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Should Kyrgyzstan join the Budapest and/or Hanoi Conventions on cybercrime?

Alexander Seger, 13 June 2026

Should Kyrgyzstan join the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime? Or the Hanoi Convention? And what about that article 32 that Russia keeps complaining about?

These were some of the questions that we discussed in Bishkek this week in a training course on international law applicable in cyberspace.

I was happy to return to Kyrgyzstan. My previous visit dates back to June 1996 when I came to Bishkek for a regional workshop on corruption and organized crime in Central Asia.

The event this week was organized by [Cyber Law International](#) in cooperation with the [e-Governance Academy](#) with funding under the European Union's [hashtag#GlobalGateway](#) initiative. [Liis Vihul](#) covered the international law part (attribution; counter-measures; human rights) while I discussed the question of cybercrime and electronic evidence.

Participants represented key institutions (ministries of justice, interior, foreign affairs and digitalization; the office of the prosecutor general; the data protection agency; and others).

Kyrgyz authorities expressed strong interest in joining both treaties, the Budapest and Hanoi conventions. A draft law transposing their provisions into domestic law reportedly is in parliament awaiting the first reading.

As expected ([hashtag#Russia!](#)), there was much interest in article 32 of the Budapest Convention on transborder access to data. Explaining this article through different scenarios was fun; and hopefully there is now a better understanding by Kyrgyz authorities of the limited scope but also of the value of that provision.

The approach of reforming domestic law prior to signing international agreements reflects the serious intentions of the government of Kyrgyzstan.

A more detailed analysis of domestic legislation (draft laws and legislation in force, as well as of conditions and safeguards for law enforcement powers) and some capacity building activities would help determine the readiness of Kyrgyzstan to join the Hanoi, and possibly also the Budapest Convention.

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