



Samarkand, 08 November 2013
131108/01

P R E S S R E L E A S E

EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue

On 8 November 2013 in Samarkand, the European Union and Uzbekistan held the seventh round of their Human Rights Dialogue. The meeting was held in an open atmosphere, with exchanges on issues of mutual interest and concern, as well as discussions on possibilities for increased cooperation in the field of human rights. The Uzbek delegation was led by Mr Nigmatilla Yuldashev, Minister for Justice, and the EU delegation to the meeting was led by Ms Elisabeth Tison, Head of the Human Rights Guidelines Division in the European External Action Service.

The dialogue allowed for an exchange of views on the human rights situation in both Uzbekistan and in the EU. Discussions covered a broad range of issues, including national human rights institutions, the status of civil society organisations, women's rights and cooperation projects. In line with many of the recommendations made during the 2013 Universal Periodic Review of Uzbekistan at the UN Human Rights Council, the EU raised concerns regarding a number of human rights issues in the country, including torture and ill-treatment of detainees, excessive limitations on freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of religion or belief, and the restrictive nature of the regulatory framework for independent civil society actors.

The EU welcomed Uzbekistan's engagement with the International Labour Organization this year on the issue of child labour, and encouraged Uzbekistan to enter into similar cooperation with the international community on other human rights issues. The EU and

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780 - Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox Maja
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Eamonn Prendergast +32 460 75 32 93 - Eamonn.Prendergast@ec.europa.eu

Follow us on Twitter [@eu_eas](https://twitter.com/eu_eas)
www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService
www.eeas.europa.eu

EN

Uzbekistan also exchanged views on possible ways to cooperate on human rights issues within international organisations, in particular at the UN and the OSCE. Individual human rights cases were discussed during the meeting.

In keeping with the practice of incorporating the views of civil society in its human rights engagements with third countries, the EU delegation met with representatives of Uzbek civil society in Tashkent in advance of the Human Rights Dialogue meeting.

The EU proposed that the next EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue meeting take place in Brussels in 2014. The first meeting of the EU-Uzbekistan Human rights dialogue was held in May 2007. The European Union is engaged in dedicated human rights discussions with close to 40 countries around the world.
