



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

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Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**Permanent Council No. 715
5 June 2008**

EU statement on access to websites in Kazakhstan

The European Union has noted that, following expressions of concern at the 29 May meeting of the Permanent Council, access to English and local language websites of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Kazakhstan now seems to have been restored.

The EU hopes that there will be no further interruptions to access to these websites. The EU however remains concerned about reports of temporary interruptions in the access to other independent websites in Kazakhstan, specifically kub.info, respublika.kz and inkar.info and would appreciate further clarification on these latest reports.

The European Union stresses the importance of the implementation by all participating States of OSCE commitments to respect freedom of expression, including the commitment to ensure that the Internet remains an open and public forum for freedom of opinion and expression.

We encourage the Kazakh Government to continue its close cooperation with ODIHR and the Representative of the Freedom of the Media on the important media legislation reform and other issues related to the freedom of media.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the

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European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

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