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“Support to the Kazakh authorities in improving the quality and efficiency of the Kazakh justice system”

PRESS RELEASE

28 October 2015

Training session for Kazakhstani judges on the fair trial guarantees according to international standards

ASTANA – On 28-29 October in the framework of the European Union and Council of Europe Joint Programme entitled “Support to the Kazakh authorities in improving the quality and efficiency of the Kazakh justice system” a two-day training session on fair trial guarantees is being organised for 30 Kazakhstani judges.

The training session will focus on fair trial guarantees in line with European and other international standards. Council of Europe experts will familiarise the participants with such important issues as the scope of protection and applicability of fair trial rights according to international standards, the right to a court, the meaning of an independent and impartial tribunal established by law, the adversarial principle, equality of arms, personal presence and publicity, the additional guarantees of “fairness” in criminal proceedings, the right to a reasoned decision and reliable evidence, the presumption of innocence, notification of a charge, adequate time and facility to prepare a defence, legal representation or defence in person, free assistance of an interpreter, and the right to examine a witness. The newly acquired knowledge of the participants will be tested through hypothetical cases that raise issues relating to the proper application and interpretation of the fair trial guarantees. In addition, the participants will have the opportunity to analyse the fair trial provisions of the new Kazakh Criminal Procedure Code in the light of the international standards.

The Joint Programme was launched in June 2014 and will be completed in July 2017. It aims to bring Kazakhstan’s criminal justice framework and institutional practice in line with European and international standards and practices by supporting the country’s authorities in their efforts to improve the justice system. The Joint Programme objectives are pursued through legislative assistance to develop and improve the regulatory framework and institutional capacity of the main stakeholders and address the systemic and/or structural problems that characterise Kazakhstan’s criminal justice system and human rights protection. Capacity-building activities for judges, prosecutors, investigators, defence lawyers, Ombudsman Institution, National Preventive Mechanism and other actors within the criminal justice system will be carried out to contribute to their institutional development and enable them to exercise their functions in line with human rights standards.

The Project is funded by the European Union and has a budget of EUR 1,666,413.

Time and date: 28-29 October 2015, 09.30 – 17.30.

Venue: Radisson, Saryarka Avenue 4, Astana, Kazakhstan

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