REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (25 May – 31 May)

Rupel and Lellouche Discuss OSCE-NATO Cooperation
LJUBLJANA - OSCE-NATO cooperation topped talks as OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel met on 27 May NATO Parliamentary Assembly President Pierre Lellouche. Rupel underscored that close cooperation between the OSCE and NATO had in the past proved to be crucial for ensuring security and stability in hotspots, especially in the Balkans. Rupel stressed the importance of a common approach to solving crisis points in the Caucasus, Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries. The pair exchanged views on developments in Uzbekistan and Georgia as well as the Georgian-Ossetian and Georgian-Abkhazian conflicts. Moreover, Rupel outlined the role played by the OSCE in ensuring stability in Kyrgyzstan. The meeting took place on the margins of the spring session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Ljubljana.

OSCE Chair Appeals for Support for Police Assistance to Kyrgyzstan
VIENNA - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel called on the organization's 55 participating states to provide urgent funding for police assistance projects in Kyrgyzstan to help ensure stability in the run-up to presidential elections in July. Welcoming the acting president of Kyrgyzstan Kurmanbek Bakiev to a special session of the OSCE Permanent Council on 30 May, Rupel said the Central Asian republic faced complex challenges at a critical juncture in its history. "The challenges facing Kyrgyzstan at this time are both diverse and manifold. Yet they also represent opportunities for the country to build security and stability based on the solid foundations of democracy, economic well-being and the rule of law," the OSCE Chair said. Rupel also appealed to Kyrgyzstan not to repatriate refugees from Uzbekistan who had sought refuge on Kyrgyz territory during recent violence in the eastern Uzbek city of Andijan.

Peterle Discusses Elections with Kyrgyz Officials
BISHKEK - Alojz Peterle, the personal representative of the OSCE chairman for Central Asia, on 27 May spoke about how the OSCE can help Kyrgyzstan to carry out the 10 July presidential election with deputy PM Adakhan Madumarov and the chairman of the central election commission Tuigunaaly Abdraimov.

OSCE Economic Forum Calls for Cooperation on Migration Issues
PRAGUE - The 13th OSCE Economic Forum concluded on 27 May with an appeal to the organization to improve cooperation with its partner associations in responding to demographic trends, migration and the integration of minorities. The participants called for changes in relations between the OSCE institutions and the field missions in order to better cope with the challenges in political security, economic and environmental security, as well as the human dimension. The five-day meeting, co-organized by the Slovenian OSCE chairmanship, hosted over 450 representatives of countries cooperating with the OSCE, international organizations and institutions, NGOs and businessmen. At the opening of the forum on 23 May, OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel urged OSCE members to improve the position of legal immigrants. Current immigration policies and regulations often failed to correspond to today's realities, he said.

Rupel Promotes OSCE Cooperation with States and Organizations
ARE - OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel presented the organization's cooperation with international partners at the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council's (EAPC) Security Forum on 25 May. Rupel's presentation was an introduction to a discussion on problematic issues in the Balkans. In his address,

Rupel stressed the need for efficient, consistent and pragmatic cooperation between countries as well as organizations.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

CORDOBA, 8 & 9 June - The OSCE will hold a two-day international conference to examine ways of combating anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance. The conference is expected to attract ministerial-level attendance from the US, EU, Eastern European and Mediterranean states. The OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel will attend the conference.