



Brussels, 17 September 2013
130917/04

S T A T E M E N T

by the Spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following her meeting with the President of the Kyrgyz Republic

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"High Representative Catherine Ashton met today in Brussels with the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Almazbek Atambaev to discuss EU-Kyrgyz relations and the implementation of reforms in Kyrgyzstan as well as developments in the region.

The High Representative welcomed the determination of the Kyrgyz President to pursue democratic reforms and ensure free and fair elections in future and underlined the EU's readiness to share its expertise in this field. She also commended the Government for its ambitious reform agenda aimed at long-term sustainable development of the country.

She welcomed efforts to reform the judiciary and fight corruption and underlined the EU's long-term support, noting the signature of the new EU programme for rule of law reform. They also discussed steps taken by the authorities in Kyrgyzstan to protect human rights and advance inter-ethnic reconciliation, and the High Representative stressed the need to effectively implement reforms to uphold the rights of minorities.

In the discussion on key regional developments, Catherine Ashton reiterated the importance of a cooperative approach in addressing regional challenges and highlighted EU support for regional cooperation.

The High Representative welcomed active participation of Kyrgyzstan in the first EU-Central Asia High Level Security Dialogue. She discussed with the President developments related to the situation in Afghanistan and increasing security concerns for Central Asia. The EU remains committed to long-term stability in the region."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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