

# OSCE

## NEWSLETTER

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

## High Representative: OSCE is “able, energetic and wise partner” in implementing Dayton

Petritsch and Ashdown review crossroads, challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina

*In separate addresses to the OSCE Permanent Council in May, outgoing High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Wolfgang Petritsch, and his successor, Paddy Ashdown, praised the crucial contribution of the OSCE towards rebuilding the country and called on participating States to stay the course.*

“I cannot overstate how lucky I have been to have had such an able, energetic and wise partner in implementing the Dayton Accords”, Ambassador Petritsch told the delegations of the

Organization’s 55 participating States in Vienna on 9 May.

“The OSCE was one of the first organizations to see the importance of a coordinated approach in Bosnia”, said the Austrian diplomat in his last address to the Permanent Council as High Representative. “It has not only played a crucial role in the hard work surrounding elections and the Election Law, but also in the difficult areas of property law implementation and democratization. Still the lead agency when it comes to elections, the OSCE is now actively sup-

porting and advising the country’s Election Commission.”

The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia signed the Dayton Accords – the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) – in Paris on 14 December 1995. The Accords provided for the designation of a High Representative to monitor, facilitate and coordinate the civilian implementation of the Agreement.

Ambassador Petritsch started his



OSCE/Jugoslavina/Goody

Young Bosnians are thrilled at being able to produce their own radio show inside the radio station of the OSCE mobile.culture.container

**OSCE culture.container mobilizes Mostar’s youth.** A highly acclaimed long-term project by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media was featured prominently on German television news on 30 April. A three-minute report by the ZDF showed the impact of the mobile.culture.container on Bosnia and Herzegovina’s divided city of Mostar. Several young Croats and Bosniacs who were interviewed said they were grateful

that the project, which provides an opportunity to publish community newspapers, experiment in fashion design or simply surf the Internet, had brought them together without regard to ethnic background. The project manager, Josipa Crojca, told viewers that by offering young people activities that were usually not open to them, the project motivated them to avoid the usual political divisions and discover a new tolerance. Under the slogan “In Defence

of our Future”, the mobile.culture.container – literally a set of containers arranged around a circular tent to provide an auditorium for shows and meetings – is moved by truck every five or six weeks to a new town or city in the former Yugoslavia. Having clearly achieved its objective in Mostar, the project has since moved on to Banja Luka, in the Republika Srpska, before pitching camp in Skopje, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in early June.

duties in Sarajevo in the summer of 1999. Since then, he said, he believed that BiH had made tremendous progress, adding that its journey offered profound lessons at a time when the danger of “failed States” has been recognized in international politics.

### Counting returns

“There is a way to measure the success of the peace effort – through counting refugee returns”, he told the Permanent Council. “Up to 1999, the rate of return meant it would have taken decades to implement Annex 7 [the Agreement on Refugees and Displaced Persons under the Dayton Accords]. In particular,

international assistance to returnees for rebuilding their homes. “We cannot allow – when return is politically possible and really happening – returns to fail due to a lack of assistance”, he said, urging the OSCE delegates to lobby their governments to support the return process.

He acknowledged that the powers vested in a High Representative made that official “almost a benevolent dictator”. That had been necessary in the short term to uproot entrenched resistance and create the framework for democracy to work. “But I knew in the long term it would work against the whole point of post-war international engagement in Bosnia, namely, to have the country stand on its own two feet”, he said.

One piece of legislation that was not imposed and instead got special treatment and consideration was the Election Law. “Robert Barry and Bob Beecroft – the two fine ambassadors who headed the OSCE Mission to BiH during my mandate – agreed

### Ultimate proof

However, he believed that “the ultimate proof” that the country had entered a new era stemmed from the recent amendments to the Entity Constitutions. “The Republika Srpska Constitution recognized only the Serbs as a constituent people, while the Federation Constitution only recognized Bosniacs and Croats. In 2000, the Constitutional Court of BiH declared these provisions unconstitutional.”

After almost two years, followed by close to 100 hours of difficult negotiations under his auspices, a framework had been reached for the constitutional amendments. “This is of monumental importance. The ability to compromise is the essence of a democracy. Here it finally happened... The effects of the amendments will reach into the lives of

OSCE



Wolfgang Petritsch, outgoing High Representative (left), with Robert Beecroft, Head of OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Republika Srpska was defending its mono-ethnic structure, having allowed only 10,000 Bosniacs and Croats to return and scaring even those few with frequent violence.”

The Office of the High Representative, in close co-operation with the OSCE Mission to BiH and other organizations, “changed the property issue from a political one to a legal one. Crucially, co-ordination was at field level right across the country”, he said. The result was that minority returns had leapt to 67,000 in 2000 and to 92,000 in 2001. If those rates continued, he believed, Annex 7 could be implemented in its entirety within four years.

However, Ambassador Petritsch was concerned about the sharp decline in

with me that it should not be imposed. Its passage or non-passage would be the yardstick for measuring the ability of BiH’s parties to find a compromise.

“It was worth the wait”, he remarked. The Alliance for Change Government passed the Election Law in August last year, paving the way for Bosnia’s accession to the Council of Europe late in April, which was yet another milestone demonstrating the country’s growing statehood and level of democratization. “And BiH authorities are now organizing their own elections – slated for 5 October – for the first time, after six rounds of elections arranged and supervised by the OSCE.”

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Paddy Ashdown, the new High Representative

every BiH citizen", he said.

Finally, he turned to the critics of international intervention: "I would say that, yes, we do have our own interests: an interest in a stable Bosnia and Herzegovina, a stable Balkans which must be given every encouragement to join the European family of States. We must hold

out the highest expectations and hopes for our neighbours, for September 11 demonstrates all too well what happens if we turn our backs on weak states..."

"International engagement works. Look at Bosnia and Herzegovina and the invaluable part the OSCE has played and you can see that for yourselves", he said.

### Borrowing OSCE experience

In his remarks to an informal Permanent Council meeting before assuming office on 27 May, Lord Ashdown paid tribute to the firm foundation laid by Ambassador Petritsch on which to build, especially his strategy of "ownership" – giving the country back to its elected representatives and citizens.

"I would like to borrow the OSCE experience in these matters", he said, referring to the building of local capacity, such as in education, and the creating of new institutions, such as a civil service college, to strengthen civil society: "The country is haemorrhaging ... young people shouldn't have to leave to get training and education."

Both men spoke of a "recalibration" of international efforts in the country, especially in the light of declining funding commitments from abroad. "The international community should speak with a single voice", Lord Ashdown said. "If we do that, there's nothing that we won't be able to do."

## Water supplies and security: link is strengthened at Economic Forum

*The Tenth OSCE Economic Forum ended in Prague on 31 May with a call for the 55 participating States to devote more energy to ensuring that disputes over secure water supplies do not undermine security in the OSCE area. For the first time, the annual gathering in the Czech capital addressed the financing of terrorism and money laundering.*

The meeting, which demonstrated the crucial importance of economic and environmental activities as part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, included sessions on the Aral Sea Basin, the water situation in the Kura Araks Basin in the Caucasus and the Sava River in south-eastern Europe.

More than 500 decision-makers,

including representatives of international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) heard that scarcity of water supply and limited access to water were sensitive political issues in some regions, at times even putting regional stability at risk.

"The concept of environmental security is closely linked with water quality and access to water," delegates at one of two working groups concluded at the end of the four-day meeting. "The OSCE should keep promoting political solutions in water-related dialogues."

"Developing effective means of co-operation in securing proper use of water resources would make a major contribution to reinforcing security in the OSCE area", said Rui Lopes Aleixo, Chairperson of the Economic Forum and Deputy

Co-ordinator of the Portuguese OSCE Chairmanship.

The second working group reaffirmed the significant responsibility of local communities and NGOs in promoting regional co-operation and raising awareness of the legal aspects of water protection.

Marcin Swiecicki, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, said economic and environmental threats to security could not be overlooked: "Early-warning signs regarding the economic causes of conflict are increasingly clear", he said. "There is a need for a more pragmatic and action-oriented focus in order to address these challenges".

Reflecting the OSCE's commitment to the international fight against terrorism,

the Forum concluded with a special session on issues related to 'Suppressing the Financing of Terrorism'. The session, which drew about 150 participants, was prepared in co-operation with the Global Programme against Money Laundering (GPML) of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.

An intensive exchange of views took place on a U.S. proposal that all OSCE participating States should commit to submitting, by 1 September 2002, a questionnaire assessing how they are implementing the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on suppressing the financing of terrorism. This proposal found wide support and the Chairman of the Economic Forum recommended bringing it promptly before the Permanent Council for a formal decision.

Another proposal was for the OSCE to organize, with the GPML, national workshops on legislative and administrative matters related to fighting money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The GPML would con-



OSCE/Liberman/Keck

*The Economic Forum stressed that in 30 years, more than half of the world could be affected by water shortages*

tribute its technical expertise and know-how, while the OSCE would provide the political framework and assist in the workshops through its field missions.

The Economic Forum was organized by the Portuguese OSCE Chairmanship with the support of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

## The Asian way: seeking a meeting of minds

Trafficking in drugs and human beings is focus of OSCE-Thailand Conference

*On the eve of the OSCE-Thailand Conference on the Human Dimension of Security, the Ambassador of Thailand in Vienna, Sorayouth Prompoj, spoke with Elizabeth Abela, Senior External Co-operation Officer, about what he expects from the event and what it means for his country to be an OSCE Partner for Co-operation. The conference, to be held on 20 and 21 June in Bangkok, will enable information and experiences to be shared among some 100 senior representatives and experts from OSCE participating States, OSCE Partners for Co-operation, member states of the ASEAN Regional Forum, and international and non-governmental organizations. Excerpts from the interview follow.*

**Why has Thailand chosen the Human Dimension of Security as the focus of this conference?**

The previous conferences that were co-hosted by the Asian Partners for Co-operation covered other topics related to the OSCE's work. The OSCE-Japan Conference in 2001 dealt with comprehensive security in Central Asia, while the OSCE-Korea Conference in 2001 explored the politico-military dimension of security.

In today's globalized world, traditional threats to security such as armed and political conflicts have become more difficult to manage once they take on a human dimension; that is, when they are driven by ethnic values, religious beliefs

and cultural differences, rather than by ideology as in the past.

Under the human dimension theme, we would like to take the opportunity to focus on drugs and human trafficking, which Thailand considers as major threats to stability and security. But we are not looking to the OSCE as a forum for addressing technical aspects, nor as a panacea to all our ills. Rather, our aim is to seek common ground – a meeting of minds – so that we can determine how best to prevent these issues from becoming a source of instability and mistrust not only within our region but also between the OSCE region and ours. We cannot impose our societies' values upon one other, but we can at least open our eyes and ears to each other's way of pro-

testing and promoting the interests of our citizens.

I have recently returned from a meeting between our Prime Minister and the Thai ambassadors in Europe. We all agreed that we should focus more on building a relationship with European countries in the form of partnerships rather than through the traditional donor-recipient relationship. For example, Europe could play a vital role as partner in combating the trafficking in illicit drugs – not by funding technical assistance, but by providing other forms of co-operation.

**Member States of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) will attend the conference as guests of the host country. How will they benefit?**

Thailand can act as a go-between between the OSCE and ASEAN/ARF, but of course only if it is asked to do so. The conference could well be the starting point in a new chapter of confidence- and security-building between Europe and Asia. If successful, it could also set the stage for a new type of informal dialogue between the OSCE and ARF and other regions of the world.

The OSCE and ASEAN share the same goals and objectives. But they differ in approach when it comes to confidence- and security-building measures. From my experience in various OSCE fora, participating

States are more candid and direct and can sometimes be quite blunt on most issues. At the same time, they respect the equality of each other's status.

However, in the ARF, some critics would say that we tend to avoid criticizing each other when it comes to addressing sensitive issues, or do not even address them at all. This is the Asian way. We hope that in the future, we might be motivated enough, through a closer dialogue with the OSCE, to start having discussions among ourselves in the OSCE fashion.

**What can Thailand offer to the OSCE through partnership and co-operation?**

Thailand is interested in participating in OSCE activities in the field, such as seconding experts to missions or as election monitors. Providing our human resources will be the next step in our partnership. We have already been participating actively in a number of OSCE conferences and seminars in Vienna and abroad.

**What does Thailand hope to achieve through its partnership and co-operation with the OSCE?**

As one of the active and founding members of ASEAN and ARF, Thailand



*Ambassador Sorayouth Prompoj*

hopes to learn from the OSCE's experience – positive and, sometimes, negative – in promoting its norms and principles, and to apply specific ideas towards making ASEAN/ARF a more effective mechanism in promoting security in Asia.

Preventive diplomacy has always been a strong pillar of Thai foreign policy, going back to its ancient history. Through the OSCE-Thai partnership, we hope the OSCE can lend us its ear and learn more about certain crucial issues in Asia that may have an impact on European countries' policies towards us. And vice-versa.

## Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation: a successful outreach

The OSCE maintains an ongoing dialogue with nine Partners for Co-operation outside the OSCE area. The Organization's relations with the Mediterranean Partners goes back to the beginning of the Helsinki Process. Currently, these are six: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. In the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, participating States had the foresight to include a chapter in which they stated their conviction that "security in Europe ... is closely

linked with security in the Mediterranean as a whole..."

The Asian Partners started fostering a flexible dialogue with the OSCE in the early 1990s, when the Organization had taken on a more formal structure. This was also a time when the OSCE area was increasingly challenged by new security risks that emerged after the end of the Cold War. Japan's partnership started in 1992, Korea's in 1994 and Thailand's in November 2000.

Each partnership has its own special features. However, a common thread runs through all of them: the belief that nations are dependent on one another for their security. For both OSCE and its Partners, strengthening the dialogue even further offers distinct mutual advantages, including the opportunity to draw on each other's experiences in promoting a comprehensive concept of security.



One issue which I, and surely others in Asia, hope to understand more, concerns the conflicts in the Balkans and other struggles in Europe for independence and autonomy. We understand the concept behind an integrated and

united Europe, but why is it that some areas in Europe are still striving for disintegration, only to become integrated into a united Europe again in the future?

This is the kind of understanding

that we in Asia are seeking. A dialogue with the OSCE can help us find an approach that complements European policy. We hope such a dialogue will also help satisfy Europeans' curiosity about Asian politics.

## Coming to closure: leaving Latvia, with care

### Turning over pieces of the OSCE legacy to civil society

By Neil Brennan

*With the turning off of the lights in the offices of the OSCE Mission to Latvia on 1 May, the Mission's administrative closure process was brought to an end. During the transition, mission projects were completed, evaluations of others carried out, and archives and valuable equipment shipped to Vienna. But one more task remained to be accomplished – one that would bring an unexpected windfall to local initiatives and worthy causes.*

Fluorescent yellow, fire engine red and purple haze. These were the colours the artists and children of the K@2 cultural centre chose to transform the austere office furniture of the former OSCE Mission to Latvia for their own creative and functional use.

"The '70s look of black wood and aluminium wasn't appealing enough for young people", explained Carl Biersmark, a Swedish photographer and filmmaker, and the chairman of the centre's board. Located in the heart of a former Soviet military base near Liepaja, K@2 is one of only two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Karosta. "But", he was quick to add, "without the equipment donated by the OSCE, we would not have been able to set up our Internet centre and the new classrooms for our language programme and other creative activities."

The donation of surplus office furnishings to K@2 was one of several

made by the OSCE in Latvia as it closed its doors. The Mission had started work in 1994 as a temporary office, and most of the furniture and equipment were from that period. By the time our work had been officially completed, most of the items were of little or no value to the OSCE for use elsewhere, given shipping costs and current computer requirements. But they did have a distinct value for K@2 and four other Latvian NGOs.

Reducing the inventory to zero did not, however, happen by accident but was brought about by careful planning. The idea was to see that each piece made its way to the group that would most benefit from it. The trick lay in making the donations in stages, timed in such a way as to make it possible for us to keep a fully-functioning office to the very end, while gradually winding up our working base.

When the mandate of the Mission was not extended at the end of 2001, the Head of Mission, Peter Semneby, now Head of Mission in Croatia, and his team of four international and five local staff, mapped out extensive plans to make sure that the closure process would be part of a gradual and orderly withdrawal. It was also important that it proceed according to the priorities of the Mission, which included assisting Latvian society in its integration efforts.

When we considered the disposal of furniture, for example, we knew that some NGOs actually preferred second-

hand as opposed to new or slightly used items. It was the K@2 people who first told us that the people in their community were hesitant to go to an office that was furnished with new equipment. They felt intimidated by the modern atmosphere. We realized then that we could target a specific niche of needy organizations with what we had to offer.

The arrival of the fully-laden van at K@2 caused creative juices to flow in Karosta, a predominantly Russian-language community. A small crowd of children rushed into the centre to play with the new furniture. This led to impromptu group singing, which was captured on film and made into a short movie that was shared with the children and the OSCE.

In Riga, some of the Mission's other older computers and furniture found a deserving home. The Diakonas Centre was selected because of its limited resources and under-publicized efforts to teach English to street children in the capital.

Limited resources also provided the impetus for helping the Youth Detention Centre in Brasas Prison. On her visit to the facilities last year, the President of Latvia, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, expressed concern at the conditions there and at the lack of resources for special activities for the centre's young boys.

We did not have much to offer to fit the unique needs of the detention centre's classrooms, but we were able to

hand over a few computers, books and some furniture. Our visit to the prison also led to a serendipitous productive encounter with Roger Cassidy, who was counselling HIV-positive young people. They account for an estimated 18 per cent of the country's prison population.

Roger, an American-Norwegian living in Riga, had recently registered an NGO named DIA+Logs ("Through the Windows") as a contact and resource centre for AIDS victims and health and social workers specializing in AIDS.

"Our plan was that, in addition to the counselling and prevention work in prisons, we would open a resource centre by December 2002", recalls Roger. "But trying to do this on a shoestring budget made December look optimistic. We also wanted to create an atmosphere which would encourage HIV-positive people, including drug addicts and others, to drop in for testing, counselling and needle exchanges."

The OSCE saw an opportunity to assist. One large truck delivery and several car trips later, the DIA+Logs Centre was almost fully equipped with desks, counselling room furniture, two large safes for confidential files, an alarm system and other essential equipment.

"With the support of the OSCE we have been able to open our counselling services now – in May instead of December. Six months. That's the time



OSCE Mission to Latvia

*DIA+Logs opens for business ahead of schedule with the help of the OSCE. Celebrating with the NGO's staff are Neil Brennan (left), Maris Krauklis, Latvian administrative assistant (in dark jacket), and Maxim Markov, administrative and financial officer (right) of the OSCE Mission*

you have given us. And in HIV prevention that's a lot", says Roger.

The lesson we took away from the experience was the value of having a gradual, orderly closure with time to plan and think things through. Anything else would have been messy and we would not have achieved the same beneficial use of resources.

Fresh brown paint now covers the

spot where the OSCE sign used to hang outside the door at Jekaba iela 20. Looking around the bare offices as the "last man out", I feel a certain satisfaction in knowing that we have done some good, even as we departed.

*Neil Brennan was the last Deputy Head of Mission in the OSCE Mission to Latvia.*

## Recent OSCE Events

### **14 and 15 June, Czech Republic. Observation of parliamentary elections.**

OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

### **13 and 14 June, Almaty, Kazakhstan.**

Conference on new challenges for mass media in Kazakhstan. OSCE Centre in Almaty, European Commission in Kazakhstan, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, *Adil Soz*

### **4 to 7 June, Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Second regional workshop on the Aarhus Convention for Central Asia.**

OSCE and other organizations

### **3 to 11 June, Baku, Azerbaijan; Tbilisi, Georgia; Yerevan, Armenia. Workshops on the code of conduct on politico-military aspects of security in the Caucasus.**

Conflict Prevention Centre

### **21 and 22 May, Almaty, Kazakhstan.**

**Follow-up meeting on trafficking in small arms and light weapons in Central Asia.**

OSCE Centre in Almaty, Conflict Prevention Centre



# News from the field

The OSCE currently has Missions or other field activities in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo (Yugoslavia), Skopje (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia.

## Religious extremism discussed in Tajikistan

Strengthening democratic institutions to counter religious extremism was the theme of a conference in Dushanbe on 25 April. Tajikistan's unique experience in reconciling former combating parties and in creating a basic national consensus was discussed. The Islamic Revival Party, which is the only legal Islamic party in Central Asia, has developed into a constructive political force within the constitutional system.

Several speakers emphasized that a dialogue between the government and the opposition, within the framework of democratic institutions, was the main deterrent to the growth of extremism. When people were able to express their demands and discontent freely and openly, extremist ideas would lose their attraction. Extremism disguised in Islamic clothes posed a threat and a challenge, not only to society but to the Islamic community.

More than a hundred participants, including religious and political leaders as well as Tajik Government representatives, heard presentations by specialists from Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan. The event was organized by the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan in cooperation with the *Sharq* Research Centre and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

## Environmental workshop targets youth in Tajikistan

Tajikistan's best civic education students, some from the most remote areas of the country, recently gathered in Dushanbe for a five-day environmental training workshop. The event served to launch a one-year OSCE project to enable the country's promising ecologists to gain access to environmental information and to build networks of useful contacts.

The training covered ecological and



courtesy of UNFPA

The OSCE is assisting Central Asians to increase their awareness of environmental matters

legal topics, a basic computer and Internet course and a briefing on the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in building civil society in the countryside. The trainers were professors from the Tajik Academy of Sciences and junior ecologists from national and international environmental NGOs.

The workshop was part of the ongoing co-operation between the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, the Youth Eco Centre, a non-governmental youth organization, and the Tajik Ministry of Nature Protection.

## Environmental charter is focus of workshop in Kazakhstan

A regional workshop to raise awareness of the Aarhus Convention in eastern Kazakhstan was held in Ust-Kamenogorsk on 22 and 23 April. It was the fourth such event to take place in the country's regions. The Convention, adopted in Aarhus, Denmark, in 1998, grants civil society access to information, justice and participation in the decision-making process in environmental matters. The discussions strengthened the working relationship between the non-

governmental sector and local authorities on environmental problems.

Participants comprised representatives from the academic and scientific communities, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, parliament, NGOs and the media. The OSCE Centre in Almaty, with the financial support of the Swiss Government, organized the workshop in cooperation with the Oblast Akimat in eastern Kazakhstan and the environmental NGO, *Belovodye*.

## Round table reviews election reforms in Belgrade

A round table on election reforms was held in Belgrade on 17 April. It discussed the recent proposals of the Centre for Free Elections and Democracy (CeSid) on the election of the Serbian president and members of the Republican parliament and municipal assemblies. Representatives of political parties, the parliament, national and international NGOs and the Republican Secretariat for Legislation took part in the discussions.

Both the Head of the OSCE Mis-



sion, Stefano Sannino, and the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Gerard Stoudmann, welcomed the work of CeSid as a sign of civil society's increasing involvement in the democratic process.

Mr. Sannino noted that CeSid's proposals had focused on the establishment of election commissions, access to media, the role of national and international observers and a number of features essential to an electoral structure. Mr. Stoudmann said that election legislation was an evolving process but one which was, however, "not to be tinkered with too close to the holding of elections".



## IN BRIEF

The **OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs Martins da Cruz**, reiterated on a visit to Washington D.C., the will of the Chairmanship to integrate the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly into the OSCE's activities aimed at promoting democratic institutions and values. He also spoke on the need to reinforce the fight against terrorism in the OSCE's area of influence.

Mr. Martins da Cruz delivered his remarks to the U.S. Congress during a session of the Helsinki Committee on 8 May. He said he would take up the

Even in long-standing democracies, the electoral framework needed to be updated from time to time, he added.

The round table was organized by the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and CeSid, with the participation of ODIHR.

### OSCE takes up role in census in southern Serbia

Representatives of the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have arrived in the municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja and have started their assignments on the census that is currently being carried out by the Repub-

lican Bureau of Statistics.

The OSCE staff members will follow the work of the municipal census commissions in the three municipalities and join the government's mobile teams of census-takers that go from door to door in the regions to collect data.

The decision to send small international teams, together with experienced local staff, was in response to the request of the Serbian authorities and the Albanian community in southern Serbia for the OSCE to assist in the census process to help build confidence among the ethnic communities.

OSCE's anti-terrorism strategy with the Organization's Parliamentary Assembly at its Annual Session, which will be held in Berlin this July.

He also reaffirmed the political will of the Chairmanship to adopt a charter on the issue of preventing and countering terrorism and stressed the importance of a meeting of international organizations scheduled to take place on 12 June in Lisbon.

The OSCE and Kyrgyzstan have agreed to continue co-operating on policing matters. This was one of the key points of the visit of the OSCE's **Senior Police Adviser, Richard Monk**, to Kyrgyzstan in early May, which served as a follow-up measure under the Programme

of Action of the Bishkek International Conference on combating terrorism.

The country's security situation, measures for countering terrorism and organized crime, and co-operation in the training of law enforcement personnel were at the top of Mr. Monk's agenda. The need to make law enforcers more aware of universal human rights norms and standards was a particular focus.

In the two southern provinces of Osh and Jalal-Abad, Mr. Monk met the governors, officials of local law enforcement agencies and leaders of non-governmental organizations. In Bishkek, meetings took place with the Interior Minister, the Director of the Prisons Department Ministry, and other officials.

## OSCE launches news subscription service for journalists

A news subscription service for journalists has been launched by the OSCE Press and Public Information Service.

The state-of-the-art online service is designed especially for media representatives and provides an enhanced access to a wider range of OSCE press and public

information products. In just a few simple steps, journalists can create a personalized OSCE media information package that is directly relevant to their needs.

Besides receiving press releases and media advisories, media representatives can subscribe to new services: notifica-

tion of feature stories published on the OSCE website and alerts on breaking and up-to-the-minute developments. More services will be added continuously.

Journalists can sign up for the new service at:

[www.osce.org/subscription/media](http://www.osce.org/subscription/media)

## OSCE group focuses on reforming judiciary and combating organized crime in Albania

Vienna's Hofburg Conference Centre provided the setting for three days of intensive discussions among the Friends of Albania at their sixth international conference, with judiciary reform and the fight against organized crime topping the agenda. The meeting ended on 17 April with the adoption of a set of conclusions calling for further measures to accelerate the country's reform process.

The Friends of Albania is an informal group of donor countries and international organizations that was formed in September 1998 to strengthen international support for the Balkan country. This year, it is being chaired jointly by the OSCE's Portuguese Chairmanship and the European Union's Spanish Presidency.

The participants in the sixth meeting debated the process of Albania's democratic transition and assessed the progress made in institutional and structural reform. The Friends commended the country for its constructive role in regional co-operation, and specifically for the signing of a free trade agreement between Tirana and neighbouring Skopje, capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They also welcomed the progress achieved by Albania in its relations with the European Union (EU), which has brought the country to the threshold of negotiating a stabilization and association agreement.

However, the group expressed concern about the weaknesses in Albania's judicial

sector and called for a comprehensive national strategy for judicial reform.

"The European Union would like to underline the central importance of a functional and independent judiciary", said Ambassador Pablo Benavides, the representative of the EU Presidency. "The need to enhance law implementation and enforcement must continue to be an issue of major priority."

Ambassador Carlo Pais, speaking on behalf of the OSCE's Portuguese Chairmanship, also stressed the importance of continued judicial and legal reforms, calling for a stronger commitment by politicians in Tirana to establish a strong, effective and independent judicial system.

The Friends noted that the Albanian Government had taken a more pro-active stance towards combating organized crime, and recognized the reported significant decrease in the overall number of irregular migrants coming from Albania. They, noted, however, the need to continue addressing the problem of trafficking of women and children.

"Control of the borders and the prevention of illegal trafficking on the border are a priority for the work of the Albanian



*The European Union and the OSCE: strengthening international support for Albania*

Government", said Arta Dade, the Albanian Foreign Minister. "To this end, the Government has adopted measures for an efficient fight against trafficking ... which was drafted with the assistance of the United States Embassy and the OSCE."

The Friends also discussed the country's economic development and commended the authorities for adopting a national strategy for socio-economic development. They urged that a more positive attitude be taken towards small and medium-sized enterprises and expressed concern about persistent electricity shortages, calling for the adoption of a long-term national energy strategy.

For more information about the Friends of Albania meeting, please consult: [www.osce.org/albania/foa](http://www.osce.org/albania/foa)



### PRESS PROFILE

*Excerpts from a selection of articles on the OSCE and its activities in April*

#### OSCE IN GENERAL

##### **Kommersant, 3 April**

[In an article on 'Russia and the OSCE: enhancing security co-operation to Russia's south', by Alexander Versh-

bow, U.S. Ambassador to Moscow, and Stephan Minikes, U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE] The new challenge for the OSCE is to fit its mandate to the post-September 11 environment and thereby assure its future relevance in Europe. This has equally challenged Russia, the U.S. and the other key OSCE members to join together to redefine and reinvigorate the Organization through actions, specifically through practical attempts to increase stability and security where it is needed. The OSCE and the contribution it makes to security and co-operation in its

geographical area will not be determined in the end by ministerial declarations, but by a common sense of purpose and a common vision and common actions.

##### **The Observer, 7 April**

[From an article by the senior British diplomat, Robert Cooper, on 'The New Liberal Imperialism'] The CFE [Conventional Forces in Europe] Treaty, under which parties to the Treaty have to notify the location of their heavy weapons and allow inspections, subjects areas close to the core of sovereignty to international



constraints. It is important to realize what an extraordinary revolution this is. It mirrors the paradox of the nuclear age, that in order to defend yourself, you had to be prepared to destroy yourself. The shared interest of European countries in avoiding a nuclear catastrophe has proved enough to overcome the normal strategic logic of distrust and concealment. Mutual vulnerability has become mutual transparency.

#### **Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 9 April**

The Russians want a new mechanism that is totally separate from the current NATO structures, a kind of ersatz-OSCE, which would decide on certain matters independently of NATO.

#### **US Newswire, 9 April**

[Reporting on a hearing of the U.S. Helsinki Commission focusing on the human rights struggle of Roma] The hearing highlighted the fact that a wide range of barriers currently exist that limited Romani access to education in a number of OSCE countries ... The OSCE remains an important forum for addressing Romani human right issues, including the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The ODIHR continues to support initiatives to enhance voter education among Roma, work with interested governments on ways to legalize Romani settlements, and bring Roma and non-Roma policy makers together. [See also *Update from the ODIHR*, page 12. A transcript of the hearing is posted on the web site of the United States Helsinki Commission: [www.csce.gov](http://www.csce.gov)]

#### **Der Standard, 13-14 April**

The new OSCE special representative in the fight against terrorism, Jan Troejoborg of Denmark, presented his programme on Friday [12 April] to the Permanent Council. "Good governance" would be the answer to terrorism and its roots, he stated.

#### **Der Standard, 27 April**

[From an article entitled 'How to Defend the Future', by Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of

the Media] But what is the future of the next generation – and who shapes it? How shall we defend this future against the power of the incompatible nationalist myths of the past? Once again, "children of the war" and young academics who fled from their countries, and who are now discussing a common future with young people, are the moderators of the next generation. On the topic of 'defending our future', they meet in the so-called mobile.culture.container, an initiative supported by many OSCE States, to confront hate speech. [See also the story on page one and visit [www.mobile.culture.org](http://www.mobile.culture.org)]

### **OSCE MISSION AREAS**

#### **Reuters, 12 April**

[former Yugoslav President Slobodan] Milosevic, who is defending himself [before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia], suggested during his cross-examination that the OSCE's Mission had been anti-Serb. The accused has consistently used his cross-questioning of prosecution witnesses to press his case that not the Serbs, but the KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army] and NATO were the true aggressors in the province.

#### **Washington Post, 26 April**

"In general there's a lack of confidence between the two communities", said Craig Jenness, Head of the OSCE's Mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which is helping to train the ethnically mixed patrols. "The Albanian community sees them [the police] as the instrument of people whom they fought against during the war. So, it's going to take a lot of time before they treat them as their own."

#### **Die Presse, 29 April**

[From an article headlined, 'Frustration in Albania: the West and the OSCE under verbal fire', commenting on the Friends of Albania meeting in Vienna in April] The press in Tirana was furious: "As expected, the so-called Friends have not taken any of the 12 proposals of Albania seriously",

wrote the former Albanian Ambassador to the OSCE, Zef Mazi, in an article in the daily paper *Shekulli*. The Friends of Albania reminded him of 1913, and how Albania had been treated then. The borders of the newly-emerged Albania had been fixed at that time and the country placed under a temporary military protectorate.

#### **Reuters, 16 April**

Akhmed Zakayev, an envoy of the Chechen rebel leader, Aslan Maskhadov, met Carla del Ponte, the Chief Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, last month to propose setting up a similar court to try Russian soldiers. [The Head of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya] Jorma Inki said setting up such courts would be counter-productive. "If there are crimes, one should punish those that have committed them, but according to local law. I don't see any need for specific tribunals."

#### **Agence France Presse, 29 April**

The head of a European security body in Almaty slammed Kazakhstan in a statement ... for muzzling almost all critical media in the country. "As a result of restrictive policies adopted in the last few months, almost all critical media have now been silenced," Heinrich Haupt, head of the OSCE Centre in Almaty, said... "The most disturbing aspect is that there seems to be a tendency to further tighten controls and restrictions", he said, adding that there had been "cases of physical harassment [of the media] by the police and violent groups".

#### **Reuters, 24 April**

"The OSCE group has pursued only one aim, which is not envisaged in any mandate – to topple the current authorities". [Belarusian President Alexander] Lukashenko told deputies. "We clenched our teeth and tolerated these activities"...The authorities have threatened to expel the group and barred the OSCE special representative from entering the country. Lukashenko said he would not tolerate the OSCE unless its mandate was reviewed.

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### Protecting human rights through judicial reform is seminar theme

More than 150 government representatives and international experts from Europe, Central Asia and North America gathered in Warsaw from 23 to 25 April to discuss how to improve the protection of human rights through judicial reform.

The participants noted the substantial progress made in the OSCE area, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, in the past decade. However, several concerns remained, some of which had emerged only recently in established democracies as well as in transition states. Among these were limits placed on the independence of the judiciary in some participating States and shortcomings in judicial structures that did not always allow for checks and balances *vis-à-vis* the executive branch.

The seminar also stressed the importance of ensuring judicial authorization for arrests, wire-tapping, house searches and other intrusive investigative activities. The participants discussed ways of providing access to justice for all sectors of society, especially minorities, the poor and the disadvantaged.

Another focus was on strengthening the contribution of the international community towards rebuilding judiciaries following conflicts. Where it was the acting authority, the international community should practice accountability and should not neglect the rebuilding of civil jurisdictions. Having a judiciary that individuals and legal entities could depend on, participants pointed out, was crucial to building a democratic society, to the protection of human rights, and to the fostering of economic stability. A report on the seminar is posted on the ODIHR website: [www.osce.org/odihhr](http://www.osce.org/odihhr)



## ELECTIONS

### ODIHR to issue report on Hungary's parliamentary elections

The ODIHR observed the first round of parliamentary elections in Hungary on 7 April and maintained a presence until the second round on 21 April. In a preliminary statement on 8 April, the ODIHR concluded that the first round had complied with international standards and commitments concerning democratic elections, although some specific issues remain to be addressed. The Election Observation Mission noted that the election system and its supporting administrative structures served as the basis for a generally transparent, accountable, free, fair and equal process.

However, specific issues to ensure the long-term sustainability of the positive elements of the electoral system needed attention. Among the concerns were: the establishment of the National Election Committee, the Committee's lack of authority to issue binding instructions to the lower-level election commissions, the submission of coupons in nominating candidates, and delays in the appeals procedures concerning complaints related to the media during the campaign period or their inadequate resolution.

The ten members of the Election Observation Mission, headed by Linda Edgeworth (U.S.), were deployed to Budapest, Pecs and Debrecen in March. The final report on the elections will be issued soon.

### ODIHR assesses French presidential elections

Responding to an invitation by the French Government, an ODIHR delegation visited Paris on 8 and 21 April to assess the pre-election environment and the first round of voting in the French presidential elections. The Director,

Gerard Stoudmann, led the group, which included ODIHR experts, a member of the Swiss Parliament, representatives of the Central Election Commissions of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and an election expert from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

During its first visit, the delegation met with representatives of the Government and the municipality of Paris, and with members of the *Conseil Constitutionnel* and the *Conseil d'Etat*. The ODIHR was especially interested in the rules for campaign financing, which had recently been introduced to ensure a level playing field for all candidates.

The first round of elections provided the delegation with the opportunity to observe the transparency of the electoral legislation and procedures and the high degree of professionalism of the election administration bodies.



## DEMOCRATIZATION

### Regional meetings aim to improve co-ordination of human dimension activities

The ODIHR organized the first in a series of regional co-ordination meetings on 16 and 17 April, with the participation of senior staff and experts from OSCE Institutions, the Secretariat and missions in south-eastern Europe. Held in Belgrade, the meeting was a first step in a process to identify strategic approaches to regional and cross-boundary issues, focusing on the human dimension. The goal is to identify priorities for future assistance, while improving current activities in close co-ordination with all the OSCE bodies involved.



### **Moldovan parliament passes anti-traffic legislation**

A new criminal code, adopted by Moldova's parliament on 18 April, contains a wide range of provisions designed to combat trafficking, reflecting proposals by the OSCE. The ODIHR had provided expertise to the parliamentary working group in co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative and other organizations. The new legislation will enter into force in January 2003.

The ODIHR also helped the working group to review the code of criminal procedure, preparatory to discussions by parliament which will start in June. This ODIHR project will establish the legal basis for training and other activities to counter trafficking.

### **Workshop examines criminal justice reform in Tajikistan**

The ODIHR legal reform project in Tajikistan concluded with a workshop in Dushanbe on 18 and 19 April, aimed at translating the country's international human rights obligations relating to criminal justice into national norms and practices. The workshop, which was attended by more than 100 participants, was jointly organized by the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan and the government commission responsible for implementing international obligations in national legislation.

The diverse representation from government, law enforcement bodies, the parliament, the judiciary and civil society resulted in a lively discussion. The participants adopted a set of recommendations on the changes required to bring the Tajik code of criminal procedure into conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified by Tajikistan in 1999.

### **Human rights training for NGOs held in Caucasus and Central Asia**

Following last year's successful training course for NGOs in human rights monitoring and reporting, the ODIHR recently completed the first phase of the programme's second round in Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Twenty-five new participants attended the training course in each of the three countries, including several representatives from government institutions.

Three experts from the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights focused initially on international and national mechanisms for the protection of human rights. The second phase, to start in the summer, will cover practical monitoring and reporting skills.

The programme, implemented in co-operation with the OSCE field presence in each country, aims at strengthening local capacity in human rights monitoring. Similar training programmes will be offered in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.



OSCE Mission to Tajikistan

*The Tajik code of criminal procedure was the subject of lively debate in Dushanbe*

### **Meeting focuses on access to justice**

During the Human Dimension Seminar on Judicial Systems and Human Rights in Warsaw (see page 12), the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues organized a meeting on 24 April specifically to discuss providing Roma and Sinti with access to the justice system. Discussions focused on how to apply human rights instruments more effectively to protect the rights of Roma and Sinti and ensure that they receive legal assistance.

### **Seminar reviews question of self-determination**

The United States-based NGO, Project on Ethnic Relations, assisted by the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, organized a seminar on Roma and the question of self-determination for Romani leaders and activists from all over Europe on 15 and 16 May in Jadwisin, Poland. The subject has been eliciting interest in recent years, in both Romani and non-Romani circles. Areas of special concern are Romani representation at the national and international levels and participation in Roma-related policy-making programmes. The Contact Point has been actively supporting the process of developing a pan-European consultative assembly of Roma representatives.

### **ODIHR Adviser testifies at hearing on Roma rights**

Nicolae Gheorghe, the ODIHR Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, testified at a hearing on 9 April in Washington, D.C., on 'Romani human rights: old problems, new possibilities', which was organized by the Commission on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Mr. Gheorghe informed the Commission about the challenges faced by Roma in education – the focus of the hearing – and in the related areas of human rights and democratization.

The Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) is located at Prinsessegracht 22, NL-2514 AP The Hague, The Netherlands, tel: (+31-70) 312 55 00, fax: (+31-70) 363 59 10, e-mail: hcnm@hcnm.org

### High Commissioner encourages integration in Moldova

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Rolf Ekeus, visited Moldova from 8 to 10 April to look into language and education issues which have been a source of disagreement between the country's Moldovan- (Romanian-) and Russian-speaking communities. He met with President Vladimir Voronin, Foreign Minister Nicolae Dudau, several senior officials and leading members of the Moldovan parliament. In his meetings, the High Commissioner focused on language training, the status of the Russian language, school curricula, and the inter-ethnic dialogue. He was also informed about Moldova's bilateral relations and the internal political situation, particularly in Gagauz-Yeri, an autonomous region of the country.

The High Commissioner was concerned about the plight of a number of schools in Transnistria that were trying to teach Romanian in the Latin script in the face of considerable opposition from local and Transnistrian authorities. He met with school directors, visited a school in Bendery and spoke with Transnistrian officials about the fate of the schools. He expressed solidarity with the teachers and parents who are facing intimidation, praised the humanitarian work of the United Nations High Com-

missioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in supporting the schools, and called on the Transnistrian authorities not to obstruct the school operations. "The rights and welfare of children should not become the victims of political agendas", said Ekeus. "There must be practical solutions to immediate and solvable problems to prevent a worsening of the situation."

More generally, the High Commissioner noted the importance of achieving integration without sacrificing diversity in Moldova. This was the theme of a seminar on 'Language and integration: reflecting on standards and practice', which was held in Chisinau on 20 and 21 April. The seminar, organized by the High Commissioner's Office with the assistance of the OSCE Mission to Moldova and co-hosted by the Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations, brought together people from across the political and linguistic spectrum to talk about language policy and integration. They broadly agreed that more training in the State language was needed, that the use of minority and majority languages



Chisinau, Moldova: achieving integration without sacrificing linguistic diversity is the theme of the ongoing dialogue with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

was not mutually exclusive, and that more had to be done to achieve integration without sacrificing linguistic diversity in Moldova.

### Ekeus holds consultations in the United States

Rolf Ekeus was in the United States from 26 April to 5 May for consultations with the diplomatic and donor communities. In New York and Washington, he covered a wide range of subjects and sought further support for conflict-prevention activities. He held discussions with senior officials of the State Department and the United Nations, and with financier and philanthropist, George Soros, Chairman of the Open Society Institute.

## Corrigendum

Due to a technical error, a crucial paragraph in the article by Gerard Stoudmann, Director, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, in the April 2002 issue of the *OSCE Newsletter* was inadvertently left out. The article, headlined 'Striking a fair balance: protecting human rights in the fight against terrorism', on page one, should have carried the following second paragraph:

*Striking a fair balance between new methods for combating terrorism and protecting human rights can be a delicate undertaking. It has become obvious in the past months that even long-standing and well-developed democracies are encountering difficulties in finding appropriate responses to the changed security environment following 11 September.*

The Editors of the *OSCE Newsletter* regret the omission.

# REPORT from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is located at Rådhusstræde 1, DK-1466 Copenhagen K, Denmark, tel.: (+45-33) 37 80 40, fax: (+45-33) 37 80 30, e-mail: [osce@oscepa.dk](mailto:osce@oscepa.dk)

## Expanded Bureau meets

The Expanded Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly (PA) met on 18 and 19 April in Copenhagen to discuss draft reports and resolutions of the three General Committees and preparations for the PA's Annual Session in Berlin. Featured speakers included the Coordinator of the OSCE Chairmanship, Ambassador Joao Rosa La, who outlined the priorities of the Portuguese OSCE Chairmanship, and the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Jan Troejborg, who spoke on the OSCE's role in the global fight against terrorism.

Isabel Tocino, head of the PA Spanish Delegation, briefed the Expanded Bureau on the preparations for the Parliamentary Conference to be held in Madrid from 2 to 4 October. PA Vice-President Bruce George, MP (United Kingdom), who led the OSCE election observers in Ukraine on 31 March, reported on the monitoring mission and its findings. PA Vice-President Rita Süßmuth, MP (Germany), reported on the work of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Transparency and Accountability, of which she is the Vice-Chairperson.

## Parliamentarians visit Uzbekistan

Eleven members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly visited the OSCE Centre in Tashkent from 10 to 12 April. The delegation, headed by Elisabeth Meijer (Netherlands), included 11 other parliamentarians from eight countries.

After their briefing by the Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, Gantcho Gantchev, the parliamentarians had meetings with Sadik Safaev, Deputy Foreign Minister, Erkin Vakhidov, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the *Oliy Majlis* (parliament), and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Expanded Bureau met on 18 and 19 April

media. In the light of the parliamentary reform process under way in the country, the delegation exchanged views with members and committee chairpersons of the *Oliy Majlis* on parliamentary practices. In Samarkand, the group met with the Deputy Mayor and representatives of local NGOs.

## Parliamentarians visit Armenia and Georgia

Twelve OSCE parliamentarians from seven countries, led by Tone Tingsgaard from Sweden, visited Armenia and Georgia from 6 to 11 May. In the two countries, they were briefed by the Heads of the OSCE missions and met with the national OSCE PA delegations, high-level government officials, and representatives of NGOs and the media.

In Yerevan, discussions focused on the constitutional reforms, the coming parliamentary and presidential elections, freedom of the media, human rights, trafficking in human beings, the environmental situation and economic

development. In Georgia, the focus was on the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the situation of internally displaced persons, economic issues, the coming elections and democratization.

The visits to Uzbekistan, Armenia and Georgia provided parliamentarians with further opportunities to obtain a first-hand look at the activities of OSCE missions and to identify ways in which the Parliamentary Assembly can improve its contribution to the Organization's work in the field.

## Severin holds meetings in Berlin

On a visit to Germany on 17 April, PA President Adrian Severin met with the President of the *Bundestag*, Wolfgang Thierse, Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, and members of the German Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The discussions focused on recent developments in the OSCE and on preparations for the 11th Annual Session of the OSCE PA, to take place in Berlin in July.

### PA Secretariat visits Rotterdam

Secretary General Spencer Oliver, Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev and Counsellor Jan Jooren visited Rotterdam on 10 and 11 April to prepare for the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly in 2003. They had meetings with the Head of the Netherlands Delegation, Geertje Lycklama a Nijeholt, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Rolf Ekeus, and the Co-ordinator of the 2003 Netherlands OSCE Chairmanship, Daan Everts.

### PA Vice-President George leads follow-up visit to Ukraine

PA Vice-President Bruce George was in Kyiv from 9 to 11 May to follow up on the work of the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) to the parliamentary elections in Ukraine to be held on 31 March. Mr. George was the designated Special Representative of the

OSCE Chairman-in-Office during the elections. The visiting group comprised representatives of the European Parliament, the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

The delegation met with the President, the Speaker of Parliament, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Chairman of the Central Election Commission, the Chairman of the Supreme Court, and politicians and diplomats.

The delegation discussed the measures taken by the Ukrainian authorities to address the shortcomings noted in the IEOM's preliminary findings, as well as co-operation with the international community to strengthen the electoral process in Ukraine, with a view to the presidential elections in 2004. For more information, please consult the website: [www.osce.org/pa](http://www.osce.org/pa)

### Committee assesses post-election situation in Kosovo

A delegation from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Kosovo Committee visited Kosovo from 5 to 7 May to assess the situation following the Assembly election in November. Vice-President Rita Suessmuth, MP (Germany); Elisabeth Meijer, MP (Netherlands); and Giovanni Kessler, MP (Italy), examined the possibility of expanding the contribution of OSCE parliamentarians to democratization and institution-building. They had meetings with the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Pascal Fieschi, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Michael Steiner, the Speaker of the Kosovo Assembly, Nexhat Daci, and other Assembly representatives. The delegation also visited the Kosovo Police School in Vushtrri/Vucitrn and met the school's director, Steve Bennett.

## OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy goes to Orter and Sheremet

Austrian television reporter Friedrich Orter and Belarusian journalist Pavel Sheremet are the recipients of the seventh OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy. This was decided at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) Expanded Bureau Meeting in Copenhagen on 18 and 19 April. The shared prize will be presented at the opening of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 11th Annual Session, to be held in Berlin from 6 to 10 July.

Since 1989, Friedrich Orter has been filing reports from war-torn areas for the Austrian national broadcaster, ORF. He was commended for promoting OSCE principles on human rights and democracy through his comprehensive and impartial reporting in the Balkans and, more recently, in Afghanistan. Pavel Sheremet, Bureau Chief of ORT Russian television and editor-in-chief of *Belar-*

*ruskaya Delovaya Gazeta*, was praised for demonstrating admirable courage in his independent and reliable reporting on the lack of free expression and violations of human rights in Belarus.

"By upholding the highest journalistic standards, Dr. Orter and Mr. Sheremet epitomize the essence of the OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy", said the Chairman of the OSCE PA General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Gert Weisskirchen, MP (Germany). Mr. Orter was nominated by the Speaker of the Austrian Parliament, Heinz Fischer, while Mr. Sheremet was nominated by the Head of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE PA, Tone Tingsgaard.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly established the Prize for Journalism and Democracy in 1996, at the initiative of Freimut Duve, OSCE Representative on

Freedom of the Media, who was then a member of the German *Bundestag* and OSCE PA. The prize aims to promote the principles of free journalism as laid down in the OSCE Budapest Declaration of 1994.

Previous recipients of the award are Adam Michnik in 1996, *Reporters sans frontières* in 1997, Timothy Garton Ash in 1998, Christiane Amanpour in 1999 and Andrei Babitsky in 2000. Last year, the prize was awarded posthumously to Georgiy Gongadze and Lopez de Lacalle, who died in the pursuit of truth.

The \$20,000 Annual Prize for Journalism and Democracy is made possible by the generous assistance of Bertelsmann AG, Germany; Bonnier Group, Sweden; the George and Thelma Paraskevaides Foundation, Cyprus; and Shipstead ASA, Norway.



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### Free Media Representative urges dialogue in Moldova

In a letter addressed to Nikolai Dudau, the Moldovan Foreign Affairs Minister, Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, expressed concern about the deployment of special police forces to the headquarters of Radio and Television Moldova in early April. "I understand that access to the building is only allowed to those journalists who are on a special list approved by its management", Mr. Duve wrote. "Initially, I had the feeling that the dispute between the 500 employees of *Teledradio Moldova* and the company's management, regarding allegations that the company practices censorship, would be resolved through dialogue. I understand that the Government, controlled by the Communist Party, promised to satisfy the journalists' demands. However, I do not see the decision to deploy police to the television station as a means of encouraging such a dialogue."

### Media harassment continues in Belarus

At the OSCE Permanent Council on 12 April, Mr. Duve called attention to the continued pressure on independent media in Belarus by the authorities, violating numerous commitments of Belarus as an OSCE participating State. Mr. Duve had also written to Belarusian Foreign Minister, Mikhail Khvostov, about the recent attacks against journalists.

Among the cases he raised were:

- Editor-in-Chief Nikolai Markovich and journalist Pavel Mozheiko

of the newspaper, *Pahonya*, were facing criminal charges for libelling the President. Mr. Duve stressed to the Permanent Council that journalists should not be prosecuted for what they wrote and that no journalist should have to face imprisonment for carrying out professional duties. He also emphasized that heads of State should not enjoy undue protection from the reporting by the media on their activities.

■ On 6 April, police arrested a dozen journalists who had demonstrated in downtown Grodno against the closure of *Pahonya* and against the criminal prosecution of their colleagues. Six of the journalists were given prison sentences ranging from three to ten days.

■ On 29 March, the Belarusian Ministry of Justice issued a written warning to the Minsk daily, *Narodnaya Volya*, threatening it with closure.

### Clarification sought from Italy

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media sent a letter on 22 April to the Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, seeking clarification on an alleged statement, which had been quoted in the European media. In it, Mr. Berlusconi was alleged to have said that the journalists "Biagi, Santoro and Luttazzi have used public television in a criminal way".

Mr. Duve wrote: "My Office is involved in investigating cases of journalists who are accused of committing criminal acts, especially when these accusations come from the executive

branch of government. I would appreciate any information your legal advisers and the Ministry of Justice would be able to provide to my Office on how these three journalists did use public television 'in a criminal way'."

### Duve: "Turkmenistan lacks freedom of expression"

In the light of several recent reports of harassment of the media in Turkmenistan, Freimut Duve said the country was absolutely lacking in freedom of expression. In a letter to the Foreign Minister, Rashid Meredov, Mr. Duve wrote that "the print-run of a Moscow-based newspaper, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, was confiscated because of an article describing the situation in your country. I consider such an act an unacceptable violation of OSCE commitments signed by Turkmenistan as a participating State in our Organization. I was also informed that access to the newspaper's website was blocked by Turkmenistan's sole Internet-provider, the State-run Turkmentelekom."

The OSCE Representative also noted that since early 2002, the authorities in Turkmenistan had blocked access to several other websites, among them *Vremya Novosti*, *Yevraziya*, *Tsentraziya*, *Deutsche Welle*, *Erkin Turkmenistan* and *Gundogar*.

Mr. Duve informed the Foreign Minister that, taking into account the "absolute lack of any freedom of expression in your country, a situation unseen in the OSCE region since the establishment of this Organization", he planned to commission a special report on the media in Turkmenistan.

Visit the OSCE website: [www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org)

# REPORT

## from the OSCE Secretary General and the Secretariat

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### Moscow

Secretary General Jan Kubis held consultations with senior officials of the Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow on 4 and 5 April. He had meetings with Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Deputy Foreign Minister Yevgeny Gusev, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Razov and Vladimir Chizov, Director of the Department of European Co-operation. He also met with the Head of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya, Jorma Inki, and his staff, as well as with Paulo Vizen Pinheiro, Counsellor of the Portuguese Embassy in Moscow, who was representing the OSCE Chairmanship.

### Central Asia

The Secretary General held consultations in Tashkent on 6 April with Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov. At a reception in his honour hosted by the Minister, he met representatives of the diplomatic community. He also visited the OSCE Centre in Uzbekistan, meeting with its Head, Gantcho Gantchev.

Mr. Kubis was one of the discussion leaders at the Eurasia Economic Summit in Almaty on 8 April, which was jointly organized by Kazakhstan and the World Economic Forum. Marcin Swiecicki, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, led a separate session. The Secretary General took the opportunity to discuss OSCE matters with Kazakhstan's President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Imangali Tasmagambetov, and the Foreign Minister, Kassymzhomart Tokayev. He also met with the Head of the OSCE Centre in Almaty, Heinrich Haupt, and his staff.

At the summit, he was received by President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan and President Emomali Rakhmonov of Tajikistan. He had discussions with Jean



Secretary General Jan Kubis (right) receiving the new Head of the Delegation of Latvia to the OSCE, Ambassador Aivars Vovers, on 14 May

Lemierre, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, James Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank, and Wang Wenyuan, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. He also met several representatives of the business and banking communities.

In all the consultations, participating States demonstrated strong support for the work of the OSCE, for measures to strengthen and reform the Organization, and for a successful Ministerial Council in Portugal.

### Vienna

The Secretary General and Albania's Foreign Minister, Arta Dade, held discussions on 17 April in Vienna, on the role of the OSCE in Albania and the international community's assistance, following the Friends of Albania meeting in Vienna (see page 10).

The Foreign Minister expressed her

appreciation for the work of the OSCE Presence in Albania, as well as her expectation that it would focus its priorities according to the needs of the country at this stage in its development, in co-ordination with other international organizations.

Mr. Kubis met the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Russian Federation, Anatoly Safonov, on 17 April. Mr. Safonov was in Vienna to address a joint session of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council. They discussed the role of the OSCE in countering terrorism, focusing on the activities of the Secretariat, its new Anti-Terrorism Unit and the recently appointed Senior Police Adviser. They also underlined the need for closer co-operation with international organizations, especially the United Nations and its Counter-Terrorism Committee, as well as with the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.

# OSCE Chairmanship brings together international organizations in fight against terror

Senior officials from the United Nations, NATO, the European Union and the Council of Europe met on 12 June [as the *OSCE Newsletter* went to press] in Lisbon at the invitation of the OSCE Chairmanship, to discuss co-ordinating international efforts in the fight against terrorism. The high-level representatives also addressed international co-operation in the promotion and protection of human rights and strengthening the rule of law.

The meeting was opened by Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of Portugal, the country that holds the Chairmanship of the OSCE this year. Antonio Martins da Cruz, the Portuguese Foreign Minister and current Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, moderated the first of several closed sessions. Also participating

were the International Committee of the Red Cross, the European Commission, the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, and the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering.

The gathering was a key event under the OSCE Portuguese Chairmanship. OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis has also announced his intention to call for a meeting on terrorism-related issues later in 2002.



OSCE Mission to Georgia

*Monitoring along the Georgian border is one of many examples of pragmatic OSCE-led activities that are making a difference in preventing terrorism*

## OSCE Agenda

**20 and 21 June, Bangkok. OSCE-Thailand conference: human dimension of security.**

OSCE and Government of Thailand

**20 and 21 June, Almaty, Kazakhstan. Round table on strengthening integrity in the public and private sectors, Kazakhstan.**

OSCE Centre in Almaty

**24 and 25 June, Almaty. Conference on Islam and national security of newly independent states in Central Asia.**

OSCE Centre in Almaty, European Commission in Kazakhstan and Kazakh Institute for Strategic Studies

**6 to 10 July, Berlin. Eleventh Annual Session of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**

**8 to 9 July, Vienna. Meeting on prison reform. Second OSCE supplementary human dimension meeting in 2002.**

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and OSCE Chairmanship

OSCE

NEWSLETTER



**Graduation day.** The first class of police cadets, representing the different ethnic communities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, graduated on 27 April from the police academy at Idrizovo near Skopje. Another 152 cadets successfully concluded training on 24 May. The school is a joint project of the country's Interior Ministry and the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje. Under the Ohrid Agreement, signed in August 2001, the cadets are to be deployed in the former crisis areas as a major step towards rebuilding confidence and ensuring stability in the region.



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