



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **A regional seminar on the Right to a Fair Trial brings together European and Central Asian practice and expertise**

**BISHKEK** – 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» will hold **a regional seminar on the Right to a Fair Trial on 4-5 April 2013 in Bishkek**, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of France. Mr. Thibaut Fourrière, French Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic and Mr. Almambet Shykmamatov, Minister of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic will chair the seminar.

The objective of the seminar is to provide exposure to best European practices in this field, and to propose ideas for reformation of the Criminal Procedural Law in Kyrgyzstan and the other countries of Central Asia, contributing to strengthening Rule of Law in the region. It aims at strengthening the knowledge of legal and judicial international standards and practices among judicial and legal professionals in Central Asia. European and Central Asian experts will deliver presentations providing an overview on the legislations of European Union and Central Asian countries, and a discussion on the possible introduction of the international standards of the fair trial in the Criminal Procedure of the Central Asian countries.

Based of the Final Communiqué of the Third Conference of Ministers of Justice of the European Union and Central Asian Countries, which took place on 6-7 December 2012 in Brussels, the regional seminar on **“The Right to a Fair Trial”** aims at facilitating and deepening cooperation on relevant issues related to access to justice and the right to a fair trial.

As underlined by Ambassador Chantal Hebberecht, Head of the EU Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic: *“The European Union and the Rule of Law Platform project support the creation by the Central Asian countries of a modern Criminal Justice system. Procedural safeguards during pre-trial detention and at all stages of the trial are a necessary component of Rule of Law in a modern and democratic state”*.

A key element of the EU-Central Asia Strategy for a New Partnership, the “Rule of Law Initiative for Central Asia” 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:** 4-5 April 2013, 9.30 – 18.00 (Registration will start at 9.00).

**Venue:** Bishkek, Ak Keme Hotel

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