



Round Table Debate

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN KYRGYZSTAN

Date: Wednesday, 23 January 2019, 13:00h – 14:30h
Venue: EastWest Institute
Rue de Trèves 59-61, 1040 Brussels

Kyrgyzstan is still considered the only country in Central Asia - and indeed almost in the entire post-Soviet area (except the Baltic states) - which began to establish democratic structures after the collapse of the Soviet Union and its independence in 1991. As part of previous and more efficient administrative reforms, the country did not only boldly abolish the administrative county level and develop a dual national budget. The Kyrgyz government also created municipalities that hold free elections every four years. On the national level, democratic institutions recognize the importance of local self-governance. 2019 will open the next phase of administrative reforms aiming at creating stronger, more efficient, community-based administrative structures through the merger of counties and municipalities. Of course both, Kyrgyz democracy and local self-government are still developing and need to be taken care of.

Now, what role does the European Union play in this reform process? Negotiations between the EU and the Kyrgyz Republic began in 2017 to modernise their bilateral agreement. Additionally, the EU discussed a new Central Asian strategy in meetings with its five partner countries (Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) in November 2018. Before this background, the EU needs to implement projects to show its support for the democratic path of Kyrgyzstan, which include programmes to strengthen municipal self-governance as well as local infrastructure. Through national and European measures, Kyrgyz citizens will be able to better recognize the benefits of living in a democratic and local self-governing state.

H.E. Mirlan Bakirov, Vice Speaker of the National Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, will deliver his views on the role of his country as pioneer in the region for democracy and local self-government. He will then exchange with European representatives on current and future developments. We cordially invite you to join this debate.

Conference languages: English and Russian (with interpretation)
Registration until 22 January 2019: <https://goo.gl/forms/9PcDHDax4Q8uavqT2>

Programme

- 12:30 Registration and Light Lunch
- 13:00 Welcome
Dr. Markus EHM
Director, Brussels Office of the Hanns Seidel Foundation
H.E. Dr. Wolfgang KLAPPER
Vice President, Director of the Regional Security Program and Head of EastWest Institute's Brussels Center
- 13:10 Keynote
"Administrative Reforms in Kyrgyzstan: Past, Present, Future"
Mirlan BAKIROV
Vice Speaker of the National Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic
- 13:20 Discussion
Pierre AMILHAT
Director, Directorate F "Asia, Central Asia, Middle East/Gulf and Pacific", DG DEVCO, European Commission
Mirlan BAKIROV
Vice Speaker of the National Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic
Boris TONHAUSER
Senior Project Officer – PLATFORMA, Council of European Municipalities and Regions
Moderation
Dr. Markus EHM
- 14:10 Q&A
- 14:30 End

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