

Regional Security in Central Asia and Russia's Interests



"The key issue in security and development in Central Asia is the harmonization of interests. Given the continuing disagreement among states in the region, it is important to establish ongoing dialogue on the basis of a joint threat assessment now more than ever. Only then can we really turn towards effective partnership in the field of security".

Gennady Evstafiev, Lieutenant-General (ret.), Member of PIR Center's Advisory Board

Central Asia

On the one hand, Russia's immediate proximity to a region where instability is escalating reveals a number of challenges to international security. On the other hand, the region also reveals high energy potential. For this reason, Central Asia has become a region of interest and concern for Russia, the U.S., the EU, China, India, Iran and Pakistan. However, the situation is changing. It is increasingly clear that the original goals are unlikely to be achieved without the active involvement of Russian security projects. It is necessary to increase the effectiveness of regional cooperation mechanisms through organizations such as SCO, CSTO, EurAsEC.

PIR Center's project consists of:

- Graduates of training projects – young diplomats, employees of international organizations, scholars and instructors from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Teaching, lecturing and participating in seminars at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and other centers for young professionals in the field of international security in the region;
- Representatives of the *Security Index* in Almaty, Bishkek and Tashkent;

PIR Center Project in Central Asia Consists of:

- Applied research in energy, defense construction and military-technical cooperation, non-proliferation and nuclear security, trafficking in drugs and weapons, development of regional security institutions in Central Asia;
- Publications and commentary on current security issues in the region, contained in PIR's *Security Index*, "Russia Confidential," PIR-Press and leading Russian media.
- Distribution of *Security Index* in Almaty, Bishkek and Tashkent;
- Partnerships with leading institutions in Astana, Almaty, Bishkek, Tashkent, Center for Central Asia to the EU, Iran, India, China, the USA and Switzerland.

PIR Center's project "Security in Central Asia and Russia" defines the main vectors of rivalry and cooperation in the region. The objective is to determine optimal behavior strategies for Russia in Central Asia.

Detailed information about the project can be found at: centralasia.eng.pircenter.org

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