

BORDER GUARDS FROM CENTRAL ASIA STUDY THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE IN BORDER MANAGEMENT

A Study Tour to Hungary and the external border of the European Union for officials of Central Asian border management agencies, organised by the EU-UNDP BOMCA assistance programme, was conducted on 27-30 May 2009.

Participants of the Study Tour were familiarized with the EU Integrated Border Management (IBM) concept. To establish effective border management systems and to make common borders open, yet controlled and secure, the European countries use the IBM concept which first of all implies cooperation among agencies involved in border security and trade facilitation.

During field trips, representatives of government agencies from Central Asian states got also acquainted with the work at Border Crossing Points (BCP) located at the external border of the European Union. In particular, they observed border inspection with a thermo-vision camera at night and visited a temporary detention centre located at a BCP.

Besides, border guard commanders from Central Asia took part in the XVII International Border Police Conference in Zalakaros, Hungary, during 24-26 May 2009. At the Conference, participants discussed issues ranging from border protection to law enforcement, the role of agencies responsible for border security and other.



EQUIPMENT FOR BORDER POSTS HANDED OVER IN TAJIKISTAN

On 22 June 2009 the EU-UNDP BOMCA assistance programme handed over to the Tajik Border Troops specialised equipment to be used at Border Crossing Points (BCPs) "Fotekhabad" and "Patar".

The equipment (portable sets of specialised tools, endoscopes, binoculars, X-ray systems and cameras) will be used to check passports, identification documents and to examine vehicles at these two BCPs located on the Tajik-Uzbek border in the North of the country. The total cost of the equipment was over €60,000.

The "Patar" BCP is the busiest BCP to and from Uzbekistan, with approximately 450-500 people and up to 30 trucks crossing the border each day. The road leads to Kokand in Uzbekistan and to Osh in Kyrgyzstan. There is a cross-border market adjacent to this BCP.

The border construction work at "Patar" BCP will be finished by the BOMCA programme in 2010.

On 24-30 June 2009 a training course on the equipment use was held in Dushanbe and Khujand for 20 border guards. The equipment will help the border agencies detect forged documents and prevent smuggling across the border.



From left to right: Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky, UNDP Country Director in Tajikistan; Major General Sharaf Faizullaev, First Deputy Commander of Border Guards; Mr. Jean-Bernard De Miliito, Attache, EC Delegation to Tajikistan; Mr. Suhrob Kaharov, BOMCA-CADAP Country Manager



The main objective of the BOMCA Programme is to demonstrate to Central Asian Governments the benefits of the EU integrated border management approach for the facilitation of trade and transit, through model projects at Border Control Posts on major Central Asian trade corridors. The BOMCA is funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP. BOMCA is a multi-annual assistance Programme funded under the EC TACIS instrument.

