

Thank you for coming to this event today. This is an opportunity for the OSCE Centre to explain a little of what and how the OSCE Centre has tried to support the Central Election Commission to prepare for the parliamentary elections.

We all know that these parliamentary elections are crucial in Kyrgyzstan moving forward after the events of April and June.

The role and wish of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek is to support the Election Authorities prepare for successful elections.

What does successful mean, you might ask ? Normally, good elections are defined as “free, fair and transparent”. This is correct. And what this means is that the population, whether they favour the results or not, believe they came about in an honest way, without intimidation or foul play. As a sporting Englishman, I would perhaps say by means of “fair play”.

This brings me to the importance of the Central Election Commission. For it is the CEC and the sub-national commissions that play the key role in both the preparations and conduct of the voting process.

The CEC therefore deserves both our support and, allow me to say, our praise for the work they have done.

The OSCE Centre, with other international and national partners, has tried hard to give our material and moral support. The OSCE Centre has given around 150 thousand euros for a range of tasks that my colleague, Dr Oleg Semenenko, the Head of the OSCE Centre’s Human Dimension, will now outline to you. Oleg leads the OSCE Centre’s team, which looks after electoral issues at the Centre.

*Oleg, thank you. In conclusion, we look forward to successful elections and wish Kyrgyzstan well in the light of the results.*

*Looking ahead, the elections will inevitably reveal improvements needed for future elections. In this regard, our sister but independent and autonomous body, the ODIHR/OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Electoral Observation Mission, will make such recommendations based on their observations. The OSCE Centre will work with the ODIHR and the appropriate authorities in Kyrgyzstan to implement these recommendations, with a view to them being in place before the Presidential elections next year.*

