

Ambassador Tesoriere's address on the future of Kyrgyzstan's Police: 15 June 2011.

Thank you for this opportunity to make a few introductory remarks. And thank you to all participants for your interest and contribution to this important step in the reform process of the national police. Allow me to be very brief.

OSCE is pleased to be asked to support this ongoing national public debate on defining the future shape and style of Kyrgyzstan's Police. We hope the process will lead to a National Forum in the near future, offering specific recommendations to Government.

It is clear to me that, not only in order to meet Kyrgyzstan's international obligations but also to respect public national needs, the reform of the Police needs to include what I can call behavioural values as well as an increase in material and technical capacity. These two sets of issues must be addressed; otherwise we cannot speak of true reform.

The values aspect I have in the past summarised as (in English) "ABC". "A" is clearer accountability of the Police - both to Parliament and the public. B is better Police behaviour. C is eradicating corruption, through the introduction of strong mechanisms to root out petty and serious corruption or abuse of office within the Police.

Without some progress or guarantees on addressing the values aspect, I doubt the international community will be willing to support the material and technical needs of Kyrgyzstan's Police.

Reform will of course be a process. But it should work to a clear action plan, which I hope the policing concept will provide. In this process, it is important that respect for the Police is maintained and that reformers are conscious of upholding Police morale while implementing change.

The key lies, may I say, with you, Minister Ryasaliyev to champion the change. In this endeavour, you have the OSCE's full support. What is at stake is national stability, which is itself dependent on public attitudes towards those Institutions, such as the Police, which are mandated to protect and represent the Public.

I hope this morning's debate will help shape the future of Kyrgyzstan's Police.

