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BORDER GUARDS AND CUSTOMS INSPECTORS FROM CENTRAL ASIA TRAINED IN TASHKENT TO USE SNIFFER DOGS IN SEARCH OF DRUGS AND EXPLOSIVES

A Regional three-month training course in search and detection of drugs and explosives for twenty dog handlers (border guards and customs inspectors) from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan was organized during March-June 2007 at the National Dog Training Centre under the Customs Committee of Uzbekistan (pictured).

The comprehensive training programme designed to upgrade practical and theoretical knowledge of dog handlers in searching for drugs and explosives also included a refresher course in basic veterinary skills. Trainees were acquainted with best EU practices in dog training, by a specialist from the Canine School of the Austrian Police Academy.



Each student was provided with special equipment, a German shepherd dog, and training materials. Upon successful completion of the course students were awarded the qualification of certified dog handler and returned to their own countries with their trained dogs to serve at the borders.

AMBASSADOR ADRIAAN VAN DER MEER, HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DELEGATION, INAUGURATED BORDER FORCE OFFICER CADET TRAINING CENTRE IN DUSHANBE

On 4 June 2007 Ambassador Adriaan van der Meer, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission (EC), inaugurated the newly completed buildings of the Officer Cadet Training Centre of the Tajik Border Force in Dushanbe.

"The European Union has made considerable efforts to upgrade facilities in this Training Centre to provide equipment and to conduct broadly based training programmes for law enforcement agencies based here", he said during the handover ceremony. Officials from the Tajik Border Force together with Ambassadors of the EU-member states, representatives of the European Commission and UNDP participated.



Provision of the Officer Cadet Training Centre is a project of the BOMCA Programme funded by the European Union. Total costs were approximately US\$1 million.



The European Union is funding a number of projects under its Border Management in Central Asia (BOMCA) Programme. The overall objectives of the Programme are to enhance security in Central Asia and contribute to an increased flow of persons and legal goods across Central Asian borders. The specific objective of BOMCA is to strengthen the Central Asian states' capacities in managing their borders in accordance with European best practices. BOMCA is a multi-annual assistance Programme funded under the EC TACIS instrument.

