

Brussels, 28 NOV. 2013
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Ms Ana Maria Gomes MEP
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels

Dear Ms Gomes,

Thank you for your letter of 7 November 2013 concerning two upcoming trials related to the appeal procedures of Ms Zinaida Mukhortova and Mr Vadim Kuramshin. Let me assure you that the EEAS and the EU Delegation in Astana continue to monitor these and other similar cases very closely.

The EU raised the case of the human rights lawyer Ms Zinaida Mukhortova with the relevant Kazakh authorities. Please note that in this case the combined action taken by civil society organisations and the international community brought about the release of Ms Mukhortova from compulsory psychiatric treatment. In continuation of these efforts, the human rights officer of the EU Delegation in Astana was sent to observe the hearing of the appeal of Ms Mukhortova at the Karaganda Regional Court on 13 November 2013, thereby signalling the EU's attention to this particular case.

In addition, the EU has been following closely the case of Mr Vadim Kuramshin and also monitored the hearing of his appeal at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 25 November 2013.

I attach great importance to the respect of human rights in Kazakhstan. The EU will continue to engage with the Kazakh authorities to safeguard the rights of Ms Mukhortova and Mr Kuramshin.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Ashton