

Interview – Fête nationale Ouzbékistan 1^{er} septembre 2013

1. First of all, I would like to congratulate Uzbekistan at the occasion of its Independence Day.
You can be proud of the way you have already done during 22 years.
2. I think you have worked in the good direction and number steps were made in different reforms : politics, economy, social issues, institution... It is important to continue, to go further in the way of building good governance.
3. My wishes for the Uzbek people :
 - Education : 64 % of your population is less than 30 years : serious challenge ! Until now you have focused on education and tradition ; It is the best choice but I think it is also important now to give them a vision, a goal to reach.
My wish ? To give more impulsion for foreign investments to diversify the youth employment.
 - Stability : Central Asia is a difficult region with many problems : drugs, corruption, religious terrorism. At first, I would like to congratulate your President and your State to fight against them.
At second, to have chosen to serve pacific solutions in the country like the conflict in Afghanistan.
My wish ? That Uzbekistan could stay an important actor of stability and a leader in the Region.
 - Women : great progress were already made to promote Uzbek women in the political life.
My wish ? To tend towards to 40 % women in the both Chambers like in Belgium.

Happy birthday to Uzbekistan ! I wish you all the best and... I am happy to be in your country in the middle of September to work with you on the evolution of the Civil Society.