

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Establishment of the National Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic**

The round table "Establishment of public association "Kyrgyz Parliamentarians against Corruption" (KPAC) and its affiliation to Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC)" was conducted in Bishkek on 9 December 2005.

Deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh of Kyrgyz Republic, representatives of executive and judicial state bodies, business circles, NGOs, mass media, public and international organizations were invited to participate in the round table.

The round table was opened by Mr. Kuban Omuraliev, the Head of the Secretariat of CCGG, who especially underlined the coincidence of the establishment of the association "Kyrgyz Parliamentarians against Corruption" with the international day against corruption.

Then Mr. Hon. Kubatbek Baibolov, the deputy of the Jogorku Kenesh of Kyrgyz Republic and Chairman of the public association KPAC, who informed the participants that the public association "Kyrgyz Parliamentarians against Corruption" has been established in Bishkek in order to unite the acting and former deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh in their aspiration to fight corruption and strengthen the role of the Parliament in this work. Several acting deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic played the role of the founding members of the new association.

Mr. Kubatbek Baibolov noted that transparency and accountability of public government are considered to be basic instruments for fighting corruption throughout the world and that one of the bodies to implement these crucial principles are national parliaments.

Other founding members of the new public association, namely Mr. Hon. Temir Sariev and Mr. Hon. Tairbek Sarpashev, deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, have also made a speech and expressed their opinion on the problem of corruption in our country and the role of the Jogorku Kenesh and parliamentarians in the fight against it. In particular, they noted that the procedures for forming and executing national budget are still not transparent, what allows various corruption offences to be committed. Deputy T. Sariev especially emphasized the unfavorable situation in the energy sector, where 60% of production is simply wasted.

The founding members informed the participants about the aims, objectives and immediate plans of the public association "Kyrgyz Parliamentarians against Corruption", which include establishment of working contacts with colleagues from other Central Asian countries, as well as with international parliamentary organizations working in the field of fighting corruption, in particular with the Global Organization of Parliamentarian against Corruption (GOPAC), and promotion of transparency and accountability of public bodies.

Ambassador Markus Muller, Head of the OSCE Center in Bishkek, noted that in spite of some progress the level of corruption in Kyrgyzstan remains high and, in view of this, the newly-established public association could play an important role in fighting corruption.

It should be noted that Ms. Meaghan Campbell (Canada), Program Manager with the Executive Committee of GOPAC, participated in the round table and on behalf of Mr. John Williams, Chairman of GOPAC, welcomed the establishment of the Kyrgyzstan national chapter and assured of comprehensive support to the new organization.

She informed the participants about the origin of GOPAC, its structure and main directions of activity, in particular:

- Ensure international support to GOPAC members in fighting corruption,
- Acquaint parliamentarians with advanced practices of accountability and control over the work of executive power.

Then, a lively exchange of opinions took place between the round table participants who noted that in the conditions of total penetration of corruption in all spheres of life of our country, establishment and work of such an organization is very important and timely.

Leaders of NGO and political parties, Mr. Edil Baisalov and Mr. Muratbek Imanaliev, marked the low level of public feeling for law and order, absence of strong political will to fight corruption, supremacy of kindred links and the "telephone law" over the law, devaluation of ethical and moral values.

The round table participants noted that the feeding ground for corruption is the conflict of interests of civil servants. However, the laws of the Kyrgyz Republic regulating these issues – "The Civil Service Law", "On declaring and publishing information on incomes, liabilities and property of individuals holding political and other special public positions as well as their close relatives" – are not implemented fully. An opinion was also expressed about the need to unite in the fight against corruption not only for deputies but for all robust social forces (NGOs, political parties), international financial institutions, since this evil of modernity can be overcome only by joint efforts.

In the opinion of the participants, establishment of the public association "Kyrgyz Parliamentarians against Corruption" and its affiliation to GOPAC will in general play a positive role in decreasing the negative role of corruption in Kyrgyzstan.

The round table was timed to the international day of fighting corruption, which since 2004 is marked by celebration in Kyrgyzstan on 9 December. Specially produced by UNODC posters, table and pocket calendars, advocating importance of public participation in fighting corruption, were distributed among the participants.

Technical assistance to the round table was provided by the OSCE Center in Bishkek.