Press Release

**Effective Partnership Promotes Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic**

Bishkek. 22 May 2013. The Final Conference of the European Union and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) project “Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic” started today in Bishkek. Project achievements will be presented and evaluated by national and international partners during the event.

The main beneficiary of the project is the State Service on Execution of Punishments under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (Prison Service). “This project has provided valuable support to the Prison Service”, said Zarylbek Rysaliev, Chairperson of the Prison Service. “Living conditions of more than 3000 detainees have been improved and employment opportunities provided to more than 160 prisoners through the establishment of new production facilities”, he added.

“The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Prison Service and civil society, and serves as an example of effective partnership and cooperation”, noted Ambassador Chantal Hebberecht, Head of the EU Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic.

The conference will seek to formulate recommendations on follow up actions needed to advance prison reform in line with the National Strategy for the Development of the Prison System of the Kyrgyz Republic for the years 2012-2016.

Opening of the conference will take place on 22 May at 09.30 in the hotel “Hyatt” (191, Abdrakhmanova Str.)

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