



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The European Union and Tajikistan co-chair a National Workshop to Support the Justice Reform**

DUSHANBE – In the framework of the Rule of Law Initiative for Central Asia established by the EU and led by France and Germany, the project «Rule of Law Platform – Central Asia» funded by the EU will hold a **“National Workshop on Support to the Justice Reform of Tajikistan” on 5 March 2014 in Dushanbe**, aimed at deepening the dialogue and exchanges of best practices on justice reform and their implementation, in partnership with the Council of Justice, the Office of the President, and the Ministry of Justice of Tajikistan. Mr. Eduard Auer, Mr. Didier Leroy and Dr. Silke Klöver, European and French and Ambassadors and Deputy Head of Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to Tajikistan will participate, demonstrating their common approach to linking judicial reform and democratic values to the country development.

The objective of the seminar is to contribute to the processes of rationalising judicial administration, introducing IT in judicial proceedings, developing professional legal training and awareness, and strengthening the capacity of the bar. Participants to the national workshop on **“Support to the Justice Reform”** will follow up the implementation of the Third Joint Ministerial Communiqué in the area of judicial reform (6-7 December 2012, Brussels) and will elaborate recommendations in the areas concerned, aimed at facilitating the introduction of international standards of justice reform in support of the upcoming Government legal and judicial reform programme for Tajikistan for 2014-2016, while stirring the public dialogue on rule of law between State institutions and the civil society.

As underlined by Mr. Dirk Meganck, Director for Asia, Central Asia and Pacific, European Commission, in Dushanbe on 11 February 2014: *“The European Union will continue supporting Tajikistan in its reform process”*. He recalled *“the importance the EU attaches to rule of law, governance and fight against corruption”*.

A key element of the EU-Central Asia Strategy for a New Partnership, the “Rule of Law Initiative for Central Asia” project constitutes the overarching regional framework for enhanced cooperation in the rule of law area, aimed at supporting legal reforms in Central Asia and the sharing of EU experience. Under the auspices of the Rule of Law Initiative, the Rule of Law Platform regional project acts as a support mechanism to facilitate policy dialogue and promote the measures contributing to legal reforms in each of the Central Asian countries.

**Time and date:** 5 March 2014, 9.00 – 17.00 (Registration will start at 8.30).

**Venue:** National Library of the Republic of Tajikistan, Tekhron Street 5, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan

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