

PC.DEL/797/10
22 July 2010

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 824th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 22 July 2010

Regarding Kyrgyzstan

The European Union (EU) welcomes the decision just adopted by the Permanent Council on the deployment of an OSCE Police Advisory Group to Kyrgyzstan, which demonstrates a sense of commitment on the part of the Kyrgyz authorities and on the part of the OSCE as a whole. The European Union hopes that the actual deployment of the police group will take place without delay on the basis of the modalities defined on 15 July in Bishkek and reiterated in the document with the reference number CIO.GAL/127/10. The dispatch of these police advisers under the aegis of the OSCE will, Mr. Chairperson, provide vital assistance to the Kyrgyz authorities in reducing inter-ethnic tensions, ensuring the restoration of public order and strengthening the capacities of the territorial units of the Ministry of the Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The European Union reaffirms its support for the intensification of activities in all three dimensions by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. We also welcome the decision to adopt a supplementary budget for the OSCE Centre in Bishkek to allow it to step up its assistance to the Kyrgyz authorities.

The European Union welcomes the fact that the Chairperson-in-Office has, during the OSCE Informal Ministerial Meeting held in Almaty, clearly underlined the role expected of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in the preparation and conduct of parliamentary elections. We consider it necessary furthermore that the ODIHR provide comprehensive support to the Kyrgyz authorities in their efforts to introduce true rule of law and to ensure respect for human rights and democratic principles.

The European Union nevertheless remains concerned about the security situation in certain parts of Kyrgyzstan and the persisting news of attacks against defenders of human rights as well as attacks of an ethnic nature, in particular against persons belonging to the Uzbek minority. This demonstrates a need for a better understanding of the roots of this violence, the identification of the perpetrators of these acts, the restoration of peace and inter-ethnic reconciliation. That is why the European Union is in favour of establishing an independent international commission to complement the efforts of the Kyrgyz national commission. The OSCE should contribute actively to these international efforts.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union is also concerned about the fate of the refugees and internally displaced persons. We call upon the Kyrgyz authorities to guarantee their protection and to respond to their needs, in particular with regard to rehabilitation and reconstruction. The European Union has already provided considerable humanitarian aid through the European Commission and its Member States, because we are mindful that victim assistance cannot take place without the help of the international community. In this regard, we support the holding of a development forum in Bishkek on 27 July organized by the World Bank.

Thank you for your attention, Mr. Chairperson.

The candidate countries Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Iceland, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Andorra, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.