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**EUROPEAN UNION**

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**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 829  
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## **EU statement on Kyrgyzstan**

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The European Union would like to thank the Chairmanship for the report and for conducting extensive consultations with Kyrgyz and international interlocutors on current developments in the Kyrgyz Republic in this important pre-election phase. We also look forward to a more detailed report by the Director of the CPC next week.

We welcome the coordinated approach of the Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the Special Representatives of the EU and of the UN Secretary General and their joint visit to Kyrgyzstan on 13-15 September. The EU would like to echo their call for free and fair parliamentary elections in line with international standards and for the political parties to show mutual tolerance and respect for opponents throughout the election campaign as well as following the elections.

We recall our support for the deployment of an OSCE Police Advisory Group as mandated by PC Decision 947 and the approach outlined by Ambassador Salber last week. We underline that the role of the PAG is to advise and support local police forces, to assist the Kyrgyz authorities to reduce interethnic tensions and that it will have no executive powers. Furthermore, the EU welcomes the OSCE's continued efforts to support the training of Kyrgyz Police. We also welcome all

the strenuous efforts by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek in contributing to the stabilisation of Kyrgyzstan.

We continue to be concerned about reports of both growing nationalism and inter-ethnic tensions in the south of Kyrgyzstan and also incidents on the border with Uzbekistan. We therefore reiterate our appeal to all sides to exercise maximum restraint and to play their full part in defusing tensions.

We have learned with concern about a recent attack on the Bishkek synagogue. We deplore this attack and await the results of a full investigation into the incident.

The EU would also like to voice its dismay about the verdict regarding Azimjan Askarov. We have already expressed our concern about the treatment of Mr Askarov and his co-defendants. We regret that aspects of the trial were not conducted in accordance with international standards and OSCE commitments. We appeal to the Kyrgyz authorities to address these breaches.

We look forward to continued efforts by the Kyrgyz leadership to build an open and democratic society. The EU believes that such a society, free from fear, could be achieved only by strengthening democratic institutions in the entire country, fostering the rule of law and the respect of the human rights of all its citizens.

The candidate countries CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\* and ICELAND\*\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

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

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