

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

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EU statement on Kyrgyzstan

The EU would like to thank Ambassador Salber for his insightful and pertinent remarks on the situation in Kyrgyzstan.

The EU remains deeply concerned by the situation in Kyrgyzstan and attaches highest priority to a peaceful and dialogue-oriented solution of the crisis, leading to the formation of a democratic government following free and fair elections, which should take place without undue delay. Stability in Kyrgyzstan as well as in the whole region is of utmost importance. In this process, it is paramount that respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law is given primacy. As ever, the EU stands ready to offer its assistance.

At the outset, the EU would like to reiterate its high appreciation of the role the OSCE has played and continues to play in preventing further escalation of the situation on the ground. We commend in particular the swift reaction by the Chairmanship, including the appointment of a Special Envoy. We agree with the Special Envoy Zhanybek Karibzhanov that the primary factor for building public confidence and

reassuring people is respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of the media. We share his belief that there are a number of areas where the OSCE could enhance its activities, including support to public safety, legislative reform, electoral assistance, monitoring of human rights and fundamental freedoms, support to public participation and economic and environmental activities of relevance to the OSCE.

We also support the role of the Secretariat as well as that of all OSCE Institutions to that end. The EU believes that the OSCE institutions, including ODIHR and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, should play an important role in assisting Kyrgyzstan. We welcome Ambassador Salber's rapid response in travelling to Kyrgyzstan, which has clearly testified to the role the CPC should play during crisis situations. The EU would also like to applaud the Centre in Bishkek for its excellent performance throughout this difficult period. We continue to be grateful for its very timely reporting and thank the Centre's leadership and staff members for their untiring efforts during these challenging times. The EU commends the effective cooperation between OSCE, EU and UN, particularly through their three Special Representatives, in their joint efforts to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the current crisis.

The crisis in Kyrgyzstan confirms the importance of the Corfu process aiming, inter alia, at improving the OSCE response to emerging crises in the OSCE area.

EU Special Representative Ambassador Morel visited Kyrgyzstan from 11 to 14 April. He met the Head and other members of the Provisional Government, representatives of all major political parties and of the

civil society as well as the Special Representatives from the UN and the OSCE. We would like to thank the OSCE Centre in Bishkek for their efforts in co-ordinating the meetings in Bishkek. Ambassador Morel is sharing his assessment of the situation with the EU-Member States in Brussels right now. On this basis the EU will consider how best to assist Kyrgyzstan in coordination with other international partners.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA, CROACIA* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA, LIECHTENSTEIN y NORUEGA, al igual que la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA y GEORGIA se suman a esta declaración.

*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.