

## **Interaction between the state and the media: problems and opportunities**

Training seminar for participants from the Central Asian states  
*Bishkek, 18-20 May 2011*

Dear participants of the training, dear spokespersons of the state bodies, journalists, and experts,

In opening this training-seminar of the OSCE for the participants of the OSCE from Central Asian states, may I warmly welcome you all to Bishkek – and with a special welcome to the OSCE Representative for Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic. I also want to greet all spokespersons present here. They play an important role in ни играют informing citizens through mass media and maintaining transparent governance.

**The topic of this seminar** is an important theme for Central Asia. Free access to official information is a key principle of a democratic society. The countries of Central Asia should benefit from the rapidly developing technology to make this principle a reality.

From my own Mission's perspective, there are **two priorities** we are focused on access to official information:

**Firstly**, it is **training for spokespersons and Deputy Ministers** in their communication with the media. Last year in September the OSCE Centre organized a three day training, which became a response to the information and communication vacuum in the country and the south of the country, especially after the April and June events in Kyrgyzstan.

**Secondly**, the Centre in Bishkek continues to support platform в developing communication strategy, in which the Government and international organizations participate. In this process, the Centre has held needs assessment meetings and plan of action discussions. This activity covered the state bodies and journalists, as well as representative of international organizations.

The OSCE Centre will continue to follow-up results of these efforts, and participate in increasing the capacity of the state's press service.

In closing, I wish the training full success and once again, thank you for this opportunity and your attention.