



Participants of the fourth Conference of Central Asian and European Union Justice Ministers

Central Asia, EU Analyse Steps Taken to Ensure Rule Of Law

Officials of the judicial systems of the EU and Central Asia discussed justice system issues at the fourth Conference of the Ministers of Justice of the Central Asian States and the European Union, which was held on Oct. 14 and 15 in Astana.

“The Conference of Ministers of Justice is traditionally a platform for dialogue established between the Ministries of Justice, academics and practitioners in Central Asia and the European Union on the key issues of modern law,” Minister of Justice of Kazakhstan Berik Imashev said in his opening remarks.

The participants analysed measures taken by states of the EU and Central Asia in order to ensure the implementation of the rule of law of the EU Initiative for Central Asia in constitutional law, criminal law, justice, development and independence.

Interaction between Kazakhstan and the EU is directed towards dialogue and advancement in human rights, education, the rule of law, energy, transport, environmental protection and water resources and trade and economic relations, the Justice Ministry of Kazakhstan reported.

This year alone, Kazakhstan has adopted a new criminal code, along with the new criminal procedures and criminal executive codes to modernise criminal justice in accordance with international standards. The new code of administrative offences provides further reform of administrative and tort law.

The new draft of the civil procedure code, aiming to modernise civil procedural law and provide for the development and integration of the institute of mediation, is being drafted, as is a new project on an entrepreneurial code. New laws aimed at improving enforcement proceedings are also being adopted, the justice ministry reported.

The participants worked in five themed sessions: promoting the rule of law through the development of administrative law in Central Asia; access to justice and alternative methods for the administration of justice; the development of human rights and freedoms under the constitution and criminal justice; contributing to more efficient administration of justice, including mediation; and commercial litigation and secure investment as the necessary conditions for the development of the rule of law.

Further cooperation between Kazakhstan and the EU in the framework of the project will contribute to deepening and improving discussions in this area.

In particular, events such as conferences, seminars and workshops and the development of specialised programmes create favourable conditions for the active exchange of experience among experts in the field of law and the development of specific recommendations to improve the national legal system.

“In the face of new challenges in a globalised world, the main task of the legal policy of each state is on the one hand, to ensure the rule of law; on the other hand, to minimise the security risks of society and the state,” Imashev noted.

The conference was organised by the EU and coordinated by France and Germany under the chairmanship of Italy and the Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan.

It was attended by representatives of 13 delegations of the Ministries of Justice of the EU and Central Asia, representatives of international and nongovernmental organisations, representatives of state agencies and organisations of Kazakhstan, the academic and business communities, members of the Parliament of Kazakhstan and diplomatic missions of EU member states in Kazakhstan.

“In the face of new challenges in a globalised world, the main task of the legal policy of each state is on the one hand, to ensure the rule of law; on the other hand, to minimise the security risks of society and the state.”

-Minister of Justice of Kazakhstan Berik Imashev