

Regional trust is growing – Eduards Stiprais on changes in the Fergana Valley



Fergana, Uzbekistan. October 16

European Union Special Representative for Central Asia Eduards Stiprais praised the positive changes taking place in the Fergana Valley. Speaking at the first session of the Fergana Peace Forum, he emphasized the importance of regional dialogue and emphasized that Central Asia is setting an example for the peaceful resolution of complex issues.

"I am truly impressed by the positive and constructive changes taking place in the Fergana Valley, especially against the backdrop of historical tensions between the three countries," said E. Stiprais, addressing the forum participants.

He emphasized that the region remains a territory with rich economic potential, cultural diversity, and an active, hospitable population. The diplomat placed particular emphasis on resolving border issues, which, he said, has become an important step toward strengthening trust between the countries.

"This is a clear demonstration of the commitment of all stakeholders to strengthening regional stability and mutual trust," the EU representative noted.

Concluding his speech, the EU Special Representative for Central Asia expressed confidence that the Fergana Peace Forum will become an effective platform for discussing key regional challenges and strengthening cooperation.

"The forum provides an opportunity to develop common approaches and demonstrate a commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes," Stiprais noted.

The forum was organized by the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (ISRS), the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, the OSCE, the EU, and a number of international and national partners.

The forum brought together experts from leading think tanks from the CIS, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, as well as representatives of civil society, business, academia, and youth activists from Central Asian countries.