



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the
Republic of Tajikistan

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PRESS RELEASE

EUSR PATRICIA FLOR CONCLUDED HER VISIT TO TAJIKISTAN

The EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Ambassador Patricia Flor, visited Tajikistan on 11-12 December 2013. She met H.E. Sirojiddin Aslov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Rustam Mengliev, Minister of Justice, Mr. Farrukh Hamralliev, State Adviser of the President on Economic Issues, and Ms. Bunafsha Odinaeva, Deputy Head of National Drug Control Agency.

During her meetings Ambassador Flor briefed local authorities about the new 2014-2020 EU Assistance portfolio for Central Asia. The region will receive around EUR 1 billion of assistance from the European Union. The Special Representative highlighted the deepening of relations between Tajikistan and the European Union through the visit of President Rahmon in Brussels in April and the participation of the Tajik Foreign Minister at the EU-Central Asia Ministerial meeting in Brussels in November 2013. The EU side welcomed the active contribution of Tajikistan to the EU- CA Platforms on the Rule of Law, Water and Environment, and Education.

With regard to the rule of law, human rights, the situation of civil society, and recent election in Tajikistan, Ambassador Flor called on Tajik authorities to implement the recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR monitoring mission in order to ensure a good basis for the Parliamentary election in 2015. The EUSR also exchanged views on the ongoing judicial reform efforts of Tajikistan.

Ambassador Flor discussed security issues, including the impact of developments in Afghanistan on Central Asia and EU –Tajikistan co-operation against transnational threats and drug-trafficking. The discussions also covered economic relations, water and energy issues. Acknowledging Tajikistan's energy needs, Ambassador Flor reiterated the necessity of energy sector reform, including energy efficiency measures, and in this context, underlined the readiness of the EU to support measures outlined in the World Bank's study on the winter energy shortage in Tajikistan. During her stay, the EUSR also visited 2 EU financed water projects which aim at providing clean drinking water to the local population of Somoniyan and Tursunzade.

The European Union, composed of 28 Member States, is the world's biggest aid donor. Tajikistan received the main share of bilateral assistance in the Central Asian region (€66 million for 2007-2010 and 62 million for 2011-2013) in support to sector programmes, technical assistance and grants. It focuses on social protection, health and private sector development, underpinned by public finance management. Tajikistan also receives regional and thematic assistance in areas like border management and drug control (BOMCA/CADAP), education (TEMPUS, Erasmus Mundus), water / environment, migration, human rights and democracy (EIDHR), non-State actors (NSA) and SME development (CA-Invest). EU is active in Tajikistan since 1992 and provides approximately EUR 25 million annually in development assistance.

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