

Head of Cabinet

Ms Lyudmyla Kozlovska
President of the Open Dialog Foundation
155 rue de la Loi
BP 27
1040 - Brussels

308958 28.05.2015

Dear Ms Kozlovska,

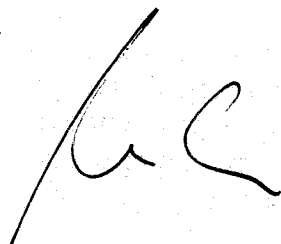
Thank you for your letter of 4 May 2015 to President Schulz concerning the presence of a number of Members of the European Parliament as observers at the recent presidential election in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The President has asked me to inform you that those Members were not part of any official mission from the European Parliament and were speaking in a purely individual capacity.

The EP's Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group - which has responsibility in our institution for matters related to election observation - recommended to President Schulz that the Parliament should not send an observer mission to Kazakhstan. This recommendation was endorsed by the Parliament's most senior decision-making body and a letter was sent to the Kazakh authorities to this effect.

The Parliament - through its Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group - works extremely closely with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and has taken careful note of its conclusions on the elections. Moreover, the EP has expressed its strong support for human rights and democracy in Kazakhstan in numerous plenary resolutions and other actions over many years. I can assure you that it will continue to be an advocate for these values in its future contacts with Kazakhstan.

Yours sincerely,



Markus WINKLER