

PRESS RELEASE

Public association “Kyrgyz Parliamentarians against Corruption” holds a conference dedicated to the fight against money laundering and financing terrorism

On March 20, 2006 a conference dedicated to the fight against money laundering and financing terrorism was held in Bishkek. The conference was organized by public association “Kyrgyz Parliamentarians against Corruption” with assistance of the Government of Canada and the OSCE Center in Bishkek.

The conference was attended by representatives of President’s Administration, Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament), Government, and Office of Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, diplomatic missions, international organizations and NGOs.

The conference was opened by Deputy of Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic, Chairman of KPAC Hon. K.Baibolov and Head of the OSCE Center in Bishkek Ambassador M. Muller.

At the conference reports were given by an expert of the World Bank office in Bishkek A. tegin Suerkul on “What is the fight against money laundering and means for reducing money laundering”, representative of UNODC Gerald Moebius on “Some aspects of money laundering from the law-enforcement standpoint”, acting Chairperson of the National Bank of KR S. Janybekova on “Fight against money laundering in the banking sphere”, acting Chairperson of the Financial Intelligence Service T. Kalimbetova on “Financial Intelligence Service of KR: its aims and objectives”, as well as on the draft law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the fight against money laundering and financing terrorism”.

Conference participants familiarized themselves with data on the situation and methods of fighting money laundering and financing terrorism in the Kyrgyz Republic and discussed questions related to the draft law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the fight against money laundering and financing terrorism”. Constructive comments and recommendations were made on the draft law; in particular, some participants expressed their anxiety that this legislation would allow the authorities to use it selectively against opponents, including political ones. During the discussion, the speakers offered a detailed explanation regarding interpretation and use of the law in case of its approval and commented on the recommendations for its revision. As a result, participants agreed on the importance of such a law and at the same time noted the necessity to modify the draft legislation in accordance with recommendations made during the conference and elsewhere.

In conclusion, conference participants discussed some aspects of improving effectiveness of the fight against money laundering and financing terrorism in the Kyrgyz Republic, and also drew attention to the necessity to liven up the work in this field.

Executive Secretariat of KPAC