



PRESS REPORT

5 April 2013

Regional seminar on the Right to a Fair Trial within the EU Rule of Law Initiative for Central Asia

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» held a high level regional seminar on the Right to a Fair Trial in Bishkek on 4-5 April 2013, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of France. The EU thanks the Kyrgyz Government for hosting this important event.

The Regional Reminar on the Right to a Fair Trial aimed at facilitating and deepening cooperation on relevant issues related to access to justice and criminal procedure. More than 70 participants from the EU and Central Asia, representatives from the national institutions dealing with the criminal justice reform discussed implementation of the joint EU-Central Asia Declaration adopted in December 2012 in Brussels at the Third Conference of Ministers of Justice of the European Union and Central Asian Countries.

The meeting was chaired from the EU side by Mr. Thibaut Fourrière, French Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic and by Mrs. Chantal Hebberecht, Head of the EU Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic. From the side of the Kyrgyz Government the meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Almambet Shykmamatov, Minister of Justice.

Mr. Thibault Fourrière, French Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, underlined that France had already provided expertise in the areas of criminal and administrative justice since the launching of the Rule of Law Platform in 2012, that it was committed to a number of initiatives in the area of the rule of law in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, and was ready to continue to share its internationally recognised expertise with the countries of Central Asia, especially in the areas of the judicial reform and the training of judges.

Mrs. Chantal Hebberecht, Head of the EU Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic, recalled that the EU-Central Asia cooperation in the area of justice, freedom and security was based on the principles of equality and mutual respect, adherence to common values such as democracy, the rule of law and an independent and transparent judiciary, respect for human rights, international law and fundamental freedoms such as a free and independent media. She added that the Rule of Law Platform supports the Central Asian partners with core legal and judicial reforms, contributing towards the development of a stable and democratic political framework, promotion and respect of human rights, as called for by the EU-Central Asia Strategy for a New Partnership.

As a result of two days discussions the participants reaffirmed their objective to cooperate towards introducing the international standards of the fair trial in the criminal procedures of the Central Asian countries.

It was decided to enhance dialogue and exchanges through series of seminars during 2013 and 2014 on priority topics: access to justice, principles of the fair trial, independence of justice, support to the development of the legal profession and to the training of judges.

Participants endorsed recommendations to promote measures supporting the legal and judicial reforms in the Central Asian countries, and to establish priorities for the Platform for the next two years.



The project is implemented by Altair Asesores S.L. in consortium with with IBF International Consulting, Nicolaas Witsen Foundation, and Central Asia International Consulting Calle Genova, 21-4º Dcha. 28004 Madrid, Spain Tel. (+34) 91 399 25 88 Fax (+34) 91 399 16 29



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Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic 21, Erkindik Bioulevard, 720040 Bishkek Tel: (+996 312) 261000 Fax: (+996 312) 261007

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