and economic growth.

At the same time, the EU Presidency takes note of the concerns expressed by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and a number of civil society organisations and political parties on violations reported during the referendum. The Presidency recalls Article 2 of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Kyrgyz Republic and the European Communities and their Member States, according to which respect for democracy and principles of international law and human rights underpin the internal and external policies of the Parties and constitute an essential element of partnership between the Kyrgyz Republic and the European Union.

The EU Presidency also takes note of the dissolution of Parliament by the President of the Republic and welcomes the call for Parliamentary elections due to take place on the 16th of December. The EU Presidency acknowledges the significance of the forthcoming elections for the further development of democracy and the rule of law in the Kyrgyz Republic and trusts that OSCE standards and commitments will be respected, including a timely invitation to ODIHR for election observation.

The EU reiterates its willingness to support and assist the Kyrgyz Republic in this process, in particular within the framework of the OSCE.» *(end of quote)*