

NEW BORDER OUTPOST IN FERGHANA REGION HANDED OVER TO BORDER GUARDS

A new Border Outpost at the Sokh enclave in the Fergana region was handed over to the Government of Uzbekistan on 15 August 2007. Construction was funded by the European Union as part of its Border Management and Drug Action Programmes in Central Asia together with a contribution from UNDP.

His Excellency Ales Fojtik, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Uzbekistan, handed over the completed buildings to Colonel Rashid Khabiev, Deputy Commander of the Uzbek Border Guards in the presence of other Uzbek Government officials, the Ambassadors of France, Germany and Slovakia, diplomatic representatives of Bulgaria and the United Kingdom, together with staff of Europa House in Uzbekistan, and the BOMCA – CADAP programmes. The total value of buildings and equipment was Euros 395,000.

**HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION DELEGATION VISITED BORDER CROSSING POINTS ON THE TAJIK–AFGHAN BORDER**

On 21 August Mr. Adriaan van der Meer, Head of the European Commission Delegation to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, visited a border crossing point (BCP) and a co located market at Tem near Khorogh in the Gorno Badakshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) in Tajikistan. Infrastructure provided under the BOMCA programme and co funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, at the BCP on the Tajik side of the border with Afghanistan includes fully equipped joint working buildings for Border Force and Customs personnel together with living accommodation, and offices for Ministry of Health and Agriculture officials. At the market, additional covered shelters, toilets mains water and electricity have been provided. This market, together with similar markets at two other BCPs, are open to both Tajik and Afghan traders and customers on at least one day per week and without the necessity for visas. Accompanied by local journalists, Ambassador van der Meer also visited the Drug Detecting Dog Centre in Khorogh constructed and equipped under the BOMCA/CADAP programmes.



Responding to the final withdrawal of Russian border guards from the Tajik–Afghan border in mid 2005, the focus and priority of the BOMCA/CADAP programmes in Tajikistan has been on providing assistance to law enforcement agencies responsible for border management, security and counter narcotics trafficking. This has been undertaken in close cooperation with EU Member States (notably the United Kingdom). The EU assistance to Tajikistan includes provision of equipment to increase the effectiveness of the law enforcement agencies, building infrastructure at three international BCPs in GBAO (including Tem), provision of training facilities and conducting broadly based training programmes.

Similar border infrastructure facilities, equipment and training are being provided to Afghan Border Police and Customs staff in Badakshan Province of Afghanistan at the same three BCPs on the Afghan side of the border. This is an EU funded project with co funding being provided by the United Kingdom and by UNDP.

The European Union is funding a number of projects under its Drug Action in Central Asia (CADAP) Programme. The overall objectives of the Programme is to foster a development oriented drug control strategy in Central Asia that ensures a sustained reduction of drug consumption and trafficking in line with the European Commission drug strategies. CADAP is a multi-annual assistance Programme funded under the EC TACIS instrument.



CADAP is funded by the European Union



CADAP is implemented by UNDP

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.