



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

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**Remarks of Ambassador Aurélie Bouchez, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan, at the training workshop on “The stages of the legislative process: theory, practice and international experience”**

*01 October 2013, Astana*

Ms Vice Minister, your excellencies, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me give all of you a very warm welcome on behalf of the European Union.

Today's event is about theory, practice and international experience regarding the stages of the legislative process.

Having a legislative procedure in place which ensures at the same time efficiency, transparency and accountability to the people is of huge importance for any country that is based on the rule of law.

It is even more relevant for such fast developing, reforming and changing country as Kazakhstan. Let me therefore congratulate the organizers to this important event.

This year we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the European Union. Over this period of time, the EU has supported Kazakhstan in many different policy fields. Each of them is very important, no doubt.

However, perhaps more than any other policy area, the rule of law is an indispensable cornerstone for any thriving, democratic and modern country. Citizens and companies need to rely on a system which ensures that their rights are being protected.

Therefore, the rule of law is one of the key areas of European cooperation with Kazakhstan and its neighbours.

Efficiency, transparency and accountability of the legislative process - these are important aspects of the rule of law.

Through trial, errors and several decades of practice and reforms, Europe has gathered a wealth of experience in this field. However, our approach is not to bring, or recommend, one particular model. Each country is different and has to find its own best practice. Nevertheless, there are some key principles and experiences which we are happy to share and discuss with you today.

Let me therefore encourage all of us to use this opportunity today for a fruitful exchange of experience and an open minded discussion. With these two ingredients, I have no doubt that the seminar will lead to constructive and useful results.

Thank you for your attention.