



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council N°1078  
Vienna, 19 November 2015**

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**EU Statement in Response to Tajikistan on the Islamic  
Renaissance Party of Tajikistan**

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We recall our statement of 8 October 2015, following the banning of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan in Tajikistan, which expressed concern over the ever-narrowing space for alternative political views to be heard, and noted the risk that this would drive those frustrated by the limitations imposed on freedom of expression to seek more radical outlets for their views. As we said then, the decision to ban any political party from political competition and democratic participation must be open to legal review and be supported by credible evidence. It is important to note that the IRPT is not on any international list of proscribed terrorist organisations.

We take note of the Tajik Ambassador's comments on meetings in Vienna involving Dr Kabiri/members of the Islamic Renaissance Party. In this context, it is important that we should guard against any misappropriation of heightened international concern about security in light of recent terrorist attacks in order to justify limiting space for legitimate alternative political views to be expressed.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* 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 and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.