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EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 837
Vienna, 18 November 2010**

EU statement on Kyrgyzstan

The European Union would like to thank the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre for his presentation of the concept for a Community Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan during the last Permanent Council.

The EU welcomes the fact that the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Kyrgyz authorities have agreed on this concept. We expect that this initiative will pursue and allow the swift implementation of all objectives the participating States have agreed on in PC Decision 947, i.e. to reduce inter-ethnic tensions, restore public order and strengthen the capacities of the territorial units of the Ministry of the Interior of the Kyrgyz Republic. We recall our position that these objectives and related tasks are relevant especially in the south of Kyrgyzstan, where there is still an urgent need to restore confidence and the rule of law.

We welcome in particular the fact that the key tasks identified in the framework of this initiative include advice and support to the territorial units of the Ministry of Interior on upholding the rule of law as well as advice and support on their cooperation with local communities. We believe such contributions can have a positive impact in helping to create an environment in which confidence can grow and the rule of law can be strengthened. The EU highly values the inclusion of

monitoring and regular reporting on the security situation in the areas of the project activities among the key tasks of the initiative.

We also appreciate the fact that gender mainstreaming and the integration of ethnic minorities into the Kyrgyzstan police have been explicitly included in the concept.

We hope that the limited number of international staff will not unduly compromise the performance of the police advisors on the ground. We are looking forward to a speedy deployment of the advisors.

The European Union has repeatedly expressed its concern about violations in the trial regarding Azimjan Askarov and his co-defendants. Since we last raised this issue at the Permanent Council on November 4, we have received new reports by domestic and international observers about violations of procedure in the second instance trial, and of physical violence against defendants, including by the police. We reiterate our call for a full investigation of allegations of torture and irregularities, also in order to allow for a fair trial for Mr Askarov and the other defendants.

We understand Mr Askarov has been transferred to a medical facility in a colony near Bishkek, and expect he will receive every medical assistance needed.

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.