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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (14 July – 20 July)

OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Russian Foreign Minister Call for Progress in OSCE Reform

MOSCOW - Progress is needed in reform of the Organisation, was a view shared by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, as they met in Moscow on 13 July. The ministers said that an OSCE reform report has already been presented by the Panel of Eminent Persons. The report includes a proposal that the OSCE should become a fully-fledged international organisation. In addition, the report foresees steps towards strengthening the security and economic dimensions of the OSCE. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office said reform would certainly top the agenda of the Ministerial in December, expressing hope that the documents on the issue would be finalised in Ljubljana. Both ministers also discussed the situation in the regions, including Central Asia, Transdnistria and Kosovo. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office welcomed their exchange of opinions on events in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Prospects of Joining EU Crucial for Kosovo, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Says

LJUBLJANA - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Kosovo Soeren Jessen-Petersen underlined the importance of "European prospects" for Kosovo as they met in Ljubljana on 14 July. "We are working to convince our friends in Europe to support the European prospects of Kosovo and Serbia-Montenegro; without that our task cannot be achieved," OSCE Chairman-in-Office said after meeting Special Representative Jessen-Petersen. Both were confident that status talks would start in the autumn.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office Hopes Albanian Election Process Will Be Completed Soon

LJUBLJANA - As the results of 3 July election in Albania were officially declared on 14 July, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel expressed hope that the election process in Albania would conclude soon and that a new assembly and government would start their work shortly. He also expressed hope that the election process would be completed "in an orderly and speedy fashion, according to Albanian law and in compliance with international standards, all the way up to the declaration of the final results". OSCE Chairman-in-Office urged all parties to fully respect the decisions of the competent Albanian institutions, in particular the Central Electoral Commission and the Electoral College, "which should deal professionally, impartially and resolutely with all election irregularities, complaints and appeals, and must not be subjected to pressures".

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

VIENNA, 20 July - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel is to participate in the discussion titled "30 Years of Helsinki Process: The Contribution of the OSCE in Changing World".