

## Spanish Presidency of the European Union

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### EU statement on political dialogue with Central Asian countries

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The EU would like to inform participating States that the annual political dialogue between the EU and the countries of Central Asia was held yesterday in Brussels, at Ministerial level, in the framework of the EU-Central Asia Strategy, covering a wide array of topics. In these circumstances, issues relevant to the parties in those talks, such as the railway shipment differences between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the detention of Kyrgyz citizen Nematillo Botakuziev in Tajikistan, and the latest regrettable developments of the Evgeny Zhovtis case in Kazakhstan, will be addressed by the EU at the next meeting of the Permanent Council. On the Zhovtis case in particular, the EU recalls its previous statements and strong concern.

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