



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1001 Vienna, 22 May 2014

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 Pál Dunay

The EU warmly welcomes Ambassador Kapinos back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for his comprehensive report. We would like to extend a warm welcome also to Mr Pál Dunay in his capacity as new Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.

We see that last year's refocus of the work at the Centre in Bishkek (CiB) is already paying off; the identification of five strategic priority areas is leading to more efficient support in the implementation of OSCE commitments in Kyrgyzstan. The EU will continue to support the emerging Parliamentary system in the country, which is unique in the region.

The EU appreciates the ongoing political dialogue in Kyrgyzstan comprising Government, civil society and International Organisations. This comprehensive network, with a prominent role of the OSCE-UN-EU troika format, should also be used to foster the implementation of National Action Plans. The outreach into provinces conducted by the Centre of Bishkek is the right approach to ensure inclusiveness in this dialogue. In this regard, we welcome the work of the centre throughout the whole country, in particular in the South. The EU considers the improvement of inter-ethnic relations on the basis of the rule of law and respect for human rights to be a prerequisite for the peaceful and sustainable development of Kyrgyzstan.

The recent reshuffle of the Kyrgyz Government took place under the democratic constitution. We consider last year's comprehensive reform agenda as an important basis for further democratic development of the country. Emphasis now needs to be put on implementation.

The EU agrees that transnational threats, and in particular border security, will remain a priority within the Politico-Military Dimension. Developments during last year have shown a clear need to make progress on border delimitation and demarcation, as well as on the implementation of integrated border management and we welcome increased coordination with the Office in Tajikistan on this issue. Countering terrorism is also a key component of the CiB's work. The EU welcomes every effort by the Centre in Bishkek to support Governmental and other initiatives, such as the 'peace messengers', to provide early-warning and conflict prevention. The involvement of youth councils is an effective approach to achieve sustainability of these activities. Regarding CiB's policing activities: the Police Matters Programme should be further optimised, including a close co-ordination with the concept and activities of the Community Security Initiative (CSI); CSI is a flagship programme, to which we attach high importance. In particular, the work on human rights and multi-ethnic policing is crucial. CSI is being further supported by multi-annual EU and Member State funding. It will be important to focus on increased transparency and engaged and active management of the programme in the coming year. In this context, we welcome the recent appointment of a new Head of CSI and trust that the programme will now get back on track to achieve greater impact on the ground.

In the Economic and Environmental Dimension, the EU welcomes the efforts of the Centre in Bishkek to support the Kyrgyz Government and institutions on countering corruption and money laundering, including implementing FATF recommendations. We particularly appreciate the CiB's activities on promoting transparency and good governance, including local self-governance. We welcome further focus on land use and water management, preventing conflicts both within and across borders.

As for the Human Dimension, we appreciate ongoing engagement by the Centre in Bishkek - partially together with ODIHR - in supporting Kyrgyz authorities to progress on improving the judicial and criminal justice system. The Human Dimension is a key priority for the EU. We would like to encourage the Kyrgyz authorities to further proceed with the ongoing reforms, with particular emphasis on torture prevention. We welcome the establishment of an independent National Preventive Mechanism and its participation in the Memorandum of Understanding on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, sponsored by the Centre in Bishkek. We regard the development of a coherent legislative framework on population and voter registration system to be important in view of upcoming Parliamentary and Presidential Elections. We hope that the Kyrgyz authorities will continue to consult the Centre in Bishkek and ODIHR on draft legislation.

We appreciate the contribution of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek to promoting regional cooperation and academic networking – we would like to encourage Director Dunay and his team to proceed with this successful and forward looking scientific approach that founded the high reputation of the Academy.

In conclusion, the EU would like to recall its commitment and support to consolidate democratic and socio-economic reforms in Kyrgyzstan. We thank Ambassador Kapinos and Director Dunay once more for their valuable contribution to the reform processes in the country and wish both every success in their activities.

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 countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

* 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.