



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 954
Vienna, 30 May 2013**

**EU statement in reply to the report by the Head of the
OSCE Centre in Bishkek, H.E. Ambassador Sergey
Kapinos, and by the Director of the OSCE Academy in
Bishkek, Mr Maxim Ryabkov**

The EU warmly welcomes Ambassador Kapinos to the Permanent Council for the first time in his capacity as Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and thanks him for his presentation. We also welcome the Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Mr Maxim Ryabkov.

During the last 12 months, Kyrgyz authorities have adopted some key reform documents including the Comprehensive Strategy for Sustainable Development 2013-2017, the National Security Concept and the Concept on the Strengthening of National Unity and Inter-ethnic Relations. We are especially interested in efforts to improve inter-ethnic relations in the country as we consider this to be a pre-requisite for the peaceful and sustainable development of the Kyrgyz Republic. The adoption of these policies reflects the desire by the Kyrgyz authorities to move forward in its democratisation process and we would now like to encourage an emphasis on their implementation. In this regard, both the Centre in Bishkek as well as the Field Office in Osh have contributed substantially to an increased partnership with and within Kyrgyz authorities and offer active support to reform and capacity building processes.

We highly appreciate the Centre in Bishkek's efforts to focus on activities with greatest impact on participation, transparency, confidence building and security along with cross-dimensional and cross-cutting streamlining of its programming. We welcome the targeted approach which has identified five strategic priority areas – promoting good governance and anti-corruption; human rights and the rule of law; transnational threats to security; strengthening inter-communal relations and gender equality.

The EU very much appreciates the substantial enhancement of political dialogue among and between Kyrgyz government, civil society and International Organisations, including the OSCE-UN-EU troika format. This comprehensive network is essential in reaching out to society and should also be used to accompany and accelerate the implementation of action plans.

Against the background of still latent inter-community tensions, increasing competition for natural resources and trans-border/regional threats, the identification of TNT and border security as new priorities within the Politico-Military Dimension is appropriate. The potential for further co-operation and integration between a reshaped Police Matters Programme and the Community Security Initiative is very promising. This new approach could bring together top-down police reform with bottom-up working community policing including the promotion of human rights, the rule of law and good governance as well as combating Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT) and should contribute substantially to the criminal justice reform that is envisaged. The EU very much appreciates the work of the CSI, which has become a valuable and trusted partner for the Kyrgyz police as well as for communities in southern Kyrgyzstan. It is clear however, that significant challenges remain in this region.

The persisting focus on land use and water management in the Second Dimension can help to prevent and/or reduce conflicts both within countries and across borders. Increasing participation and transparency will help to build capacities and create trust. The establishment of a second Aarhus Centre will provide additional support in this respect. In the area of good governance, we support the Centre in Bishkek's activities to foster ethical behaviour and to support the engagement by law enforcement bodies, financial institutions as well as the Parliament in combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

As for the Human Dimension, we have already welcomed the cross dimensional approach to the Centre in Bishkek's policing activities. We support the ongoing engagement by the Centre in Bishkek, in cooperation with ODIHR, with the Kyrgyz authorities to support improvements in the judicial and criminal justice system. This dimension remains a priority for the EU and we would like to encourage the Kyrgyz authorities to take further steps to implement the decisions taken on the reforms with particular emphasis on torture prevention. We note the

efforts by Kyrgyz authorities to develop a coherent legislative framework on population and voter registration systems in cooperation with ODIHR and civil society. These are an important contribution to implementing ODIHR's EOM recommendations.

Turning now to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, we note with interest the intention to act on the proposal by the Kyrgyz Government to set up an additional Afghan research unit. The Academy already plays an important role promoting regional cooperation and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Director Ryabkov and his team for their work in this area.

In conclusion, the EU thanks Ambassador Kapinos and Director Ryabkov for their valuable contribution to the reform processes in Kyrgyzstan and wishes both every success in their future activities.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, and Andorra, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia 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.