



REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (18 May – 24 May)

OSCE Chairman Urges Uzbekistan to Allow Independent Inquiry

LJUBLJANA - OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel urged Uzbekistan on 20 May to allow an independent investigation into the events in the eastern city Andijan on 13 May. According to a press release from the OSCE, Rupel believes that an inquiry is necessary to clarify events and to properly address them in the interest of stability in the region, while the OSCE stands ready to be actively involved in this sense. Moreover, the OSCE chairman voiced deep concern over the reported refusal of the Uzbek authorities to allow a UN-led independent investigation into the events in Andijan. Rupel also appealed to Uzbekistan as a participating state of the OSCE to honour all other democratic standards and commitments to which all 55 participating states subscribe. Moreover, he expressed deep concern regarding asylum-seekers who escaped the turmoil in Andijan and are currently sheltering in neighbouring Kyrgyzstan.

CoE and OSCE Cooperation Declaration Takes Effect

WARSAW - A declaration on cooperation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE was signed at the CoE summit in Warsaw on 17 May. The declaration was signed by Polish FM Adam Rotfeld on behalf of the CoE and OSCE chairman Dimitrij Rupel for the OSCE. The declaration pledges respect for each other's autonomy and closer cooperation in "identifying effective co-ordinated responses to the threats and challenges of the 21st century". Such cooperation should be conducted "on the basis of the principles of complementarity, transparency and democratic accountability, while respecting the autonomy, different membership and distinctive tasks of each organisation". Given that they strengthen each other and share similar goals, the CoE and the OSCE must keep co-existing and working together, Rupel stressed as he addressed a plenary at the CoE summit.

OSCE and ICTY Agree to Commence Cooperation on Monitoring War Crimes Trials

VIENNA - The OSCE Permanent Council agreed on 19 May to commence cooperation between the OSCE and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) on monitoring war crimes trials. The decision was welcomed by the OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel and the chief prosecutor of ICTY Carla Del Ponte, who addressed the Permanent Council on the occasion.

OSCE Envoy Meets Key Kyrgyz Politician

BISHKEK - Alojz Peterle, the OSCE's special envoy for Central Asia, met prominent Kyrgyz politician Felix Kulov in Bishkek on 17 May to discuss preparations for the forthcoming presidential elections in the country. Peterle stressed the importance of a free and fair election for the democratic future of the country. Kulov briefed Peterle with the agreement he reached with interim President Kurmanbek Bakiev to run for prime minister, thus effectively withdrawing from the presidential race on 10 July. Peterle met Kulov as part of his latest tour of the region, which included stops in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PRAGUE, 23 through 27 May - The 13th meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum is to be held, attended by OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel.

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.