

**Parliamentary hearing on police reform, Bishkek, 27 June 2011**  
**Remarks by Ambassador Andrew Tesorier, the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek**

On behalf of OSCE, I thank you for this opportunity to support the current national debate on police reform.

As ever, I shall be brief and direct – because it is OSCE’s role to listen rather than lecture ; to advise when and where requested ; and to support national policy processes and implementation.

The discussions on police reform are reaching a crucial point, with the MoI’s draft concept paper as a baseline reference point.

The national debate, what is often called a national consultative mechanism, is well underway concerning what type of police Kyrgyzstan wants for itself. It is hoped the recommendations gathered along the way will set up a platform for a national forum, later in the coming months.

For my part, I would suggest 4 points need to be considered and factored into the reform process.

Firstly, police reform needs to be part of a **wider comprehensive reform of the criminal justice system**. The Government has responsibility for this wider reform package, not the Ministry of Interior. Such a package will make police reform more effective.

Secondly, police reform will require not only considerable material resources but also **institutional and cultural change**. It is clear to me that the international donor community will not provide funds unless the Government gives clear commitments of improvements in public **accountability, professional conduct and corruption reduction** within the Policing concept. Moreover, donors will look for greater diversity of ethnicity and gender within the Police and the Public Services more widely. These standards are often called “democratic policing”.

Thirdly, the reality of implementing the reforms will need a **dedicated team of “change-managers”**. I have suggested that a task-force of (for example forty) officers within the MoI might be created to lead the process and advocate for the changes. OSCE could assist with their creation.

Fourthly, the reforms will need to be monitored. Both **Parliament and public scrutiny** should play a systematic role in such **oversight**.

My hope is that the “policing concept” might capture the same political and public attention as the national “ethnic concept”, recently debated and endorsed at the national kurultai.

I look forward to hearing the discussions today. Thank you for your attention.