

EC AMBASSADOR VISITED EC-UNDP BOMCA PROGRAMME'S PROJECT SITES IN THE SOUTH OF KYRGYZSTAN

On 11 December 2006 Ambassador Adriaan van der Meer, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission (EC) to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, visited project sites in Osh.

Accompanied by Colonel Zakir Tilenov, Chairman of the Border Service of the Kyrgyz Republic, he officially inaugurated a recently completed drug detecting dog unit and newly refurbished premises of the training centre in Osh.

In total, \$122,000 were spent for construction of a dog unit with open-air cages for 10 dogs, a specialized kitchen, a fence and engineering networks and equipping it with furniture, uniform for dog handlers, and office supplies. For reconstruction works at the training center, \$120,000 were spent.



Ambassador van der Meer with Zakir Tilenov, Chairman of the Border Service of the Kyrgyz Republic and Talaibek Usabaliev, BOMCA/CADAP Deputy Regional Manager

Ambassador also visited a border crossing point in Karasuu at the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border. As he said, "This border post will be playing an important role along an east-west trade and transit corridor connecting Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. As you know, promotion of the regional trade and transit is at the heart of the European Commission's strategy for Central Asia".

Ambassador van der Meer stressed that the EC focuses border assistance at selected border posts to maximise impact and enhance security in the region, improve trade and increase Government revenues.

This year, the BOMCA Programme proposed to the Governments of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to open a new border crossing point at Karasuu, the largest cross-border market in Central Asia. A formal protocol amendment to the Bilateral Agreement on crossing points was finally signed in September 2006, and BOMCA will begin construction of the post on the Kyrgyz side in January 2007.



At the official opening of the Dog Unit in Osh

BORDER GUARDS AND CUSTOMS INSPECTORS ARE TRAINED IN INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT

Trainings in Integrated Border Management (IBM) for border guards, customs inspectors, and staff of sanitary, veterinary and medical control departments were held on 13 border posts along the Kyrgyz state border.

Trainings were the continuation of the train-the-trainer course on methodologies and practices of the inter-agency training for border management agencies' held in Bishkek in August 2006 by experts from Austria.



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.

