

# Prohlášení Statement Déclaration

Vienna 11 June 2009

## **Permanent Council no. 764 EU Statement on appointment of Tajik Human Rights Ombudsman**

The EU welcomes the appointment on 27 May 2009 of Zarif Alizoda as the first Tajik Human Rights Ombudsman. This is an important first step towards implementing the law on the Ombudsman Institution passed in March 2008 and strengthening the rule of law and human rights in Tajikistan.

The EU hopes that the Ombudsman institution, while exercising its autonomy, will enjoy the full logistical and financial support of the Government of Tajikistan in order to become operational as soon as possible. We welcome the willingness of the Ombudsman to cooperate closely with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, NGOs and international organisations.

The EU appreciates the assistance provided by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan in supporting the development of the Ombudsman law. We also commend the Office's proposed assistance to the Institution itself within the 2009 Unified Budget, in the form of capacity building and awareness-raising. We now look forward to working with the Ombudsman and his office and will consider favourably further requests for support to ensure its effective functioning.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\* and 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 European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

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