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E-012403/2015

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini  
(18.11.2015)

The EU is closely following the human rights situation in Kazakhstan, including through monitoring of legal proceedings against human rights defenders and maintaining close contacts with civil society organisations in the country. The EU continues its advocacy for the revision of the human rights-related cases of concern, including that of Vladimir Kozlov.

Over the last years, the EU Delegation has been repeatedly intervening in favour of Mr Kozlov with the Kazakh authorities, notably the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), aiming at his transfer to a detention facility closer to his home and his relatives, and requesting a permission to visit Mr Kozlov on humanitarian grounds to examine his condition, including the condition of his health. The EU Delegation is still waiting for the authorities' satisfactory reply to its several démarches regarding his case.

The EU will continue to follow the case of Mr Kozlov very closely, and will continue expressing its serious concerns over his case to the Kazakh authorities at every appropriate opportunity, notably within the framework of the upcoming annual Human Rights Dialogue in Astana later this year.

The initialled EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement places a strong emphasis on democracy and the rule of law, as well as the importance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Once signed, this agreement will allow these principles to permeate all areas of the EU's relations with Kazakhstan.