



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1104 Vienna, 9 June 2016

EU Statement on the sentencing of officials of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan

The European Union shares the deep concern expressed by ODIHR and by the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression; on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association; and on Freedom of Religion or Belief at the recent sentencing by Tajikistan's Supreme Court of Saidumar Hussaini and Mahmadali Hait, deputy leaders of the Islamic Renaissance Party (IRPT) and eleven other party members.

Reports of the court proceedings indicate these were not transparent and point towards violations of the rights of the accused to a fair trial out of line with Tajikistan's OSCE and international law commitments. Fair trials rights are a central element of the rule of law. Clear evidence must be presented justifying criminal charges brought against defendants in connection with all sentences issued.

In all circumstances, including in the pursuit of security operations, the fundamental freedoms of all Tajik citizens must be guaranteed and the rule of law must be upheld.

We take this opportunity to recall that Tajikistan, as an OSCE participating State, has made a commitment to uphold key values of democracy, including political pluralism and political participation. We reiterate our readiness to support Tajikistan in the implementation of its OSCE commitments.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, 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.