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E-004150/2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.1.2026)

Human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law remain key priorities in the EU cooperation with Kyrgyzstan. Their promotion is an integral part of the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement¹ (EPCA), signed in June 2024, and is thus at the core of EU-Kyrgyzstan bilateral relations.

The EPCA with Kyrgyzstan has not yet entered into force. However, the EU will closely watch on Kyrgyzstan's multilateral and bilateral commitments. The EU remains committed to continuing the dialogue and cooperation with Kyrgyzstan on these matters.

The EU maintains a strong and principled position against the death penalty in all cases and all circumstances, as it violates the right to life and is incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture. Reintroducing the death penalty would not address the causes of gender-based violence but would reverse the progress made to protect life and dignity and would also be in breach of Kyrgyzstan's international obligations as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, having ratified its Second Optional Protocol. It would cause considerable harm to the international reputation of Kyrgyzstan as a member of the Human Rights Council for the 2023-2025 term.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/kyrgyz-republic-signing-enhanced-partnership-and-cooperation-agreement-epca-european-union_en.