



PRESS-RELEASE

EU Project promotes Tajik-Kyrgyz joint roundtable in Brussels

Brussels, 25 of April 2014

Within the framework of the EU-funded project “Handicraft and Business through Regional Integration and Fair Trade Market”, a roundtable on “Business and investment opportunities and the role of the EU in support of SMEs” in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan has been held yesterday at the Vesalius College of Brussels (Belgium).

The initiative, promoted by the Embassies of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in Brussels and realized with the support of the Italian Ngo Cesvi and the EU Central Asia Invest Programme, has been organized to foster cooperation between the two Central Asian countries in their policies in favour of SMEs, in particular in the handicraft sector.

British MEP Struan Stevenson moderated the roundtable, which was also attend by Ms Gulru Qayumova, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr Asein Isaev, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Belgium, H.E. Mr Rustamjon Soliev, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Belgium, Mr Kubanychbek Aidaraliev and Mr Ernek Ormotoev, from the Ministry of Economy of Kyrgyzstan, Mr Gunther Sleenwagen, director for Central and Eastern Europe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium and Ms Anna Berdach, Program Manager of EU DEVCO.

A Study Tour organized in Europe by Cesvi gave opportunity to organize this round table that, in the wishes of Tajik Ambassador Soliev, might be the first «concrete example of a permanent dialogue among Central Asian Countries in the business sector».

In Brussels, the Central Asian delegation had previously visited the European Parliament and met with Mr Christian Weinberger, Senior Adviser for Entrepreneurship and SME Policy of the European Commission’s DG Enterprise and Industry, to discuss the main aspects of the Small Business Act and the EU SME policies. A meeting with Ms Nicole Meijer, Ms Liga Andersone and Mr Alessandro Lerario, from the European External Action Service, was also organized to present and discuss the details of the EU-Central Asia cooperation policies.

The Study Tour, started on the 22 of April with a meeting at the World Fair Trade Organization of Culemborg (The Netherlands) and a visit to the main Dutch Fair Trade importers, will continue in Florence (Italy). During its 4-day stay in Italy the delegation will visit the International Handicrafts Trade Fair and will meet representatives from the Chamber of Commerce of Florence and Tuscan Handicraft Business Intermediary Organizations and SMEs.

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On the web: <http://www.tajikembassy.be/content/roundtable-%E2%80%9Ctajikistan-and-kyrgyzstan-business-and-investment-opportunities-and-role-eu>;

<http://www.cesvi.eu/news/handicraft-and-business>.

A project implemented by:



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The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. To this end the EU is active in Tajikistan since 1992 and provides approximately EUR 25 million annually in development assistance