

## Training for Ministerial Civil Servants in Kyrgyzstan

In mid of July 2007 a series of continuous trainings took place in the Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan Diplomatic Academy, organized by the European Union in cooperation with the Kyrgyz government. During five seminar days officials of all important line ministries and government agencies, but also of the European Commission Delegation in Kyrgyzstan as well as other opinion leaders have received briefings and discussed with Hans-Jürgen Zahorka, LIBERTAS, about trends and tendencies of the European Foreign and Security Policy, about trade with the EU, on the field of Justice and Home Affairs (Freedom, Security and Justice), SME policy of the EU and of the Kyrgyz Republic, but also on Energy Policy. This subject met a special interest with information to climate change relevant for Central Asia (consequences for water and agriculture). For all subjects LIBERTAS had elaborated special reference and proposals for an improved cooperation between the EU and the Central Asian country, and the seminar items have been complemented by other present EU experts, Colm Halloran on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and Andrzej Bialowas on EU Technical Assistance for Central Asia. The EU project which was the framework of implementation for this course is led by Andrzej Bialowas, assisted by Meerim Oboskanova and Emil Musabaev.

Kyrgyzstan has won in the last years certainly in inner openness, media freedom, strike and demonstration freedom and discussion culture, not very well known within the EU. At the same time it remained relatively poor, although the present growth rates are positive. Hans-Jürgen Zahorka who was already in 2002/2003 in the country, abstracted it: „You can see certain progress in the infrastructure of the country, but also in the intensity of the interest in European integration“. Zahorka proposed – repeatedly – a Central Asian „Cecchini Report“ which should elaborate, in analogy to the report by Paolo Cecchini from the beginning of the Eighties on the EU Single Market, the costs and benefits of a Central Asian Single Market for consumers and enterprises (which are overwhelmingly microenterprises). This would induce also a nivellation of rule of law standards and human rights to the top.



On the photo from the left: Carina Skareby, Chargé d'Affaires a. i. in the European Commission Delegation in Bishkek, H. E. Nurgazy Kemelbaev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic and Rector of the Diplomatic Academy, Dr. Andrzej Bialowas, Team Leader of the EU Project *Facilitating the Implementation of the PCA in the Kyrgyz Republic*, and as fourth from the left Hans-Jürgen Zahorka, LIBERTAS – European Institute.