

**INVITATION** **Online Seminar “Kyrgyzstan and the EU after the Kyrgyz presidential elections – what lies ahead?”**

**Thursday, 14  
January 2021**

**10.00 am  
to 11.30 am**  
(Brussels, GMT+1)

**15.00 pm  
to 16.30 pm**  
(Bishkek, GMT+6)

**Online Seminar  
(Zoom)**

Following the resignation of former President Sooronbay Jeenbekov on 15 October 2020, presidential elections, together with a constitutional referendum, are scheduled for 10 January 2021. The former president took this step to avoid further violence amid significant unrest and political turmoil following the annulment of the 4 October 2020 parliamentary elections. Sooronbay Jeenbekov thereby has become the third Kyrgyz president forced to resign after countrywide protests since the country's independence, but the first one yielding power voluntarily.

The European Union has been following developments in Kyrgyzstan very closely and has expressed its readiness to support the Kyrgyz people in their democratic aspirations. However, the political situation remains volatile, with parliamentary and local elections coming up in the next months.

In this context, we invite you to join us to discuss questions such as:

- What is the result of the presidential elections and what are its political implications for the future?
- What do recent developments in Kyrgyzstan mean for the country's relations with the EU?
- How can the EU best support the democratic aspirations of the people of Kyrgyzstan?

**Conference languages: English and Russian (interpretation will be provided)**

Please register by Wednesday, 13 January 2021: <https://cutt.ly/KhSSBkH>

**On the day of the event, you will receive a personalised access link by email.**

## Programme

- 10.00 (GMT+1) Welcome and introduction  
15.00 (GMT +6)
- Dr Markus EHM**  
*Director of the Brussels Office  
Hanns Seidel Foundation*
- H.E. DJUMALIEV Muktar Kabyzbekovich**  
*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the European Union, the BENELUX, France, NATO, and UNESCO*
- 10.15 (GMT+1) Interventions by  
15.15 (GMT +6)
- Mr Michael GAHLER**  
*Member of the European Parliament  
Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs*
- Mr Djoomart OTORBAEV**  
*Former Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic*
- Mr Luc-Pierre DEVIGNE**  
*Deputy Managing Director  
Russia, Eastern partnership, Central Asia, Regional cooperation and OSCE  
European External Action Service*
- 10.45 (GMT+1) Discussion and Q&A with audience  
15.45 (GMT +6)
- Moderation: **Dr Markus EHM**  
*Director of the Brussels Office, Hanns Seidel Foundation*
- 11.20 (GMT+1) Concluding remarks  
16.20 (GMT +6)
- Dr. Max Georg MEIER**  
*Head of Projects in Central Asia  
Hanns Seidel Foundation, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic*
- 11.30 (GMT+1) End of online seminar  
16.30 (GMT +6)