



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council N°1090 Vienna, 18 February 2016

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#### **EU Statement on IRPT Criminal Proceedings in Tajikistan**

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The European Union remains deeply concerned by the Tajik Government's response to the violence of last September and its attempt to hold the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT) responsible for these events. As a result, many members of the IRPT have been arrested and face criminal proceedings without a guarantee of a fair trial, especially its leaders in Tajikistan. It is also important to note that the IRPT is not on any international list of proscribed terrorist organisations.

We are equally concerned by the arrest of lawyers who applied to act as defence attorneys for IRPT defendants, Burzurgmehr Yorov, Nodira Dodajanova and Nuriddin Mahkamov. These arrests raise significant concerns related to arbitrary detention and fair trial, and can only impede the legitimate work of Tajikistan's defence bar.

We reiterate the importance of upholding the rule of law and urge the Government of Tajikistan to ensure that criminal proceedings involving detained IRPT members, and their lawyers, are conducted in a fair and transparent manner in accordance with Tajikistan's international obligations and OSCE commitments. The EU is committed to support the government of Tajikistan in implementing its OSCE commitments.

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