



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Special Permanent Council Nr 865
Vienna, 9 June 2011**

EU statement in response to the address by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Roza Otunbayeva

The European Union warmly welcomes H.E. Roza Otunbayeva to the Permanent Council and thanks her for her address. We highly appreciate her visit to the Permanent Council of the OSCE, also bearing in mind the President's busy schedule on the eve of the anniversary of the tragic events in Osh and Jalalabad. Kyrgyzstan has achieved much to overcome the consequences of last year's crisis. We particularly congratulate President Otunbayeva on her determination in leading the efforts towards stabilising the country and engaging it in a process of democratic reforms. These efforts include the adoption of a new constitution in a referendum and the peaceful parliamentary elections last October.

President Otunbayeva has reminded us of the fact that the situation in her country is still not stable. Among the destabilising factors, threats to inter-ethnic relations continue to deserve particular attention. We commend the President for initiating the development of a "Concept on Ethnic Development and Consolidation of Kyrgyzstan's Society", drafted with the assistance of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and encourage its early implementation. In this context, the EU has taken note of the recent publication of the report by the independent international commission of inquiry into the events in southern Kyrgyzstan (KIC). The establishment of the commission was a courageous step,

which we have welcomed. The EU sees the commission's report as a positive contribution to the dialogue between the communities in Kyrgyzstan. While the public debate on the events continues, it is equally important to follow up on the report's findings. We therefore welcome the establishment of a special commission to implement and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the KIC Report and of other reports on the events last year in Southern Kyrgyzstan. Some of the recommendations of the KIC are also priorities of the EU assistance programmes, especially the reform of the judiciary. The European Union regrets very much that the Parliament adopted a resolution on 26 May calling for a ban on the head of the KIC from entering the country. We are also seriously concerned about indications that those who appeared before or contributed to the Commission might be at risk. We therefore welcome the Government's guarantee that the safety and security of all national collaborators and partners of the KIC will be ensured.

Mr Chairperson,

The OSCE with its Centre in Bishkek has played a significant role in the country's transition process. We thank the Government of Kyrgyzstan for their good co-operation with the Centre and with the OSCE as a whole. We welcome the close attention the Centre has been paying to reconstruction and reconciliation efforts in the conflict-affected areas in the South. In this co-operation, further progress on human rights and the fight against corruption will be particularly relevant. Furthermore, activities promoting the freedom of media remain important, also in view of the increase in attacks against journalists in recent months.

The EU welcomes the progress made by the Community Security Initiative, one of the most important elements of the response by the OSCE to last year's events and thanks the authorities at all levels for their co-operation. We believe the goals of the CSI, such as the promotion of respect for human rights, improving capacities of the police to operate in a multi-ethnic environment and to

work with communities, continue to be highly relevant. In order to make the CSI a long-term success, all respective authorities must take full ownership and meaningful police reform is required. The EU and its Member States will continue to support the Initiative and engage constructively in the discussions on its future operations.

The upcoming presidential elections will be another important step in the democratic transition of Kyrgyzstan. In this respect, the EU encourages the authorities of Kyrgyzstan to follow up on recommendations the OSCE/ODIHR made following the parliamentary elections last October.

Mr Chairperson,

The EU is convinced that long term stable and peaceful development will only be possible if Kyrgyzstan continues to pursue democratic reforms, strengthen the rule of law and fight corruption. We therefore welcome the announcement made by President Otunbayeva that the country will engage in major reforms of the judiciary and of other key areas.

The EU will continue to support Kyrgyzstan on this path. Following last year's events, we have stepped up our co-operation with Kyrgyzstan. Apart from measures responding to the immediate crisis situation, we are focusing on long-term goals, such as social protection, education and good governance. This is embedded in a strategy that seeks to foster regional co-operation in Central Asia.

Finally, the EU wishes President Roza Otunbayeva the best of success in her tireless work for her country on its way to stability, the rule of law and democracy.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ICELAND**, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the

European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

**Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.