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## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1007 Vienna, 10 July 2014

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#### **EU Statement on Legal and Judicial Reforms in Kazakhstan**

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The European Union is concerned about the new Criminal Code, the new Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Code of Administrative Offences, adopted by Kazakhstan at the beginning of July.

We welcome the government's efforts to reform Kazakhstan's criminal legislation, but we are concerned that the new codes contain a number of articles that might have a negative impact on freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of assembly.

We encourage the government to closely work with civil society, international partners, such as the Council of Europe, and ODIHR to address these concerns when implementing regulations for the new Codes, and to consider amending them in order to comply with Kazakhstan's OSCE commitments and with other international obligations.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, ICELAND+, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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