

MEDIA ADVISORY

Central Asia Rule of Law Programme 2020-2023: launch of the European Union-Council of Europe Programme's Actions in the region

Strasbourg, 19.01.2021 – On Friday, 29 January 2021, the official launch of the Central Asia Rule of Law Programme activities will take place as part of the first Regional Steering Committee Meeting held in an online format.

The meeting will highlight a new stage of the Programme's implementation through launching its activities and events in the region. In the frame of the Regional Steering Committee Meeting, key beneficiaries, high-level government representatives from all Central Asian countries, as well as representatives of the European Union and the Council of Europe will present the Programme's plans of activities and discuss its realization strategy for the period until 2023.

Sven-Olov Carlsson, European Union Ambassador to Kazakhstan; **Verena Taylor**, Director of the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes of the Council of Europe; **Pilar Morales**, Head of the Programming Department, Office of the Directorate General of Programmes, Council of Europe; as well as high-level government representatives of the Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are expected to take part in the event.

The Central Asia Rule of Law Programme is a co-operation initiative based on the Partnership between the European Union and the Council of Europe. It is implemented by the Council of Europe in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan over the period of four years (2020-2023). The Programme aims to improve the lives of citizens by reinforcing human rights, rule of law and democracy in accordance with European and other international standards, based on a demand-driven approach. The overall budget of the Programme is €8 889 000 (90% is funded by the European Union, 10% by the Council of Europe).

Regional and bilateral steering committees composed of representatives of national authorities, the European Union and the Council of Europe guide the implementation of the Central Asia Rule of Law Programme.

The meeting will take place on **29 January 2021; The official opening part, from 9:00 until 9:45 CET** (for Dushanbe, Ashgabat, Tashkent: 13:00-13:45; for Nur-Sultan, Bishkek: 14:00-14:45) will be **open to media**. Simultaneous interpretation English-Russian-English will be provided. A link to the event for the journalists to follow: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/central-asia/launching-event-29-january>.

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Background:

The Central Asia Rule of Law Programme 2020-2023 is a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe in co-operation with the authorities of five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan). The Agreement on the creation of the Programme was signed on 28 November 2019 at the occasion of the EU Regional Conference on Enhanced Integration for Prosperity in Central Asia.

The Programme consists of three main Actions:

- *Facilitating the creation of a common legal space between Europe and Central Asia and [enhancing human rights protection](#);*
- *[Promoting transparency and action against economic crime](#);*
- *[Promoting efficient functioning of state institutions and public administration](#).*

The Programme's implementation period has formally started on 1 January 2020 with the inception phase that lasted until 30 September 2020. The official launch of the Programme's activities will take place on 29 January 2021.

For more information on the [Central Asia Rule of Law Programme](#).

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