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**Prohlášení**  
Statement  
Déclaration

Vienna 19 March 2009

**Permanent Council No. 755**  
**EU Statement on recent developments in Kyrgyzstan**

The European Union wishes to express its concern regarding developments in Kyrgyzstan. These reflect a tendency which threatens to distance the country from the implementation of its OSCE commitments.

We are concerned by recent trends in legislation which could restrict the exercise of fundamental freedoms. The EU recalls its comments on a number of these draft laws and reiterates the importance it attaches to freedom of the media, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion or belief and a vibrant civil society, all of which are put at risk by recent legislative reform projects. We strongly encourage the Kyrgyz Government to avail itself of the expertise offered by ODIHR and the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media to ensure that legislation is in full compliance with its OSCE commitments.

We are deeply concerned at the recent series of incidents:

- attacks on journalists, for example Syrgak Abdyldaev of the journal Bishkek Reporter,
- legal measures against several leading members of the opposition, for example the recent arrest of Mr Alikbek Jekshenkulov on criminal charges and

- the sudden death of a prominent politician under circumstances described in the Centre in Bishkek Spot Report No. 06/09.

These incidents could be indicative of a disturbing pattern. The EU encourages the Kyrgyz authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into these cases and would wish to be informed of the respective results in due course.

We would encourage the Kyrgyz authorities to do everything possible to ensure that the next presidential elections take place in an atmosphere which provides for a free, fair and unhindered political debate in accordance with OSCE commitments.

We would like to assure Kyrgyzstan that the EU continues to stand ready to offer its assistance in these matters.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\* and the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND and NORWAY, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

\*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.