



Европейски парламент · Parlamento Europeo · Evropský parlament · Europa-Parlamentet · Europäisches Parlament · Euroopa Parlament · Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο · European Parliament · Parlement européen · Parlaimint na hEorpa · Europski parlament · Parlamento europeo · Eitropas Parlaments · Europos Parlamentas · Európai Parlament · Parlament European · Europees Parlement · Parlament Europejski · Parlamento Europeu · Parlamentul European · Európsky parlament · Evropski parlament · Euroopan parlamentti · Europaparlamentet

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Almaty, 19/09/2018

Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) of the European Parliament

Delegation to Kazakhstan on 17-19 September 2018

Press statement

MEPs delegation support deeper bilateral and regional political dialogues and initiatives.

Foreign affairs MEPs advocate implementation of the recent EU- Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation agreement, including defence of human rights.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament, led by MEP Cristian Dan PREDA, visited Kazakhstan (Astana and Almaty) on 17-19 September 2018.

At the end of the visit the Chair of the Delegation said:

“We have seen lately an intensification of political dialogue with Kazakhstan. We support the regional initiatives developed by the country.

We have had frank exchanges of views on the bilateral and regional issues, incl. security, rule of law, human rights and sectoral issues.

In particular, we praise Kazakhstan’s long-term commitment to multilateralism and initiatives as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, to global nuclear security and safety, as well as efforts made to address consequences of nuclear testing locally.

We discussed with our counterparts the concrete cases of political prisoners, human rights violations, including widespread torture (Elena Semenova, Muratbek Tungishbayev, Maks Bokayev, and others).

We were particularly disturbed by the detention of persons attempting to speak to the AFET delegation (Baklan Kumarbekov and Galia Ospanova), and we urge their immediate release. In this regard, we ask the authorities of Kazakhstan to stick to their commitments

made under the international conventions and the EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (ratified by the European Parliament in December 2017).

Our visit demonstrates our commitment and the value we put to our partnership with Kazakhstan and its citizens.”

The visit was organised with the objective of supporting implementation of the EU Central Asia strategy (and the related EP resolution of April 2016) and its upcoming update in 2019.

The delegation included the following Members:

Cristian Dan PREDA, Chair of the delegation	EPP	Romania
Ana GOMES	S&D	Portugal
Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR	S&D	Spain
Ryszard CZARNECKI	ECR	Poland
Iveta GRIGULE-P TERSE	ALDE	Latvia
James CARVER	NI	United Kingdom