



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 830  
Vienna, 23 September 2010**

### **EU statement on Kyrgyzstan**

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The European Union would like to thank Ambassador Salber for the report on his most recent visit to Kyrgyzstan, accompanying the Special Envoy of the Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Karybzhhanov.

The EU reiterates its call for free and fair elections in line with international standards and for parties to show mutual tolerance and respect for opponents throughout the election campaign as well as following the elections.

We regret that there has been little progress concerning the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the OSCE Police Advisory Group and its deployment, as mandated by PC Decision 947. While aware of current political constraints, we are still convinced that an early deployment would have a positive impact on the ground in helping to create an environment in which confidence can be restored. In the meantime, we recall our support for the pragmatic approach outlined by Ambassador Salber. Members of the PAG should be able to visit the area of their intended deployment on a regular basis, allowing them to start building meaningful working relations there.

We also recall our support for an independent international Investigation commission and look forward to further progress in this respect.

In last week's PC, the European Union has voiced its dismay about the verdict regarding Azimjan Askarov and the negative signals it sends regarding the situation of human rights defenders in the country. In this context, we would like to draw the attention of Delegations to the statement issued by the spokesperson of the High Representative Ashton, which was distributed to Delegations on 20 September (Ref. SEC.DEL/254/10).

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, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

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

\*\* Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.