



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **STATEMENT**

by

Lord Russell-Johnston

Chairman of the Governing Board of  
The International Institute for Democracy  
Immediate Past President of the  
Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly

“I am in no doubt that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) should not hold its 2003 Annual Meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The human rights record of President Karimov and the Uzbekistan Government is dreadful.

European organizations have a duty to uphold the democratic values which animate both the Council of Europe and the European Union and these values are trampled on by Uzbekistan.

The EBRD should re-schedule its Meeting in Uzbekistan for three or four years hence (2007) and make it dependent on dramatic improvement in the situation of human rights and democracy”

Strasbourg, 21 May 2002