

**News**

On April 7, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Solomon Passy, on third stop of his week-long trip to Central Asian States, met Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev and other Kyrgyz state officials.

**Field activities**

On 18 March, the OSCE Osh Field Office, together with the French NGO "ACTED visited a cross-border co-operation project site on the Kyrgyz and Tajik border in Batken province. The project brings together communities from both countries to identify and hurdle cross-border-related obstacles. (cont page3)

**Programmes**

OSCE Academy

Police Assistance Programme (PAP)  
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**Activities of the Centre**

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek organized the workshop "Mobilization of Youth for Political Participation" on 22 April 2004 at Bishkek Hotel Pinara. The workshop provided young leaders from all regions of Kyrgyzstan with a professionally moderated forum for discussing ways of mobilizing the youth participation in political life and in the elections. Several proposals were prepared on the effective means to address young voters in urban and rural areas, which could be used as a basis for the development of individual activities as well as comprehensive mobilization programmes.

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On 31 March, the Centre attended and co-funded a National Forum on Arbitration as a follow up to the recommendations of the Regional Conference on "Dispute Resolution as an Instrument to Facilitating SME Operations in the Business Environment", held in Bishkek in November 2003. The Kyrgyz President participated in the Forum and urged parliament to speed up adoption of the proposed amendments to the Civil Procedural Code. He also supported the idea promoted at the Regional Conference in November 2003 to establish Bishkek as the center of arbitrage trials for the whole Central Asian region.

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The Third Preparatory Seminar for the 12<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic Forum organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in co-operation with the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the OSCE and the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry was held on 29-30 March 2004 in Bishkek. The topic of the seminar was "Professional Skills Needed for Developing a Market Economy". Among the key speakers were Mr. Djoomart Otorbaev, Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Ambassador Ivan Naydenov, Director of the OSCE Chairmanship Directorate, and Ambassador Markus Müller, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. Over 180 participants, official representatives from 29 OSCE participating States, numerous international and non-governmental organizations, academic and business community representatives attended the seminar.

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The Centre closely followed discussions related to an initiative of President Akaev to decriminalize libel legislation, which faced some resistance both in parliament and the media community. In order to promote non-judicial dispute resolution mechanisms, the Centre co-chaired a Round Table on "Parliament and Media" for parliamentarians and journalists on 24 March. Follow-up activities in cooperation with the Soros Foundation, National Democratic Institution (NDI) and CIMERA and the Kyrgyz Media Council were discussed.

**Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek**



Ambassador Markus Muller was born on 23 July 1950 in Switzerland. He earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Fribourg in 1979. His working experience includes assignments in Angola, Ethiopia and Eritrea, where he contributed to the implementation of ICRC's food assistance operations. From 1986 to 2003, Ambassador Muller was the Programme Co-ordinator for the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC). This position led him to work in Bangladesh, Mali, Central Asia and Afghanistan. He was appointed Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek on 1 November 2003.

**Background info**

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek promotes the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments through several projects and programmes. The Police Assistance Programme and the OSCE Academy in Kyrgyzstan are the examples of such activities.

**The OSCE Academy** founded in December 2002 is designed to promote the OSCE's principles of comprehensive security within the whole Central Asian region. The Academy's pilot Master's programme focuses on the essential aspects of comprehensive security in Central Asia. Presently, 25 students are attending this course.

On August 7, 2003, a **Memorandum of Understanding on implementation of a comprehensive OSCE Police Assistance Programme** was signed between the OSCE and the Kyrgyz Government. The programme is aimed at setting up community policing and improving the quality of criminal investigations

**Activities of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek**



Political Officer Dr. Marie-Carin von Gumpfenberg (Centre in Tashkent) after a debate with students on the OSCE's work in Uzbekistan

Representatives from the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, all other Central Asian OSCE field missions, and the OSCE Secretariat (CPC) conducted individual one-day workshops, including presentations, role games and discussions. In addition, several embassies of OSCE participating States (USA, Russia and UK) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives from Austria, Germany and Switzerland discussed their country's foreign and regional policy with the students. OCEEAA Marcin Swiecicki, and Annica Carlsson (ENVSEC), lectured and discussed environmental and economic security, and voiced support for closer co-operation with the Academy.

**Activities of the OSCE Police Assistance Programme (PAP) in Kyrgyzstan**



OSCE Senior Police Adviser, Richard Monk(right), PAP Operational Manager, Ms. Jocelyne Lacourt, Police Training expert, Yevgeniy Cherenkov (left) and an officer of the Pervomayskiy Police Unit during the presentation of the OSCE pilot project

After the launching of the Pilot post-graduate course and the move to the newly allocated Academy building in February, the Academy year took intensive teaching, training and networking activities. Representatives from Swiss and German partner institutes, experts from the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs and Interior from Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and staff from Diplomatic Academy in Bishkek held lectures and courses in the framework of two major modules of the pilot semester in Political Science (Central Asia: International and National Peace Efforts and Security Policy, and Military-Political Aspects of Security).

**The OSCE Police Assistance Programme** consists of eight projects amounting 3.6 million EURO for the Bishkek Police Directorate and the Pervomaysky Police Station. Further developments will also depend on the successful implementation of the community-policing project, after which strategic police reforms in Kyrgyzstan will be launched throughout the country.

**Background info**

*In its decision of 10 February 2000 the Permanent Council, recalling its Decision No. 245 of 23 July 1998 and with the aim of facilitating the ability of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek to implement its mandate as well as to cover the southern part of the country, and taking note of the proposal made by the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek to open an OSCE Field Office in Osh, Kyrgyzstan decided to establish the OSCE Field Office in Osh, Kyrgyzstan. The Field Office started working in Osh in April 2000. Presently, two international staff representing France and UK are working in the Osh Field Office.*

*The OSCE Osh Field Office is closely collaborating with the Kyrgyz non-governmental and international organizations based in the south, including Batken and Jallabat Provinces.*

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**Activities of the OSCE Osh Field Office**

**The OSCE Osh Field Office supports Cultural Festival in Osh**



*(Martin Schumacher (Switzerland) and Jusup Aisaev (Kyrgyzstan) present a colorful palette of music)*

The OSCE Field Office in Osh provided support to the Osh Festival **“Peace and Respect”** organized by the Public Foundation of Arsen Umuraliev **on 29 April 2004**. The Festival was opened by the Deputy Governor Svetlana Bostonova and the executive head of the Foundation Aalama Umuralieva. The programme of the festival was divided into two parts: a short presentation from the art curator, educator Leeza Ahmady (USA) on video-art presented by 13 artists from all over the world and a live concert performance of Martin Schumacher (Switzerland) and Jusup Aisaev (Kyrgyzstan), who made a very colorful performance of Duo-Intercontinental mixing folk music and jazz.

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**On 14 April**, the representatives of the Osh Field Office met with Jalalabat province prosecutor Mr. Kubatbek Kojonaliev. They briefed him about the OSCE’s work, including Police Assistance Programme ( PAP) activities and the NGO participation in police reforms. The representatives of the OSCE Osh Field Office raised an issue of the NGOs’ access to detention facilities in the south of Kyrgyzstan. The prosecutor can allow NGO representatives to monitor detention facilities on case-to-case basis, and cooperate with the OSCE Osh Field Office in the areas of human rights protection and case studies of detention maintenance and detainees’ rights

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**Activities of the OSCE Osh Field Office**

*The Osh Field Office continues to monitor the case of the alleged torture- related death of a detainee in the pre-detention facility of Kara-Suu. Official results of the autopsy have not been made public and several NGOs have expressed serious concern about the official version of the Osh Province Prosecutor.*

*The Field Office is also monitoring the case of maltreatment and harassment of a young mother detained for alleged tax evasion and separated from her six-month-old- son in early 2004. The woman was released after several interventions by the Field Office but has not yet received her release papers from the local Prosecutor.*

*On 2 April, representatives of the Osh Field Office visited to a representative of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Osh. They agreed to meet on a regular basis to discuss security issues. It was further agreed to follow the evolution of the ongoing border demarcation process between Kyrgyzstan and its neighbors.*

<b>Regional news</b>	<b>Information on Legislation</b>	<b>Expected visits</b>
<p><i>The Third Eurasian Media Forum took place in Almaty and brought together more than 200 delegates from Asia, Europe, Caucasus and the United States. Among the honorary speakers were Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev and Jan Kubis, OSCE Secretary General. The key issues discussed included elections and the role of media, the international competition for influence in Central Asia, the journalists' rights and safety, and the role of international organizations. Jan Kubis, the OSCE Secretary General said: "Special attention was drawn to the important role of free, independent and pluralistic media in the democratic process, particularly in countries in transition. "Independent mass media are crucial for the development of democratic societies...The state of media is an important indicator of the health of a democratic society. It is an indispensable duty of democratic societies to protect the freedom of the media"...</i></p>	<p>The OSCE Centre in Bishkek sent 15 participants to the conference on the "Humanization of the criminal legislation in the Kazakh Republic: achievement and perspectives", which took place <b>in Almaty on 29 and 30 April</b> in order to give Kyrgyz policymakers and practitioners the opportunity to discuss the related issues with their colleagues from Kazakhstan and international experts. The conference was organized by the Kazakh Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court, Penal Reform International, ODIHR and the Kazakh NGO "International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law"</p> <p align="center">*****</p> <p>The new law "<b>On state language of the Kyrgyz Republic</b>", contested by different political and ethnic groups, initiated an intensive public discussion and some protests by minority groups. The law was approved by the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament and submitted to President A. Akaev. The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) has expressed concern about some provisions of the law in a letter addressed to the President. However, <b>on April 2, 2004</b>, President signed the Law without the expected amendments. The Law submitted the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main lines of the state language development in the country,</li> <li>• Main language criteria for the state officials</li> <li>• Creating by the Government all of necessary conditions for language trainings and education.</li> <li>• Providing equal conditions for development of all languages in Kyrgyz Republic.</li> </ul> <p>The same day, President presented his <b>Decree</b> on additional measures to create necessary conditions for equal functioning of the State and Official languages in Kyrgyzstan. According to the Decree all state bodies and local self-governments should transfer their clerical work into the State language until January 1, 2015.</p> <p align="center">*****</p> <p><b>On 1 April</b>, the Legislative Assembly drafted the Regulation on the economic and social situation in Batken Province. In this document, Kyrgyz parliamentarians have recommended that the Government and the Governor of Batken Province to consider a list of measures to improve the situation. In June 2004, the situation in Batken will be included in the Agenda of the Legislative Assembly of Parliament.</p> <p align="center">*****</p> <p><b>On 25 March 2004</b> deputies of the Legislative Assembly adopted amendments to <b>the Criminal-Procedural Code</b> of the Kyrgyz Republic. According to author of the law Azimbek Beknazarov, the Criminal-Procedural Code was finalized in accordance with the new edition of the Kyrgyz Constitution. Some old provisions of the Code limited legal authorities of the Supreme Court. According to new amendments, only 3 judges should hold the consideration of criminal appeals.</p>	<p><b>On May 18-20, 2004</b>, five OSCE Ambassadors representing countries as Belgium, Canada, Norway, Portugal and Slovenia will pay a working visit to Kyrgyzstan. The Ambassadors will have meetings with the Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, Foreign Minister Askar Aitmatov, Speakers of the both Chambers of the Kyrgyz Parliament, the Head of the External Police Department of the Presidential Administration, Mr. Alibek Jekshenkulov, and Ombudsman Tursunbai Bakir uulu. They will also have working meetings with the representatives of political parties and the Media in Bishkek. Ambassadors will also visit the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and Police Assistance Programme. On May 20, the OSCE Ambassadors will fly to Osh , where they will meet with the representatives of non-governmental organizations and the media. The Ambassadors will visit the OSCE Osh Field Office and will also be received by Osh Province Governor Naken Kasiev.</p>

