

Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office

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- On 17 May, the **CiO** issued a press release on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference. He welcomed the **initiative of the Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation, the USA and France to hold a meeting with the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan** the day before and stressed the Chairmanship's commitment to support all efforts undertaken by the Co-Chairs and PR Amb. Kasprzyk, including with regard to the establishment of an investigative mechanism. At the same time, regretting the reported recent loss of life along the line of contact, he urged the sides to respect the ceasefire in full.
 - On 18 May, the **CiO** opened the two-day **Chairmanship conference "Connectivity for Commerce and Investment" in Berlin**. The event focussed on opportunities for improved trade and investment in order to strengthen business relations in the OSCE area. The conference brought together representatives from the worlds of politics, international actors, business and civil society from different regions and economic systems in some 70 countries.
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- On 25 May, the **CiO** welcomed the **release of Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko**: “This is good news for which we have long worked to bring about and for which we nevertheless had to wait a long time.” In a press release he expressed his hope and wish that this step will help build trust.
 - On 25 May, the **CiO** welcomed the suspension of the prison sentence **of the Journalist Khadija Ismayilova** from Azerbaijan. He expressed his hope that this positive decision is a reflection of an improving situation for freedom of press and opinion in the country.
 - On 19 May, **Chairmanship SR Erler** opened the two-day Second Preparatory Meeting of the Annual OSCE **Economic and Environmental Forum** in Berlin which focussed on co-operation on good governance. Erler stressed the key importance of good governance to improved economic relations as a fundamental contribution to security and stability in the OSCE area.
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- On 12 May, the SR for the **Transdnestrian Settlement Process, Amb. Meier-Klodt, concluded a visit to the region**, which included meetings with the chief negotiators in Chisinau and Tiraspol and confirmed the objective of a substantive „5 + 2“ meeting in June.
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