

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 811
Vienna, 27th May 2010**

EU statement in response to the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere

The European Union warmly welcomes Ambassador Tesoriere to the Permanent Council. We are grateful to you, Ambassador, for your comprehensive report of the work of the Centre in Bishkek throughout the year, and we appreciate in particular your insightful reporting, monitoring and analysis of the events and developments over the past two months. We remain convinced that the OSCE with its Centre in Bishkek has played a significant role throughout the crisis and can continue to have a lasting impact in assisting Kyrgyzstan on its way to a stable and prosperous future. We would like to take the opportunity to personally thank you for the prompt, comprehensive and analytical spot reports that enabled us to have a better understanding of the situation on the ground.

It is regrettable to hear that the previous government rebuffed the Centre's mediation and political facilitation efforts. We commend you for pursuing all possible ways to contribute to dialogue in the

time leading up to and during the crisis and encourage you to continue to these still needed efforts. We also commend the Centre for its successful co-ordination with various other international players in a quickly changing situation, in particular the fruitful cooperation with the Special Representatives of the EU and the UN.

As to your assessment of the coming months the EU shares your views of continuing challenges to achieving stability and constitutional order in Kyrgyzstan, and thus in the wider region. Clearly, early warning and conflict prevention must continue to be at the heart of the work of the Centre in the near future. In this context, the EU would like to reiterate that it stands ready to consider further urgent measures to enhance the OSCE presence in Kyrgyzstan, as necessary and based on agreement between the OSCE and Kyrgyzstan.

We also listened with great interest to your remarks on the medium term needs and to your proposals on how to address them and, more specifically, on what the OSCE can contribute to these needs.

Strengthening the rule of law must remain a key priority in these efforts. A well functioning and well accepted police service is necessary to provide adequate protection for the population. The OSCE Police Reform Programme has run for 7 years. We would be interested in hearing in more detail your ideas on how this complex issue should be managed in the new circumstances.

We note with concern the increase in drug trafficking and money laundering and welcome international efforts to tackle these pressing transnational threats. We also welcome the Centre's work on assisting the Kyrgyz authorities to implement a comprehensive border management and effective customs regime. Recent events show the urgent need to resume cross-border contacts and to enhance cross border co-operation. We urge all actors concerned to act without delay to normalise the situation on the borders between Kyrgyzstan and its neighbours. We also encourage the Centre to continue training activities with Afghan officials to achieve strengthened border regimes in the wider region.

We support your efforts to assist the provisional government in strengthening accountability and transparency in all areas of public life. The restoration of media pluralism is a vital factor in this process. All efforts to strengthen an independent, efficient and impartial judiciary are equally pertinent and welcome.

Another prerequisite for the country's stability is policy catering to regional needs and more equitable parliamentary representation. We encourage the Centre in Bishkek, in cooperation with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, to spare no effort to assist the Kyrgyz authorities to facilitate political participation of persons belonging to national minorities. Your remarks on the origins of the crisis underlined how important political dialogue and free and fair elections are for domestic stability and peace. In

this regard, we would also like to emphasize the importance of the work of ODIHR, especially in the context of preparation for the upcoming referendum and the parliamentary elections. We also underline the importance of enhanced support to the promotion of inter-ethnic tolerance as well as early warning mechanisms for ethnic tensions.

We commend the Centre's excellent relationship with the host country and note with satisfaction the identification of ten operational priorities for its future work. While we are grateful for your insightful comments on the most recent developments, we would be remiss if we did not express our appreciation for the multi-faceted work done by you and your able team in the preceding months, well described in the annex of your report.

We note with satisfaction that the OSCE Academy under its new leadership continues to serve as an excellent example of regional cooperation and has maintained a high reputation as an international training and research centre. We are pleased to hear that it was possible to secure a multi-year contract for the cost-free use of its current premises and to register the curriculum of the Academy's Masters Programme.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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