



## EUROPEAN UNION

### **OSCE Permanent Council No. 1337 Vienna, 30 September 2021**

#### **EU Statement in response to the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan Ruslan Kazakbaev**

1. The EU extends a warm welcome to Minister Kazakbaev and takes this opportunity to congratulate the Kyrgyz Republic on the 30th anniversary of its independence. Sharing core values such as democracy, respect for human rights and free trade, the Kyrgyz Republic is an important partner for the European Union in Central Asia.
2. We welcome the recent Kyrgyz invitation to observe the parliamentary elections on 28 November. The EU and its Member States stand ready to support the Kyrgyz Republic in its efforts to hold elections in line with international obligations and OSCE commitments, also by deploying observers to the Election Observation Mission by the ODIHR. We encourage the authorities to ensure a level playing field to all political forces in the run-up and during the Election Day.
3. We look forward to seeing the Kyrgyz government engage with determination on the reforms needed for the country's democratic, social and economic development. We believe that efforts to promote good governance, the rule of law, respect of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedoms of association and of the media, the fight against corruption and organised crime are particularly important.
4. The rule of law and respect for democratic principles are a cornerstone of the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the Kyrgyz Republic. We attach utmost importance to the implementation of the recommendations of the OSCE and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission in

the legislation implementing the new Constitution, including on safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms.

5. We take positive note of the good cooperation between the Programme Office and the host authorities and civil society, including through the Consultative Mechanism and the high-level meetings. We also welcome the fact that the Kyrgyz Republic is working together with the Programme Office in its constitutional transition, while upholding and advancing the implementation of OSCE Commitments in all three dimensions. We appreciate Kyrgyzstan's contribution in promoting OSCE Youth and Security agenda as a Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Youth and Security, together with Spain and USA. We also appreciate the fact that the OSCE Academy, which is located in Bishkek, is developing to become a full-fledged regional centre for higher education and research.
6. The EU acknowledges the challenges for our Central Asian partners following the power transition in Afghanistan and is in favor of discussing how the OSCE could step up its support.
7. In conclusion, we again thank Minister Kazakbaev for being with us in the Permanent Council today and wish him all the best in the future.

The Candidate Countries the REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.