

## ***PLATFORM AVAILS PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PARIS AND KYRGYZ BARS***



*Ms. Gulnara Sheshekeeva and Mr. Etienne Lesage sign the Cooperation Agreement*

On 27 October 2015, in Bishkek, a Cooperation Agreement between the Paris Bar and the Bar of the Kyrgyz Republic was signed by Ms. Gulnara Sheshekeeva, Deputy President of the Kyrgyz Bar and Mr. Etienne Lesage, Member of the Board of the Paris Bar, both of them being duly mandated to represent the Presidents of both bars, Mrs. Gulniza Kojomovna and Mr. Pierre-Olivier Sûr respectively.



*Mr. Pierre-Olivier Sûr participating to the Fourth Conference on Rule of Law organised by the Rule of Law Platform in Astana (14-15 October 2015)*

Contacts between the Paris Bar and the newly-created Bar of the Kyrgyz Republic had been initiated by the EU-Central Asia Rule of Law Platform, France being a Coordinator of the EU Rule of Law Initiative for Central Asia. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Mr. Stéphane Catta, Ambassador of France to the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Johannes Stenbaek Madsen, Head of Operations Sections, and Mr. Nicola Scaramuzzo, Project Manager at the Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic. This agreement is the first cooperation agreement with a foreign bar signed by the Bar of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The purpose of the agreement is to establish close relationships between the lawyers of both bars, to provide the opportunities to the members of both organisations to become acquainted and to build permanent and constructive legal relationships, which will enable both communities to work together, pursue common objectives and protect the interests of their clients.



Historically, the Paris Bar is often approached when human rights are in danger. In the field of human rights defence, the Paris Bar cooperates and exchanges information with numerous foreign bars and human rights associations. The actions undertaken by the Paris Bar are primarily aimed at supporting lawyers, and the freedom, independence and dignity of the legal profession. The Paris Bar is, however, extremely dedicated to the protection of all human rights generally and is therefore active in the defence and protection of all human rights defenders.



*Mrs. Kozhomova meets with Mr. Lesage*

On 30 October, Mr. Lesage met with Ms. Gulniza Kozhomova, President of the Board of the Bar of the Kyrgyz Republic. Mr. Lesage provided information regarding standards, best practices and organization of the Paris Bar, including best practices of organizing mandatory

continuing legal education, specialization for lawyers, deontology, protection of lawyers, lobbying activities, improvement of the justice system and fighting corruption.

On the sides of the Cooperation Agreement, both parties also signed an agreement providing access to the members of the Kyrgyz Bar to the "Large Legal Library" of the Paris Bar, an extensive on-line legal database including literature on French, EU laws and practices, models of legal acts, etc.

The Cooperation Agreement will also serve as basis for further mutual cooperation between the two bars, especially in the area of initial and continuing legal education, and for organising the "Initiation to law for pupils of Kyrgyz Schools" an activity launched by the Rule of Law Platform, based on know-how developed by the Paris Bar, under the patronage of the Kyrgyz Ministries of Education and Sciences and Justice. The purpose of this activity conducted by Kyrgyz lawyers having received training from Mr. Lesage, is to raise awareness of pupils about their rights and duties and about the rule of law, at providing them with the ability to fend for their rights throughout their lives, becoming responsible citizens.

