



REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (21 September – 27 September)

Chairman-in-Office Meets the UN Secretary General

NEW YORK - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel ended his participation at the United Nations General Assembly on 20 September with a meeting with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Their talks examined the Outcome Document of the UN World Summit, the need for dialogue and alliances among civilizations, reform of the UN, and co-operation between the OSCE and the UN.

OSCE and EU Seek to Improve Cooperation

NEW YORK - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel took part in a meeting of the OSCE and EU Troikas on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on 20 September, with talks focusing on ways of boosting ties between the 55-member OSCE and the EU. The officials agreed that Central Asia, Caucasus and Balkans were regions with strong OSCE presence where cooperation with the EU could be strengthened. The Chairman-in-Office informed all participants about the pace of reforms aimed at improving the effectiveness of the Organization.

Chairman-in-Office Meets Head of the UN Mission to Kosovo

NEW YORK - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel met the head of the UN Mission to Kosovo (UNMIK) Soeren Jessen-Petersen on 20 September for talks on the current political and security situation in the province. The meeting also examined the future report of the UN special envoy Kai Eide, who is reviewing the implementation of the standards for democracy and multiethnicity.

Chairman-in-Office Condemns Shelling in South Ossetia, Georgia

LJUBLJANA - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel condemned those behind an artillery attack on 20 September in a populated area of Tskhinvali, the main town in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. "The firing of heavy weapons into civilian areas is not only a serious breach of the ceasefire agreement, but it is also against all norms of civilized behaviour and decency. I have no hesitation in totally condemning this act," Rupel said.

Chairman-in-Office Pays Tribute to Simon Wiesenthal

LJUBLJANA - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel paid tribute to the late Simon Wiesenthal, who died at his home in Vienna on 20 September. Rupel called him a champion of justice. "Simon Wiesenthal became both the conscience and the voice of all those that were persecuted, expelled or killed during the middle of the 20th century," Rupel said. Acknowledging close co-operation between the Simon Wiesenthal Centre and the OSCE in the fight against anti-Semitism, the OSCE's Personal Representative on Combating anti-Semitism, Gert Weisskirchen, said the organization had benefited significantly from the expertise of the centre.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SARAJEVO, 27 September - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel is to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SKOPJE, 5 October - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel is to visit the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

SVETI STEFAN, 8 October - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel is to address the Fall Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Sveti Stefan, Montenegro/Serbia and Montenegro.