

KYRGYZ BAR TWO-PRONGED STRATEGY TO ASSERT ITS INDEPENDENCE DISCUSSED IN OSH



The EU-Central Asia Rule of Law Platform jointly organised [a round-table "on the protection of the rights of lawyers and ethical standards of the legal profession"](#), in Osh, on 30 June 2017, along with the Paris and Kyrgyz Bars.

The objective of the round-table was to provide exposure to best European practices in the area of the rights of lawyers and ethical standards. In this respect, it aimed at supporting the strategy of the Kyrgyz Bar to protect the independence of the legal profession in the Kyrgyz Republic.



Messrs Kuban Dzhoroyev and Nemat Kataganov, Chairmen of the Osh Oblast and City Bars, Ms Ziiagul Arnaliev, Member of the Ethics Committee of the Kyrgyz Bar

Co-chaired by Board Members of the Kyrgyz and the Paris Bars, the round-table pursued the cooperation between the Kyrgyz and Paris Bars initiated with the

[signing of a Partnership Agreement in October 2015](#), under the auspices of the Rule of Law Platform. The Partnership Agreement's objective is for the two Bars to support each other and their Members, on all matters of mutual interest relating to the exercise of the profession of lawyer, the development of the law and practice pertaining to the rule of law and the administration of justice and substantive developments in the law itself, both in France and Kyrgyzstan and at international level.



Mr Iskander Alimbaev, Member of the Almaty Bar, Mr Oleksandr Ovchynnykov, Member of the Strasbourg and Kiev Bars, Mr Vasily Lukashevitch, Senior Lawyer, European Court of Human Rights, Mr Etienne Lesage, Member of the Paris Bar

Experts from France, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic engaged in a dialogue and exchanged information on the laws and practices of their countries, with emphasis of relevant

case law of the European Court of Human Rights.



Lively exchanges involved faculty members of the Osh State Law Institute

It is necessary to protect lawyers in the exercise of their professional duties and functions, whether in civil, criminal or commercial matters. Cases of intimidation and sentencing of lawyers and human rights defenders, searches of their offices and wiretapping of their telephone calls and conversations, are unacceptable. The law must protect their necessary right to freedom of expression, within and without the courtroom, in the defence of clients. Special provisions must protect the attorney-client privilege as well, including in prisons.



Cases of intimidation of criminal lawyers in Osh have been reported

With respect to professional ethics, ethical principles should form the basis of all activities of lawyers. The foundation of lawyer's ethics should be composed at least of the following principles: independence, honesty and conscientiousness, confidentiality, loyalty to the client's interests. Similarly, all issues of disciplinary liability of advocates should be exhaustively regulated by general

legislative rules and get further specification in internal regulatory instruments of the legal profession.

Core principles regulating the legal profession are the basis of the deontology of the European legal profession, and contribute to shaping the European but also the Central Asian lawyer. They are essential to the newly-established legal professions of Central Asia that are struggling to establish their independence; and to increase understanding among lawyers of the importance of the lawyer's role in society.



At the outset of the round-table, a [communiqué](#) was adopted, including related recommendations aimed both at lawyers themselves and at decision makers, and the public in general. The Communiqué was published on the [web site of the Kyrgyz Bar](#). Pictures taken at the round-table are available on the [event photo gallery](#).



The participants to the round-table