

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the recent Presidential amnesty

The EU welcomes the President's of Turkmenistan recent Gadyr Night amnesty and the release of almost 9,000 prisoners. The EU also welcomes the President's undertaking that the outstanding terms of remaining prisoners will be halved.

However, the EU is deeply concerned about the cases of Shageldy Atakov and Mammetkuliev Aimuradov, taking into particular account their poor state of health. In this sense, the EU hopes that the Government's halving of remaining prison terms will be applied without discrimination and include Mr. Atakov and Mr. Aimuradov.

The EU would also like to convey to the Government of Turkmenistan its concern over the continued harassment of non-registered religious organisations and their members. The EU would urge the Government to put a stop to all such actions and to ensure that the human rights of all individuals are guaranteed, this being especially important in the present situation characterised by increased security concerns about the consequences of the Afghan crisis.

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