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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (1 June – 7 June)

NATO and OSCE Should Look to Cooperate Closely

LJUBLJANA - OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel has said NATO and the OSCE should look to cooperate closely in order to tap into synergies and thereby enhance their activities. "Both the OSCE and NATO address political-military issues from their respective points of view, therefore I strongly support cooperation in many fields, especially on the operational level," Rupel said on 31 May as he addressed the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's plenary session in Ljubljana. "The OSCE remains a good model of a 'soft' security organization, with flexible institutions, operational and competent field offices and activities, and of a broad membership that makes it a truly comprehensive organization capable of promoting security through dialogue and cooperation," he added. Among the priority areas for the international community, Rupel pointed to the political and economic stability of South-Eastern Europe and efforts for democracy and peace in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

OSCE Chairman meets Kosovo Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi

LJUBLJANA - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel urged Kosovo Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi on Thursday to maintain the momentum of reform in the province and ensure strict implementation of standards, especially in the area of minority protection. He stressed OSCE support for the position of the UN Secretary General, the Contact Group and the Security Council that standards implementation must continue in the coming months. "Therefore, I encourage you to interpret the UN Secretary-General's recommendation to initiate a comprehensive review of standards implementation as a powerful incentive to maintain the momentum of ongoing reforms", the OSCE Chairman in Office said. "The international community, including the OSCE, attaches great importance to the establishment of a direct and sustained high-level dialogue between all Kosovo communities as well as between Belgrade and Pristina," he added. The Slovenian OSCE Chairmanship would do all it could to promote such dialogue.

OSCE Chair Welcomes Russian-Georgian Declaration on Base Closure

LJUBLJANA - OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel welcomed a joint declaration of the Russian and Georgian foreign ministers on the closure of Russian bases and other military facilities in Georgia, which was adopted on 30 May. Rupel also welcomed the intention of the two countries to sign an agreement soon on the details of the withdrawal operation, as foreseen in a joint statement Russia and Georgia made during the OSCE Summit in Istanbul on 17 November 1999. He expressed satisfaction with the decision of the two sides to enable an international mission to monitor the situation at the site of the former Russian military base in Gudauta.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SEVILLE, 7 June - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel addressed the Forum of Non-Governmental organizations before taking part at the OSCE Conference on combating anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance

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

Chair Dimitrij Rupel is to speak in the opening part of the conference as well as to chair the first session.

LONDON, 14 June - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel is to visit Great Britain. He is to meet British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and deliver a lecture on the role of the OSCE in Central Asia at London's Chatham House.