



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council Conclusions on Uzbekistan**

**(2727th GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting - Brussels, 15 May 2006)**

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council remains profoundly concerned about the situation in Uzbekistan. It regrets that since its previous conclusions, on 3 October 2005, there have been worrying developments in the field of Human Rights in general, and in particular in the follow-up of the events in Andijan in May 2005.
2. The Council shares the conclusions of international organisations and actors such as the OSCE / ODIHR on the events in Andijan and their follow-up. In this context, the Council notes the 'Report from the OSCE / ODIHR Trial Monitoring in Uzbekistan', issued on 21 April 2006 and the response by the Uzbek authorities. The Council calls on Uzbekistan to co-operate fully with the OSCE and with the UN, especially regarding the call for a credible and transparent independent international enquiry, so as to abide by its engagements in these organisations.
3. The Council continues to follow the general situation in Uzbekistan closely and deplores the increasingly serious harassment of human rights defenders; the persecution, prosecution and detention of leading opposition figures and the expulsion of UNHCR in April 2006, as well as of numerous NGOs.
4. The Council, under these circumstances, underlines that all the measures agreed by the European Union on 3 October 2005 remain in place. The Council will review these measures by October 2006, taking into account the evolution of events.

# **P R E S S**

5. The Council recalls that the European Union is available for a serious dialogue on all these issues, as well as other relevant issues concerning the stability of the region. The Council tasks the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Mr Ján Kubiš, to continue to engage with the Uzbek authorities. The Council hopes that the Uzbek authorities will see the value in positive engagement and demonstrate a willingness to respect human rights, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms. In this context, the prolongation of the OSCE mandate would be seen as a positive step towards a constructive dialogue. The European Union wishes to continue its engagement with the people of Uzbekistan, primarily on poverty reduction and the development of civil society."

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