

## Part I – TAJIKISTAN - General data

### *Geography*

The territory of Tajikistan is 143,100 square km; it is a mountainous country, which has summits ranging from 300 up to 7495 meters. Some 93% of its territory is occupied by mountains; in the south it borders Afghanistan, in the south-east China, in the north-east Kyrgyzstan and in the south-west and north-west it borders Uzbekistan. The border stretches over a total length of about 3000 kilometers. In Tajikistan there exist 4 natural zones: the first — Mountainous Badakhshan or Pamir, it borders Afghanistan and China, the second covers the whole Central part of the country, the third — the Khatlon region, and the fourth is located in the north in the valley of the Zaravshan and Sirdaryo Rivers.

The capital of the Republic of Tajikistan is Dushanbe.

### *Population*

Tajikistan is a multinational State. According to data of the General population census in the year 2000 the population of the country counted 6,127,493 people, among which 4,898,382 Tajiks (79.94%), 936,703 Uzbeks (15.28%), 68,171 Russians (1.11%), 65,515 Kyrgyz (1.07), 20,270 Turkmens (0.33%), 18,939 Tatars (0.30%), 14,450 Arabs (0.23%), and others (1.74%). According to the basic Law of the Republic of Tajikistan the whole population of Tajikistan lives in a unified law sphere.

### *Resources*

Tajikistan is rich in natural resources, where energy takes one of the leading places. Tajikistan takes the second place among CIS countries in water resources. In coal resources Tajikistan takes the leading place in Central Asia. On the territory of the Republic many deposits of polycamical, rare and precious metals such as zinc, lead, bismuth, molybdenum, tungsten, gold, silver, antimony, quicksilver, fluor-spars but also gas and oil can be found. There is also extraction of noble spinel, lal of badakhshan and lapis lazuli in the Pamirs.

### ***Political structure***

According to the Constitution, Tajikistan is a democratic, law-governed, and unitary State. The highest official of the country, the head of the Government and executive power is the President of Tajikistan. The President appoints the Prime Minister and other members of the Government and submits these decrees for affirmation to the Majlisi Oli (the highest legislative body of the Republic of Tajikistan).

The Majlisi Oli is elected for the period of 5 years. Citizens having reached the age of 25 can be elected to this body. The activities of the Majlisi Oli are regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The state language of Tajikistan is Tajik; Russian is a language of communication between the nationalities.

### ***International Status***

In September 9, 1991 the independence of Tajikistan was proclaimed. In 1992 Tajikistan joined the United Nations Organization. One hundred seventy states of the world recognize the sovereignty of Tajikistan; there are 17 embassies of different states accredited in Tajikistan. Many international organizations implement their activities in Tajikistan: World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc.

I.K ASADULLAEV

Extract from: *“Tajikistan: Guide to Parliamentary Elections 2005. Dushanbe, 2004. 122 pages.”*