



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 828
Vienna, 9 September 2010**

EU statement on the situation in Kyrgyzstan

The European Union would like to thank Ambassador Salber for the debriefing of his latest trip to Kyrgyzstan and for his untiring efforts to resolve the remaining issues regarding the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Kyrgyzstan and to facilitate the deployment of an OSCE Police Advisory Group as soon as possible. We also thank the Representative of Kyrgyzstan for the useful update. We underline once again that, in accordance with PC Decision 947, the role of the PAG is to advise and support local police forces and to assist the Kyrgyz authorities to reduce interethnic tensions and that it will have no executive powers.

We regret that no progress could be achieved with the consultations regarding the MoU. We therefore would like to voice our support for a pragmatic approach as proposed, and maximise the possibilities offered under the current mandate of the Centre in Bishkek. We also encourage the Secretariat and the Centre in Bishkek to extend all support possible to the Kyrgyz authorities, in particular in the South of the country, in their efforts to clarify the purpose and role of the Police Advisory Group.

We hope that the visit of the three Special Envoys of the EU, the OSCE and the UN envisaged for next week can achieve progress.

With regard to the activities of the Centre in Bishkek in this context, the EU welcomes the OSCE supported training seminar for members of local Crime Prevention Centers as an opportunity to bring together police and citizens to address community matters. This is an important element for building trust between the public and the executive.

The EU is concerned by President Otunbayeva's recent remarks concerning the possible introduction of a state of emergency and the possible cancellation of the 10 October parliamentary elections. We hope that such measures will not be necessary and that the pre-election period and election day itself will be calm and peaceful. In this context, we welcome the opening by ODIHR of its long-term observation mission for those elections. We look forward to the deployment of the 300 short-term observers immediately prior to election day.

The EU remains worried about the human rights situation in Southern Kyrgyzstan. In this respect, we wish to voice our concern about the fate of the human rights defender, Mr Azimjan Askarov, whose trial on criminal charges is ongoing in the city of Massi. We are seriously concerned by reports that Mr Askarov was ill-treated while in police custody in the city of Bazar Korgan and that his lawyer and relatives were harassed. The EU is following closely the ongoing trial of Mr Askarov and co-defendants and notes with concern the incidents which marred the first days of the hearing. We call on the authorities of Kyrgyzstan to ensure that his trial is conducted fully in accordance with international standards and OSCE commitments. It is particularly important that Mr Askarov and his co-defendants receive proper legal representation and that their lawyers and relatives are not subjected to violence or intimidation either inside or outside the courtroom. The EU will continue to follow this case very closely, as well as the overall situation of human rights defenders in Kyrgyzstan.

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.