



## NEWSLETTER

### Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



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*The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, presenting his semi-annual report to the Permanent Council on 21 June*

# No State which shares OSCE values need feel isolated or abandoned

## Chairman delivers half-year report on Romania's term of office

**T**he Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe should provide "an umbrella of inclusiveness", offering its 55 participating States a forum for raising the issues of most concern to them and seeking the support of their colleagues and partners in finding the best solutions, according to Romania's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mircea Geoana, the OSCE's current Chairman-in-Office (CiO).

Addressing the Permanent Council on 21 June, he said, "We have the unique

advantages of our comprehensive membership, our geography, our co-operative spirit and indeed our flexible way of operating. The OSCE can ensure that no State which shares its values need feel isolated or abandoned."

Approaching the half-way point of the year, the CiO described the achievements of the Romanian Chairmanship, and its goals for the remaining six months: "We believe in what we have accomplished so far and we look forward to your continued support and initiatives

in order to carry the OSCE forward... The OSCE is not an organization which makes headlines. Nevertheless, we have taken some significant steps this year."

As its first achievement, he singled out the opening of the OSCE Mission in Belgrade, with a mandate covering such areas as judicial reform, media, and reform of election legislation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

"The OSCE's role in establishing the multi-ethnic policing programme is crucial to the implementation of confi-

dence-building measures agreed for southern Serbia, contributing as it does to restoring the trust of the local community in the authorities”, he added.

A second accomplishment was the return of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya, which the Chairman-in-Office (CiO) described as a “a long and difficult process... I would like also to pay tribute to the previous Chairmanship for their perseverance and efforts in this regard. This success belongs to all of us”, he said.

He also praised the agreement reached among participating States on the scale of contributions for large-scale missions which was a vital factor in keeping the OSCE missions in the field.

“I have visited almost all our missions now and continue to be impressed by the dedication and energy of our field personnel”, he said. “Their activities and projects have a real impact on the daily lives of those they come into contact with. They represent the real success story of the OSCE. They deserve the thanks and appreciation of all of us. I should like to see much higher visibility for what they do.”

### **Immediate challenges**

But no one could be fully satisfied with this half-year’s achievements as long as the conflict in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continued, Mr. Geoana said. The situation was still of enormous concern, not only for the sake of those most directly affected – “those who have left their homes, those who have been injured, the families of those who have been killed” – but also for its effect on the stability of the whole region.

“The OSCE”, said the CiO, “is prepared to offer its capabilities and skills to the people and Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as to the international community.”

“The OSCE Mission has consider-

able experience on the ground. It is already engaged in efforts to help local communities, for example to restore the water supply in Kumanovo. But it can also make a positive contribution with confidence-building measures once the disarmament plan has been implemented: re-establishing confidence among the ethnic Albanian communities; promoting multi-ethnic programmes in the police and local administration. And they can contribute to long-term post-conflict efforts.”

The second serious challenge, he said, was the preparation of the elections in Kosovo: “The OSCE has a crucial role in organizing and observing the elections and to continue with our important programmes on police training and building

## *“The field missions represent the real success story of the OSCE”*

a professional public service sector. I would urge participating States to redouble their efforts in providing the necessary resources to accomplish this.”

He also called for progress on the issue of the legal capacity of the OSCE. “I would strongly urge a solution to this question before the end of the year.”

### **Balancing the dimensions**

The CiO reflected on the fact that the year had been marked by discussion about the balance between the OSCE’s three dimensions of security.

“The Human Dimension remains a core value which must be pursued. There

is still much to do throughout the OSCE area to consolidate democracy and the rule of law, to ensure free and fair elections, to eliminate discrimination and intolerance, and to develop stronger civil societies. The building of democratic institutions is a long-term goal in which we must remain engaged. There is considerable room for progress on the return of displaced persons and refugees.

“These are messages... we will repeat and should repeat until they are heeded and the need for them has disappeared...”

However, he added that, as crucial as the Human Dimension was, he also shared the views of those who believed in a more proactive effort on both the [Politico-Military] Security and Economic and Environmental fronts.

“We have to offer more to participating States who are facing difficult situations... Economic growth and human rights are stunted by such conditions. The economic divide is striking and damaging. And it is compounded by the threats from organized crime and from extremist movements, sometimes in concert, which exploit such situations mercilessly. The result is more conflict, more poverty, less freedom. We should address these issues”, he said.

Other challenges included pressing for full implementation of the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (*see story on pages 10 to 12*).

He also stressed the importance of regional co-operation as the means to approaching and solving problems: “The [South-Eastern Europe] Stability Pact Regional Conference will be held in Bucharest this October. We have proposed holding, back-to-back, a Conference on developments in south-eastern Europe as a means of re-energizing implementation of Pact programmes and stimulating the participation of the private sector in this programmes”, he suggested.

“Access to equal opportunity, social justice and prosperity should become a common rule of action for all regions in the OSCE, not merely those which are dominating world attention and media headlines. I should like to see the same opportunities open to other regions in the OSCE area”, he said.

This was why he had appointed as his new Special Representative, Ambassador Hoeynck, the first Secretary General of the OSCE, to identify concrete projects to benefit the Central Asian participating States.

### The Bucharest Ministerial

Finally, he urged the Ministerial Council, due to be held on 3 and 4 Decem-

ber in Bucharest, to consider a renewal of the OSCE’s commitment to security and stability in south-eastern Europe.

“We should secure confirmation of the OSCE rule of multi-ethnicity across our continent with clear results in policing, education, local administration. We should aim for a strong commitment to make real progress on the return of refugees and displaced persons. We should look for increased commitments on illegal trafficking and organized crime through regional and transregional co-operation, with a clear OSCE role on trafficking and police training. We want agreement on a strengthened Economic Dimension”, he added.

Progress was also needed on the out-

standing issues from the 1999 Istanbul Summit, chief among these being implementation of the commitments on Georgia and Moldova, with an increased role of the OSCE in resolving the Transdniestrian crisis.

“We also need to keep our focus on solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We will continue to press the parties concerned to make a real effort to bring these open issues to a close.

“The OSCE represents a common commitment to building a united, secure, free but diverse Europe. With your support and co-operation, we will be closer to our goal and leave our Chairmanship, with Europe a more secure place than when we started.

## New OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities takes up post

As Max van der Stoel ends eight-and-a-half year term, Rolf Ekeus takes over

**T**here was a changing of the guard at the office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities at the end of June. Max van der Stoel, who had been High Commissioner since the office was established in 1993, handed over the post to Swedish diplomat, Rolf Ekeus, on 1 July.

Mr. van der Stoel remained active until his last day in office (see HCNM report in this issue). During a busy month, he also managed to find time to attend a number of ceremonial events held in his honour. On 12 June, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in law from University College London, and on 19 June he received the Peace Prize from the Parliament of Hesse.

At the acceptance ceremony in

Wiesbaden, Mr. van der Stoel referred to the Sisyphean task of trying to keep



*Swedish diplomat, Rolf Ekeus, started his job as new High Commissioner on 1 July*

multi-ethnic States together after a conflict had broken out. He noted that, “There are ways of preventing the nationalist stone always rolling back on us”, but concluded, “we still need to do a lot more in terms of investing in conflict prevention, acting on the signs of early warning, and shoring up the foundations of multi-ethnic States... The last century, indeed the last decade, has given us enough warning of what happens if we fail.”

On 22 June, a special OSCE Permanent Council (PC) meeting was held in honour of Mr. van der Stoel’s unique period of eight and a half years as High Commissioner. The meeting was preceded by the launch of a revised edition of his speeches, entitled ‘Peace and Stability through Human and Minority Rights’. In the

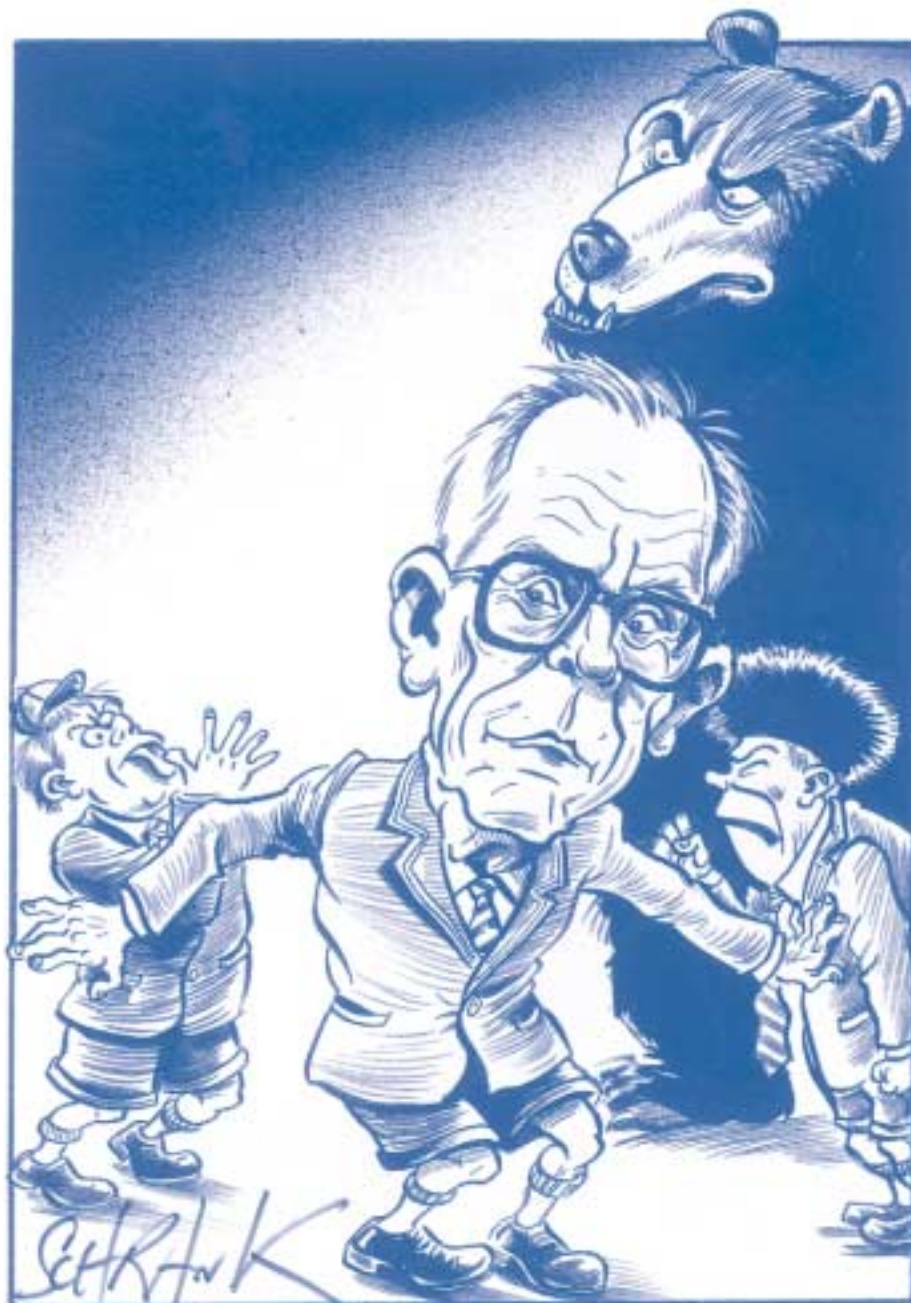


PC, statements by several serving and retired senior statesmen were read out. These included the former President of Latvia, Guntis Ulmanis, former German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, former President of Macedonia Kiro Gligorov, and the US President, George W. Bush. Congratulations and best wishes were conveyed to Mr. van der Stoel by several ambassadors to the OSCE on behalf of their governments. In a particularly poignant address, Ambassador Kai Eide of Norway described Mr. van der Stoel as belonging to “a generation of giants in international affairs”.

In his address to the PC, Mr. van der Stoel thanked the representatives of OSCE participating States for their years of co-operation. He noted that being High Commissioner had sometimes been a thankless job as he had sometimes been vilified by minorities and majorities. He also regretted the lack of public attention paid to conflict prevention and highlighted the problem of attracting sufficient resources to address tensions at an early stage: “We have to sharpen our tools and invest sufficient resources to ensure that we remain on the cutting edge of conflict prevention.”

He cautioned that there were limits to what the High Commissioner could do on his own; the international community must take “resolute, targeted, and timely” action to follow up on early warning. “If we do not respond effectively to the early signs of trouble, precious time will be lost. And sometimes so much damage is done in the interim that the possibility of preventing conflict becomes very slim indeed. We can not afford to do little too late”, he warned.

This message was repeated in an address at a ceremony held in Mr. van der Stoel’s honour in the Senate of the Netherlands on 29 June in The Hague. In the company of a number of colleagues, including former and service Dutch



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*A cartoon from The Economist showing the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoel*

politicians and diplomats, the outgoing High Commissioner said that the current situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia highlighted some of the problems which the international community still faced when dealing effectively with inter-ethnic conflict.

“As the storm clouds darkened” over Skopje earlier this year, “the international community was preoccupied with

events elsewhere in the Balkans. . . When the crisis broke, the international community was caught off guard and forced to play catch up. Now we may be too late.”

During the ceremony, the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, Mr. J. J. van Aartsen, announced the creation of a Van der Stoel Prize (worth 100,000 guilders) which will be awarded every two years to

an individual or group performing outstanding work in the field of minority protection. A new book about the High Commissioner's work, *Quiet Diplomacy in Action*, was also launched at the ceremony.

Mr. van der Stoel will not be leaving the OSCE. On 29 June, he was appointed as Personal Envoy to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office "to facilitate a dialogue and provide advice for a speedy solution to the current crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

### **Ekeus takes over**

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus took over the position of High Commissioner on 1 July. He has already begun his work in earnest. During his first week in office he visited Belgrade to address a regional Ministerial Conference on National and Ethnic Communities in south-eastern Europe. He also took part in the tenth annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) in Paris on 6 July.

Mr. Ekeus told the parliamentarians, "My approach, pursuant to my mandate and the spirit of the OSCE, will be co-operative. But to be effective I will need your support, both in backing up my

activities and in implementing my recommendations. Ethnic conflict remains a threat to security in Europe. We must work together to reduce that threat so that we may all live up to the expectations of ten years ago and consolidate an era of democracy, peace and unity in Europe."

He is not new to the OSCE, but was active in its period as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), during the post-Communist transition. He headed the Swedish delegation to the CSCE from 1988 to 1992 and played a key role in drafting the Charter of Paris in November 1990.

Mr. Ekeus has had a distinguished career in the Swedish diplomatic service for some 40 years and has served his country in Bonn, Nairobi, New York, and the Hague. Most recently, he was Sweden's Ambassador to the United States.

Arms control and disarmament have been recurrent themes in Mr. Ekeus' career. He is best known for his work as Executive Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) where he led the weapons inspectors between 1991 and 1997. Previously he was Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Conference on Dis-

armament (CD) in Geneva from 1983 to 1988 and Chairman of the CD's negotiations on the Chemical Weapons Convention from 1984 to 1987. He is still an active member of a number of advisory boards dealing with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

Recently Mr. Ekeus has been preparing two reports for the Swedish Government. The first is an analysis and assessment of Sweden's security policy during the Cold War. The second concerns the political and military handling of foreign submarine intrusions into Swedish territorial waters from 1980 to the present.

He will remain Chairman of Governing Board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Asked about his early impressions of the job, Mr. Ekeus said he was looking forward to an intensive engagement on questions concerning national minority issues and intends to build on the achievements of his predecessor.

*The full text of Mr. van der Stoel's farewell speech in The Hague and an order form for the new book are both available on the High Commissioner's website: [www.osce.org/hcnm](http://www.osce.org/hcnm)*

## **OSCE Assistance Group returns to Chechnya**

### **The Assistance Group stands ready to facilitate a political settlement of the crisis in Chechnya, says Chairman-in-Office**

**N**early two and a half years to the day since the withdrawal of its international personnel, the OSCE finally returned in June to Chechnya, the strife-torn republic of the Russian Federation. Following extensive planning and preparatory work that had already begun in 2000, the team of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya moved on 15 June into their offices in

Znamenskoye (northern Chechnya).

"This is a major breakthrough for the Organization", said the OSCE Chairman-in-Office (CiO) Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, in his address on the occasion of the official inauguration. "Where there is a will there is a way", he said, expressing his satisfaction at the fruitful outcome of a difficult negotiation process on the return of the Assistance

Group. The CiO also underscored the need for full implementation of the Group's mandate, as approved by the OSCE Permanent Council in April 1995.

On the day of the official return of the OSCE to Chechnya, Mr. Geoana expressed his conviction that the OSCE would be able to engage both the local and federal authorities in Russia in a constructive dialogue to the benefit of

Chechnya, the Russian Federation as a whole, and the OSCE community.

“An important phase of our effort has ended. The most difficult has yet to come. The Assistance Group stands ready to facilitate a political settlement of the crisis in Chechnya”, he said.

The Assistance Group will be lead by the Romanian Ambassador, Alexandru Cornea, who officially took office on the day of the inauguration of the new offices of the Group.

Two days before the inaugural ceremony, the director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Gerard Stoudmann, had paid a two-day visit to Chechnya to assess the human rights and humanitarian situation in the republic. His visit was at the invitation of Vladimir Kalamonov, the Presidential Human Rights representative in Chechnya.

#### **IDP camp**

During his stay, Mr. Stoudmann and his delegation visited a pre-trial detention facility and a camp for internally displaced persons. He also met the Republic's Prime Minister, Stanislav Ilyasov, and visited the local offices of Mr. Kalamonov in Grozny and Znamenskoye to assess how previous support provided by the ODIHR is being reflected in the Office's on-going operations.

The OSCE Assistance Group originally took up its duties on 26 April 1995. In 1995 and 1996, the OSCE helped bro-



OSCE/Koieck

*The Chairman-in-Office, Mircea Geoana (centre), together with the Head of the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya, Alexandru Cornea (left), in Znamenskoye*

ker cease-fire agreements in the conflict taking place in Chechnya. Following the hostilities, the Assistance Group played a leading role in the organization of the presidential elections, which were held in Chechnya on 27 January 1997. After the elections, the focus of OSCE activities in Chechnya shifted to post-conflict rehabilitation, and involved facilitating the return of humanitarian organizations, promoting contacts with regard to prisoner exchange, assisting with agreements on demining, and monitoring the human rights situation.

At this time, the OSCE was the only international organization present in Chechnya. However, in December 1998,

the international staff of the Group were temporarily withdrawn to Moscow because the security situation in Chechnya had deteriorated dramatically. The OSCE offices in Grozny remained open until armed fighting broke out again in 1999.

From Moscow, the Group co-ordinated the delivery of humanitarian aid and the implementation of projects aimed at providing assistance to those affected by the conflict. In the months following the Group's withdrawal, the OSCE repeatedly prolonged the Group's absence from Chechnya, due to the continuing difficult security situation in the republic.

## **Third edition of OSCE Handbook**

Updated English and Russian versions available online at

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Hard copies also available from the OSCE Secretariat,  
Kärntner Ring 5-7, A-1010 Vienna, Austria





# OSCE PA's Paris Declaration calls for more oversight and accountability in the OSCE

Nearly 300 parliamentarians from over 50 countries attended the Tenth Annual Session of the Organization's Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), held this year in Paris

On the final day of the OSCE PA Annual Assembly, held from 6 to 10 July, the parliamentarians adopted a 'Paris Declaration', which included a unanimous resolution on strengthening transparency and accountability in the OSCE. The resolution included the proposal that, before making major decisions, the Ministerial Council should take into account the opinion of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) and explain how this has affected the result.

The Assembly also recommended that, as long as the OSCE complied with the strict consensus rule, it should not be possible to participate in the decision-making process secretly and that objections to any proposal must be made known to any interested OSCE participating State or OSCE Institution. The parliamentarians also called on the OSCE Permanent Council to open its meetings to the public.

The resolution further called for the reports of external and internal auditors of the OSCE to be made available to the Parliamentary Assembly "in a timely manner". The OSCE PA has established an *Ad hoc* Committee to monitor the implementation of the transparency resolution and to promote transparency and accountability in the Organization.

The Paris Declaration also contained resolutions on specific issues such as abolition of the death penalty; the prevention of torture, abuse, extortion or other unlawful acts; combating trafficking in human beings; combating corrup-



*This year's Parliamentary Assembly met in Paris at the Assemblée Nationale*

tion and international crime; and freedom of the media, as well as resolutions on areas such as south-eastern Europe, the northern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine.

The Assembly re-elected the Romanian Member of Parliament, Adrian Severin, as its President for a second one-year term. The United States Congressman, Alcee Hastings, and the MPs Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) and Ahmet Tan (Turkey) were elected as Vice-Presidents of the Assembly for a three-year term.

The Annual Session was also attended by observers from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Assembly of the Western European Union, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and

the Nordic Council.

During their meetings from 7 to 9 July the three General Committees of the Assembly considered reports and draft resolutions dealing with the political, economic and human rights aspects of the central theme of the Tenth Annual Session, 'European Security and Conflict Prevention: Challenges to the OSCE in the 21st Century'.

Prior to the opening of the Tenth Annual Session, the Credentials Committee, chaired by Tone Tingsgaard MP (Sweden), heard testimonies from representatives of the Belarus National Assembly and the Belarus 13th Supreme Soviet. The Committee presented their recommendation – to leave the seat of the Belarus Delegation empty on the occasion of the Paris Session – to the OSCE PA Standing Committee, where no con-

sensus was reached on the language. As a result, the Belarus seat remained empty.

### Inaugural Plenary Session

Opening the Inaugural Plenary Session, President Adrian Severin focused on the specific leverages, ways and means that are available to parliamentarians to address the various types of crises and conflicts. Parliamentarians can open doors that only politicians can open, prepare a favourable environment for the implementation of solutions and agreements negotiated by professional diplomats, and promote political dialogue at the level of parliaments, political parties and civil society.

He again pleaded for overcoming the democratic deficit in the OSCE, for openness, accountability and transparency. “I have constantly criticized the degeneration of the principle of consensus into an abusive practice of secret consensus and I agreed with the CiO that a ‘Wisemen’s Group’ should be constituted in order to prepare a draft blueprint containing proposals for the OSCE’s reform”.

The Assembly, after hearing welcoming remarks by the Speaker of the French National Assembly, Raymond Forni, and the French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, was addressed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office (CiO), Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geona. He paid tribute to the invaluable activities of the OSCE PA, saying, “The additional influence which you bring to bear on governments and parliaments alike is significant. Your experience as legislators and elected representatives of your own citizens gives you a unique advantage. Your voice may be heard in places where those of government representatives are disregarded.”

Presentations were also given by the OSCE Secretary General, Jan Kubis, the new OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Rolf Ekeus, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, and the Director of the ODIHR, Gerard Stoudmann, as well as the acting OSCE Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Affairs, Marc Baltés.

The Assembly also heard presentations by the President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Lord Russell-Johnston, the President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Rafael Estrella, the President of the WEU Parliamentary Assembly, Klaus Buhler, and the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Kees Wiebenga, as well as the Representative of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS, Vitaliy Klimov.

The Paris Session also held its traditional Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. Chaired by the French MP, Mrs. Lignieres-Cassou, it took the theme of ‘Woman in Politics and the Implementation of the OSCE Gender Action Plan’. The participants heard presentations by OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the Kosovo Team, Rita Suessmuth, ODIHR Gender Adviser, Sonja Zimmermann, and OSCE Gender Adviser, Beatrix Attinger Colijn. Deputy Secretary General Pentti Vaananen presented a report on gender balance in OSCE Institutions, prepared by the International Secretariat in Copenhagen.



OSCE/PA

### OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy

During a special ceremony on 6 July, the 2001 OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy was presented to the widows of the murdered journalists, Jose Luis Lopez de Lacalle (Spain) and Georgiy Gongadze (Ukraine). The journalists were posthumously awarded the prize for their furthering of OSCE values by intervening in conflicts and secretive political environments through their writings. Ms. Gongadze and Ms. Lopez received the shared award from the Speaker of the French National Assembly, Raymond Forni.

The ceremony also included presentations by the OSCE Representative on Free-

dom of the Media, Freimut Duve, and the Chair of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, Gert Weisskirchen. Both were closely involved in the establishment of the prize and are still at the forefront of its development and promotion.

President Severin recalled this was the sixth award of what had become an important and well-recognized OSCE instrument in the promotion of the freedom of the media. He expressed gratitude to the donors who have made the prize possible through their generous financial contributions: Bertelsmann AG of Germany, the Bonnier Group of Sweden, Southam Inc. of Canada, Schibsted ASA of Norway and the George and Thelma Paraskevaides Foundation of Cyprus.

*President of the National Assembly, Raymond Forni, with Artolazabal de Lopez de Lacalle, widow of the murdered Spanish journalist Jose Luis Lopez de Lacalle*



# Strengthening the OSCE regional approach to security in Central Asia

The Chairman-in-Office held high level talks in four participating States last month

The need to make renewed efforts toward a co-ordinated regional approach was one of the key messages which the OSCE Chairman-in-Office (CiO), Mircea Geoana, conveyed to leaders and decision-makers in the four Central Asian countries that he visited between 3 and 8 June. Security issues such as international terrorism and organized crime, as well as illegal trafficking in drugs, weapons, and human beings could only be addressed by working together, across national boundaries.

Without such an approach, no substantial steps could be taken to eradicate some of these “plagues” he said in Astana, Kazakhstan, during the first stop of a trip which also took him to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. While emphasizing the tangible progress that has been made in Central Asia in fulfilling OSCE commitments, Mr. Geoana, who is also the Romanian Foreign Minister, underlined the fact that much still remained to be done.

In Astana, where he met the country’s President, Nursultan Nazarbaev, the CiO welcomed the constructive collaboration of Kazakh authorities with the OSCE. He outlined areas of continuous effort needed in the fields of the judicial and penitentiary systems, police and media law. In his discussions, also with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other political representatives, Mr. Geoana stressed the importance of an integrated approach for other important regional issues, such as water and energy.

He also underlined the high priority



*The Head of the Mission to Tajikistan, Marc Gilbert, greets the Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, at Dushanbe airport*

of democracy and the protection of human rights in the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security. “Respect for human rights, the proper functioning of democratic institutions and an independent judiciary are directly linked to economic development”, he said. He urged political leaders to pursue dialogue within the framework of the OSCE-promoted round table on elections, in order to produce tangible progress before the upcoming local elections.

## **Ten-year strategy**

During his visit to Kyrgyzstan, the CiO welcomed that country’s commitment to the Comprehensive Development Framework Programme developed with the assistance of the World Bank. The programme is aimed at establishing an economic strategy for the country,

valid for the coming ten years. “This is an excellent vehicle, which engages all parties in a fruitful future for this nation”, Mr. Geoana said.

The CiO offered his interlocutors, who included the country’s President and the Speakers of both chambers of the Kyrgyz Parliament, as well as the Foreign Minister, the OSCE’s assistance in the fields of water, environment protection, good governance and transparency. On the human dimension, Mr. Geoana stressed the importance of a sound dialogue with the Opposition. He welcomed the three new draft laws currently under discussion, prepared with the participation of the OSCE (on an Ombudsman institution, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion), urging that they fully comply with OSCE commitments.

On the third leg of his trip, in

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the CiO was able to meet the country's President, its Prime Minister, and the Chairmen of both chambers of Parliament, as well as representatives of political parties, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and media outlets. In these talks, he welcomed Tajik support for the OSCE's regional approach to countering terrorism and other cross-border threats, and emphasized the importance of the OSCE-Japan comprehensive security conference, held last December.

Mr. Geoana encouraged the Tajik authorities to continue the ongoing political dialogue in the spirit of national reconciliation, thus facilitating the post-conflict rehabilitation process. He also gave support to efforts made by the authorities to foster the development of the Tajik women's NGO sector. With local elections approaching, Mr. Geoana

asked for the implementation of the recommendations of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, made following the last parliamentary elections. As in other countries on this visit, the CiO encouraged the authorities to take measures to reform the judiciary and transfer the prison system to the justice ministry. He also signalled that the 10th anniversary of independence would be an excellent opportunity to undertake a series of gestures such as releasing detainees, particularly women, from prisons.

The CiO stressed the close links between confidence-building, economic development and governance: "Good governance and transparency are key instruments for promoting economic growth and increasing investment", he stated.

In Ashgabad, Turkmenistan, where the CiO concluded his Central Asia trip,

he met President Saparmurat Niyazov, the Foreign Minister and the Parliamentary Chairman. He discussed the growth of organized crime, drug trafficking, and religious fundamentalism in the region. He also emphasized the importance of a free and independent media, the need for a strong civil society, and the protection of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as well as the abolition of exit visas and the removal of internal travel restrictions.

The CiO laid particular emphasis on the importance of good governance and transparency, as well as the need to secure a strong civil service as a means of strengthening the internal stability. He also encouraged the Turkmen authorities to implement agreements that had already been ratified, such as the Aarhus Convention on public access to information in environmental matters.

## Focussing the world's attention on the deadly illicit trade in small arms

### OSCE assists the international community in facing a major security challenge

*The UN Conference on 'The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects', which got underway on 9 July, is a reminder that the OSCE has already made a substantial contribution to this high profile debate with its Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, agreed in 2000.*

After a year spent in patient negotiations, the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation, was able to agree last November on a comprehensive document which took the Organization a major step forward in its efforts to combat the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons. Hailed as a landmark agreement, the OSCE Document on Small

Arms and Light Weapons has made a substantial contribution to a high profile conference on small arms at the United Nations, and has also successfully stood the test of the first phase of regional implementation.

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons, generally taken to include all military-style man-portable weapons from pistols to rocket launchers, has been acknowledged as a growing security threat and humanitarian disaster. Small arms are used increasingly in civil conflicts and organized crime, where they disproportionately affect civilians. In post-conflict situations, inadequate disarmament has left huge numbers of illegal weapons in circulation among

local populations, where their presence undermines attempts at conflict resolution and impedes reconstruction efforts.

As a regional group which includes many arms producing and exporting countries, the OSCE recognized early on its special responsibility to control transfers and crack down on illegal gun running.

Consequently, the OSCE Document includes controls over the manufacture, marking, export and brokering activities, as well as standards for stockpile security and the destruction of surplus weapons. It also elaborates a menu of measures for OSCE missions and other field activities, including involvement in weapons collection programmes.

The Document passed its first implementation test on 30 June, when participating States took part in a set of information exchanges mandated by the agreement. States shared information on their national marking systems, their controls over small arms manufacture, their national legislation and current practice on export policy and procedures, and their techniques for destroying surplus weapons.

The information gathered shows how far participating States are implementing their commitments at the national level. It will be studied in OSCE capitals and will help inform a discussion in the Forum for Security Co-operation, when it re-convenes in late August.

Discussions have also taken place on how to operationalize the section of the document which deals with conflict situations. Some OSCE missions had established projects before the Document was agreed, and have recently increased their activities.

For example, the OSCE Presence in Albania has been monitoring the government's weapons collection programme for some time, while the Mission in Georgia has also been observing the voluntary small arms handover programme of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces in South Ossetia. With the help of a Norwegian donation, the Mission has recently provided office equipment to help administer the programme in Georgia.

#### **Baku workshop**

Implementation of small arms restrictions recently received a boost when Switzerland and Azerbaijan co-hosted a workshop in Baku on 21 and 22 June. The event, entitled 'Small arms and light



*In Croatia, the Government marked the start of the Small Arms Conference in the United Nations by destroying a large quantity of weapons*

weapons: practical challenges for the implementation of current undertakings in the OSCE and the EAPC', provided an opportunity to team up with the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), which is made up of NATO member states and their partners.

The workshop brought together national experts, as well as OSCE and NATO staff. The OSCE's Secretary General, Jan Kubis, updated participants on progress made to date and urged participating States to implement their national commitments as soon as possible. He also welcomed the increased co-operation with the EAPC and called on the organizations to work with host governments in establishing pilot projects on the ground.

Workshop participants were particularly interested to hear from OSCE missions and field activities. Representa-

tives from missions in Georgia, Moldova, Albania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia all shared information about their current and potential involvement in weapons collection programmes, among other projects.

In their conclusions, the co-chairmen of the workshop – Paul Flaherty, the former coordinator of the OSCE Document, and Michael Miggins, the director of the Conventional Arms Control and Verification Section at NATO – stressed the potential role of the missions in moving implementation forward. They also underscored the opportunities for co-operation among regional organizations, particularly within the UN framework.

#### **Small arms destruction**

The UN Conference began on 9 July with an international day devoted to the destruction of small arms and light weapons. The call to destroy surplus arms was obviously heard by the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), which announced that it planned to destroy large number of small arms and light weapons, particularly those seized from illegal traffickers.

The announcement was welcomed by the Head of the OSCE Mission to FRY, Stefano Sannino, as "further proof of [the authorities'] commitment to comply with their obligations laid down in OSCE documents, more specifically the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons."

The Government of Croatia also marked the day by destroying 449 weapons and 44,652 pieces of explosive ordnance. The destruction event was observed by foreign diplomats, includ-

ing the Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Croatia, Todd Becker.

The aim of the conference in New York was to agree a Programme of Action for the United Nations, a politically binding declaration calling on member states to do more to stop illicit trafficking and reduce the global surplus of small arms.

Ambassador Alexandru Niculescu of Romania, addressing the conference on behalf of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, expressed the hope that the UN Programme would draw upon many of the commitments contained in the OSCE Document. He also stressed the potential for co-operation, saying, “At the OSCE we look forward to working with the UN and other international organizations,

not just on dialogue and discussion, but also on the development and implementation of concrete initiatives that will benefit those most in need”.

Divided opinion at the United Nations looked set (*at the time of going to press*) to prevent agreement on a set of strong commitments. But the Programme of Action is likely to stress the important role of regional organizations, such as the OSCE, in developing stricter standards to combat small arms trafficking.

Anticipating this aspect during his address to the OSCE Permanent Council on 21 June, the Chairman-in-Office, Romania’s Foreign Minister, Mircea Geoana, suggested that in pressing for full implementation of the Document on

Small Arms and Light Weapons, the OSCE could do still more.

“We can engage in more small-scale disarmament activities, such as weapons collection. We can act to raise awareness of the dangers and of the needs, particularly in those regions where international community engagement is limited but where the OSCE is present through its field missions. We can stimulate international attention, advise states where to go for help, provide a link between regional mechanisms, arrange training programmes”, he said.

“A priority area should be the strengthening of border services to combat illegal trafficking without hampering legal cross-border trade and the free movement of people.”

## ‘If the political will is there, we can also act’

### Marianne von Grünigen reflects on the evolution of the CSCE/OSCE

*In this interview, Marianne von Grünigen, Head of the Swiss Delegation to the OSCE from 1997 until the end of May this year, provides an insider’s account of how the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) evolved into the OSCE, the largest regional security Organization in the world.*

*Newsletter: What were your first impressions of the CSCE process?*

My first impressions were that it was an excellent achievement to start a political process in Europe where East and West were sitting around the table and trying to work towards a better understanding, especially to be active on behalf of people who suffered on the other side of what was then called the “Iron Curtain”. I was intellectually very much in support of all these activities, even though I was not directly involved



*Marianne von Grünigen attending her last session of the OSCE Permanent Council*

at this stage. I then had some practical opportunities to contribute to the implementation of some of the principles and commitments of the Helsinki Final Act,

when I served in Moscow from 1982 to 1986. I also thought it was an important task to negotiate confidence- and security-building measures; however I was convinced that we not only needed such measures in the politico-military areas, but also in the human dimension. That was the early impression that I had.

*When you were in Moscow, what practical measures to implement the Helsinki principles were you involved in?*

Of course it was impossible in those days that the dissidents should visit the Swiss Embassy. But we frequently made *démarches* in the Foreign Ministry, stating for instance that we had heard of some events and appealing to the authorities to stop ill-treatment or for the release of the dissident concerned.

One of the people that we particularly took care of was Professor Sakharov. He



was held in those days with his wife in Gorky and we were very worried about his health and future.

This kind of intervention, on behalf of quite a lot of other dissidents as well, was a direct implementation of the Helsinki Final Act.

*How would you evaluate the overall development of the CSCE, up to the point when it became an Organization in 1994?*

The crucial point was 1989, when the Berlin Wall crumbled. For me it was a particular event, because I came back from Helsinki to Bern to be responsible, among other topics, for the CSCE on 6 November 1989. On 9 November, the Berlin Wall was starting to fall to pieces.

In that period, the crucial question was: has the CSCE now fulfilled its tasks? Can we say – wonderful, East-West problems have been overcome, or should we say we have to try to find out what we can do with the CSCE in order to make it also useful in this post-cold war period? The answer was the Charter of Paris. I am very happy until now that the answer was positive.

What we in Switzerland, and I personally, thought from the beginning was that the CSCE could survive if it becomes operational. One of my real desires was that we would go into the countries with a potential for crisis.

Even though the table with 55 delegations would still remain necessary for negotiation and political dialogue, we should also have the possibility of talking directly to the authorities and working together with the population in the field, aiming at more stability. And this is what we have today with the missions and the activities of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

*After a period in Egypt, you became involved again with the OSCE in 1997 as Head of the Swiss Delegation. Had the OSCE changed?*

The great satisfaction was that the OSCE has really become an Organization for crisis management. When I returned, we focused on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, then Croatia. Very soon our main burden became Kosovo with moments of high tension, like the evacuation of the Kosovo Verification Mission, and intensive work to build up the new Mission in Kosovo in close co-operation with the United Nations Interim Administration. Here we realized that we had acquired the experience to be effective in such delicate situations, but also that we still had to improve our means.

The unique possibility of the OSCE is to be ready on the spot earlier than any other organization. Our mechanisms today are such that, if the political will is there, we can also act.

*How would you typify the role of your country in the development of the CSCE/OSCE?*

Switzerland has from the very beginning been very active in the CSCE, from elaborating the Final Act, to being instrumental in encouraging the Mediterranean dimension and of course, in establishing the Court for Conciliation and Arbitration, which in our view could be, if properly used, a very important instrument of our organization.

Not being a member of the United Nations, the OSCE has also offered us an outstanding opportunity to have a voice in the political framework outside our own country. For example, we give a certain priority through the OSCE to the Balkans; we have a lot of people from the region living in Switzerland and we have

traditional ties with the area. We have done a lot particularly for Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was our role when we held the Chairmanship to build up the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and we still keep in touch very closely.

Recently, we have given an important sum, 200,000 Swiss francs, to assist the Representative on Freedom of the Media to set up the new mobile.culture.container project for the young people of the Balkans and I was in Tuzla for the opening. This is a very good example of how the OSCE can continue to contribute and how my country can also maintain its contribution.

*How important to the OSCE is co-operation with other international organizations?*

Since the adoption of the Platform for Co-operative Security in Istanbul in 1999, this co-operation has again improved. Especially in a crisis situation, it is of paramount importance that the various international organizations do not compete, but co-operate. The most recent example is the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The OSCE, the European Union crisis management, as well as other players, have to be mutually supportive and thus strengthen their common endeavours in order to achieve tangible results. In this network, each organization has its own specializations to contribute. Beside its excellent post conflict activities, the OSCE should, I think, still improve its awareness and readiness in the phases of early warning and conflict prevention. While we can further refine our capacities for early action, we also have to keep in mind that effective prevention is not only a question of instruments, but also and mainly a question of political will and political sensitivity. Still too often we are sur-

prised by events and have not done enough to eliminate the root causes of a potential conflict.

*How well-balanced and effective is the OSCE's three dimensional approach to security?*

I think there is still a need to strengthen all three dimensions of the OSCE – politico-military, economic and environmental and human – at the same time. For example, when we recognize in some countries a deterioration of the human rights situation, this often goes together with a deterioration of the economy. These two elements are interconnected and can even influence the overall security situation. We should there-

fore consider this comprehensive approach to security more actively also in practice. I could imagine, for instance, that the Permanent Council would become the sort of top organ for all three dimensions, to give more coherence to the policy. This would give a positive signal to those who complain that they are only criticized on the basis of the human dimension and that we do not do anything for them in the other dimensions. Other institutional ideas might be considered as useful. The most important point is to improve the balance, and that this balance is also visible here in Vienna.

*Are you in favour of more visibility for the Organization?*

First of all, I think visibility is important for the populations of the countries in which we are operating. That is one point.

Visibility is also very important for our own countries, the participating States, because we need the support of our governments, very often even of our parliaments, for our activities, in particular when we need a considerable amount of money at once. When the public, when parliament, when our authorities know more about the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, not just through reports, they can get a more objective idea of what the OSCE does and how it operates, and they are more inclined to support the Organization politically and financially.

## OSCE Presence in Albania trains police trainers in dealing with gender issues

*Throughout the Balkans law enforcement officials struggle with gender issues that defy traditional methods of training. In Albania, police are often challenged by gender-based violent crimes that demand a new approach. To that end, the OSCE has dedicated extensive resources toward re-education and training.*

OSCE/Presence in Albania



Last month, the OSCE Presence in Albania successfully completed a training course for Albanian police trainers at the Police Institute in Tirana, focusing on issues of gender, specifically gender roles and stereotypes, domestic violence, and trafficking. Financed by the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the course, conducted from 25 to 29 June, was attended by 12 police instructors.

*The OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE Presence in Albania organized a special training course for police trainers on gender-based issues*

The core material for the training was drawn from a course originally prepared in June 2000 by the OSCE/ODIHR, together with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, entitled 'Policing the Rights of

Women: Domestic Violence, Prostitution, and Trafficking'.

A human rights trainer formerly with the Western European Union police training mission and trainers from the National Network against Gender Violence and Trafficking collaborated to update the course material and to deliver the training.

The participants were already instructors at the Police Institute and the Police Academy, and training techniques used were interactive and participatory. Case studies and role-plays specific to Albania were used effectively throughout the week.

The course was very well received and three main reasons for its success were identified. First, the police trainers had been unaware of the work of the Albanian NGOs in the network and that such national expertise on those issues

existed. Secondly, the trainers admittedly had only superficial knowledge of the issues and did not know that existing legislation could be effectively used to prosecute perpetrators of domestic violence and trafficking. Lastly, the trainers had never been fully sensitized to the rights of victims of gender-based violence and to the policing such violence requires.

The Director of the Police Institute,

Colonel Hqmet Buzi, who also attended the training said afterwards: "I was very impressed with the content of the course and I intend to see that it becomes part of the curriculum of the Police Institute."

The OSCE also invited the Public Relations Director of the Ministry of Public Order to observe the training. Both directors have subsequently expressed their commitment to work

with the OSCE in future to develop a programme that would deploy these police trainers, together with trainers from the Network against Gender Violence and Trafficking, to every police commissariat in Albania. Such a programme would aim to raise the awareness and expertise of the police who are currently in the field and who work directly with victims of gender-based violence.

## OSCE 'Photo of the month' competition



*Albanian citizens marking their ballots during the parliamentary elections held on 24 June*

**A**s part of its online photographic archive, the Press and Public Information Section has launched an OSCE 'Photo of the month' competition. The winner for July 2001 can be found on the OSCE online photo archive – [www.osce.org/photos](http://www.osce.org/photos) – where interested photographers, media and other users can browse images relating to

the work of the Organization, its missions and institutions.

The winner, shown above, depicts Albanian citizens marking their ballots during the parliamentary elections held on 24 June (taken by Jens Eschenbaecher/OSCE).

The OSCE will accept submissions to the archive from freelance photogra-

phers and agencies. No monetary compensation can be offered but full credit will be given. The best submission will be featured as OSCE 'photo of the month'. For more information, please contact Josue Anselmo, Spokesperson, OSCE Secretariat, tel.: +43-1 514 36-180, fax: +43-1 514 36 105, e-mail: [info@osce.org](mailto:info@osce.org)



## News from the field

*The OSCE currently has Missions or other field activities in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo (Yugoslavia), Latvia, Skopje (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia. The following brief reports reflect some of the recent work which these field operations have undertaken.*

### **Training seminar held for Kosovo civil servants**

The OSCE-run Institute of Civil Administration (ICA) in Kosovo co-ordinated a three-day seminar in Pristina from 7 to 9 June for new civil servants. The seminar, aimed at providing professional administration tools, was part of a series of training programmes designed to assist the new local government structures in their tasks. "This seminar's goal is to assist the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) in developing a professional approach to the complicated work of running municipal assemblies", said Bjorn Ahren, head of OSCE's Division of Civil Administration Support. "This is fundamental in providing a functioning municipal structure for Kosovo." Discussions during the seminar focused on the tools needed for long-term municipal planning, including leadership skills, staff recruitment and development, and the division of responsibilities between the CEOs and assembly presidents.

### **Enhanced role envisaged for NGOs in Kosovo**

On 16 June, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) and the Assembly of Kosovo non-governmental organizations (NGOs) hosted a consultative meeting to improve co-operation. The main purpose of the meeting was to build a sense of local ownership within the NGO community in the province. Topics also included the development of a sustainable and effective infrastructure to serve and represent the NGO communities in the region. "We are hopeful that Kosovo's NGOs will work together to

assist the development of a strong civil society holding public bodies accountable to citizens," said Valentin Mitev, Acting Head of the Mission's Civil Society Division.

### **Police school hosts Kosovo 2001 Youth Congress**

The OMIK-run Kosovo Police Service School (KPSS) in Vushtrri/Vucitrn hosted the 2001 Youth Congress from 26 to 29 June. The event, which brought together representatives of many of the province's different communities, was organized by the UN Development Programme and the International Rescue Committee as part of the Youth Post-Conflict Participation Programme. A comprehensive series of workshops was held over the four days, and discussions took place on the future of the youth NGO sector. "We're very happy to be involved in this event and make our facilities available to the young people who'll be taking part," said Steve Bennett, director of the KPSS. "The opportunities for young people from the different communities to meet and talk are few and far between in Kosovo today. But the Police School is itself a multi-ethnic environment and, therefore, a place where they can all interact and get to know each other without fear."

### **OSCE Mission opens first 'Democracy House' in Peja/Pec**

On 7 July, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo officially inaugurated Democracy House in Peja/Pec, bringing under one roof three vital components of Kosovo society – political parties, NGOs and the

media. Democracy House provides meeting space and facilities and also offers a venue for training courses and meetings. Until earlier this year, the Mission had been establishing separate political party centres, NGO resource centres and community centres (the first resource centre opened in Peja/Pec 20 months ago). But now with political parties, NGOs and the media all working from one building, they should be able to share ideas and establish natural networks.

### **Police in Bosnia and Herzegovina receive media training**

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) concluded a training course on 8 June for spokespersons and representatives of all police-related agencies from the country's two entities: the Federation and the Republika Srpska. The course was held in collaboration with the International Police Task Force of the United Nations in BiH. "Police have a very important role in keeping the public trust, perhaps more important than any other official body because the police have so much contact with the public," said Regan McCarthy, the Director of the Mission's Media Affairs Department. "This is why police need spokespersons who can provide the public and the media with accurate, credible and timely information. Nothing can replace this in a democratic society."

### **Abkhaz and South Ossetian drug specialists attend OSCE conference**

On 21 and 22 June, drug specialists from Abkhazia and South Ossetia participated



in an OSCE-sponsored meeting held in Sukhumi, Georgia. The discussions emphasized the prevention of drug abuse and the treatment of drug addicts, in particular the difficulties surrounding methadone programmes. The need for joint initiatives was repeatedly stressed. "This has been a very fruitful and essential meeting for further development and co-operation among medical doctors in a field where there should be no borders", said a Georgian doctor, Gela Lejava. An Abkhaz colleague, Jansug Anua, added: "One of the important results of the meeting was the establishment of professional contacts, and conducive to this was the friendly and warm atmosphere at the event."

#### **Almaty Centre arranges third round table on elections in Kazakhstan**

Under the auspices of the OSCE Centre in Almaty, a third round table meeting on elections took place in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan, on 11 June. Like the earlier meetings, its purpose was to improve election legislation by implementing the recommendations in ODIHR's Final Report on the October 1999 Parliamentary Elections. Special attention was paid to the issue of sanctions and remedies for violations of election legislation, and electoral dispute resolution procedures. Participants also discussed the draft table of proposed amendments to the Law on Elections, prepared within the framework of the round table process. The Vice President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Ihor Ostash, acted as moderator. The Round Table brought together various government representatives and representatives from international organizations and embassies, as well as the

ODIHR and OSCE Centre in Almaty.

#### **Tashkent conference focuses on pre-trial investigation**

Judicial supervision over pre-trial investigation in Uzbekistan was the topic of a meeting held in Tashkent on 1 and 2 June, jointly organized by ODIHR, the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, and the American Bar Association Central and East European Law Initiative. The 40 participants represented the judiciary, the prosecutor's office, the advocates' association, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as experts from the Russian Federation, Moldova and the United Kingdom. The agenda included a review of Uzbek national criminal procedure legislation relating to investigation practices, and a presentation of international standards related to judicial supervision over the pre-trial investigation. Recommendations regarding the implementation of relevant international standards in Uzbekistan were drawn up and presented to appropriate state officials. "The OSCE considers that the procedures in Uzbekistan should be based on international requirements relating to arrest and detention, treatment of detainees, prohibition of torture, admission of evidence and fair trial," said Gantcho Gantchev, Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent.

#### **Meeting on trafficking in human beings held in Tajikistan**

A working round table on 21 June brought together representatives of the Tajik authorities and the judiciary, as well as NGOs and the media, for discussions on how to combat the trafficking of human beings. The meeting was jointly organized by the OSCE, the International Organiza-

tion for Migration and the United Nations Development Fund for Women. It focused on a recently finalized report on trafficking in women and children, which was the result of pilot research partly financed by the ODIHR. This has now been submitted to the Tajik Government for comments and suggestions. The round table concluded with the working group's recommendation for raising awareness within Tajikistan and for amending the criminal code to offer more protection to the victims of trafficking.

#### **Ukrainian judges visit Polish Administrative Court**

A group of Ukrainian judges from three different levels of courts met their Polish colleagues last month to learn more about the experience of Polish administrative justice. The visit, from 18 to 22 June, was organized by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator and the Supreme Court of Ukraine as the first phase of the project entitled, 'Creation of model administrative courts'. Professor Roman Hauser, President of the High Polish Administrative Court in Warsaw, invited the judges to share with them Polish experiences in the creation of the administrative court system. For the first two days, the judges worked in the Warsaw court and then in one of its branches in Gdansk. During discussion with the President and other judges, the Ukrainian participants learned about the existing system of administrative justice in Poland, and its organization and functioning. Issues of special interest were the administrative court procedure and the management of cases. As a next step in the project, a training visit to German Administrative Courts is planned for 2 to 9 September.





On 14 June, the **Chairman in Office (CiO), Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana** announced the appointment of Dr.

Wilhelm Hoeynck, the first Secretary General of the OSCE, as his Personal Representative for tasks in support of the participating States in Central Asia. As part of his mandate, Ambassador Höynck will identify future OSCE projects that could be implemented on a regional level in Central Asia. “Our co-operation with our Central Asian participating States is essential, as only concrete and clear-cut regional projects will make a significant contribution to the security and stability of the region,” said the CiO. One of Mr. Hoeynck’s first tasks was to visit the five participating States in Central Asia. During his trip, from 17 to 28 June, he met with governmental, bilateral and international authorities, and followed up on discussions initiated by the CiO during his visit to the region earlier in June.

On 18 and 19 June, **OSCE CiO** met the Albanian political leaders, Ibrahim Rugova, Hashim Thaci and Ramush Haradinaj, as well as the Serbian leaders Dusan Ristic, Dragan Velic and Stojan Jovanovic, in the Kosovo capital, Pristina. He also held meetings with the Head of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, Hans Haekkerup, and with the Commander of KFOR, Lt. Gen. Thorstein Skjaker. The CiO’s visit focused on the forthcoming Kosovo-wide elections, and the impact these would have on the development of the region. The problems of organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings were also raised. “Elections will be important, but

the way you operate after the elections is also very important”, he told Kosovo leaders. Describing the polls as a turning point, he said: “You need to send out a message that the elections are run properly. There has to be a sense of progress in Kosovo.” “We will never give up our policy of working towards a truly multi-ethnic, inclusive society”, he added.

The **OSCE Ministerial Troika**, represented by the Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, the Secretary General of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, Albert Rohan, and Portugal’s Foreign Minister, Jaime Gama, met on 20 June in Bucharest. The Ministers discussed current issues of concern to the OSCE, among them recent developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Caucasus, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Central Asia. Other participants were the OSCE Secretary General, Jan Kubis, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Gerard Stoudmann, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, and, representing the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, its Deputy Secretary General Pentti Vaananen.

On 27 June, Anna Lindh, Swedish Foreign Minister and the outgoing European Union President, addressed the **OSCE Permanent Council** in Vienna. In her speech, she emphasized the two organizations’ joint efforts in the western Balkans and in other OSCE regions. She also paid special attention to the issue of crisis prevention, which had recently been made a clear priority at the European Council Meeting in Göteborg. With regard to the principles and modalities of future EU-OSCE relations, Ms. Lindh

told the Permanent Council, “In our opinion, increased co-operation could include the development and co-ordination of crisis management tools..., the ensuring of interoperability through compatible methods and standards, using the OSCE expertise in democracy building..., the promotion of human rights..., the politico-military field... and EU support for OSCE activities in geographic areas where the OSCE has an extensive field presence.”

The **Parliamentary Troika** (the European Parliament together with the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the OSCE) have called, together with several other institutions, for the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to organize a long- and short-term International Observation Mission for the presidential elections in Belarus, scheduled for 9 September. This emerged after consultations in Paris on 5 July between representatives of the Troika and the European Commission, the current Belgian European Union Presidency, the OSCE Chairmanship, the ODIHR and the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus, as well as the US-based National Democratic Institute. However, this decision will be reviewed in light of further developments in the election process, with the registration of candidates constituting the most sensitive phase of the process prior to the actual elections. In their meeting, the European institutions noted with concern a number of serious deficits in the framework conditions for the elections, and appealed to the Belarusian authorities to adopt a strict policy of non-interference in the election process and of non-discrimination against potential contenders and their supporters.



## HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

*Die Presse, 25 June*

### Take a curtain call, please!

‘During his eight and a half years as High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoel never intended to be a media magnet. Never looking for the bold headlines, he preferred discreet discussions behind closed doors with the opposed factions. His discretion not only prevented the media obtaining some good stories and the OSCE obtaining a better public image as an efficient conflict resolution institution. It also helped him to succeed in defusing potentially dangerous conflicts in Estonia, Lithuania, and in the Ukraine, and so to possibly prevent one or the other larger blood bath in Europe. This Dutchman, Max van der Stoel, has also rendered an excellent service to Europe by his intervention for the cause of minorities and his engagement against nationalism. Mr. van der Stoel can now take a curtain call - he really deserves the applause of Europe.’

## BELARUS

*Reuters, 14 June*

‘Western governments have expressed concern about whether the election will be free and fair. Belarus has been criticized for its failure to implement effective economic and democratic reform and major foreign lending programmes are on hold. A number of President Lukashenko’s opponents have disappeared in recent

years, opposition newspapers have been closed and regulations against demonstrations tightened. The country is embroiled in a bitter row with the OSCE, which wants to train thousands of observers to monitor the polls. Officials have accused the OSCE of training spies.’

## CENTRAL ASIA

*BBC News, 10 June*

‘The acting head of the European security organization, the OSCE, has warned that a failure to develop democracy in Central Asia makes the region more vulnerable to extremism – especially Islamic extremism. Mircea Geoana, who is the Romanian foreign minister, was speaking after a six-day tour which took him to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan... He said the organization was offering help with issues of security, the economy and the environment, to encourage the Central Asian states to move more aggressively to develop democracy.’

## CHECHNYA (RF)

*Reuters, 13 June*

‘Russia has agreed to allow a mission from the OSCE to return to battle-scarred Chechnya, the security and human rights watchdog said on Wednesday. The team will monitor alleged human rights violations in the embattled region on Russia’s southern flank and support the provision of relief supplies and assistance for refugees. Romanian Ambassador Liviu Bota, whose country holds the OSCE chairmanship this year, told Reuters a four-member team would re-establish a mission in Znamenskoye, northern Chechnya, in the next few days.’

*Reuters, 14 June*

‘Controversy has marked the OSCE’s return. Internal documents obtained by

Reuters in Vienna, showed that the group is to pay for a 25-man, armed Russian Justice Ministry protection squad. That agreement has angered some Western countries, which believe Russian forces have been guilty of large-scale human rights violations in their fight against separatist rebels. A Russian spokesman for the Chechnya campaign called the deal with the OSCE a normal security contract and said the Justice Ministry men needed arms to provide security.’

*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 15 June*

‘The agreement has apparently caused disappointment among some Western participating States. They note with concern that “the OSCE is arming the Russians.” The misgivings were however not strong enough to stop the agreement.’

*Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 15 June*

‘The decision on whether the observers will be able to visit a specific region will therefore be with the Russian military. Under these circumstances, it will be unlikely that the OSCE could investigate any fresh signs of war crimes... At best, the OSCE representatives would be able to report on the problems in the Republic and serve the public with unbiased facts.’

*Interfax, 15 June*

‘The reopening of the OSCE Assistance Group office in Chechnya is a recognition of the significant progress made in normalizing the situation there, experts in the office of presidential aide Sergei Yastrzhembsky told Interfax on Friday. This event will hopefully promote peaceful life in Chechnya and contribute to humanitarian aid and rebuilding democratic fundamentals there, they said. Russia has never obstructed the group’s operation or resumption of its activities in the framework of the group’s mandate, within

Russian legislation and in close co-operation with the federal authorities, the experts said.'

## FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

### *International Herald Tribune, 8 June*

'To avoid all-out war and lay the foundations of an enduring peace, the international community should make a major investment in diplomacy now. Specifically, a multilateral institution with experience in peace building should establish a major presence throughout Macedonia, charged with collecting detailed information on every contentious aspect of society... The natural organization to undertake such a mission is the OSCE. It should immediately deploy a large number of political officers, perhaps 200, throughout the country for one or even two years to make detailed assessments of each community's grievances about the other and their visions of the future.'

### *Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 June*

'The current chairman of the OSCE, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Dan

Geoana, arrived on Monday in Skopje for talks with the Macedonian head of state, Boris Trajkovski. Geoana is also going to meet with the four leaders of the parties of the coalition government, who are at this moment taking part in the crisis talks. Among other things, the OSCE chairman wanted to talk with them about how to end the conflict and OSCE's role in a possible disarming of the UCK.'

### *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 21 June*

'The international mediators are still hoping for a successful outcome of the Macedonian talks. The Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, said on Wednesday in Bucharest at a meeting of the OSCE Troika that "concrete results" must have been reached by the coming Monday.'

## MOLDOVA

### *Reuters, 21 June*

'The OSCE said on Thursday it was ready to finance the destruction of Russia's military arsenal in the breakaway

Dniestria region of Moldova. "The OSCE, Russia and Dniestria signed a joint protocol to destroy the ammunition and to build a plant to do that. The OSCE is ready to finance that project," William Hill, head of the OSCE's permanent mission to Moldova, told a news conference. "It is a breakthrough in the work to remove Russian arms from Moldova," he said... In the past, OSCE member countries have said they were ready to pledge up to \$30 million to destroy and withdraw Russia's military arsenal from Moldova.'

## NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

### *Reuters, 2 June*

'Azeri President Haydar Aliyev said on Saturday chances for talks with Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh were even slimmer after his meeting with Armenian President Robert Kocharyan... Armenia has already said the talks, sponsored by the OSCE and designed to help bring an end to the 13-year-old conflict, were put on indefinite hold.'

# UPDATE

## from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

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### **ODIHR delegation pays two-day fact-finding visit to Chechnya**

A delegation, headed by ODIHR Director Gerard Stoudmann, visited Chechnya on 13 and 14 June on a fact-finding mission to assess the human rights and humanitarian situation in the republic. A primary focus of the visit was to evaluate the impact of ODIHR projects undertaken over the past year to

support the office of the Presidential Human Rights Special Representative in Chechnya, Vladimir Kalamonov, who had arranged the visit.

The ODIHR delegation was able to assess how Mr. Kalamonov's staff in Chechnya were working with a caseload management database, designed by ODIHR, to log and track individual human rights complaints. They also

observed interviews with complainants, and met two Council of Europe experts attached to Mr. Kalamonov's staff at the main office in Znamenskoye. The delegation also visited a camp at Znamenskoye for internally displaced persons, and met the head of the local administration.

In Grozny, the delegation met the Head of the Administration of the Chechen Republic, Ahmad Kadyrov, and





*Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann visits a camp for internally displaced persons in Znamenskoye*

Prime Minister Stanislav Ilyasov. A separate meeting with judges and prosecutors focused on the ongoing efforts to restore a functioning judiciary and on the need to fully investigate human rights violations and bring perpetrators to justice. Also in Grozny, the delegation met Mr. Kalamanov's local staff at one of three branch offices in the city, and visited a pre-trial detention facility.

The delegation's findings have been presented to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Permanent Council, as well as to the Russian authorities. The ODIHR hopes to follow up the visit with project activities in the area of legal training and with further support to the office of the Special Representative.

### **ODIHR organizes crisis management workshop in Skopje**

Police officers and mayors from the western part of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia attended a workshop on crisis management, organized by the ODIHR in conjunction with the OSCE Spillover Monitoring Mission to Skopje on 6 and 7 June. It was addressed by two officers from the police service of Northern Ireland.

One of the presenters, Superintendent Roy Fleming, said: "We hope that

by sharing with the participants some of our operational experience of dealing with a diverse society that has had to cope with considerable unrest, we can help them develop solutions to the problems here." Both he and his colleague Sgt. Stephen Boddy have visited the country before, in the context of an ODIHR project aimed

at reforming the police academy.

Andreas Raab, Political Adviser of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, said the organizers were pleased with the atmosphere at the meetings, in particular, the openness with which the participants interacted.

Similar workshops for other areas will be held during July. "These are one of the very few confidence-building measures being organized at the moment by the international community with the authorities", said Mr. Raab.

Michael Meyer, Balkans Adviser of the ODIHR, noted there was often little or no communication between security forces and local authorities. The workshop was the first ever meeting between security forces and local authorities in some areas.

"The crisis can only be managed if there is co-operation between these groups which all represent public authority," said Mr. Meyer.

He also pointed out to participants that respecting international humanitarian and human rights obligations should not be understood as an impediment to the operations of security forces, but rather as an essential part of a strategy that aims at de-escalation and the moral isolation of the armed groups.

### **OSCE discusses how to promote tolerance and non-discrimination**

Delegations from OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and field operations, and international and non-governmental organizations, gathered on 18 and 19 June in Vienna to discuss how better to promote tolerance and non-discrimination in the OSCE area. The occasion was the second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting of 2001, organized by the Romanian Chairmanship of the OSCE in co-operation with the ODIHR.

The meeting provided a valuable forum to consider experiences in the OSCE region in the run-up to the United Nations World Conference against 'Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance', due to take place in Durban, South Africa, in September.

Three blocks of issues were discussed in working sessions: education including school materials and textbooks; legal and administrative means; and multicultural relations. In each working group the participants highlighted key obstacles to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, shared knowledge of best practices that could be used by other countries, and suggested ways to remedy current problems. The discussions resulted in a number of recommendations directed to the participating States, the OSCE institutions and field operations. The report of the meeting will be available on the ODIHR website

[www.osce.org/odihhr](http://www.osce.org/odihhr)



**Bulgaria's parliamentary elections meet international standards**

The 17 June parliamentary elections in Bulgaria were conducted generally in line with interna-

tional standards for democratic elections, concluded an International Election Observation Mission in Sofia. The observers noted that the new election law generally provided an adequate legal framework for democratic elections, although a few aspects of the law raised concerns. Election commissions at all levels performed their duties in a professional, unbiased and transparent manner.

The election campaign was generally low key. A large number of print and broadcasting media, both public and private, gave the public broad access to information. However, the campaign coverage in the public broadcasting media was effectively limited by overly restrictive provisions in the Election Law.

The Mission was a joint undertaking of the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe covering the election day proceedings. An ODIHR long-term observation mission was deployed on 19 May, headed by Ambassador Charles Magee (USA). On election day, 132 short-term observers (including four parliamentarians) were deployed, reporting from 752 polling stations throughout Bulgaria.

### **Observers note progress in Albania's elections**

An International Election Observation Mission concluded that the 24 June parliamentary elections in Albania marked progress towards meeting international standards for democratic elections. The final assessment on whether these elections will bring Albania closer to international standards depends on the tabulation of results for the first round and the conduct of the second round, due on 8 July, as well as on the process of allocating the compensatory mandates and the role which the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the courts play. Nearly half the constituencies required a second round ballot.

The CEC's professional and transparent conduct contributed significantly to the progress noted in these elections. The media assumed an important role and the large spectrum available gave voters the opportunity to make an informed choice.

The campaign took place in a generally peaceful atmosphere. A total of 28 parties fielded some 2,000 candidates. A contentious issue was the attempt to field party affiliates as independent candidates, aiming to increase the number of compensatory mandates allocated to parties.

Other shortcomings observed included inaccuracies in the voter lists, and excessive deviations in the number of voters registered in some electoral constituencies.

Election day was largely peaceful, except for a handful of isolated violent incidents. The voting and counting process was relatively positive. However, despite the best effort of polling commissions in most areas, their lack of training and disorganization were evident on election day.

The Mission was a joint undertaking of ODIHR, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the European Parliament. An ODIHR long-term election observation mission was established on 22 May, headed by Nikolai Vulchanov (Bulgaria). For election day, some 250 short-term observers from 30 countries were deployed, including 39 from the OSCE PA, 17 from the PACE and seven from the European Parliament.

### **Election observation report issued**

The OSCE/ODIHR has released a final report on the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Montenegro/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (22 April 2001). The report is available on the ODIHR website at [www.osce.org/odih](http://www.osce.org/odih).

## **DEMOCRATIZATION**



### **ODIHR assists training of south Caucasian border services**

The ODIHR has launched a new programme aimed at assisting the border services in the southern Caucasus. As a first step, a group of border officials from Azerbaijan visited Poland for a training programme from 17 to 22 June.

Among the trainees were representatives of the newly established Border Inspection Training Centre in Baku. Participants in the training programme were provided with a first-hand insight into Polish policies and practices of border control and training methods.

The programme included meetings at the training and personnel department of the Border Guard Headquarters in Warsaw, a visit to Warsaw airport and one of the checkpoints at the border with the Russian Federation, as well as training courses at the Polish Border Guard Centre in Ketrzyn.

In the next phase, an expert in curriculum development from another Polish border guard training centre in Koszalin will visit Baku to assist in the elaboration of efficient programmes for the Border Inspection Training Centre.

### **Azeri prison officials receive training in Poland**

As part of the ODIHR's training programme for the Azeri prison system, a group of ten prison officials were trained at the Polish training centre for prison officials and personnel in Kalisz from 17 to 24 June. The one-week programme focused on curricula and methodologies used to train prison personnel, as well as on international standards such as the European Prison Rules. The prison officials also visited a number of penal insti-

tutions where the practical application of the training was discussed and observed.

### **Training held on international legal standards in Uzbekistan**

From 21 to 29 May, the ODIHR held two training sessions on international legal standards in Bukhara and Tashkent. The sessions were conducted in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, the Uzbek National Human Rights Centre and the American Bar Association Central and East European Law Initiative.

The training programme examined in detail the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as OSCE commitments. Two ODIHR experts conducted the training. The sessions were attended by regional and national representatives of the judiciary, the procurator's office, the advocates' association, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Security Service.

### **ODIHR Advisory Panel on Religious Freedom meets in The Hague**

The Contact Group of the ODIHR Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief convened on 20 and 21 June in The Hague, Netherlands, in the margins of a seminar on Freedom of Religion or Belief: Challenges to Law and Practice', organized by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Romanian OSCE Chairmanship. The seminar, which was attended by experts on the issue from across the OSCE region, was addressed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mircea Geoana, and the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jozias van Aartsen. Both stressed the importance of tolerance and freedom of religion.

As well as discussing strategies to implement the recommendations made

at the seminar, the Advisory Panel reviewed its activities and related ODIHR project implementation since the previous meeting in October 2000, and discussed trends in state practice on religious freedom across the OSCE region.

## **ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES**



### **Roma in Skopje review Stability Pact Action Plan**

On 6 June, the ODIHR organized a meeting in Skopje on Roma refugees from Kosovo in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The meeting, which was attended by some 40 political party and NGO representatives and international experts, provided an opportunity to review the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan for Roma refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) of the Balkans, adopted in September 2000 under the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe.

Within the co-operation framework agreed with other international organizations, the ODIHR contributes to the development of civic associations among refugees and IDPs in order to promote more active and direct participation and involvement of these groups in dealing with their particular problems.

A number of newly formed refugee associations were represented at the meeting and participated actively in a discussion about the present situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and future prospects for Roma refugees. The NGO representatives were encouraged to be more effectively involved in schooling and other educational activities at all levels, as provided by the authorities of their host country and with the assistance of the international agencies.

In June, the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti issues also continued to

closely monitor the situation of Roma citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Following an ODIHR-sponsored workshop in March, which highlighted the need for better self-organization of Roma citizens in the country, three Roma political parties agreed in June on the formation of a coalition in order to develop and present a joint platform for a political dialogue on strengthening the multi-ethnic and democratic structures of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

### **Roma call for greater involvement in political process to EU integration**

An international conference of Roma organizations from Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland, co-sponsored by the ODIHR, was held in Samorin, Slovakia, on 2 and 3 June. The participants adopted a declaration calling for the enhanced participation of Roma representatives in the political process leading to the integration of their countries into the European Union (EU), including in the institutional structures for negotiations between the EU and the candidate countries.

As a follow-up to the meeting, the ODIHR, together with the Council of Europe and the European Commission, will evaluate the effectiveness of the EU's PHARE programmes on the improvement of living conditions of Roma in candidate countries.

### **ODIHR supports campaign for participation in Slovak census**

The ODIHR, jointly with the Open Society Institute Budapest, supported a campaign encouraging the participation of Roma in the census in Slovakia. The campaign, carried out by the Romani Legal Defense Agency in May and June, was aimed at raising awareness among Roma of their right to freely identify

their ethnic background in the census. A team of Roma activists visited 200 out of 600 settlements with large Roma populations and distributed some 140,000

posters and other information material in three languages (Slovak, Hungarian and Romani). The campaign had been developed against the background of wide-

spread reluctance of Roma to identify their ethnicity or nationality as a reaction to experiences of persecution, discrimination and forced assimilation.

## NEWS

# from the High Commissioner on National Minorities

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### **Van der Stoel concentrates in final month on Macedonians**

During his final month as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoel remained engaged in the tense situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He was in close and frequent contact with representatives of the Macedonian Government, the Albanian community and the international community (particularly the European Union High Representative, Javier Solana). On 18 June, Mr. van der Stoel accompanied the Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, on a visit to Skopje. The main goal of the visit was to emphasize the readiness of the OSCE to continue to play an active role in the country.

Mr. van der Stoel returned on 26 to 28 June for a further orientation visit. He wanted to keep abreast of developments in order to provide advice on facilitating

inter-ethnic dialogue and addressing some of the root causes of the conflict.

The outgoing High Commissioner has had a long engagement in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and is familiar with the parties and issues. With Mr. van der Stoel's term as High Commissioner coming to an end, the Chairman-in-Office decided to appoint him as his Personal Envoy to "to facilitate a dialogue and provide advice for a speedy solution to the current crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

### **Rolf Ekeus takes up his duties**

The new High Commissioner, Rolf Ekeus of Sweden, has already begun to act, travelling on 5 July to Belgrade where he addressed a regional Ministerial Conference on National and Ethnic Communities in south-eastern Europe. In his address he said that he intended to maintain and build upon his predecessor's

engagement in the region "while following all developments in the Balkans that relate to possible tensions involving national minorities" (full text of the speech is available on the HCNM website at [www.osce.org/hcnm](http://www.osce.org/hcnm)). In the margins of the conference Mr. Ekeus met with Minister for Foreign Affairs Goran Svilanovic, the Federal Minister for National and Ethnic Communities, Rasim Ljajic, and the Head of the OSCE Mission to the Federation Republic of Yugoslavia, Stefano Sannino.

On 6 July, Mr. Ekeus was in Paris to address the tenth annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. He also had bilateral discussions with senior officials of the French Foreign Ministry and met with high-level OSCE officials.

From 9 to 11 July, he made an introductory visit to Vienna where he met representatives of OSCE participating States and senior staff of the OSCE Secretariat.

## Quiet Diplomacy in Action

*The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities*

**Ed: Walter Kemp ■ Foreword by Michael Ignatieff**

This comprehensive account of the work of the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoel, has been written by his Senior Adviser. It takes the reader behind the scenes to explain how the "silent diplomat" fulfilled his conflict prevention mandate for over eight years in more than 15 countries. Major linked documents are annexed.

*Published by Kluwer Law International, The Hague, PO Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, The Netherlands. E-mail: [sales@kli.wkap.nl](mailto:sales@kli.wkap.nl)*





# REPORT

## from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

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### Parliamentarians monitor elections in Albania

“This election represents another important step towards the consolidation of democracy in Albania”, said OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice-President Bruce George, as he presented the Preliminary Statement of the International Election Observation Mission on the parliamentary elections that were held in Albania on 26 June. “The Balkans is a very unstable region politically, but we were struck by the quite peaceful way these elections were conducted”, he added.

Mr. George, who acted as Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, led a group of more than 270 international observers, including 40 OSCE parliamentarians, who were deployed across Albania on election day. He delivered the Preliminary Post-election Statement at a press conference on 27 June, in conjunction with the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, the European Parliament and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

The statement addressed the main shortcomings of the elections, particularly attempts to the fielding of party candidates as independents, inaccuracies in the voter lists, and excessive deviations in the number of voters registered in some electoral constituencies.

### OSCE PA president pays visits to Canada and United States

At the invitation of the Speakers of the two Chambers of the Canadian Parliament, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly (PA), Adrian Severin, paid an official visit to Canada, on 11



*Parliamentary Assembly Vice President Bruce George leading the international observation team for the Albanian parliamentary elections*

and 12 June. He then went on to hold meetings in the United States from 13 to 15 June. In Ottawa, he met government officials, including the Foreign Minister, John Manley, devoting the second day to meetings with Canadian parliamentarians. Meetings were also held with other senior MFA officials, including the Secretary of State, James Wright, and officials responsible for various regions in the OSCE. He also addressed a meeting of Ambassadors from OSCE countries and met Prime Minister Jean Chretien’s foreign affairs adviser.

On the parliamentary side, President Severin met the members of the OSCE

PA delegation and the former OSCE PA Second Committee Vice-Chair, Jerry Grafstein, as well as other parliamentary leaders. He was accompanied by OSCE PA Treasurer, Bill Graham.

In Washington, President Severin met the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert, and the Minority Leader, Richard Gephardt, as well as the OSCE PA Vice-President Steny Hoyer and Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security Alcee Hastings. Mr. Hastings, who is also the ranking Democrat on the European Affairs Sub-Committee of the House of Representatives, arranged a meeting with the sub-committee, including staff experts. He also met with Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut, due to chair the U.S. Congressional Helsinki Commission.

While in Washington he met the Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, the Under-Secretary of State for Global Affairs, Paula Dobriansky, and key desk officers for the OSCE area in the US State Department. Meetings were also held at the National Security Council and at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. Secretary General Spencer Oliver accompanied Mr. Severin in Ottawa and Washington.

After his official visits, President Severin travelled on to New York where he met Danilo Turk, Assistant Secretary

General for Political Affairs, and Angela Kane, Director of the Europe and America Division of the UN Department for Political Affairs. He also met Guy Tozzoli, President of the World Trade Center Association.

Before an audience of businessmen and mass media representatives, he delivered a speech on the role and the evolution of the OSCE PA, the importance of achieving world stability and security through development, economic co-operation and integration, as well as the possibility of involving the business milieu in OSCE projects and, in particular, in achieving the Stability Pact objectives.

#### **PA President Severin visits Poland**

On 19 and 20 June, OSCE PA President, Adrian Severin, paid an official visit to Poland invited by the Polish Parliament (Sejm), where he met the Speaker, Maciej Plazynski, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Sejm, Czeslaw Bielecki, as well as the Polish Delegation to the OSCE PA, including its Head, Jerzy Osiatynski.

In the meetings, Mr. Severin praised the Polish Parliament for its involvement and commitment to the activities of the OSCE PA. He also presented and discussed ideas for future action of the Assembly, including relations with other parliamentary institutions like the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

On the second day he held talks with the Speaker of the Polish Senate, Alicja Grzeskowiak and with Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek. In the afternoon he met the Minister of Foreign Affairs Wladyslaw Bartoszewski as well as with Secretary of State Mr. Siwiek and high representatives from the Defence Ministry. President Severin referred to the new political impulse needed by the OSCE and the importance of political guidance from

capitals to enhance the processes of the Organization.

He concluded his official visit with a lecture at Warsaw University entitled 'Tomorrow's Europe - A community of fears or community of values?' in which he analyzed the problems and prospects of the process of European integration from the perspective of the East and Central European States. Before his return to Bucharest, President Severin held a working meeting with Gerard Stoudmann, Director of the ODIHR.

#### **OSCE Parliamentarians visit Georgia**

The OSCE Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on Abkhazia visited Georgia from 26 to 28 June to make a first assessment of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict settlement process. The delegation met Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, as well as ministers, parliamentarians and leading NGOs. The Head of the Ad Hoc Committee, Jerzy Osiatynski, said the OSCE PA stood ready to assist in facilitating co-operation on constitutional arrangements which may meet the needs of all interested parties, while respecting the integrity of the Georgian state.

#### **Third Round Table on elections held in Kazakhstan**

On 11 June, Ihor Ostash, Vice-President of the OSCE PA, travelled to Astana, Kazakhstan, to participate as the moderator in the Third Round Table on Elections. The Round Table, which took place under the auspices of the OSCE, brought together representatives of Parliament, various government ministries and agencies and civil society. This third in a series of four planned round tables focused on sanctions and remedies for violation of election legislation and the procedures for handling electoral disputes.

During the course of the event, a group of parliamentarians involved in the

process agreed to form an initiative group, which would sponsor the recommendations of the round table in Parliament. The fourth and final Round Table on Elections is scheduled to take place in September.

#### **OSCE Troika meeting in Bucharest**

On behalf of OSCE PA President Adrian Severin, Deputy Secretary General Pentti Väänänen attended the OSCE Troika meeting in Bucharest on 20 June. Mr. Väänänen reported on recent activities of the Assembly in Albania, Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, and Central Asia, as well as increased co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

He also referred to the letter of President Severin to the Chairman-in-Office concerning the establishment of a consultative 'Wisemen Group', which would be tasked with presenting proposals to the Chairmanship and the Presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly on the objectives, the solutions and the ways to reform the OSCE in order for the Organization to become more effective and more relevant to the participating States.

#### **Stability Pact strengthens its parliamentary dimension**

On 5 June, the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe agreed to sponsor the parliamentary dimension of the Stability Pact by creating a Parliamentary Troika covering all aspects and all Working Tables of the Stability Pact. Stability Pact Co-ordinator, Bodo Hombach, called the setting up of the Parliamentary Troika a "major step forward to a democratic underpinning of the Pact's activities and a reflection of the constructive role parliaments and parliamentarians have played in the Pact's two years of existence."

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### **Free Media Representative highlights constitutional challenge in Italy**

On 21 June, Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, spoke to the Organization's Permanent Council about his concerns regarding the central task of his mandate: the concentration of control over television media in the hands of a democratically elected government. Referring to the case of Italy, he suggested that the result of the announced separation of the influence of Silvio Berlusconi, the media magnate and newly elected Prime Minister of Italy, between his business interests and his official obligations, was of concern to the work of the Representative in OSCE participating States.

In a letter of 1 June to the then Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, Mr. Duve had emphasized that: "independent media, the fourth power in the mechanisms of checks and balances, are crucial for all democratic societies. The clear separation between media and politics is a substantial part of the political history of the European Union and should not be undermined by one of its member states."

He stressed that the results of this separation could become an important example for all OSCE participating States on how to disentangle the executive role of the state from the independent tasks of a free media. Alternatively it could be a real challenge to the democratic media landscape in all OSCE regions, not only in the European Union.

### **Culture.container gets mobile**

The Representative's long-term project directed at young people in south-

eastern Europe, called In Defence of Our Future: mobile.culture.container was officially launched in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 6 June in the presence of a large number of international and local dignitaries. Already this travelling library-cum-community house is bringing young people of different ethnic groups together to discuss their common future. The mobile.culture.container will travel throughout the region for the next two years. The next stop is in Osijek.

### **Journalist killed in Serbia**

Speaking at the Permanent Council on 14 June, Freimut Duve raised the case of the murder of Milan Pantic, a reporter for the Serbian daily Vecernje Novosti, who was killed in the central Serbian town of Jagodina. Mr. Pantic wrote extensively about crime and corruption. His murder is the first "censorship by killing" in Serbia since the establishment of democratic rule. Mr. Duve urged the authorities to take all the necessary measures to swiftly investigate this crime and bring those responsible to justice.

### **Continued concern over Kitova case**

Throughout June, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media continued to monitor the case of the Russian journalist, Olga Kitova, a correspondent for the regional newspaper Belgorodskaya Pravda. After publishing a number of stories on the miscarriage of justice in Belgorod, a city about 700 km from Moscow, and on some questionable privatisation activities, she has been harassed, both physically and mentally, by the local police and prosecutor. Mr.

Duve raised her plight at the OSCE Permanent Council on 14 June.

### **Turkish broadcasting law vetoed**

On 14 June, the OSCE Representative stated that several amendments to the current law on the Turkish Broadcasting Authority were of concern because they included new restrictive clauses. The amendments provided for additional enforceable penalties as well as for the first time, control of the Internet. On 21 June, Mr. Duve noted with satisfaction that President Sezer had refused to sign the law, but had underlined Turkey's international obligations regarding freedom of the media and in particular the Internet clause which would "restrict freedom of expression."

### **Georgian TV staff harassed**

On 25 June, Freimut Duve raised with the Georgian Foreign Minister the serious harassment of the staff of 60 Minutes, a highly respected and popular investigative television programme of the independent Rustavi-2 television company. A story about the misappropriation of public and World Bank funds within the Ministry of Health was the apparent motive to remove 60 Minutes from the air, for the first time in its two years of existence. Mr. Duve stressed that "all OSCE States, including Georgia, recognize that corruption is a dangerous phenomenon that can be effectively countered by a free and independent press. I call on your Government to once again ensure the safety of the 60 Minutes staff and to permit them to continue their important work."

# REPORT

## from the OSCE Secretary General and the Secretariat

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### SG visits Portugal to discuss priorities of incoming Chairman-in-Office

At the invitation of the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary General, Jan Kubis, visited Lisbon at the beginning of June. Portugal will assume the Chairmanship of the OSCE in January 2002. The aim of the visit was to discuss the priorities of the incoming Chair, to exchange views on OSCE activities and the work of the Secretariat, and to establish modalities of future co-operation and co-ordination between the Chair and the Secretariat, both in Vienna and in Lisbon. Mr. Kubis was received by the Prime Minister, Antonio Guterres, and also had separate meetings with the Foreign Minister, Jaime Gama, and officials of the MFA.

Among the priority topics discussed during the meetings were the need for closer co-operation and co-ordination with other international organizations, especially the EU and NATO, and the importance of visibility of the OSCE, as well as the work of the OSCE in south-eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus. Other OSCE officials will visit Lisbon to continue these contacts.

### Meetings with visitors to the Secretariat

On 8 June the Secretary General met with two representatives from Vienna regional office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ms. Irena Vojackova, Chief of Mission and Co-ordinator of Central Europe, and Andreas Halbach, Permanent Observer and Regional Co-ordinator for the OSCE. This followed a recent bilateral

meeting between the Director-General of the IOM and the Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Geoana, in Bucharest.

Two main ideas were raised: putting migration-related issues higher on the OSCE agenda, particularly in the light of preparations for this year's OSCE Ministerial Council in Bucharest and the question of a framework Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the OSCE and the IOM, given that the IOM intends to conclude a specific MoU with ODIHR.

On 12 June the Secretary General met the Deputy Chief of International Relations in the General Staff of the French Ministry of Defence, Vice-Admiral Alain Coldefy, at his request. Mr. Coldefy was accompanied by Ambassador Ladsous and Senior Military Adviser General Bottine of the French Delegation.

The meeting discussed internal developments and the future role of the European Union, NATO and the OSCE, current developments of operational capacities and capabilities, and concrete co-operation of the three organizations based on mutual recognition of each other's roles and potential and on mission-recognition, which should be actively promoted. Among other things, the need for closer co-operation between the OSCE and EU, especially in crisis management, was stressed.

On 13 June, the Secretary General met with the Secretary General of the Council of Collective Security, Valery Nikolajenko. This is the supreme political body of the states participating in the Agreement on Collective Security of 15

May 1992. Mr. Nikolajenko briefed the Secretary General on the recently held Summit of the Council in Yerevan. There, participants *inter alia* agreed to enhance their mutual co-operation in the areas of addressing new threats and challenges, such as terrorism, drugs trafficking and organized crime, or in the political area. The Council is also interested in closer contacts with other international organizations and a more systematic dialogue with the OSCE. The Secretary General described the ongoing discussions on the future role of the Organization and on how the OSCE reacts to new challenges and threats to security. It was agreed with Mr. Nikolajenko that contacts should continue between both organizations.

On 27 June, the Secretary General met the Swedish Foreign Minister, Ms Anna Lindh, the outgoing president of the European Union, who was in Vienna to address the Special Permanent Council. Discussions were mainly concerned with the principles and modalities of OSCE-EU interaction, and with a number of substantial and geographical areas for increased co-operation.

The same day the Secretary General met Brian Crowe, Director General and Head of the Directorate General for External Relations of the European Council's Secretariat, who visited Vienna for extensive consultations in the Secretariat. Mr. Crowe was accompanied by his colleagues representing *inter alia* the Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit and the Situation Center and Military Staff. The delegation of the Council Secretariat was briefed by Director of Human Resources on REACT imple-



mentation, and by the CPC Staff on the Secretariat/CPC structure and OSCE field activities. Discussions also included co-operation in institution-building, good governance, and the possibilities for future regular staff talks, shared training programs for staff, and short-term exchanges of staff.

### **SG addresses conferences on counter-terrorism in Central Asia and on conflict prevention in Africa**

On 19 June, the Secretary General attended the Conference on Counter-terrorism in Central Asia, organized by the United States Department of State, Office of Counter-terrorism, and held in Istanbul. He delivered a statement on the benefits of global co-operation in counter-terrorism, in which *inter alia* he outlined the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, OSCE approaches and commitments relevant to the topic of the conference, and the need to fight terrorism while maintaining full respect for the rule of law and human rights.

At the invitation of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary General attended a conference on 'Conflict prevention and peace-building in Africa', held on 28 and 29 June in Maputo, Mozambique. There he delivered a keynote speech on 'Conflict Prevention – OSCE instruments', which is available on the OSCE website.

### **Personal Representative of the CiO visits Central Asia**

Ambassador Wilhelm Hoeynck, who was appointed in May by the Chairman-in-Office to act as his Personal Representative for tasks in support of participating States in Central Asia, visited Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan from 17 to 28 June. The primary focus of this visit

was to explore possibilities for regional initiatives, particularly in the economic and environmental dimension, as well as in the area of security co-operation.

Relevant issues were discussed with governmental officials, representatives from other international organizations and staff of the respective local OSCE offices. On 3 July, Ambassador Hoeynck briefed interested OSCE Delegations in Vienna on the main findings of his visit. Ambassador Hoeynck, who served the then Norwegian Chairmanship in 1999 as Personal Representative for Central Asia, was the first Secretary General of the OSCE from 1993 to 1996.

### **New on the OSCE website: Forum for Security Co-operation**

The Press and Public Information Section of the Secretariat has added another new area to the OSCE website.



Now users of the Internet can access information on the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), the main OSCE body dealing with military aspects of security. The FSC, established at the 1992 Helsinki Summit Meeting, meets weekly and conducts negotiations aimed

at creating an atmosphere of openness and transparency regarding military issues, and developing measures to reduce the risk of armed conflict. As part of the agreements negotiated in the Forum, OSCE participating States exchange detailed information every year on their military forces and activities.

A dedicated website now provides background information on the FSC and its activities, with access to negotiated documents and decisions and details of upcoming events and feature stories related to military aspects of security in the OSCE area. It can be found at

[www.osce.org/fsc](http://www.osce.org/fsc)

### **OSCE Ball proceeds go to support charity**

Money raised by the sale of tickets to the OSCE Ball in February this year has been donated to assist the work of the Austrian branch of the charity, 'Make a wish'. A cheque for 9,000 euros was handed over to the charity's President, Ms Inge Kladiwa, by the Director of the Management and Finance Department, Michael von der Schulenburg, on 13 June. According to the charity's Events Organizer, Renate Knorr, the charity exists to help children with serious or incurable medical problems realize an unfulfilled dream. "The children whom we try to help can be recommended by anyone who knows them. And because we are linked to similar charities in 23 other countries, we are also involved in helping other children who want to make their wishes come true in Austria."

Last year, the charity helped over 100 children to fulfil their dreams. "The generous donation from OSCE staff will go a long way to helping us try to exceed that total in 2001", said Ms Kladiwa. Anyone interested in more information on the work of the charity can visit their website: [www.makeawish.at](http://www.makeawish.at)

# Quiet Diplomacy in Action

## The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Edited by Walter Kemp, Senior Advisor to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Quiet Diplomacy in Action is the first comprehensive account of the work of Max van der Stoel as High Commissioner on National Minorities for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Because Van der Stoel worked discreetly, until now very little has been written about his activities. This publication takes the reader behind the scenes to explain why the post of High Commissioner was created, what his mandate is, how he worked in practice, and what recurrent themes and issues he encountered. Quiet Diplomacy in Action also gives a detailed summary of the High Commissioner's activities in the more than fifteen countries that he was involved in between 1993 and 2001. Major documents relating to national minorities in the OSCE context are included in an annex.

As Michael Ignatieff writes in the foreword: "Everyone talks about conflict prevention. One of the few senior figures that actually does it is the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities". This book, written in co-operation with Mr. Vander Stoel, gives a unique insight into conflict prevention, minority rights, and the challenge of resolving inter-ethnic tensions. It should be considered a primary resource for all those interested in these subjects.

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Foreword by Michael Ignatieff

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#### PART THREE

Annexes: OSCE-related documents relating to national minorities

Kluwer Law International, The Hague  
Hardbound, ISBN: 90-411-1651-6  
June 2001, 410 pp.  
EUR 45.00 / USD 41.50 / GBP 28.00

# PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIALS

available upon request at the Vienna or Prague Offices of the OSCE Secretariat\*  
and via the OSCE website ([www.osce.org/publications](http://www.osce.org/publications))

\*Rytirska 31, CZ-110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic

Publications	Publisher/ Editor	Language(s)
<p><b>OSCE Newsletter</b> (monthly) Volume VII (2000), Volume VI (1999), Volume V (1998), Volume IV (1997), Volume III (1996), Volume II (1995), Volume I (1994)</p>	OSCE Secretariat	From January 1998 to April 2001 in the six OSCE official languages (English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish). Since April 2001, in English and Russian
<p><b>Fact Sheet</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ What is the OSCE? <sup>1</sup></li> <li>■ The OSCE Secretary General and the Secretariat</li> <li>■ Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights<sup>2</sup></li> <li>■ Representative on Freedom of the Media</li> <li>■ High Commissioner on National Minorities</li> <li>■ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly<sup>2</sup></li> <li>■ Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>3</sup></li> <li>■ Mission to Croatia<sup>3</sup></li> <li>■ Mission in Kosovo<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	OSCE Secretariat	<p><sup>1</sup> 'What is OSCE?' is available in all six OSCE official languages.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Also available in Russian.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Also available in local languages.</p>
<p><b>OSCE Handbook</b> general information on OSCE, Third Edition updated June 2000; Russian edition updated December 2000</p>	OSCE Secretariat	English and Russian
<p><b>Survey of OSCE Long-Term Missions and other OSCE Field Activities</b> (March 2001)</p>	OSCE Secretariat/ Conflict Prevention Centre	English
<p><b>The Secretary General's Annual Report on OSCE Activities</b> (1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000)</p>	OSCE Secretariat	In all six OSCE official languages
<p><b>OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Semi-annual Reports</b></p>	ODIHR	English and Russian

Publications	Publisher/ Editor	Language(s)
<p><b>Other publications on democratization and human rights are available at the ODIHR website:</b> (<a href="http://www.osce.org/odihr/publications.htm">www.osce.org/odihr/publications.htm</a>)</p>	ODIHR	English
<p><b>Bibliography on the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities: Documents, Speeches, Related Publications.</b> <i>Third Edition</i></p>	The Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations, The Hague, March 1997	English
<p><b>The Role of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in OSCE Conflict Prevention – An Introduction</b></p>	ibid. June 1997	English Russian
<p><b>Chronological Review from 1973 to 1998 of CSCE/OSCE official publications</b> <i>List of bound versions of documents issued at the conclusion of a review, follow-up and other major CSCE/OSCE events including the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures</i></p>	Prague Office	English
<p><b>Reference Manual – Decisions Compilation</b> 1993-94, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 1999 and 2000)</p>	Prague Office	English



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