

RULE OF LAW PLATFORM GATHERS CENTRAL ASIAN AND EUROPEAN STAKEHOLDERS IN ASTANA



Under the auspices of the EU-Central Asia Rule of Law Platform, the European Union held a Senior Expert Meeting in Astana, on 27 March 2017. Led by

importance for the EU of the Rule of Law in ensuring open societies. He underlined the key role administrative and commercial laws and of a well-functioning justice system in ensuring investment and private sector development in Central Asia. High-level



Ms Bérénice Muraille, Head of Central Asia Sector (European Commission), Ambassador Traian Hristea (Head of the Delegation of the EU to Kazakhstan), and Mr Toivo Klaar (Head of Central Asian Division, EEAS) before the meeting

senior representatives of the European Commission and the European External Action Service, the meeting gathered senior experts from Central Asia and from the European Union who reviewed the achievements of the EU-Central Asia Rule of Law Initiative and considered strategic priorities in the area of legal and judicial reform in support of Central Asia's economic development.

In his opening address, EU Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Mr. Traian Hristea, underlined the



Mr Serdar Orazmyradov (Head of Human right Department, Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan) and Mr Farhat Jamyev (Chief of the Enforcement Department, Supreme Court of Turkmenistan) (center)

representatives of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan presented their government priorities for the next few years, in the area of legal and



Ms Assiya Kassenova and Mr Turgambaev (Supreme Court of Kazakhstan and President of the District Court of Tselynograd – left), Mr Ulan Dootaliev and Ms Boronbaeva (Deputy Minister of Justice and Judge at the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic – right)

judicial reform, with focus on rule of law as a basis for sustainable economic development.



Finnish Ambassador Ilkka Raisanen and Mr Toivo Klaar

With experts and representatives from Germany, France, Latvia, the European Commission, the European External Action Services, specialized organisations, they reviewed and discuss support to a regional Rule of Law approach and considered future strategic priorities. The meeting



Mr Laziz Makhmudov and Mr Nodir Jumanyozov (Ministry of Justice of Uzbekistan) and representatives from EU-funded projects Penal Reform International and Support to Judicial Reform in Kazakhstan

also reflected on the key priorities for the Fifth EU-Central Asia Ministerial Conference on Rule of Law, which will take place in Brussels, Belgium, in the fall of 2017, chaired by Estonia, the Presidency of the EU Council.



Ms Olga Ametistova, Platform Key Expert, Mr Xavier Barré, Team Leader and Ms Silva Pietropaolo, EC DEVCO Project Manager

Developing the economic legislative and regulatory environment for business will enable the creation of a level-playing field for business activities and foreign investors. The Platform has actively promoted a better economic governance, by means of new legislation and training in areas as diverse as investment promotion, enforcement of contracts and property rights (including intellectual property rights), the fight against corruption and the removal of administrative bar-



Mr Thomas Huet (Attaché, French Embassy in Astana), Messrs Benjamin Danlos and Hugo Plailly (Chief and Desk Officer, Cooperation Office, French Ministry of Justice)

riers, competition law, development of the private sector, single-window services for enterprises, trade facilitation, public-private partnerships and international arbitration. Modern administrative



Mr Klaus Keller, Desk Officer for Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, German Foreign Office, and Ms Chiara Minelli, IBF Project Manager

law affects core relationships between state authorities and citizen. It raises the effective-

ness of the state. To achieve these goals, in cooperation with GIZ, the Rule of Law Platform has developed awareness-raising activities, the work of national law-drafting working groups, training workshops.

On 28 March, the Platform held the second meeting of its Steering Committee. The Steering Committee endorsed the activities accomplished during Phase II since the previous meeting in October 2015, and approved the overall work plan for 2017.



Ms Elvira Azimova, Deputy Minister of Justice of Kazakhstan, introducing two strategic government plans: “Nurly Zhol – Path to Future” and “Plan of the Nation – 100 concrete steps to implement five institutional reforms”, which aim at establishing a favourable economic and investment climate for Kazakhstan to become one of the top 30 most developed world economies. by 2050.

Funded by the EU and coordinated by France and Germany, the Rule of Law Platform acts as a support mechanism to facilitate policy dialogue and promote the measures contributing to legal reforms in each of the Central Asian countries. In October 2015, Finland and Latvia have become associated to the Rule of Law Initiative.



Ms Anda Smiltena, Latvia



Mr Ulan Dootaliev and Ms Dilfusa Boronbaeva (delegates from the Kyrgyz Republic)

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