

APRIL 2007

OSCE
MAGAZINE

OSCE buckles down to work
on expanded agenda

Valdas Adamkus: Cherishing the
vision of a Europe “whole and free”

Pursuing the principles of
community-based policing



Spain takes
centre stage



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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a pan-European security body whose 56 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

OSCE Chairmanship 2007: Spain

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- Forum for Security Co-operation, *Vienna*
- Secretariat, *Vienna*
- OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, *Vienna*
- Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, *Warsaw*
- High Commissioner on National Minorities, *The Hague*
- OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, *Copenhagen*

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- OSCE Office in Baku
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- The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

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- OSCE Mission in Kosovo
- OSCE Mission to Montenegro
- OSCE Mission to Serbia
- OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

Message from the Chairperson of the Permanent Council



As did all the other Chairmanships before it, Spain is seeking to strengthen the Organization by highlighting and enhancing its major achievements and, at the same time, by addressing its weaknesses and identifying satisfactory alternative solutions to enable us all to do a better job.

Three words sum up the fundamental commitments and priorities of our Chairmanship, apart from the objectives related to the three dimensions: ownership, dialogue and action-oriented work:

Ownership: We believe that any OSCE Chairmanship can only achieve what the participating States allow it to. Spain will aim towards encouraging them to reach consensus in all areas, but it will be difficult if there is no political will to do so.

Dialogue: Sitting at a negotiating table is always a good starting point. When it comes to sensitive issues, we do not intend to teach lessons to any country. Far from it! We do, however, wish to raise awareness of existing problems and to offer viable solutions if requested to do so. Our dialogue should always be coupled with respect. With the help of the OSCE and its institutions, Spain is ready to assist.

Action-oriented work: The participating States demand responsible and effective action. The OSCE should not be perceived as a mere think-tank or as a forum for idle debate. Helped by public diplomacy, we should reach out to all the citizens of participating States to convince them that we are making real progress in addressing some difficult issues at various levels.

Despite the fact that the Organization is composed of different institutions and tackles a broad spectrum of concerns, we should take every opportunity to present a solid and coherent front. The articles in this issue of the *OSCE Magazine* reflect the fact that we have much to be proud of, collectively. Inspired by our positive record of accomplishments, let us all pull together to enable the Organization to once again reach new heights.

Ambassador Carlos Sánchez de Boado
 Vienna
 April 2007

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Cover: Flamenco artist Eva Yerbabuena performed at a cultural event on the occasion of the launching of the Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE.
Photo: OSCE/Alexander Nitzsche

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SPANISH CHAIRMANSHIP 2007

Moratinos: “Project Europe is still unfinished”

Clarion call to rise to complex security challenges

The OSCE is still the forum for raising key questions and issues concerning the future of Europe, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos said in his first address to the Permanent Council in Vienna as Chairman-in-Office. “We are aware that times are not easy, but for this very reason, our Organization is so necessary,” he said. He pledged to strengthen the OSCE’s role as a forum for dialogue and co-operation, along with other priorities of the Chairmanship: the fight against terrorism, protecting the environment and encouraging participation in pluralistic societies. The following are excerpts from his remarks on 11 January.

On board a Spanish Government plane, the Chairman-in-Office shares impressions of his visit to Belgrade and Pristina with journalists.

Photo:
OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev

I am addressing this Permanent Council for the first time as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, and do so with mixed feelings: In the first place, there is a feeling of satisfaction, because there is no other organization like the OSCE on the world scene. It is neither a military alliance nor an economic union, but an organization that brings together, on a permanent basis, 56 countries sharing a common view of a Europe that

is secure, united, free and at peace with itself. The OSCE came into being in Helsinki and was consolidated in Paris, Moscow, Budapest and Istanbul. Today we continue turning this vision into reality by means of our everyday interaction.

The changes that have taken place over the past 32 years throughout the OSCE area, within our States and within our societies, have attained historic dimensions. We should be proud of the extraordinary advances that have been achieved.

But, on the other hand, our pride should be temperate and prudent, out of an elementary sense of responsibility. We should judiciously analyze our current difficulties and face future challenges directly and clearly.

We have to work hand in hand if we wish future generations to regard us as we would like to be seen. If our children cannot be proud of us tomorrow, then we shall have failed in our collective endeavour, for not having attained our shared vision.

...Our current situation is not an easy one. The participating States and the OSCE itself are going through a complicated stage:

It is a fact that the wars in the Balkans appear to have ended, but there remains, to a very considerable extent, the arduous task of re-establishing regional stability and of creating “virtuous circles” to sustain the States in the area. We have made great prog-

ress in resolving the disputes that beset the former Yugoslavia, but much still has to be done to reinforce coexistence, democratic institutions and the rule of law in some parts of the region.

The question of Kosovo will occupy centre stage during 2007. As Chairman-in-Office, I wish to stress our commitment to maintaining the presence of the OSCE on the ground. We must carry on supporting the efforts being made there to construct a society that is structured, multi-ethnic and tolerant, one that is committed to democratic institutions and to respect for human rights. Spain believes it is essential that the OSCE's added value should be properly recognized — its extensive presence on the ground and its irreplaceable support for the establishment of the rule of law — and that negotiators should find an appropriate legal framework for its future presence.

Many States in the OSCE area are going through a difficult phase in their democratic transition, and the process can by no means be considered complete. We should not be surprised by this: Democracy cannot be imposed from outside, nor does it appear overnight. Development of the institution of democracy takes time and requires patience and perseverance, as well as a favourable international setting. We must sustain, with greater determination than ever, our undertaking to uphold and accompany these processes in order to ensure their peaceful development.

Furthermore, it is quite clear that the OSCE will continue playing a role in relation to the long-running conflicts within its area. Our participation must be aimed at healing the breach between those involved in these disputes, bringing together communities and peoples whose destinies have been joined, and enhancing relations between societies on both shores of the Dniester, in Georgia and in Nagorno-Karabakh. In each of these disputes, walls have been built up, dividing peoples; these walls must be torn down. To achieve a sustainable solution, we must intervene *now* to provide a solid basis for progress.

MUTUAL TRUST

I am profoundly concerned that relations between some participating States continue to be strained. Neither the spirit nor the letter of the OSCE commitments is enhanced when relations between participating States are characterized by sanctions, pressure or aggressive rhetoric. We must regain mutual trust, and for this purpose, let us appeal to the moderation and goodwill of the parties and to the firm resolve of all of us participating in the OSCE.

Sometimes the consensus on values and their practical implementation appears to be weakening. As participating States, we should be capable of doing more towards fulfilling our undertakings and putting them into practice in an effective manner. The issue is a simple one: The extreme complexity of the challenges facing us in these tur-



José Ángel López Jorrín is Ambassador-at-Large for the Co-ordination of the Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE. He represents the Chairmanship and assists it in carrying out its responsibilities. Most recently, Ambassador López Jorrín was Adviser in the Directorate General for Europe and North America of the Spanish Foreign Ministry (2004). He served as Spain's Ambassador to Bulgaria (2001) and to Bosnia and Herzegovina (1997). Earlier, he headed the Foreign Ministry department that is responsible for the OSCE and the Council of Europe (1995).



Josep Borrell Fontelles is the Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office. His appointment came shortly after he concluded his term as President of the European Parliament (July 2004-January 2007). Mr. Borrell Fontelles was a member of the Regional Parliament for Madrid (1979-1982) and a member of the Congress of Deputies (1996-2004). He also served as Secretary of State for Finance and as Minister for Public Works, Transport, the Environment and Telecommunications.



OSCE/MICHAEL EVSTAFIEV

Airborne over the Balkans: Foreign Minister Moratinos goes over his notes with an aide.

bulent times means that our promises will be hollow if they fail to achieve results in practice, and it is these very promises that constitute the foundations on which the OSCE rests.

The difficulties facing us do not reside merely in the relations among States. Within each nation, our societies are ever more diverse and are threatened by intolerance, discrimination and even hatred. Spain will seek to make intensive use of the institutions, mechanisms and activities available to the OSCE in order to respond as effectively as possible to the need to reconcile the diversity of our pluralistic societies in a democratic way, one that requires the participation of all concerned. We need to have a strategy of reaching out.

Nowadays, the threats and challenges to our security are asymmetric, complex, dynamic and cross-border in nature. In order to address them, the OSCE must continue its efforts to create a steadier dialogue and stronger co-operation among its participating States and with the OSCE's partner organizations, such as the EU, NATO, the UN and the Council of Europe, without overlooking other institutions and initiatives both within and outside of the OSCE area.

The OSCE does not exist in isolation within its immediate surroundings. We cannot guarantee our own security while ignoring the monumental transformations that are taking place among our neighbours in the Mediterranean region, in sub-Saharan Africa, in the Middle East and in East Asia. In today's interconnected world, the security of the OSCE must sink its roots not only within its own space but also further

afield, and especially towards the south and the east. This is why our relations with our Mediterranean and Asian partners are extremely valuable. Their dialogue with the OSCE provides a security outlook that goes beyond that of our own region, and is one that we believe should be intensified and reinforced.

Finally, the situation within our organization itself is not an easy one. ...The "zero growth" of the budget imposes upon us all the responsibility to choose, both among priorities and among the activities in which we decide to participate. We must not shrink from choosing what seems necessary for the effectiveness of the Organization.

What does all this mean?

Above all, it means that "Project Europe" is still unfinished. At the outset, the OSCE was intended to make Europe a space of peace, security, freedom and co-operation, overcoming all ideological confrontations. We still have to continue working towards this goal.

We must reconsider the promises of the 1990s. Within the OSCE area, in the short term, it is quite possible that the favourable circumstances that saw them emerge may not recur. The creation of a secure Europe, living in peace, continues to be a long and arduous process, requiring sustained effort and a permanent debate on its values and on how they should be applied. The key to success lies in maintaining our momentum and advancing in the right direction, taking into account our ultimate objective, which continues to be the one originally formulated.

New challenges to our security constitute a clarion call for our actions to be based upon shared values, and for us to strengthen and enhance the series of undertakings we have jointly assumed.

All these factors mean that the OSCE is as necessary today as it was before. We are aware that times are not easy, but it is for this very reason that our Organization is so necessary.

As we move forward in unison to address common problems, we must bear in mind the vision that inspired the creation of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe — the CSCE. Our States and societies need a forum in which our differences can be shared rather than aggravated, in which dialogue is enhanced rather than neglected, and in which we act in response to common necessities. The OSCE constitutes such a forum.

OSCE's engagement in Belgrade and Pristina reaffirmed

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos underscored the Organization's continued assistance in democracy-building in the area during his visit to Belgrade and Pristina on 26 and 27 February.

"I have encouraged the Serbian leaders to be constructively involved in the final stage of consultations on Kosovo's future status," said Chairman-in-Office Moratinos after meeting President Boris Tadić, Acting Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica, and Acting Foreign Minister Vuk Drašković.

"To preserve the multi-ethnic character of Kosovo, all sides involved, including Belgrade, Pristina and the Kosovo Serbs, need to work out a compromise," he added. [See page 8 for subsequent developments.]

Congratulating President Tadić on the well-conducted parliamentary elections in late January, the Chairman-in-Office said it was important to speed up the process of forming a new government to resume crucial reforms. He stressed that the OSCE and its Mission to Serbia would continue helping the country fulfil its international commitments.

"A new reform-minded government, based on a wide coalition of pro-European political parties, will help move things forward. The elections have confirmed that the people of Serbia are overwhelmingly in favour of further democratic reforms and

European integration," he said.

He also urged the new government to take concrete actions and fully co-operate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

"It is in Europe's interest to see a consolidated and democratic Serbia," he said. "In the past seven years, since the fall of Milošević, the country has made considerable progress in democracy-building and the adoption of European standards. The future of Serbia is undoubtedly in Europe."

In Pristina, the Chairman-in-Office met President Fatmir Sejdiu, members of the negotiating team in the consultations on Kosovo's status, representatives of the Kosovo Serbian

and other non-Albanian communities, and United Nations officials.

"The OSCE is committed to remaining engaged in Kosovo in the long term, regardless of the content and timing of the final status settlement,"

said Foreign Minister Moratinos.

"Our Mission in Kosovo

can have a key role to play in monitoring and supporting the status implementation, with a focus on decentralization, community rights, and cultural and religious heritage."

He called attention to the potential benefits offered to all communities by UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari's draft proposal.

"It is vital that at this crucial moment all people living in Kosovo show political unity and patience. I also call on all communities to abstain from any forms of violence. Any unilateral actions should also be avoided," he added.



OSCE Chairman-in-Office Miguel Ángel Moratinos in Belgrade, with Serbian President Boris Tadić (left photo), and in Pristina, with President Fatmir Sejdiu.



Kosovo-wide debates draw people closer to local issues



Although the status process has dominated the political landscape in Kosovo for more than a year now, the work of the OSCE Mission in the interest of all communities has maintained its momentum.

Nurturing the growth of civil society at the grass roots is just one of the many crucial areas of action that have been making considerable progress through such OSCE initiatives as the Kosovo-wide "Bridges of Friendship".

Taking advantage of the OSCE

Mission's widespread presence on the ground, debates are being held throughout Kosovo to encourage residents to make their needs and concerns known to their municipal leaders. These events, in turn, help prepare municipalities to assume expanded responsibilities, as foreseen in the proposal for Kosovo's status settlement.

By the time the project ends in April, close to 300 debates will have taken place in all the municipalities of Kosovo.

The results of the public discussions — along with feedback from about 23,000 questionnaires focusing on the interaction between municipalities and residents — will form the basis for recommendations to be handed to municipal leaders in May.

A spirited debate on issues of fairness, transparency and accountability in local governance took place among residents of Besi/Besinja on 22 February.

Photos: OMIK/Hasan Sopa



Resolving the last remaining issue in the Balkans

In Kosovo's capital, a giant mural points the way towards Europe.

COURTESY OF UNMIK EU PILLAR/HAZIR BEKA

Citing the OSCE's achievements in institution-building in Kosovo, United Nations Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari briefed the Permanent Council on 20 February for the third time within a year to update participating States on the latest developments in resolving what he called the "last outstanding open issue in the western Balkans".

On 21 February, the following day, Mr. Ahtisaari held another round of intensive consultations in Vienna on all aspects of a comprehensive proposal for the settlement of Kosovo's status to provide the parties with another opportunity to clarify their positions and narrow their differences.

This was followed, on 10 March, by a final high-level meeting on a revised overall proposal, after which he told the press: "I regret to say that, at the end of the day, there was no will by the parties to move away from their previously stated positions ... It is my firm conclusion that the potential of negotiations is exhausted."

Calling his proposal a "realistic compromise", the Special Envoy made known his plans to finalize it for submission to the UN Security Council in the course of the coming weeks.

The following excerpts from his remarks to the Permanent Council focus on the key elements of his draft proposal and the OSCE's future role in Kosovo.

My draft comprehensive proposal takes into account the outcome of the intensive work with the two parties and of the regular consultations with the Contact Group, the EU, NATO, and other international organizations conducted over more than a year.

In total, we have held 15 rounds of talks in Vienna and 26 expert missions, and visits to Belgrade and Pristina by me and my Deputy Albert Rohan. ... Despite our sustained efforts to bridge the differences between the two sides, there has been only limited agreement on specific aspects. Where no agreement has been reached, I am proposing solutions that I judge to be fair and balanced.

The aim of my proposal is to lay the foundations for a multi-ethnic and democratic society that is viable and stable, in which members of all communities — in particular the Kosovo Serbian community — can live a dignified, safe and economically more sustainable life than they have at the moment. More than two-thirds of the document is geared towards the protection of the non-majority communities, with special focus on the Kosovo Serbs:

- The settlement defines key elements that must be incorporated into a future Constitution of Kosovo. Many of these are for the protection of the Kosovo Serbian and other minority communities, in particular the double-majority voting in several areas by the future Assembly;
- It declares Serbian as an official language and contains specific provisions on the use of other minority communities' languages, as well as on the right to education in these languages;
- Six new or expanded Kosovo Serbian majority municipalities will be established and a number of them will have additional competencies, in particular for secondary health care and higher education;
- Furthermore, all Kosovo Serbian majority municipalities will have the right to co-operate with Serbian institutions and to receive funding from the Republic of Serbia, and in a more transparent manner than is happening today;
- The settlement also contains provisions designed to protect the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo and to ensure that it will remain an active and sustainable religious institution.

The proposal provides for basic constitutional provisions; enhanced rights of communities and their members; principles of decentralization, with maps delineating the new Kosovo Serbian majority municipalities; [respect for] religious and cultural heritage, with maps delineating the protective zones; a Kosovo security sector; a future strong interna-

tional civilian and military presence in Kosovo; and the immediate legislative agenda for the future parliament.

The annexes on security and international presence were not negotiated directly with the parties, but were the result of intensive consultations between the UN Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Future Status Process for Kosovo (UNOSEK) and the international community.

What does the draft comprehensive proposal mean for the OSCE?

Firstly, let me recall that the Organization has been involved with the Kosovo issue from the beginning — for example, through the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission that was deployed back in 1998. Now we ask that the Organization keep its comprehensive presence with a robust field mission to support the work of the International Civilian Representative (ICR) and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) Mission.

I am pleased to note that the work between the OSCE and the preparation team of the International Civilian Office (ICO) on their future co-operation is on-going. An important aspect of this co-operation will be an efficient co-ordination mechanism on the ground. To facilitate this, I have proposed the establishment of a co-ordination committee to be chaired by the ICR, with the OSCE as one of its key participants.

Secondly, given the OSCE's expertise and institutional knowledge, the Organization is likely to be asked to certify the future general and municipal elections as having met international standards.

Thirdly, in co-ordination with the ESDP Mission, the Organization could also continue its work in the areas of human rights and rule of law, even though capacity-building is not part of my proposal, since it is not related to Kosovo's status.

Fourthly, it is envisaged that the OSCE will participate in monitoring the implementation of the settlement in the area of cultural and religious heritage. My proposal foresees that the OSCE, due to its extensive field presence, will be represented in the Implementation and Monitoring Council dealing with the Serbian religious and cultural heritage in Kosovo. The Organization could, for example, mediate between the Serbian Orthodox Church and municipal authorities with regard to the protective zones and bring matters to the attention of the Implementation and Monitoring Council or the ICR, as necessary.

...In this process [of consultations between the parties], there has been a lot of talk about reaching a compromise on the status issue.

However, compromise has meant that each side wanted the other one to accept its position. No amount of delays or meetings will bring about a change in this behaviour. I would have liked to sound more optimistic, but as I have said earlier, it is highly unlikely that a compromise solution on status will emerge.

It will be difficult to find a solution to Kosovo's status if one ignores what went wrong in Kosovo during the 1990s and [fails to recognize] what has happened in the society since then. My proposal is not ideal either, but it is realistic, pragmatic and viable for all the residents of Kosovo. In fact, it provides for the effective protection of the Kosovo Serbian community's rights as well as their cultural and religious heritage. However, my proposal can only provide the framework. Successful implementation will require time and cannot happen without the co-operation of all of Kosovo's communities.

Time is not on our side. I have already delayed my presentation for two months due to the recently held elections in the Republic of Serbia. Further delay would not provide any advantage, but could have a destabilizing effect on the ground. Our interest and responsibility therefore lies in solving the status issue once and for all.

To be successful, I need your support for my efforts and for the settlement. Preparatory work on the implementation of the settlement — particularly between the OSCE, UNMIK and ICR — should also continue to progress. This Permanent Council will have to approve the establishment of the future OSCE field mission to ensure the support to the ICR for the implementation of key aspects of the settlement.

I am very grateful for the encouraging stance taken so far in the preparatory work. In the weeks ahead, I will count on the continuing support of all of you as we work together to resolve this last outstanding open issue in the Western Balkans.



UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari briefed participating States on Kosovo three times within the past year.

OSCE/SUSANNA LOOF

The OSCE buckles down to work on its expanded 2007 agenda



BY MARTIN NESIRKY AND DOV LYNCH

Ministerial Council meetings rarely lighten the burden of the OSCE, but they usually provide direction.

December's meeting in Brussels was no exception. Ministers from the 56 participating States agreed on an expanded agenda encompassing all three areas, or dimensions, of security and took decisions that go some way towards reforming the Organization. All give guidance to this year's Spanish Chairmanship and to the OSCE as a whole.

"Belgium has put in a lot of effort, across the board so to speak, in restoring a better balance between the three dimensions, the three pillars on which the OSCE is based," said Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, who was the Chairman-in-Office in 2006 and

host of the Ministerial Council meeting at the vast Brussels Exhibition Centre (Heysel/Heizel) on the outskirts of the Belgian capital.

In the politico-military sphere, the Ministers agreed that the OSCE should work further to tackle the problem of small arms and light weapons, notably illicit trafficking in them by air. [Meeting in Vienna on 21 March, experts discussed developing a mechanism that would enable an exchange of information on regulations and national legislation concerning import and export controls relating to the air transport sector. The possibility of developing a best-practice guide was also explored.]

The OSCE will also work with others on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), which seeks to pre-

Outgoing Chairman-in-Office, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, consults the family photo arrangement at the Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels.
Photo: Belga/Benoit Doppagne

vent or eliminate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Counter-terrorism, a priority for the Spanish Chairmanship, remains the central focus as the OSCE explores ways to prevent the criminal or terrorist use of passports and the Internet. Russia and the United States will co-sponsor a conference in Vienna from 31 May to 1 June on how the private and public sectors can work together to tackle terrorism.

“Spain is a country that has endured barbarity, which it is taking steps to counter with great political determination while at the same time calling within the Organization for recognition and protection of victims,” said Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos in Brussels.

On economic and environmental matters, the ministers agreed that the Organization should build further on the work accomplished in 2006 on transport, particularly in Central Asia. Experts will meet on this subject in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, possibly in October, highlighting the role of transport in the broader sphere of security.

The Ministers also agreed that the Permanent Council, the OSCE’s main regular decision-making body, should promote dialogue on energy security and help raise awareness about the work of the Group of Eight on climate change.

A high-profile conference on combating discrimination will take place in Bucharest on 7 and 8 June, and Spain will also host a youth forum before the Ministerial Council

meeting in Madrid. Both events are in line with the ministers’ decisions in Brussels in the realm of human security. Action to combat trafficking also figured prominently at the Brussels meeting, and it is expected that there will be a focus in 2007 on combating the sexual exploitation of children.

Since anti-trafficking efforts cut across several areas of security and tie in with the fight against organized crime, Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut has created a task force to help build expertise in this area.

The role of the Secretary General has been adjusted slightly in some areas as part of the reforms agreed on in Brussels to strengthen the Organization’s effectiveness. He was also asked to roll out “performance-based programme budgeting”, which is intended to make it easier to measure how well the Organization achieves its objectives. A new three-committee structure has been introduced under the Permanent Council to help balance the three dimensions of security and to improve preparatory work.

The Ministers could not reach the required consensus on Kazakhstan’s proposal to chair the OSCE in 2009, but decided instead to return to the offer at the latest at the next Ministerial Council, to be held on 29 and 30 November in Madrid.

**Martin Nesirky is OSCE Spokesperson and
Dov Lynch is Senior Adviser to the Secretary
General.**



Karel De Gucht and Miguel Ángel Moratinos with Croatian Foreign Minister Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović and Greek Foreign Minister Theodora Bakoyannis.

BELGA/RENIT DORPAGNE



THE CHAIRMANSHIP

A new Don Quixote waiting in the wings

BY AMBASSADOR BERTRAND DE CROMBRUGGHE

When we finalized the impressive number of texts in Brussels addressing terrorism, organized crime, exploitation of human beings, and issues such as transportation, energy security, migration, tolerance, and freedom of the media, to name but a few subjects, there was applause, even a short moment of blissful happiness. I thought: “Maybe the delegations are with us after all.”

To be frank with you, it has been — for the Chairmanship in Brussels, for myself and for my team in Vienna — an uphill battle throughout the year. It was a difficult battle, but also an exciting one, as the quest for a

peak or a summit always is. So, no complaints — we had our share of satisfaction.

The long climb to the summit itself warmed our hearts. We figured that Sisyphus had been a happy man. We reckoned that slowly, after all, the OSCE might march ahead towards good sense. We also felt that political immobility was not conceivable, that we constantly needed to move forward, with all the power of human intelligence.

Do some delegations still object? Maybe, and if that is the case, we apologize in advance but do not feel disturbed.

The French fabulist Jean de la Fontaine recounted a wonderful story about a miller who travels down a path in legendary Provence with his son and his mule. A first group of travellers he meets comments on

Sharing a light moment: (seated) outgoing OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht; Walter Stevens, deputy head on the Foreign Minister’s cabinet; (standing) Ambassador de Crombrughe; Sonya Van Nieuwenhuyze, administrative assistant at the Belgian delegation in Vienna; and Pierre Chevalier, Special Envoy of the Belgian Chairman-in-Office.

Photo: Belga/Benoit Doppagne

how stupid he is to let the animal off so lightly. So the miller climbs astride it. A second group of travellers remarks on how shameful it is that the child has to go on foot. So the miller dismounts and lifts his son onto the animal. A third group of travellers does not understand why the old man is doing the walking, not the young boy. So he climbs back onto the mule, but this time, with the boy riding behind him. On seeing this, a fourth group of travellers bewails the fact that the poor animal is overloaded and is being ill-treated, and threatens to denounce the miller.

“He must be mad in his head, he who hopes to please every one and his father,” concludes de la Fontaine.

Hardly any similarity with the OSCE! Everybody wants to govern, nobody wants to be a citizen. To use an ancient Greek concept, where then is the *polis*?

We are 56 participating States, a “wide-body” organization, and thoroughly decentralized at that, with numerous ramifications operating in almost complete freedom. We are an organization barely tolerating leadership.

By the way, and here I open a parenthesis, one of the pleasures of the Chairmanship is to receive all kinds of mail, some less related to the OSCE than others, some funnier than others. At the very beginning of 2006, I received a letter that I promised myself I would share with you in due course. It is from a certain Mr. Martin John Callanan in London. I have no clue who this chap is or what his connection to the OSCE might be.

His letter reads very simply: “Dear Chairman, I respect your authority.” Wonderful! How did the chap get this into his mind, I truly wondered! It seemed like a promising start to me, but I can assure you, it only inspired a short and wild dream, nothing more. I did not divulge it early in this Chairmanship. I feared I might be misunderstood.

But back to our subject: The freedom of action enjoyed by our institutions, field operations, representatives, seconded personnel and the like is truly inspiring. No doubt, some very good and useful work is being achieved every day. I personally never fail to stress this on every suitable occasion. Yet, it is also true that — as is noted by those who have grown familiar with the operation of our Organization — continuity and consistency are not the OSCE’s strong points. The system insufficiently supports the decentralized units while the free creativity of the latter more often than not remains small-scale and short-lived, if we ever hear about it at all.

Somebody once told me that the OSCE looked like a stupid insect, spending half of its lifetime producing the cocoon it needs and the other half, destroying it. That probably is an exaggeration, but nevertheless an image to ponder.

Throughout the year, the Chairmanship runs from one corner of the OSCE to the other, attending to emergencies, battling interference, unable to rely on any natural convergence of a myriad initiatives, struggling to keep some kind of line in the actions undertaken and then being at pains to explain what has happened, even when it would not quite understand itself.

Freedom of initiative may be a key concept in our system. However, without any structure, without a minimum of order, the OSCE cannot deliver the durable services that participating States rightfully expect from it.

Paul Claudel once exclaimed: “Oh Lord, I am free! Liberate me from my freedom!” The OSCE today risks reaching the stage where it will succumb to its excessive decentralization, where its ramifications will act against each other. Is this not what we witnessed during the cartoon crisis? The decisions taken in Brussels go some way towards addressing the decentralization issue. They should be followed up thoroughly.

I may sound apocalyptic but I am not worried. The reason is simple: the calendar. Although the OSCE Chairmanship is a demanding and thankless experience, there is always someone around the corner, on 1 January, ready to rise up to the task and to take it over.

“There always is, somewhere in our world, a chivalrous knight, a new Don Quixote, some obscure martyr with clumsy kindness, with awkward probity, with excessively transparent ingenuity, some noble mind fooled by over-generous illusions, some sublime being who in exchange for his gentle and affectionate virtues, will receive only brutality, kicks, punches and blows ...

“Do you know someone like that? I tell you, I do, and I revere him. He is mad, but then, too, he is the elite of humankind.”

(Thank you, Cervantes, for these very nice quotations.)

Carlos Sánchez de Boado, I solemnly transfer to you the attributes of the Chairmanship: the gavel of course, but also the cushion — the one destined to decorate the “conflict-prevention couch”, which you will always have to keep in your office. That couch with the cushion as the legend goes, has the power to turn visitors away from litigious intentions and make them work for peace, hence for the OSCE and hence for the Chairmanship.

The cushion is also good as a shield against the kicks, punches and blows.

Good luck, as from 1 January 2007!

This article is adapted from the light-hearted remarks of Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe to representatives of participating States at the Hofburg on 21 December 2006. The occasion was the end of his term as Chairman of the Permanent Council during the Belgian Chairmanship.



PRESIDENT OF LITHUANIA

Cherishing the vision of a Europe “whole and free”: Adamkus

The dichotomy of “east of Vienna” and “west of Vienna” holds no meaning for his country, Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus told the Permanent Council on 8 March during a three-day working visit to the Austrian capital. A common body of commitments — a “compass” guiding the behaviour of participating States — is at the core of the OSCE, he said, urging that more be done to create conditions that would erase dividing lines, “both on the ground and in our minds”. Excerpts from the President’s address follow.

President Valdas Adamkus, accompanied by Lithuanian Ambassador Rytis Paulauskas, is welcomed to the Hofburg Congress Centre by Spanish Ambassador Carlos Sánchez de Boado.
Photo: Džoja Gunda Barysaitė/Office of the President of Lithuania

There is an idea that I cherish deeply, and I believe we all do. That is the idea of building a “Europe whole and free” and a Europe that is at peace with itself. I have always held this idea dear to my heart and it is one that makes the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe unique.

Founded on the vision of inclusiveness and working together to build our continent whole and free, the OSCE area stretches from Vancouver to Vladivostok, reaching from the Caspian to the Baltic, from Canada to Central Asia.

We have come a long way from the difficult days of Helsinki 1975. Europe has been set on a clear course, walls of mistrust have been brought down, families have been reunited and wars have been extinguished. Foreign troops have been withdrawn from a number of States, including Lithuania.

The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe played a crucial role in catalyzing democratic transformations. The Helsinki groups that emerged in many places heralded the determination to live in a democratic society and the hope that this goal was within reach.

The Charter of Paris of 1990 set forth a vision for a New Greater Europe, starting from the premise that “Europe whole and free is calling for a new beginning”. We have come a long way since Paris. However, our task is not finished and our vision is not complete.

CAUSE FOR PRIDE

A common body of commitments lies at the core of the OSCE. These commitments are designed to act as a compass guiding our behaviour. They are a cause for pride, but also remind us of our responsibility to live up to the aspirations to which we have all subscribed.

For my country, the OSCE means “us”, not “us and them”. The dichotomy of “east of Vienna” and “west of Vienna” has no meaning for us.

While much has been done to unite the OSCE area and to overcome the dividing lines

of the past, we should recognize that there remain regions characterized by tensions and lack of dialogue. As long as conflicts remain unsettled in the South Caucasus and Moldova and tensions continue in parts of south-eastern Europe, we have work to do. Our joint responsibility here is to build confidence by challenging the disagreements and to ensure the security, territorial integrity and sovereignty of participating States.

REJOINING EUROPE

The idea on which the OSCE is founded is dear to all the people of Lithuania. For many years, the OSCE has been our guide to democratic goals and values and it has always inspired us to action. After having lived in imposed isolation, Lithuania has rightfully rejoined the family of Europe as a full member of the OSCE, the EU and NATO. The OSCE's values and commitments and the OSCE institutions helped guide us through this process. For this, the Lithuanian people are ever grateful. And because of this, we wish to contribute more.

It is this feeling of commitment that motivates us to offer our candidacy for the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2010. For its Chairmanship, Lithuania offers continuity and active engagement in promoting the implementation of OSCE commitments, encouraging regional co-operation and countering old and new threats to security and stability.

I wish to draw your attention to the following particular points of interest to my country:

The global challenges of the twenty-first century are the OSCE's core business. Countering the threat of terrorism and organized crime, fighting discrimination and promoting tolerance, addressing the pressing issues of energy security, environmental protection and migration, and promoting freedom of movement are and will continue to be a significant part of the Organization's agenda.

The OSCE has already developed a substantive role, through the Secretariat, in assisting participating States to reform their police agencies and move towards new and modern forms of policing. We support this strongly and recognize that we can perhaps do much more, particularly in considering the role of possible policing operations in zones of protracted conflict.

However, we have not yet come to the point where we can say that the OSCE's or any other regional organization's efforts alone are sufficient. Thus, we are very enthusiastic about the European Union's decision to reach out towards the States in Central Asia and sincerely hope that this move will be welcomed.

Indeed, we have to do more to enable us to understand each other better by fostering people-to-people contacts and encouraging business relations and tourism, not least with a view to discovering the richness of the cultural heritage of Central Asia and the new opportunities its countries offer.

VILNIUS PROCESS

One of the most important lessons from the Lithuanian experience of the past 15 to 16 years has been the importance of good neighbourly relations and building a region connected by strong co-operative ties at all levels. As a result, today, the Baltic Sea region can be proud of its active regional institutions, people-to-people contacts and trade, and even its common regional agenda. I am proud of the fact that a series of high-level meetings and conferences known as the "Vilnius Process" has greatly contributed to the success of this outreach effort.

We believe that the OSCE should help advance subregional co-operation where regional identity hardly exists and where countries are still struggling to find common ground for dialogue.

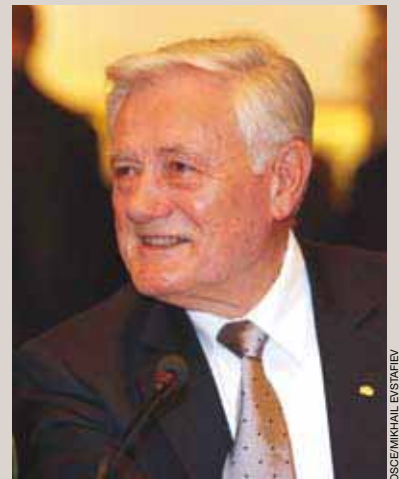
For us, the concept of regional co-operation and the good neighbourhood policy have been instrumental in resolving many difficult issues. A mutually acceptable agreement with Russia on passenger transit to and from the Kaliningrad region is just one example, but a telling one. Indeed, it is through such practical and pragmatic measures that we can build a united OSCE area for States, societies and individuals.

I am certain that we can all do more in creating the right conditions to erase the dividing lines and remove the hurdles that still exist among us, both on the ground and in our minds.

We should not shy away from difficulties, but should draw confidence from our shared past and the challenges that we have already overcome through our common resolve. Working together, in harmony and with a shared sense of responsibility, we can come considerably closer to achieving the vision of a "Europe whole and free" that brought us together in the first place.

A Lithuanian patriot

Valdas Adamkus was elected President of Lithuania in 2004 for a five-year term, having served in the same position from 1998 to early 2003. Born in Kaunas, he fled to Germany from Soviet occupation with his parents when he was 18. After studying at the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Munich University, he moved to the United States in 1949, where he worked in an automobile parts factory and later as a draughtsman. A graduate in civil engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology, he joined the newly created U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1970, moving up to regional administrator in a career spanning three decades. Valdas Adamkus was active in the public and political life of the Lithuanian expatriate community. He traveled to Lithuania frequently after visiting for the first time in 1972. He and his wife, also from Lithuania, came home to stay in 1997. An avid sportsman, he won two gold and two silver medals in track-and-field events at the Olympic Games of the Enslaved Nations of 1948.



OSCE/MIKHAIL ENSTAFIEV

Hands across the Danube in the drive against drugs and crime

The OSCE, as is often noted, is a “regional arrangement” of the United Nations under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, making it a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The full significance of this, however, is not always clear. To illustrate how the arrangement works in practice for the benefit of international peace and regional security, it is worth taking a close look at the relationship between the OSCE Secretariat and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) — both based in Vienna.

BY WALTER KEMP AND STEPHANIE LIECHTENSTEIN

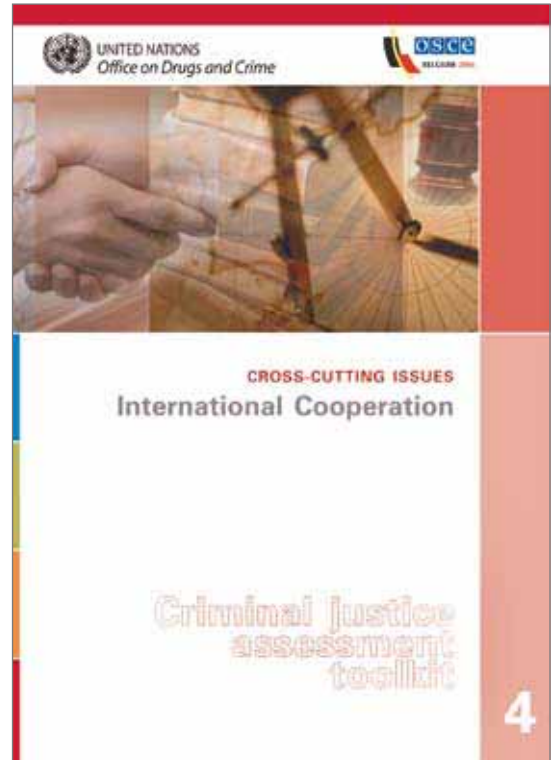
With drugs, crime and terrorism high on the global security agenda, the OSCE participating States are increasingly seeking technical assistance from international organizations and exploring ways to co-operate more closely among themselves. Transnational threats require multinational responses, and both the OSCE and UNODC are well positioned to provide support.

“When you look at the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century (2003), many of the salient issues fall within the mandate of

UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in December 2006.



BELGABENOIT DOPRAGNE



UNODC,” says OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut. And the fact that the UN Office in Vienna is just across the Danube makes co-operation easy. “We have good working level contacts and since many OSCE ambassadors are accredited to both organizations, they know the issues well. Co-operation is a perfect fit.”

ORGANIZED CRIME

The international community is trying to keep pace with the changing nature of threats to security by drawing up agreements that are relevant and responsive. For its part, UNODC brokered — and is now the custodian of — the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which came into force in 2003. Also known as the Palermo Convention, it is the most progressive international instrument ever designed to promote co-operation in preventing and combating transnational organized crime.

In 2005, the OSCE’s Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana urged participating States to sign and ratify the Palermo Convention. Follow-up action was urged by the 2006 Belgian Chairmanship, which had placed the threat posed by organized crime high on its list of priorities. Thanks to a joint UNODC-OSCE workshop organized in March 2006, the numbers have indeed gone up.

This is welcome news to UNODC, which has been seeking to improve law enforcement and mutual legal assistance through regional co-operation. “Organized crime



TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE

is a major threat to the OSCE area,” says UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa. “Criminals don’t respect borders, so we need to make the arm of the law longer so that law enforcement networks become more effective than criminal networks”.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING

The Palermo Convention’s Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children presents another ideal opportunity for UNODC and the OSCE to work together. Ratification of the Protocol by participating States figures prominently in the OSCE’s Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

To help States reach this goal, the OSCE’s Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as field missions, provide them with assistance in amending and implementing legislation and in introducing effective anti-trafficking measures.

Mr. Costa hopes that OSCE participating States will join a new Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking and Modern-day Slavery, which will be the subject of an international conference in Vienna at the end of November.

Demand for legal and technical expertise is great as States try to keep up with the requirements of a whole new range of global measures against organized

crime, corruption and terrorism. Both UNODC and the OSCE have the capacity to offer States the assistance they sorely need to enable them to turn their good intentions into action. After all, ratification is only the first step. Implementation is key.

ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM

In action against terrorism alone, 13 universal instruments come into play. The OSCE’s Action Against Terrorism Unit (ATU) is working towards achieving a 100 per cent ratification rate among the OSCE participating States. The ATU, together with UNODC, is also helping States to enhance legal co-operation in the fight against crime, especially in matters related to counter-terrorism, such as extradition and mutual legal assistance.

To build national expertise, joint OSCE-UNODC workshops are held regularly for technical specialists, such as the one hosted for Central Asia and the Caucasus in February 2007. “These serve as an opportu-

Antalya, Turkey, 13-15 February 2007: Andrey Stytsenko (left), Programme Officer, Action against Terrorism Unit in the OSCE, and Walter Gehr, Project Co-ordinator, UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch, moderate a jointly organized regional workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus.



OSCE/MIKHAL BUSTAREV

Eva BiauDET, OSCE’s Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, with Arturo Pérez Martínez, Deputy Head of the Spanish Mission to the OSCE.

nity to reinforce political commitments and pass on to States the skills they need for the implementation of concrete measures,” says Jean-Paul Laborde, Chief of UNODC’s Terrorism Prevention Branch.

MONEY LAUNDERING

The complementary efforts across the Danube extend to initiatives aimed against money laundering, financing of terrorism and corruption.

UNODC is the custodian of the UN Convention Against Corruption — the only global instrument of its kind — which entered into force in 2005. This year, the two organizations will publish an implementation guide on the Convention to help OSCE participating States design and carry out anti-corruption measures.

“Since crime and corruption deter domestic and foreign investment, we must help States to establish a sound business environment as an essential precondition for sustainable economic growth,” says Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

OSCE field missions are doing their share to build skills and strengthen capacity. In Serbia, the OSCE Mission helped develop a central criminal intelligence system. In Kosovo, the OSCE and UN Missions conducted basic training on organized crime and financial investigation. And in Kazakhstan, the OSCE Centre has worked with authorities, the World Bank and UNODC to draft a law aimed at combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The OSCE and UNODC are also deepening their co-operation to improve the criminal justice system according to international norms and standards. At the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels last December, both organizations, upon the initiative of the Belgian Chairmanship, launched an assessment toolkit designed to guide practitioners and government officials in identifying needs in policing, access to justice, custodial measures and other areas.

Is there scope for an even closer working relationship, for example in the field of drugs? “Any support that the OSCE can provide to contain the threat posed by Afghanistan’s opium is most welcome,” says Mr. Costa. “Improving capacity and regional co-operation among law enforcement agencies in Central Asia is one possibility.”

A first attempt in that direction was made when the OSCE and UNODC pooled their resources for an expert workshop on com-



UNODC PHOTO LIBRARY

bating the threat of illicit drugs in October 2006. The OSCE is also one of 14 international partners of the Paris Pact Initiative (2003), which is designed to improve co-operation against illicit drug trafficking from Afghanistan.

Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut expects co-operation between the OSCE and UNODC to continue growing. “Drugs, crime and terrorism pose a real and present danger to all the participating States,” he says. “By working with UNODC, we can lighten their burden in the OSCE area and draw on their expertise; at the same time, they can rely on us to generate political will and assist in providing technical expertise.”

Echoing this sentiment, UNODC Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa adds: “Our co-operation with the OSCE could be a model for other regions in the world.”

Walter Kemp, who worked for the OSCE from 1996 to 2006, is a speech writer in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Stephanie Liechtenstein is a senior assistant in the Office of the OSCE Secretary General.

Afghanistan’s recent bumper crop of opium is currently one of the greatest threats to the OSCE region, according to the UNODC.

Vienna, 14 February 2007: OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (left), here with Karl Wycoff, Head of the OSCE’s Action against Terrorism Unit, opens an annual tripartite meeting (OSCE, Council of Europe and the UN) which focused on counter-terrorism this year.



OSCE/MICHAEL BUSTAREY



Pursuing the principles of community-based policing

Kevin Carty: “No one-size-fits-all prescriptions”

The time has come for the OSCE to start sharing its storehouse of policing-related knowledge and experience with practitioners and policymakers, says Kevin Carty, Senior Police Adviser to the Secretary General. In an interview with Patricia N. Sutter, Editor of the *OSCE Magazine*, the former Commissioner of the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina describes the renewed push of the Vienna-based Strategic Police Matters Unit to address the broad spectrum of law-enforcement concerns of participating States as efficiently and effectively as possible.

What were your priorities when you took the helm of the Strategic Police Matters Unit a year ago?

I felt we needed to focus our activities by responding more strategically to various Ministerial Council and Permanent Council decisions and OSCE action plans — with their emphasis on getting the basic ingredients of democratic policing right in relation to today’s new security threats. We’re of course also taking into account the special priority areas of successive OSCE Chairmanships. Our work programme for this year reflects this approach [see box, page 20]. A major emphasis is on identifying and disseminating effective policing practices in all the different areas.

At the same time, despite the self-sufficiency of policing programmes in the field, the SPMU continues to provide heads of mission with policing-related support,

advice and assistance. On behalf of the Secretariat, I am expected to deliver a very clear message to ministers of the interior in the host governments about the importance of policing and reforms in creating a safe and secure environment for their citizens.

What are some of the new initiatives you have embarked on?

We’re commencing a lessons-learned project in Skopje and Bishkek, initially focusing on our experience in community policing. This will be the first of a series, and we’ll be making it available on POLIS, our new on-line information system, so that people involved in designing programmes, including our own field experts, can find answers to basic questions such as: Is there something that has been done before so we don’t have to reinvent the wheel? What’s the best practice in this area?

We are going about this exercise by talking to people, communities, NGOs and police and officials at the local level to find out what they think about our activities. Are they relevant, effective, sustainable and well received by the police? We need to have a broader opinion base and not just by internal feedback, which might be biased.

We’re putting greater emphasis on regional co-ordination, again to identify les-

The OSCE’s assistance to police reform in Georgia is contributing towards the country’s goal of transforming its culture of policing.

Photo: OSCE Mission to Georgia/Cliff Volpe



KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE

The Republic of Korea, an OSCE Partner for Co-operation, is sharing its experience in law enforcement through the OSCE's Policing OnLine Information System (POLIS).

sons learned and best practices. From the Secretariat, we have to take a broader “helicopter view” of the policing elements in our field operations and try to identify how we can enhance co-operation within each of the regions, particularly concerning various facets of organized crime.

We have to bear in mind that there are several other international organizations and bilateral arrangements out there, and that the EU is heavily involved in most of the places where we've traditionally been present. And since duplication is a waste of taxpayers' money, we have to ensure that what we're doing is co-ordinated and that we in the OSCE are addressing areas where we can bring in added value.

This year, we're holding a number of first-time events, such as a seminar on the role of women as senior managers in police forces and a workshop on police co-operation in preventing terrorist activities.

What are the OSCE's advantages over other organizations?

In responding to the needs and requests of participating States, we have the ability

to act more quickly. We're more flexible, more fluid, more mobile than many other organizations. We have the ability to get qualified, short-term experts on the ground at short notice to determine what is wrong and come up with possible solutions, especially in situations calling for conflict prevention and conflict resolution.

This is a key advantage of the OSCE, especially when you consider that finding exactly the right expert for a specific task in a host country is a major challenge for any international policing mission. There is quantity all right, but it is quality that you want to put on the ground. If you don't have that, you're on the losing end from the start. That is why we have to convince “sender-States” of the importance of the selection process for experts.

Policing has an impact on many other thematic activities of the OSCE. How do you ensure that all concerns are taken into account?

We liaise with the various units dealing with themes in which policing has a key role to play. The Secretary General also holds “cluster” meetings, in which all the relevant units in the Secretariat are represented. We also have extrabudgetary funding for a task force on organized crime in which all the thematic units of the Secretariat and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) are represented. The purpose is to examine how the Organization can assist more effectively in its efforts to address organized crime.

In addition, as can be seen in our action plan, we carry out joint activities with OSCE institutions. This year, with the High Commissioner for National Minorities, we will be developing guidelines on best practices in community-based policing. We are also co-operating with the ODIHR on policing matters dealing with Roma and Sinti communities and hate crimes.

A preview of policing 2007

“Everything we do in policing — whether it's strengthening capacity or building institutions — is in response to requests from participating States”, says Senior Police Adviser Kevin Carty. “And they want the assistance to be sustainable so that they can take it forward through their own efforts and their own resources.”

In 2007, the Strategic Police Matters Unit will focus on:

- Supporting initiatives against organized crime, giving priority to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
- Exchanging good practices on basic police training;
- Designing a framework of community-based policing;

- Analyzing and disseminating the lessons learned in police assistance activities;
- Enhancing co-operation in the fight against drug trafficking;
- Improving police co-operation in the prevention of terrorist activities;
- Promoting the role of women as senior managers in police forces;
- Exploring ways of investigating the sexual exploitation of children more effectively; and
- Assisting participating States to reach out to ethnic minorities through community-based policing programmes.

Community-based policing would seem to be an easy concept to introduce everywhere but the reality is different. What are some of the major challenges you face in advocating it?

The major challenges that we face are ensuring that there is legislation to underpin community policing, senior management commits itself to the process, police are correctly trained to implement this specialized job, an effective oversight mechanism is set up, the needs of minority communities are assured and catered for, and international standards in human rights are observed.

We go back to the words of Sir Robert Peale (1788-1850), who said more than a century ago: “The police are the public, the public are the police.” Policing is a partnership and if that relationship is not working properly, then policing will not be effective.

We will hold a number of workshops this year in the OSCE region as part of our drafting of guidelines for basic police training that I mentioned earlier. I am in favour of ensuring that people can walk before they try to run.

What is the one aspect that you would like to clarify about community-based policing as promoted by the OSCE?

When we first talked about community-based policing, people thought, “Oh, you’re trying to develop a one-size-fits-all prescription.” No, such an approach is not logical because of the cultural and ethnic diversity in OSCE countries. Our programmes will have to be country-specific, even city-specific and conflict-specific.

What we *are* trying to promote is recognition of the key ingredients for success: training, legislation, “buy-in” from senior authorities, and most importantly, the ability to communicate with the public — areas that have not received enough attention.



OSCE CENTRE IN BISHKEK/ERIC GOURLAN

Are you seeing any tangible results at all yet in community policing?

The development of community-based policing is a process, not an event. Several years may be needed before its full impact becomes evident. Again, I’d like to emphasize the importance of the host State’s continued commitment to the process and to its sustainability. The SPMU is closely monitoring community policing programmes, and we are confident that if the present level of commitment is maintained, then we will have concrete, favourable results in the next few years, which will lead to enhanced policing.

The partnership between the police and the public is being strongly promoted in Kyrgyzstan.

“It gives me great satisfaction to be able to contribute to policing reform and development in the OSCE region,” says Senior Police Adviser Kevin Carty. “In the end, it’s all about improving people’s safety and quality of life.”

From 2004 to 2005, Mr. Carty served as Commissioner of the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, overseeing some 900 international police officers and civilian personnel. Prior to that, he served as special adviser to the Independent Panel on the Safety and Security of UN Personnel in Iraq in the aftermath of the bomb attack on UN offices in Baghdad in August 2003.

Mr. Carty holds the rank of Assistant Commissioner in the National Police of Ireland (*An Garda Síochána*) and at one time served as Police Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Region. He has held key leadership positions in Ireland’s fight against crime and drug trafficking and in intelligence security matters.



OSCE/MIKHAIL ENSTAFIEV

POLIS: Sharing a vast wealth of expertise

By Alina Josan

Something had to be done. There simply had to be a quicker, more efficient and cost-effective way to respond to participating States' urgent policing requests in the field.

This was the consensus reached by heads of policing and law enforcement operations in the OSCE's missions in south-eastern Europe after realizing that they were encountering the same stumbling blocks to policing work.

Now, after an intensive development phase of two years, the OSCE's "one-stop-shop" solution — the Policing OnLine Information System (POLIS) — is up and running. Since this comprehensive and practical tool was unveiled at the first OSCE meeting of police chiefs in Brussels late last year, more than 400 policing practitioners and policy-makers have registered as users.

What is in it for them?

Rapid access to information through a digital library.

"Our institutional knowledge is as spread out as our staff, and it is essential that they are able to access information when they need it regardless of where they might be," said Belgian Ambassador Bernard de Crombrughe at a briefing for participating States in Vienna on 18 December 2006.

That same day, several national staff who had been designated as POLIS focal points in field offices and staff from OSCE institutions were introduced to the system. Their role is crucial: They will be responsible for actively ensuring the continuous flow of current and relevant information into the virtual police library.

One of the participants recalled: "How often has someone in, say, Skopje struggled to develop a policing training module, only to discover that a similar approach had already been tried and tested successfully in next-door Kosovo? This online information system should put an end to these frustrations."

Based on the concept of knowledge management, POLIS is a veritable gold mine of material on policing programmes and projects, course curricula, research papers, legal documents, recommended practices and lessons drawn from OSCE police activities. OSCE staff, delegations and national police officials have full access while the general public and other registered users have access to non-confidential information and abstracts of restricted documents.

A section on country policing profiles is proving particularly popular. So far there are detailed presentations from 30 participating States describing the way their law enforcement and criminal justice systems are organized. The Republic of Korea is the first Asian Partner for Co-operation to make its profile available.

Faster, more transparent and better-targeted recruitment of experienced police experts for short-term assignments through a police experts database.

Before the introduction of POLIS, the hiring of consultants for even the shortest assignments had to be routed to various ministries, through OSCE delegations, resulting in some delays. The fact that policing is highly specialized lengthened the procedure even more. For example, finding the right experts for forensic work and fingerprint analysis requires considerable effort. And once they are identified, they are often not readily released from their regular jobs in their home countries.

POLIS has reversed the process. Experts can now literally find us instead of the other way around. By drawing up

a professional profile online and keeping it updated, police officers and experts make it simpler for themselves and for the OSCE to come up with a perfect match. Once chosen, candidates are responsible for making their own work-related arrangements with their respective authorities.

So far, more than 100 police officers with expertise in every area of law enforcement have made known their availability for assignments lasting up to six months. The mechanism got off to a promising start when our missions in Armenia and Georgia chose experts for their police assistance programmes by tapping into the police profiles.

Maximum results from international assistance achieved by avoiding duplication, overlapping and waste of resources through a donors co-ordination mechanism.

Just about everybody advocates closer international co-operation, but finds that it is easier said than done. With the advent of POLIS, a mechanism is finally available to work towards this goal.

Setting an ideal example of resource-sharing, POLIS has teamed up with the Automated Donors Assistance Mechanism (ADAM), a powerful tool created by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The joint system will be extremely secure and will feature a current list of policing activities implemented by the UN, EC, OSCE and bilateral donors. It will connect donors, implementing agencies and beneficiaries, and will automatically alert donors, via e-mail, to potential duplications.

"POLIS is an excellent example of the coherent linking of an identified need with a specific task and resources placed at its disposal," OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut told participating States.

Alina Josan, Project Manager of POLIS, is an Information Management Officer in the Strategic Police Matters Unit.



POLIS, currently available in English and Russian, can be expanded to include other languages. <http://polis.osce.org>



Transnational crime-busters agree to strengthen joint action

Police chiefs' summits off to an encouraging start

What happens when police chiefs, police inspectors and police commissioners from more than 50 OSCE participating States and their partner countries come together under one roof to explore ways of co-operating more closely in the fight against transnational organized crime? The first event of its kind, organized by the OSCE's 2006 Belgian Chairmanship, the Belgian Federal Police and the OSCE's Strategic Police Matters Unit, revealed the benefits of well-planned encounters between senior law enforcers, using the OSCE as a platform for dialogue and a catalyst for action.

BY PATRICIA N. SUTTER

No time was wasted. The discussions were no-nonsense, practical and packed with substance. Everyone was eager to absorb every morsel of shared information, strategy and new methodology. A high calibre of professionalism and expertise was much in evidence.

This was the spirit that filled the grand halls of the Egmont Palace in Brussels on 24 November last year, at the tail-end of the OSCE's Belgian Chairmanship.

Pierre Chevalier, Special Envoy of Belgian Chairman-in-Office Karel De Gucht, explained the rationale behind the gathering, which now looks set to take place every three years:

"We can talk about organized crime as much as we want, but at the end of the day it is the professionals — you — who need to be given the support and the means to work together across our national borders. It is you who need to exchange information, push investigations, extradite suspects, bring them to justice. And it is you who need to be able to rely on the full co-operation and readiness of colleagues and judicial structures in every country concerned."

"My country has strong ties with Europol, but the geographical coverage at this meeting is wider," said Police Lt.-Gen. Chatree Soonthornsorn from Thailand, looking over the ambitious day-long agenda. "I'm responsible for cybercrime issues, and it's important for me to learn as much as I can in an area that involves big money, terrorism, and even child pornography, but leaves no traces, no fingerprints, no weapons."

Another participant who flew in from Bangkok was John Allaert, Chief Police Commissioner at Belgium's Liaison Office in Thailand. "These gatherings are all about the personal touch and complementarity," he said. "Sometimes traditional channels simply aren't enough."

Egmont Palace, Brussels, 24 November 2006: More than 50 participating States and Partners for Co-operation took part in the first OSCE meeting of police chiefs and commissioners.

Photo: Belgian Interior Ministry



BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER/ARDELEAN DIMITRI

Professor Changwon Pyo from the Republic of Korea's National Police University and the Asian Association of Police Studies (right) and Mongolian police officials exchange thoughts on a possible Organization for Security and Co-operation in Asia.

Aside from Thailand, other OSCE Partners for Co-operation that sent representatives were Afghanistan, Israel, Mongolia, Morocco and Tunisia.

Makhmadsaid Djurakulov, Head of Tajikistan's Department for Combating Organized Crime, said that, in the recent past, his country had ranked third in the volume of drugs seized, including heroin. "It's about time that all countries came up with a legal mechanism that strengthens our efforts in this area," he said, unwittingly making a pitch for the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime.

"I thought it was great, and not only because it was a 'police summit' but also because it included academic research as well as field experiences," said Professor Changwon Pyo from Korea's National Police University and the Asian Association of Police Studies, who briefed participants on the South Korean policing model.

"I had an interesting discussion with the Mongolian police chief who wanted to know more about criminal intelligence systems and international co-operation," Professor Pyo said. "We also talked about the possibilities for — and barriers to — the establishment of an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Asia."

Coffee breaks and lunch in the Hall of Mirrors were opportunities for one-on-one exchanges of statistics and anecdotes concerning drug busts, smuggling of cigarettes and weapons, stolen vehicles, human casualties in containers, fraud and counterfeit rings, fraudulent papers and travel documents, DNA profiling and fingerprint collections.

ANALYZING THREATS

The latest tools and methods for analyzing security risks and threats came under intense scrutiny, leading participants to examine a major challenge: how information

can be transformed into knowledge, and most importantly, how to use this as a basis for policy-making.

"As a law enforcement officer and the Director of Europol, I was very much interested in hearing different points of view regarding the approach to threat assessment," said Max-Peter Ratzel. He found a ready audience for his presentation of Europol's freshly packaged "Organised Crime Threat Assessment" (OCTA), which uses up-to-date intelligence analysis for proactive policing.

"The situation in our close vicinity can have a direct impact on security in Europe and the safety of EU citizens," said Mr. Ratzel. "One of the advantages of the event was the presence of high-ranking officers from countries that are not EU member States, or even OSCE participating States. This gave Europol an excellent opportunity to approach law enforcement colleagues who are normally outside its contact list."

"The OSCE's greatest asset is its experience in training and spreading best practice examples," said Jaakko Christensen, Senior Detective Superintendent in Finland's National Bureau of Investigation.

In fact, the criminal intelligence cycle — collection, analysis and decision-making — is a prime area for training that the OSCE is well positioned to provide, Mr. Christensen told the *OSCE Magazine*. "Although intelligence-led law enforcement is no longer a novelty, training in developing a structure that will consistently process information using the concept of intelligence-led law enforcement is vital for arriving at correct decisions."

Another area that he believed could benefit greatly from OSCE-led training and development was project-based, target-oriented, multidisciplinary law enforcement co-operation, using the best available examples.

"Increasingly, organized criminality is not bound to certain types of crime, but will engage in anything that brings a profit, so law enforcers should be able to pool expertise, for example, through police, customs and border guard co-operation," he said. "One geographic region in which the OSCE could assist in making contacts is the western Balkans, which have an impact on organized crime in northeastern Europe."

EARLY WARNING

The importance of evidence-led analysis in drawing up strategic action and setting priorities was driven home to the police chiefs when a reputable authority sounded an early warning about an "imminent heroin

tsunami” heading from Afghanistan towards Europe.

The alarm was raised by Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Armed with statistics, he said that Afghanistan’s recent bumper crop of opium — more than 6,000 tons that were being converted into 700 tons of heroin — was “currently one of the greatest threats to the OSCE region”. About 20 per cent of the heroin was expected to enter the OSCE area directly through Central Asia and by way of the Silk Road, while 80 per cent would make its way to Western Europe through Pakistan and Iran.

“Whatever the exit route, this tidal wave will soon reach your policing jurisdictions,” Mr. Costa said. “Drug traffickers seek the paths of least resistance, namely areas where there is instability, corruption and weak law enforcement. That is where your collaborative efforts are most needed.”

He urged the police chiefs to help in carrying out the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. The OSCE’s Strategic Police Matters Unit is assisting in efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of the legal framework.

“The OSCE’s ability to mobilize the political willpower of 56 participating States behind initiatives that have been developed by other expert international organizations brings something unique to our common efforts,” said OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut.

The day’s agenda was not confined to technical topics, but also encouraged some soul-searching on democratic policing practices, corruption, criminal justice systems

and major impediments to effective policing, such as varying standards set by data protection laws across the OSCE area.

Patrick Zanders, Director of the Belgian Federal Police, spoke about the “distrustful police culture” and the “ego culture” that often proved to be the biggest barrier to data sharing and co-operation with customs and border guards.

Promoting trust was also at the core of the eloquent message of the Council of Europe representative, Margaret Killerby, Head of its Department of Crime Problems. Welcoming the launching of the *Guidebook on Democratic Policing*, published by the OSCE’s Senior Police Adviser, she urged the law enforcers to be mindful of maintaining the difficult balance between the “strengthening of police powers and the need to safeguard the interests of the individual”, especially when it came to serious crime.

“There is no better way of promoting long-lasting understanding and friendship between police chiefs than the holding of meetings such as this,” she said.

At the end of a long day, the police chiefs endorsed a declaration setting out specific ways and means for them to co-operate better to fight the scourge of organized crime.

“What the declaration reflects is the awareness, at the highest level, of the fact that organized crime does not flourish only as a result of instability, but also contributes and leads to instability,” Pierre Chevalier said.

Patricia N. Sutter is Editor of the OSCE Magazine.



Special Envoy of the Belgian Chairman-in-Office, Pierre Chevalier, with the Commissioner-General of the Belgian Federal Police, Herman Franssen, who moderated the event.



Deciphering messages of bias and hostility

Law enforcers face up to phenomenon of hate crimes

There was extensive talk about deciphering graffiti, hooliganism at sports events, evidence-gathering, and the traumatized and terrified victims that crimes of hate leave in their wake. The occasion: 25 senior police officers, from 13 countries as far apart as Kazakhstan and Canada gathered in Paris from 11 to 13 December last year to learn how to respond to some of the most insidious manifestations of intolerance and discrimination.

BY URDUR GUNNARSDOTTIR

Hate crimes are often meant to send a message to their targets that they are not welcome and that they are not safe. But lack of accurate data about the nature and extent of the problem means law enforcers cannot undertake effective response and preventive measures. Furthermore, the absence of legislation specifically addressing these offences means that perpetrators cannot be brought to justice.

One way to fill these gaps is to help police officers enhance their understanding of the crime's many complex facets. The OSCE's Warsaw-based Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has

been doing just that since 2005 through a training programme designed, developed and delivered by police officers for police officers.

The training in France followed on the heels of workshops in Croatia, Spain and Hungary. The focus is on identifying hate crimes, responding effectively, investigating and gathering intelligence, sharing information, working with prosecutors, and dealing with victims, witnesses and affected communities.

Among those who took part in the training in Paris was Krystyna Gesik, the Human Rights Co-ordinator from Poland's National Police. "Understanding the signs and symbols involved and realizing the true scale of hate crimes have been an eye-opener," she said. "In many cases, we've tended to assume that acts of vandalism and attacks were just isolated incidents."

Ms. Gesik found it particularly valuable to hear about how other countries were handling these crimes. "This means that we will not have to start from scratch; we have the experience of others as a good starting point," she said.

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

"The trainers have made us more aware of the impact of hate crimes on whole com-

Members of the *gendarmerie nationale* took part in the training programme on how to deal with hate crimes.
Photo: ODIHR/Urdur Gunnarsdottir



Expert Paul Goldenberg says awareness of the impact of hate crimes is increasing.

munities and the threat they pose to society,” said Col. Vladimir Rybnikov from the Russian Ministry of the Interior, adding that the training was consistent with his ministry’s priority goals.

“Hate crimes are on the rise in many countries, including in Russia, where we are seeing a rise in extremism and increased attacks on immigrants. The sessions helped us decipher connections — between a symbol and the crime, for example.”

Trainer Gyorgy Makula probably knows better than most how crucial it is for the police to proceed with the utmost sensitivity in their interaction with vulnerable communities. He is a Roma police officer in his native Hungary.

“I exist between two worlds, which can often be very hard for me,” he says. “I have to tread carefully when I’m dealing with my community and with my police colleagues at the same time.”

Mr. Makula’s Roma neighbours and friends often turn to him for help when problems arise. He says he is not always able to come up with solutions, but when he does, it means a lot to him.

“Even if I’ve never been a victim of a hate crime myself, I have dealt with many of these cases, and I certainly have first-hand knowledge of prejudice,” he said.

SIMILARITIES

The police officers agreed that, although circumstances differed from country to country, the incidents and the underlying motivations of perpetrators had many elements in common.

“We now have a cadre of experts who can respond to requests for training and assessments,” said Paul Goldenberg, who led the group of trainers. “The most important thing is to build on the expertise gained in this sort of training, and to make sure there is follow-up.”

Participants in the training are also given an opportunity to join a regional network that supports efforts to address hate crime as a transborder phenomenon. Recently, the programme was expanded to include training for prosecutors and investigating magistrates.

“Awareness of the impact of hate crimes is increasing,” said Mr. Goldenberg, who has had 20 years of experience in addressing hate crimes in the United States. “This was brought home to me one day when I was called quickly to attend to my father’s grave, which had been desecrated. It made me realize the consequences of these acts and how important it is for police officers to understand what they are and what lies behind them.”

Urdur Gunnarsdottir is Spokesperson of the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

What is a hate crime?

The ODIHR’s working definition is:

- Any criminal offence, including offences against persons or property, where the victim, premises or target of the offence are selected because of their real or perceived connection or attachment to, affiliation with, support of, or membership in a group (as defined below).
- A group may be based upon its members’ real or perceived race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or other similar factor.

This definition takes into account national differences, such as differences in approach, resources, legislation and needs, and allows each State to amend the definition as it sees fit.

Two reports represent an important step towards the implementation of the commitment to fight intolerance and discrimination, undertaken by the OSCE participating States, namely: *Combating Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: An Overview of Statistics, Legislation and National Initiatives*, issued in June 2005, and *Challenges and Responses to Hate-Motivated Incidents in the OSCE Region*, issued in October 2006.

www.osce.org/odihr



Tipping the gender scale at the highest levels

Swedish county police prove it can be done

Increasing the number of women in the upper echelons of management and policy-making is an elusive goal — and not just in the OSCE. The Swedish delegation seized an ideal opportunity to “walk the talk” on 10 January, on the eve of the annual gathering of OSCE heads of missions and institutions in Vienna. Brigadier General Karl Engelbrektson and Police Commissioner Krister Jacobsson, special guests from Sweden, described for the mostly-male audience how they were translating “gender mainstreaming” into action in their own operations. The *OSCE Magazine* invited Police Commissioner Krister Jacobsson to share his list of seven myths about women and leadership and his first-hand experience in making women more visible in the managerial ranks of the police force in Sweden’s second largest county.

Police Commissioners Boel Petersson, Maria Oswaldson and Lena Matthijs with Chief Police Commissioner Krister Jacobsson.
Photo: Nina Lindhe Tell

BY KRISTER JACOBSSON

In January 2004, I started my new assignment as Police Commissioner in Västra Götaland, Sweden’s most populous county after Stockholm. With 3,700 employees,

2,770 of whom are police officers, the police force represents one of the largest service providers in the county.

To my surprise, I found out that there was not a single woman in my management team of 13. Among the 35 most senior managers in the county police, only one was a woman. And within the county’s seven senior management teams, there were only five women — versus 70 men.

Something had to change. My experience is that, when men and women are offered an equal chance to participate in decision-making, the results are much better. And besides, I find the working environment more interesting when men and women work alongside each other.

We launched a project to address the situation, step by step. After studying and discussing the issue, we thought a good start could be made by posing the question: What are we missing out on by not identifying women’s skills and capabilities and putting them to good use?

We came up with the following answers: Access to the whole talent pool. An organiza-

tion's performance improves when it recruits from the population's full pool of talent and not from just half of it.

Sufficient awareness of customers' perspectives. Women play an important role as consumers and financial decision-makers, so mixed teams at all staff and managerial levels are likely to result in goods and services that satisfy customers' needs and expectations. The more a company mirrors its markets demographically, the better positioned it is to get a sense of, and respond to, consumers' evolving needs.

A more attractive employer profile. Studies reveal that young male and female managers are seeking a better balance between their personal and professional lives and take a critical look at the image of a potential employer and the working conditions it offers. Companies that are not paying enough attention to flexible work options, family-friendly policies and other modern management practices miss the opportunity to hire the best-qualified people for the job.

Better "branding". The organization's stakeholders are expressing more interest in diversity issues. Discrimination in all its forms is a factor in risk assessment. Requests for the inclusion of further information in annual reports about issues of equality in the workplace are becoming more frequent. Creative and productive teams. Mixed staff structures offer a wider spectrum of experience, backgrounds and networks. Research shows that teams with a diverse composition perform more effectively than homogeneous ones.

Next, under our project, we discussed seven myths about women and leadership and challenged each one:

Women do not want to become managers.

Yes they do, but they are not allowed to. Managers are often hand-picked or are promoted within the organization. There are other times when a candidate — often within a tight network — is urged to apply. These procedures mainly benefit men. Most executives are men. Men in power select people they know — other men.

Women do not have the same managerial skills as men.

They do, although they may have a different management style. However, in a recent four-year study on how 2,500 male and female managers in Sweden dealt with various situations, there were no marked gender differences in the way leadership was exercised.

Women have the wrong training.

No. In fact, since the late 1970s, in many countries, women have comprised more than half of total university graduates. In business administration, law and medicine, women have accounted for the majority for several years. If large numbers of women are graduating from business school, surely there should be more of them in top management than is currently the case? If training and

education are not an issue, is it lack of experience?

Women do not have enough professional experience.

They do. A study of the 500 largest companies in Sweden found that female mid-level managers are likely to work in personnel and in financial and information services, not in operations. And senior managers are often recruited from middle management in the operational area, which is dominated by men.

Senior executives work an 80-hour week.

Yes and no. Senior managers put in long hours, it is true, but the stereotype is vastly exaggerated. According to a survey in Denmark, executives put in an average of 50 work hours a week. A majority of the female executives surveyed said they had sufficient time for professional and personal matters and were generally able to organize their day in such a way that they could attend to their needs.

Senior-management jobs and parenthood are irreconcilable — for women.

No, they are not — that is, if parental responsibilities are properly shared. Most senior managers — both men and women — have children. International comparisons reveal that female executives in Nordic countries tend to have more children than their counterparts in countries without highly developed public child-care systems. The way societies are structured, therefore, is an important factor for women wishing to pursue a career.

It's just a matter of time before a gender balance is achieved at the top.

No, unfortunately there is still quite a long way to go. The legislative approach is one way. But active, goal-oriented efforts at all levels in an organization, with the participation of all concerned, is probably the most effective way of bringing about equality in the work place.

The results of our own project, three years on? It is clear that major changes are under way:

- The Västra Götaland County Police have established special contacts at various levels with companies and organizations for an exchange of experiences and practices on the gender front.
- For the first time, a gender-equality plan and an action plan are linked to a business plan.
- We have been able to raise awareness of gender matters in our organization. We know now that women want to lead, and *can* lead, even in "tough" organizations such as ours. It's only a matter of giving them the right opportunities. This calls for a decisiveness, a well-designed plan and a willingness to reverse traditionally held attitudes.
- Most importantly, in a span of three years, we have increased the number of women in the county police steering group from 7 to 24 per cent. We have agreed that there should always be at least two women in each working group. And in October 2006, women were in the majority in my leadership team for the first time.

Jose-Luis Herrero Ansola took up his post as **Head of the OSCE Office in Baku** on 3 February 2007. He succeeds Ambassador Maurizio Pavesi of Italy.

"I believe that the OSCE can make a significant contribution to stability and further democratization in the region through its offices in the field, the specialized assistance of its institutions, and the Chairmanship," Ambassador Herrero said upon his appointment.

He reaffirmed the Organization's commitment to assist Azerbaijan through a wide range of activities including police training, diversification of the economy, legislative reform, monitoring of trials, facilitation of political dialogue and support to civil society organizations.

Prior to joining the OSCE, Ambassador Herrero, a Spanish national, was Director-General of FRIDE, an independent Madrid-based research institute which works towards peace and security, democratization, development



OSCE/MIKHAIL LEVSTAFEV

and human rights.

Between 1992 and 2003, he served in successive assignments in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the UN Spokesman's Office in Geneva, the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda, and the UN Civilian Police Mission in Haiti in areas related to political and civil affairs, human rights and the media.

In 1994 and 1995, he was a press officer for the Americas and Europe at the Secretariat of Amnesty International in London.

He holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and a master of arts degree in political science and sociology from the Universidad Complutense (Madrid).

Giorgio Radicati, an Italian career diplomat, has succeeded Carlos Pais of Portugal as **Head of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje**.



OSCE/MIKHAIL LEVSTAFEV

"The Mission will continue to work closely with the country's energetic and dedicated leaders and citizens, as well as with the staff of various institutions at all levels," Ambassador Radicati said. "Our focus will be on supporting the completion of the decentralization process and maintaining the momentum of reforms in the judicial system, the police and public administration."

He was his country's ambassador to the Czech Republic from 2003 to 2006 and served as its consul-general in New York from 1998 to 2003. Earlier diplomatic postings included Geneva, Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia, Washington, D.C., and Ankara. In Rome, he once served at the Directorate-General for Cultural Relations.

A graduate in law of the University of Rome, Ambassador Radicati assumed his OSCE post in December 2006.

A stirring plea to save the planet

"An Inconvenient Truth", the highly acclaimed documentary about climate change, was shown in two special screenings for the OSCE community in Vienna on 6 March. More than 350 representatives of OSCE delegations and staff members flocked to the "must-see" movie of the year, which has been reaping awards, including an Oscar (Academy Award) for best documentary.

Part of a series of events aimed at raising awareness of environmental concerns, the initiative was sponsored by the Spanish Chairmanship in co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

"An Inconvenient Truth", directed by Davis Guggenheim, builds on a slide show on global warming that former U.S. Vice President Al Gore had been taking on the road for several years. Mr. Gore presents compelling scientific evidence that irresponsible human activity and narrow interests have taken an irreparable toll on the ecosystem.

His crusade is an impassioned appeal to governments and individual citizens to do their part to prevent greenhouse gas emissions from wreaking even more havoc on world temperatures — likely leading to even more extreme weather, disappearing glaciers, acidic oceans, devastating floods and droughts, major epidemics and killer heat waves.

"Should we be preparing for other threats besides terrorists?" Mr. Gore asks. "This is not so much a political issue as a moral one."

"Images often make us better appreciate the severity of the prob-

lem than texts and speeches ever could," said Spanish Ambassador Carlos Sánchez de Boado, Chairman of the Permanent Council. "It was good for us to see how global warming links up with security, migration and development."

The Spanish Chairmanship has chosen issues surrounding land degradation, soil contamination and water management as the theme of this year's Economic and Environmental Forum, the second part of which will be held in Prague from 21 to 23 May. The first part was held in Vienna earlier this year, with preparatory meetings held in Bishkek and Zaragoza.

"The film had no dull moments, moved at just the right tempo and was a good mix of science, humour and personal touches. I learned a lot," said Swiss Ambassador Rudolf Schaller.

In Spain, as in many other countries, government authorities are making "An Inconvenient Truth" available for viewing in all schools. Mr. Gore has been nominated for this year's Prince of Asturias Prize for international co-operation.

— Philip Reuchlin



One woman's voice

BY FLORENCE LE CLÉZIO

Palais Liechtenstein, Vienna, 11 January — The stage and its backdrop are almost pitch dark. Waiting expectantly, some 500 guests from the OSCE's 56 participating States and Partners for Co-operation hear the melancholy strumming of a guitar. Seemingly out of nowhere, a solitary black-dressed figure appears, totally immobile, yet with a commanding presence.

What follows is one of the most demanding and expressive dances in the Spanish flamenco repertoire. As the light gradually intensifies, so do the footwork and dramatic movements of Eva Yerbabuena, considered by many critics as one of the leading lights of the contemporary flamenco scene.

"We wanted to launch the Spanish Chairmanship with a memorable cultural event showing fine artistry and conveying strength," said Isidro González Afonso, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Spain to the OSCE. "Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos himself chose Ms. Yerbabuena because of her international reputation. She's simply one of the best."

"Being asked to dance to represent my country filled me with a great sense of responsibility and touched me deeply", said Eva Yerbabuena, who is also a choreographer and has her own ballet flamenco company in Sevilla.

While most audiences are more familiar with joyful and festive flamenco, Ms. Yerbabuena presented the emotionally heavier and deeper *solea*, which, she said, "expresses the feeling of peace and security within oneself".

"Short but powerful: that's how we wanted the piece to be," said a member of the Spanish delegation. The performance lasted barely 20 minutes, but every single second exuded intensity.

Although flamenco is popularly associated with its *gitano* (gypsy) influence, its origins are actually more diverse and complex. Scholars are still trying to shed light on how exactly the folk art emerged from the different ethnic groups in Spain's southern region of Andalusia.

"Flamenco is our unique form of cultural expression," says Ms. Yerbabuena, who grew up in Granada, one of the cradles of flamenco in Andalusia. "Generation after generation interpret their customs, traditions, environment and life experiences through it."

To find her own voice, she stages flamenco in a theatrical context, fusing together song, dance and poetry. Her productions have been performed to sold-

out crowds all over the world. One of the most highly acclaimed, "5 Women 5", explores a woman's palette of emotions and their impact on her individual growth.

There were many who were surprised at her audacity and the success of her productions, she said in earlier interviews. "Some people — especially men — wondered: 'Did she really do this on her own? Was she really capable of that?' The world of flamenco has its machismo, you know," she has been quoted as saying.

Although flamenco has never been in the entertainment mainstream, its most outstanding artists have recently started to be recognized as ideal emissaries on behalf of tolerance and respect for diversity. Joaquín Cortés, who is of gypsy origin, was recently appointed Roma Ambassador to the European Union.

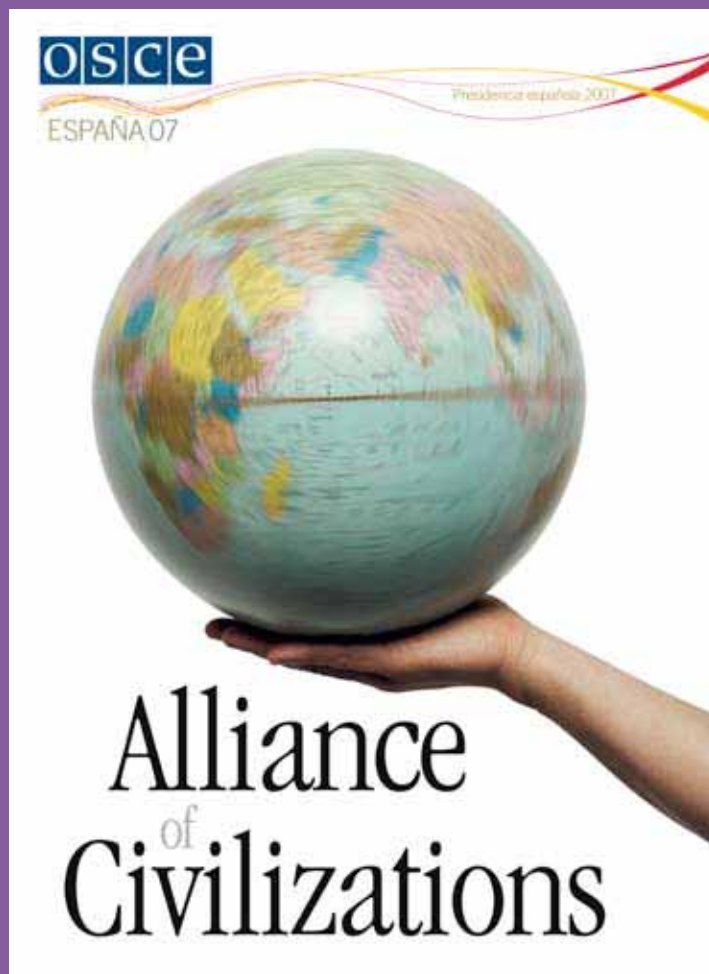
Ms. Yerbabuena herself has won just about every major dance and artistic award in her country, most recently the prestigious Medal of Andalusia for her contribution to the arts.

Asked if she had a personal message for the men and women who work for the OSCE, she spoke like a true ambassador: "Strength, courage and patience."

Florence Le Clézio is an Information Assistant in the Secretariat's Press and Public Information Section.



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