



# OSCE

annual report 2006



Cover photos

Left photo: The OSCE Mission to Moldova routinely patrols the Transnistrian section of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. (OSCE/Chad McGougan)

Right photo: OSCE staff visit a greenhouse in Olmany, Eastern Polesie, on 15 June. A joint OSCE-UN Development Programme project aims to improve living conditions in the area, which was affected by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. (OSCE)

# Annual Report on



# OSCE

# Activities 2006

The Secretary General

Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe

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EDITOR  
Sharman Esarey

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Ursula Froese

DESIGN  
Phoenix Design Aid A/S

TYPESETTING  
Ueberreuter

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# Message from the Secretary General

*2006 was a year of consolidation for the OSCE after the celebration of thirty years of the Helsinki Final Act in 2005. Across the three continents within the OSCE area, we made small steps and took great strides – each was important in equal measure in working for stability, prosperity and democracy in 56 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference. This is the mission of the OSCE.*

*This OSCE Annual Report, in a new design, provides the occasion to highlight the commitments that make up the OSCE and shows the practical measures taken toward their implementation. The OSCE has a good story to tell.*

Telling this story, however, is no easy task, as much of the time the OSCE works behind the scenes. And when we are successful, it is in ways that go unnoticed. The Organization, through all of its units, field operations and institutions, is engaged to prevent and settle conflicts and crises, guided by persistence and patience. Our task is to create positive momentum, to launch virtuous circles through many steps that coalesce to produce changes in attitudes, cultures and institutions.

However difficult it may be to relate our story, it is worth telling. Two examples can be highlighted from the Annual Report. First, the OSCE has become a reference point for its participating States, which resort to it at the most delicate junctures in the life of their countries. In 2006, the OSCE played a vital role in ensuring the peaceful birth of the Republic of Montenegro, the Organization's 56th participating State. Also this year the OSCE led an eleven-day Environmental Assessment Mission to the fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region. We hope this unprecedented mission will lay the groundwork for further confidence building in and around this conflict area.

And, of course, in so many different ways, the 19 field operations were active in promoting the Organization's comprehensive approach to security with host countries acting to promote the implementation of OSCE commitments across the three dimensions: politico-military, economic and environmental and human.

Thanks to the guidance of the Belgian Chairmanship, the OSCE also focused in 2006 on responding to the difficult challenge of organized crime. The problem of organized crime crosses all three dimensions, and places a premium on maximum co-operation and co-ordination among participating States, among agencies inside States and among international organizations. Our co-operation also pays tribute to the unique role that the OSCE can play in tackling complex challenges, by generating innovation and partnership across 56 States and three security dimensions. In this, the OSCE has a real role to play. We will take this forward in 2007.

I would note also that 2006 saw the Organization taking action for building co-operation for combating illicit drugs. As Secretary General, I was directly involved in the implementation of the Ljubljana Ministerial Decision No 5 and my office organized the joint OSCE-UN Office on Drugs and Crime workshop on combating the threat of drugs that was held in October.

The OSCE also turned a corner this year in strengthening its effectiveness. In 2006, together with my team and other relevant departments and units, I worked to assist the Chairmanship with the implementation of the Ljubljana 'roadmap' decision on *Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE*. In my capacity as *chef de file*, I supported the Chairmanship in developing working papers on a variety of issues related to extra-budgetary financing, programme planning and professionalism of OSCE personnel. The decisions taken by participating States throughout 2006 and during the Brussels Ministerial Council have set us on a clearer course with a better sense of direction.

Also in 2006, I was very pleased to lead the development of Performance Based Programme Budgeting. This was piloted in a number of funds and refined on the basis of this experience. This process was co-ordinated by the Department of Management and Finance, members of executive management, the Conflict Prevention Centre and the Department of Human Resources. After a thorough review in late 2006, participating States endorsed the full and gradual roll-out of Performance Based Programme Budgeting throughout the entire Organization.



In 2006, I considered it central to my responsibilities to act as the focal point for supporting the Chairmanship as well as for proper and efficient co-ordination within the Secretariat and among institutions. In this context, I would mention that a number of 'cluster meetings' were organized on substantive topics such as combating organized crime, illicit drugs and anti-trafficking. Those meetings brought together all relevant substantive units of the Secretariat as well as, when necessary, representatives of field operations and institutions.

One of my tasks as Secretary General is to explain to a wider public the nature and the value of this Organization in the 21st century. In 2006, I was pleased to take every occasion during my bilateral visits and in my discussions with officials, journalists and students throughout the OSCE area to emphasize our main message: that shared beliefs about co-operation and security lie at the core of the OSCE, and they act as the compass guiding the behaviour of participating States. We should rightly take pride in our achievements, but we should also realize our responsibility to live up to the aspirations and words of the commitments to which we have all agreed.

The OSCE institutions, units and field operations are there to assist States in this process. This Annual Report highlights the range and depth of the OSCE's work and will, I hope, draw the attention of a wider audience to the often unsung remarkable achievements of our unique Organization.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Alexander Nitzsche". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# The OSCE at a glance

From Vancouver to Vladivostok, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, with some 3,400 staff members in 19 field operations and several specialized institutions and bodies, is committed to fostering security in the region for its 56 participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation.

## The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe works for stability, prosperity and democracy in 56 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.

**Mandate.** The OSCE, recognized as a regional arrangement under the United Nations' Charter, is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation in its area. Its approach to security is unique in being both comprehensive and co-operative: *comprehensive* in that it deals with three dimensions of security – the politico-military, the economic and environmental and the human. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism, anti-trafficking measures and economic and environmental activities. It is *co-operative* in that all 56 States enjoy equal status. Decisions are taken by consensus and are politically but not legally binding.

**History.** The OSCE traces its origins to the *detente* phase of the early 1970s, when the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe was created to serve as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West. Meeting over two years in Helsinki and Geneva, the CSCE reached agreement on the *Helsinki Final Act*, signed on 1 August 1975. This document contained a number of key commitments on politico-military, economic and environmental and human rights issues and also established fundamental principles governing the behaviour of States toward their citizens and toward each other.

Following the end of the Cold War, the CSCE took on a new role in managing the historic change taking place in Europe and responding to the new security challenges of the post-Cold War period. This led to its acquiring permanent institutions and operational capabilities, including a Secretariat, an Office for Free Elections and a Conflict Prevention Centre. A major arms control agreement, the *Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe*, was concluded in 1990 and updated in 1999. Other important military security treaties include the 1992 *Treaty on Open Skies*, the *Vienna Document 1999* and the *Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons* of 2000. In the early 1990s, meetings became more regular, field operations were established and the Conference's work became more structured. Recognizing that the CSCE was no longer simply a Conference, in 1994 the Budapest Summit agreed to change its name to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

**Governance and operation.** The OSCE is chaired by one of its participating States, a role which rotates annually. In 2006,

Belgium held the Chairmanship. Together with Slovenia (2005) and Spain (2007), it formed the OSCE Troika. This body ensures continuity of the OSCE's activities and advises the Chairman-in-Office. Finland will chair the Organization in 2008.

The Chairman-in-Office may also appoint Personal or Special Representatives to deal with specific issues or situations.

Summits of OSCE Heads of State or Government are held periodically. Between Summits, the Ministerial Council of foreign ministers meets annually to review the OSCE's activities and to provide guidance and direction. The *Economic and Environmental Forum* meets every year to focus on selected economic and environmental issues. The *Annual Security Review Conference* and the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* focus, respectively, on key issues in the politico-military and human dimensions.

The Permanent Council is the main regular body for political consultation and decision-making. Composed of the Permanent Representatives of the participating States to the OSCE, it meets weekly in Vienna to discuss all pertinent issues and to take appropriate decisions.

The Forum for Security Co-operation – overseeing the OSCE's politico-military dimension – also convenes weekly in Vienna's Hofburg.

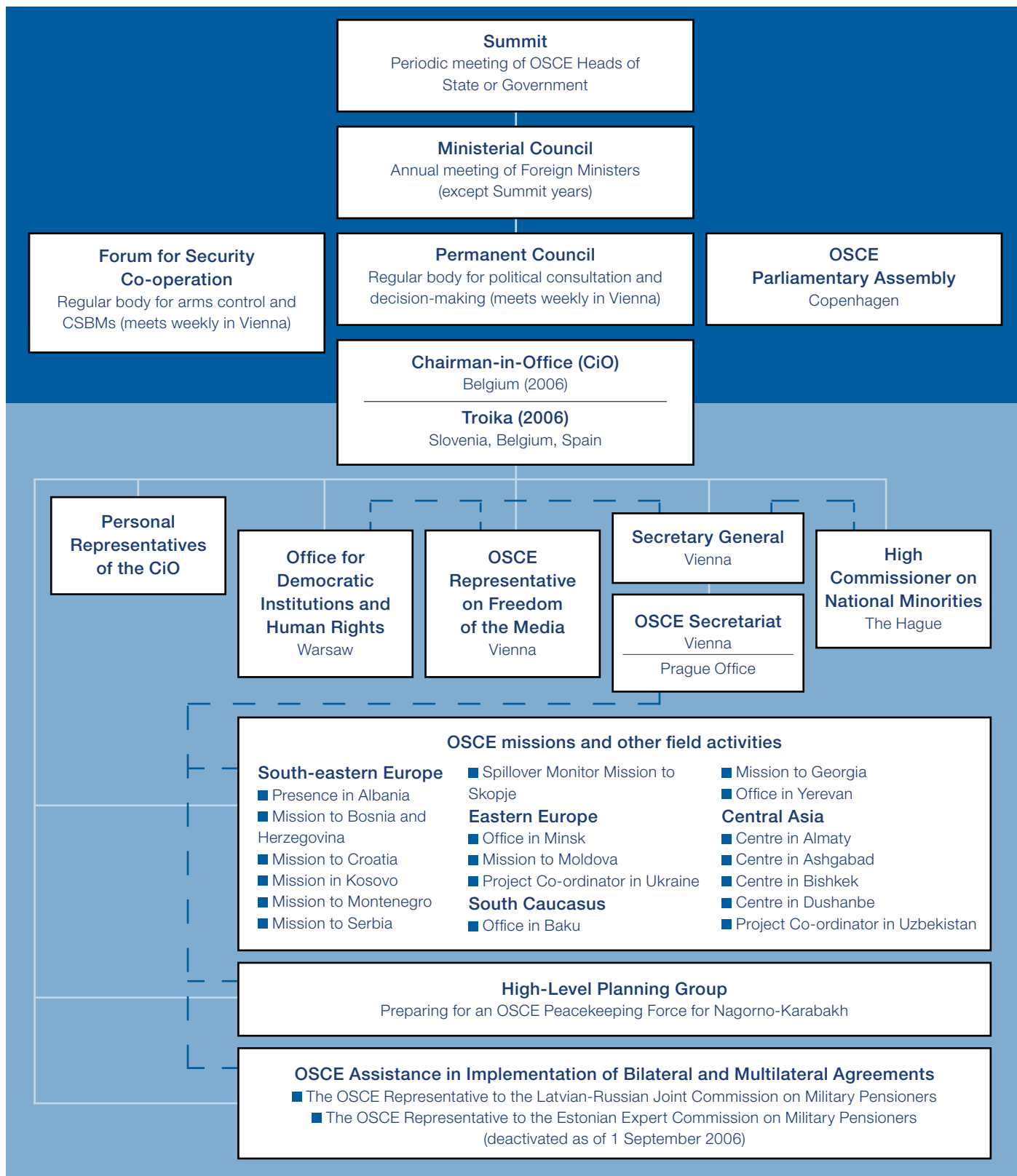
The Secretariat of the OSCE is based in Vienna. It is headed by Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut of France, who was appointed in June 2005 for a three-year term. As Chief Administrative Officer, Ambassador Perrin de Brichambaut manages the OSCE's structures and operations and supports the OSCE's Chairmanship.

To assist States in complying with OSCE principles and commitments, the OSCE includes the following specialized institutions: the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (established as the Office for Free Elections in 1990) based in Warsaw, Poland, the High Commissioner on National Minorities (1992) based in The Hague, Netherlands and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (1997) based in Vienna. A distinct body, the Copenhagen-based OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (1991), consisting of more than 300 parliamentarians from all the participating States, supports inter-parliamentary dialogue and also plays an important role in election monitoring.

The OSCE has 19 field operations in 17 States. Seventy-one per cent of the OSCE's 2006 Revised unified budget of €162,712,100 was allocated to field operations, 18 per cent to the Secretariat and 11 per cent to its institutions.



# OSCE Organigram



## OSCE-related bodies

**Joint Consultative Group**  
Promotes implementation of CFE Treaty, meets regularly in Vienna

**Open Skies Consultative Commission**  
Promotes implementation of Open Skies Treaty, meets regularly in Vienna

**Court of Conciliation and Arbitration**  
Geneva

— Line of responsibility  
- - - Provides support

# Report of the Chairman-in-Office

*“On 1 January, I assumed with optimism my responsibilities as Chairman-in-Office. We wanted to demonstrate that the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) remained instrumental in bridging the great European divide of the Cold War. We wanted to highlight that the body of commitments, norms and principles that bind the participating States continue to offer an up-to-date vision for collective security.*

*To this end, we worked hard with the participating States to address the conflicts that persist in the OSCE area. We also engaged with them on thematic issues related to all three dimensions. I visited the OSCE regions extensively: North America and the Russian Federation several times, the South Caucasus in January, June and October, the Western Balkans in February and again in April, Moldova and Ukraine in June, Central Asia in March and November. In addition, international and European gatherings offered welcome opportunities to further dialogue with colleagues from various capitals as well as with partner organizations. I was also pleased to receive the numerous visitors who came to look me up at home in Brussels.*

*Detailed description of the work accomplished follows. In the course of 2006, new concrete steps were taken in combating organized crime, in promoting dialogue on transport and energy security issues and in fighting sexual exploitation of children, to name but a few. The Ljubljana mandate on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE was also completed. On the other hand, resolution of the protracted conflicts remained elusive. In this regard, let me simply reiterate that the blueprints for solutions are there, ready, available and on the table. Political will alone is missing. Vision and responsibility on the part of the leaders is required more than ever.*

*It is the responsibility of the participating States of the OSCE to continue obstinately to seek relief for the populations who suffer from the conflicts.”*

2006  
Chairman-in-Office  
Karel De Gucht

## Addressing conflicts

### Nagorno-Karabakh

The Chairman-in-Office announced that bringing about solutions to protracted conflicts was one of his key objectives for 2006. This clearly included the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

His first international visit as Chairman-in-Office was to Armenia and Azerbaijan on 24 and 25 January amid hopeful signs of a settlement. Elections were not planned in either of the two countries for 2006, leading to the belief that negotiators would have a freer hand to explore solutions.

The Chairman assisted the sides in their high-level meetings in Rambouillet (February), Vilnius (May), Bucharest (June) and Minsk (November). A meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani Ministers for Foreign Affairs was hosted by the Chairman in Brussels on 14 November. No opportunity was missed to encourage the parties to come closer to an agreement on the basic principles of a settlement. The Chairman was in constant touch with the Minsk Group Co-chairmen, whom he occasionally summoned to Brussels. Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, his Personal Representative, assisted him.

At the OSCE Ministerial Council in Brussels, participating States recognized the progress accomplished, urged the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to redouble their efforts and finalize the basic principles that had taken shape in the course of the year

and pledged that the OSCE would continue to play its facilitating role as an honest broker.

In the meanwhile, the Personal Representative of the Chairman and his office continued monitoring the front line with the aim of keeping tensions under control. Ceasefire violations occurred throughout the year, at times even threatening the personal security of the monitoring teams. The situation came to a head in July when monitoring had to be suspended after a shooting incident.



Chairman-in-Office Karel De Gucht

Belgia/Benoit Doppagne



OSCE/David Swalley

OSCE vehicles carrying experts during an OSCE-led mission in October to assess the environmental impact of fires in and around Nagorno-Karabakh



OSCE

Experts examine a map during the Environmental Assessment Mission.

All through the year, the search continued for confidence-building measures and opportunities for grass-root contacts between the sides.

In the summer, fires erupted in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region, threatening human health and security and destroying the livelihood of the inhabitants. Damages straddled both sides of the line of contact, which made co-operation indispensable.

The Personal Representative conducted a short-term monitoring mission from 3 to 5 July. He confirmed the significant spread of the fires and suggested that a broader assessment be conducted.

Upon the request of Azerbaijan, the Chairman initiated an international Environmental Assessment Mission with the mandate to assess the impact of the fires and to make recommendations for an environmental operation. The terms of reference of the mission were agreed on 25 September. The mission, backed by United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolution 285, included experts from the UN, the Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Union (EU) as well as local experts from both sides of the line of contact. The eleven-day mission set off to the fire-affected

areas on 3 October, led by Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. The report, presented to the Chairman in November and shared with the participating States, made recommendations for fire and water management measures and is presently being considered for further follow-up. The mission marked an important step in the process of confidence building in the region, involving local communities and shaping a joint understanding of the issues at hand.

As foreseen by the UN General Assembly Resolution, the Chairman transmitted the report to the UN Secretary-General for distribution among the member States of the General Assembly.

### Moldova

In his efforts to intensify the search for a lasting solution to the issue of Transnistria, the Chairman kept in constant touch with his counterparts in Moldova, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. He made sure that the formal negotiations, which had resumed in a new format in December 2005 after a long breakdown, would continue. The new '5+2' format added the EU and the United States of America as observers to the two parties and the three mediators (the OSCE, Ukraine and the Russian

### The High-Level Planning Group

Established in 1994 at the Budapest Summit of the CSCE, the forerunner of the OSCE, the High-Level Planning Group was tasked with making plans for a multinational OSCE peacekeeping force once the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference is resolved. It liaises with the Co-chairmen of the Minsk Group as well as with the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office.

As hopes grew for a settlement during the year, the Planning Group intensified its activities. It conducted a reconnaissance mission, which started in December 2005 in Armenia and Azerbaijan and ended in January 2006 with a visit to the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The mission generated updated information on the operational, logistical and financial aspects of a possible peacekeeping mission.

The High-Level Planning Group continued to liaise with other international organizations and training institutes. It was expanded in 2006 with the hiring of an additional Personnel/Training Officer.

Federation). They met on 26 and 27 January in Chisinau and on 27 and 28 February in Tiraspol.

The implementation of a new joint customs regime between Moldova and Ukraine based on their Declaration of 30 December 2005, requiring companies in Transnistria to register with the central authorities in Chisinau, created a new situation on the ground. The registration requirement met with a blank refusal by Transnistria despite the Chairman's calls for an implementation in good faith. No further '5+2' talks could be held in 2006.

To prepare for a major visit to the region, the Chairman sent his Special Envoy, Senator Pierre Chevalier, to visit Chisinau and Tiraspol in mid-April and chaired a meeting of the mediators and observers in Brussels in May. It allowed him to take stock of the stalled negotiations and to identify new issues which could become relevant for an overall political settlement. From 30 May to 1 June he visited Chisinau and Tiraspol. He underlined the usefulness of the new transparent management of the Transnistrian segment of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border and stressed once again the OSCE's basic position: a negotiated, peaceful settlement, respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova and with a special status for the Transnistrian region. He suggested economic initiatives likely to increase confidence and goodwill. He also referred to the problem created by the continued presence of Russian military and suggested the positive effects that could be expected from an enlarged peacekeeping force under an international mandate.

The Chairman's Special Envoy subsequently travelled repeatedly to the capitals. The participants in the '5+2' negotiations were presented with a package of written suggestions on behalf of the Chairmanship on a new peacekeeping mission under an international mandate, elements for a statute for Transnistria within the Republic of Moldova and socio-economic elements of a settlement process. However, it soon became clear that not all the participants were ready to pursue these ideas.

During the special meeting of the Permanent Council on 28 September, the Chairman devoted specific attention to the unresolved conflicts. He emphasized that all the elements of a political solution were on the table, and called for the political will to move ahead. He urged all sides to show responsibility and vision.

The Chairman's Representatives took part in meetings in Odesa on 25 October aimed at reviving the formal '5+2' talks. On 16 November, the Chairman called and chaired another informal meeting of the mediators and observers to discuss resumption of the settlement process and transformation of the peacekeeping format. The latter received added attention in a follow-up meeting held on 6 December in Brussels on the margins of the Ministerial Council. At the Council itself, it unfortunately proved impossible to get participating States to agree a Ministerial Statement.

## Georgia

The Chairman-in-Office also focused this year on the conflict in South Ossetia, with initiatives aimed at helping the parties



The Chairman-in-Office (centre) poses with officers of the trilateral peacekeeping forces during a visit to their headquarters in Bender on 1 June.

resume negotiations and engage in a genuine settlement process.

The year witnessed substantial disagreements, not least on the appropriate format for the talks. With the failed December 2005 meeting in mind the Chairman, in close co-ordination with the Mission to Georgia, put forward proposals to reinvigorate existing formats including the Joint Control Commission (JCC) and the 'Authorized Delegations' format. He suggested a JCC meeting in Vienna in February, but it failed. The Chairman also put forward other formulas for high-level or expert meetings during the course of the year.

A debate within the Georgian parliament about peacekeeping forces in South Ossetia raised tensions in February, and the Chairman called for restraint from all sides. On 16 and 17 February, his Special Envoy visited Tbilisi.

In the aftermath, it appeared possible to move forward on an *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* for the zone of conflict and



The Chairman-in-Office (left) visits a hospital in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict on 23 June as part of an OSCE-led needs assessment study in preparation for an *Economic Rehabilitation Programme*.

adjacent areas. Meeting in Tskhinvali from 11 to 13 May, the JCC approved a package of socio-economic projects based on the report of an OSCE needs assessment study carried out in 2005 and 2006 by international, Georgian and South Ossetian experts. The solid collaboration between the sides made this undertaking a most helpful confidence-building measure. The projects will address basic needs such as potable water, electricity, gas, schools, health, roads, youth centres, agriculture, business and finance. They will make a difference in the living conditions of the local population. Their financing was secured through a donor conference held on 14 June in Brussels with the participation of all members of the JCC. Pledges from the participating States and from the European Commission amounted to more than €10 million.

On 22 and 23 June, the Chairman travelled to the region for a new attempt to jumpstart the settlement process. He proposed a top-level meeting between the sides or a JCC meeting at senior political level in Brussels, assistance in drafting the consolidated text of a peace plan and visits by Belgian constitutional experts to make recommendations on the status of South Ossetia within Georgia.

On the ground, tensions remained high, with repeated violations of the 1992 *Sochi Agreement* and other demilitarization agreements and with little or no progress at JCC meetings. The conflict became exacerbated by the closure of the Russian/Georgian border crossing at Zemo Lars/Verchny Lars in July. The Chairman called for restraint and demanded that the border crossing point be reopened quickly. The situation came to a head in late September, when four Russian officers were charged with



Chairman-in-Office Karel De Gucht in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 2 October as he mediates a dispute about Russian nationals detained in Georgia.

espionage and detained in Tbilisi. The Chairman mediated successfully and travelled to Tbilisi in early October. He received care of the prisoners and ensured their safe transfer to the Russian Government. His Special Envoy then travelled to the region and to Moscow to find a way out of the increasingly acrimonious situation.

The Chairman attempted, on the margins of the Ministerial Council, to get the settlement process back on track. Although the Ministers failed to agree a formal statement, useful ideas were generated for addressing the issue in the period ahead.

### OSCE Mission in Kosovo

An essential part of the UN Mission in Kosovo, the OSCE runs its largest field operation here, employing about 1,000 people. The Mission provides assistance to central institutions like the Parliament, the Ministries, the media board and the police, as well as to local government and communities. The Chairman anticipated that the definition of a future status of Kosovo would impact on this substantial field presence and worked hard to engage with the international community, in particular the Contact Group Members, to generate co-ordination and consultations on the structure of the future international presence. He visited Kosovo early on, from 15 to 17 February.

The OSCE, EU, CoE and other interested international bodies participated throughout the year in the informal steering group on future arrangements set up by the UN Mission. This group played an instrumental role in identifying issues related to the redistribution of responsibilities after the anticipated winding down of the UN Mission. The OSCE Mission established regional centres and municipal teams to ensure a presence in all Kosovo municipalities, a move that was greeted unanimously by the international community as a very useful contribution to the future civilian presence.

The Chairman kept in close touch with UN Special Envoy for Kosovo Martti Ahtisaari as the UN-led negotiations on the future status of Kosovo proceeded. These consultations helped define the contribution that the OSCE could offer. Naturally, the OSCE showed readiness to assist Kosovo in developing fully democratic institutions and, as regards future status, to provide help with implementation.

The Special Envoy briefed participating States directly and extensively on these developments on three occasions: once informally in May and twice in the Permanent Council, in March and in November.

### **The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV, Annex 1B, Dayton Peace Accords**

The Personal Representative is mandated to assist the Parties in the implementation of measures agreed under Article IV of Annex 1B of the *Dayton Peace Agreement* relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the destruction of excess heavy military equipment, the conduct of mutual inspections of military assets and the exchange of information. Broadly speaking, the Personal Representative's role is to broker political consensus and ensure smooth implementation of the *Agreement*.

The five Parties (the Entities and the States of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia – initially with Montenegro) held three regular meetings. In Florence, Italy, they also conducted the *5th Review Conference*, celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the signing of the *Agreement* and completing the annual information exchange.

The reconciliation between the new law establishing a single Defence Ministry in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the *Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control* was completed on 10 March. The five Parties agreed that the Entities (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska) would transfer their rights, obligations and responsibilities to the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On 10 October, subsequent to the independence of Montenegro, the Parties and the Personal Representative, meeting in Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina, welcomed a delegation from Montenegro which was accepted as a new Party to the *Agreement*. The Parties asked the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro to allocate between them the authorized level of holding of military armament applicable to the former State Union.

The accession of Montenegro will no doubt contribute to regional stability, strengthen neighbourly relations and encourage further co-operation in the Western Balkans.

## **Strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE, the Ljubljana mandate**

Implementation of the 2005 Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision No 17, on *Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE*, was one of the year's greatest challenges. That Decision set out a roadmap for the efforts aimed at reforming the OSCE.

Its first operative paragraph tasked the Permanent Council with work on eleven areas: rules of procedure, consultative process, OSCE conferences, budgetary and extra-budgetary financing, role of the Secretary General, functioning of the Secretariat, effectiveness of OSCE institutions and field operations, legal status and programme planning, professionalism of OSCE personnel and thematic missions. It was part of the Chairman's declared intentions to fully implement the roadmap by the end of the year. No efforts to this effect were spared. A specific working group under the Permanent Council was set up. Intense work led to a 6 November report on progress achieved and suggestions for actions by the Ministers. From that point, the working group negotiated draft decisions for adoption by the Ministerial Council in December.

As it turned out, quite a number of the objectives were reached. On 1 November, a consolidated set of Rules of Procedures was adopted, updating the 1973 *Blue Book* of the Helsinki process. The Ministerial Council established a three-committee structure, corresponding to the three dimensions, under the Permanent Council. It also approved non-binding guidelines for the organization of conferences and launched negotiations on a convention giving the Organization legal status. Ministers endorsed the principle of Performance Based Programme Budgeting as well as measures to increase the efficiency of executive structures and to allow more continuity in the management of the OSCE's

human and financial resources. This solid package of decisions, the implementation of which will be kept under review, should increase the Organization's capacity to deal more effectively with the challenges it faces today.

The second operative paragraph of the Ljubljana Decision tasked the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) with submitting, for discussion, to the Ministerial Council, a report on how existing commitments are implemented, whether supplementary commitments should be adopted, how to strengthen and further its election-related activities, and how to improve the effectiveness of its assistance to participating States. The ODIHR engaged with participating States on the preparation of its report to Ministers. It conducted bilateral consultations, gathered written information by means of detailed questionnaires and engaged in two open informal discussions with participating States. Its report, entitled *Common Responsibility—Commitments and Implementation* and distributed on 10 November, represents an exhaustive and highly informative assessment of the state of the human dimension of security in the OSCE region.

The Ministerial Council recognized the importance of this contribution and reiterated its encouragement to consider making better use of institutions such as the ODIHR to implement commitments. The Ministerial Council tasked the Permanent Council to address the implementation challenges, asked for further advice on the suggestions in the report relating to new commitments and welcomed the suggestions of further efforts to increase the effectiveness of the ODIHR's assistance to participating States. The Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of the participating States to achieve democratic elections, including by inviting observers, and emphasized the importance of participating in election observation activities. At the initiative of the Chairman, they agreed that the ODIHR should put into practice the improvements and recommendations concerning election-

related activities, including as contained in the report, and that it would regularly report on this for review by the Permanent Council as appropriate.

Decision No 19 of the Ministerial Council reflects how the two operative paragraphs of the Ljubljana mandate were fulfilled. Work will now focus on this Decision and those related to it.

### The Brussels Ministerial Council

- Decision No.1: Extension of the Mandate of the Director of the ODIHR
- Decision No.2: Accession of Montenegro to the OSCE
- Decision No.3: Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Decision No.4: OSCE Senior Council
- Decision No.5: Organized Crime
- Decision No.6: Further Measures to prevent the Criminal Use of Lost/Stolen Passports and other Travel Documents
- Decision No.7: Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes
- Decision No.8: Further Efforts to Implement the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition
- Decision No.9: Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons by Air
- Decision No.10: Supporting National Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)
- Decision No.11: Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE
- Decision No.12: Energy Security Dialogue in the OSCE
- Decision No.13: Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding
- Decision No.14: Enhancing Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, including for Labour Exploitation, through a Comprehensive and Proactive Approach
- Decision No.15: Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Decision No.16: Legal Status and Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE
- Decision No.17: Improvement of the Consultative Process
- Decision No.18: Further Strengthening the Effectiveness of OSCE Executive Structures
- Decision No.19: Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE
- Decision No.20: Future OSCE Chairmanship
- Decision No.21: Time and Place of the next Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council
- Rules of Procedure of the OSCE
- Statement on Nagorno-Karabakh
- Ministerial Statement on the Presence of OMIK
- Brussels Declaration on Criminal Justice Systems
- Brussels Ministerial Statement on Supporting and Promoting the International Legal Framework against Terrorism
- Ministerial Statement on Migration

## Across dimensions, thematic achievements

### Politico-military dimension

The Chairman underlined the importance of a well-functioning politico-military dimension in his opening statement on 12 January and seized opportunities throughout the year to produce constructive debates and concrete results in relevant areas.

The *High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine* on 14 and 15 February, jointly organized by the Chairmanship and the Forum for Security Co-operation, was the first high-level OSCE meeting on the subject in five years. Broadly attended by Chiefs of Defence and their deputies, the seminar centred on doctrinal and technological changes among the OSCE's military, their impact on military structures and activities, and their implications for security and defence policies. The Chairmanship was able to encourage substantive opening contributions by engaging with speakers and moderators before and during the event. The *Seminar* con-

cluded that the spectrum of security threats had dramatically expanded and become more diffuse, and that the OSCE, while still having a responsibility to address old-style threats by means of military confidence- and security-building measures, was, with its multi-dimensional approach, in a favourable position to address the newer diffuse threats. This would entail an approach increasingly integrating civilian and military components. The *Seminar* generated topics for follow-up in line with the Chairman's guidelines for the politico-military dimension, and offered several avenues for further discussion.

A second extraordinary event was the *Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) five-year Review Conference* held from 30 May to 2 June. Acting on the widespread expectation that this conference would decide on some core OSCE issues and hence influence the outcome of the Ministerial Council later in the year, the Chairmanship brought delegations together for consultations before the beginning of the meeting. As it turned out, the exchange was rich, but could not be consolidated into agreement on a joint final declaration.

The fourth *Annual Security Review Conference* was held on 27 and 28 June. The agenda, prepared by the Chairmanship in consultation with participating States, centred on the management of the full conflict cycle, including issues of soft security (policing), hard security (military) and institution building. In the opening session, the Chairmanship stressed the suitability of the OSCE to address the multi-faceted notion of security that has evolved over the last 30 years. In the first working session, participants acknowledged the role of policing in achieving and maintaining security and stability. They generally agreed that the OSCE should continue to support institution and capacity building in the areas of policing and law enforcement in participating States requesting such assistance. The second working

session examined the challenges in the security environment, with a focus on the findings of the *Military Doctrine Seminar*. The view emerged that more attention may have to be paid to post-conflict situations in the training of military personnel, and the development of an OSCE post-conflict doctrine was proposed. The last working session reflected on lessons to be learned from how international organizations and States had actually dealt with the conflict cycle.

Terrorism remained high on the OSCE security agenda during the Belgian Chairmanship. Two concrete and results-driven seminars were held in Vienna. The expert workshop in March on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters, in particular

### **Organized Crime and Criminal Justice**

Organized crime and weak criminal justice systems have been recognized for a number of years as insidious threats to stability and security. The Istanbul 1999 *European Charter for Security*, the Maastricht *Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century* and the Decisions taken at the 2005 Ljubljana Ministerial testify to this. As a matter of priority, the Belgian Chairmanship proposed intensifying the OSCE's work in this field.

The Chairmanship's engagement was twofold. First, it promoted international co-operation in the fight against cross-border organized crime, particularly the ratification and implementation of international legal instruments. Second, it supported the build-up of the capacity of national criminal justice systems, recognizing that sound democratically controlled systems are in the long term the best rampart against organized crime. It stresses that police, prosecutors, the judiciary and penitentiary institutions must work together within a coherent and balanced structure and that the OSCE has experience in supporting national capacity building in those areas.

Between February and July, the Chairmanship organized five meetings on organized crime for participating States and representatives from other international organizations, such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the CoE. These meetings highlighted the importance of pursuing the ongoing international political and legal efforts and underscored the linchpin role of criminal justice systems in providing stability and security.

In addition, the Chairmanship organized two technical seminars, one in March on the implementation of the UN *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and another in April on the use of risk and threat assessment as a policy tool.

The annual *Human Dimension Seminar* in May focused on the roles and responsibilities of the judiciary, the prosecution and defence as well as the police. One of the conclusions was that the criminal justice system is a chain that is only as strong as its weakest link, and therefore demanded renewed attention. In a side event, the OSCE Missions in South-eastern Europe shared their experiences in supporting host governments with building up their criminal justice systems.

In the autumn, the Chairmanship initiated political negotiations that resulted in a Ministerial Council Decision on *Organized Crime* and in the Brussels *Declaration on Criminal Justice Systems*. The Decision lays down the framework for future work of the OSCE in this area. Participating States agreed that they and the OSCE would renew efforts on international co-operation and on building up criminal justice systems. They agreed to focus on strengthening the implementation of existing commitments and on a well-planned and integrated approach to the administration of criminal justice. A Task Force set up by the Secretary General with financing from Belgium will ensure that these issues receive the necessary attention.

The Brussels *Declaration on Criminal Justice Systems*, a companion document to the Decision, renews the commitment of the participating States to core values and commitments ensuring the proper administration of criminal justice. It is a user-friendly document designed to inspire self-examination and dialogue. It can also serve as a guide to practitioners and field workers as they engage governments and civil society on the subject of running criminal justice systems democratically.

Finally, as a practical matter, the Chairmanship financially supported the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's project of producing Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkits designed to help conduct assessments, identify areas of technical assistance and assist in training. The toolkit project testifies to the shared vision of leading UN agencies and the OSCE, according to which the rule of law and institution building in the area of criminal justice need to be addressed in an integrated and comprehensive way.



related to terrorism, was an occasion to learn about legal tools developed by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to expedite requests for inter-governmental assistance in prosecuting cross-border criminal activities. The joint OSCE/CoE workshop in October centred on fighting incitement and related terrorist activities, and highlighted the contribution of the relevant CoE Convention.

The working group on non-military aspects of security set up by the Chairmanship attended to the implementation of earlier decisions, namely on travel document security and on container security. It also negotiated new documents. The Ministerial Council adopted a Statement on *Supporting and Promoting the International Legal Framework against Terrorism*, a Decision on *Further Measures to prevent the Criminal Use of Lost/Stolen Passports and other Travel Documents* and a Decision on *Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes*.

The Chairman made a point of highlighting the work of the OSCE in the area of policing. It was an important item on the agenda of the *Annual Security Review Conference*. During country visits, the Chairman stressed the contribution that well-functioning police services operating under democratic control make to overall security and stability. He proposed and organized a first OSCE *Conference of the Chiefs of Police*, which met in Brussels on 24 November, bringing together high-level representatives of the police forces of the 56 participating States and of the 11 Partners for Co-operation. The Conference concluded that more co-operation is required among national police services to tackle pervasive threats, such as cross-border organized crime. It provided a unique opportunity for networking and bilateral contacts among States rarely meeting in this format. The Chairman expressed the sincere hope that the emphasis placed in 2006 on the OSCE's potential role in the area of policing would lead to increased support by the participating States. He encouraged the inclusion of at least part of the police assistance programmes of the OSCE field presences in Central Asia and the South Caucasus in the unified budget of the Organization, to ensure more regular and coherent financing. The budget for 2007 reflects this approach.

Implementation of the *Border Security and Management Concept*, approved at the 2005 Ministerial Council in Ljubljana, was launched in 2006. Participating States agreed to nominate focal points for border issues in their national administrations. With the support of the Chairmanship, a conference on lessons learned in cross-border co-operation was held in October. It was the first OSCE-wide conference on border issues, the 2004 OSCE-



Police chiefs from more than 50 OSCE countries met in Brussels in November and agreed to intensify international police co-operation to better fight organized crime and improve security.

OSCE

hosted meeting on border security and management having been held at the inter-agency level. Also, the OSCE border unit conducted a first in-depth evaluation mission to the Tajik-Afghan border, with a view to defining project proposals for 2007.

In September and October, the OSCE organized two workshops on trafficking in illicit drugs in close co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. On this occasion, the Chairman voiced concern that the OSCE should be supportive of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in its activities, and not develop initiatives that might duplicate or confuse operations on the ground.

Though the Forum for Security Co-operation operates independently of the Chairmanship, the Chairman actively supported its work, taking a particular interest in the discussions on confidence- and security-building measures. He was supportive of the special day devoted in September to the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*. Also, pursuing a priority the Belgian Chairmanship of the Forum had set in the autumn of 2005, he affirmed the role of the OSCE in supporting implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In this respect, the Chairmanship gave full support to the special Forum day on 8 November devoted to this matter.

In July, the Chairman addressed the *Small Arms and Light Weapons Plan of Action Review Conference* at the UN in New York. He promoted the adoption of a Ministerial Council Decision on *Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons by Air*. The Forum will devote a special day to this subject in 2007.

## Regional Co-operation in South-eastern Europe

During the turbulence in South-eastern Europe in the 1990s, the OSCE deployed a substantial field presence to the region, one of whose tasks was to address issues with a regional dimension. The Chairmanship focused in 2006 on contributing to the progress of three essential regional processes:

- The *Ohrid Process* was launched in 2003 in Ohrid (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Under the initiative of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the OSCE, the *Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe* and the EU, six countries of South-eastern Europe adopted a *Way Forward Document*, committing to effective civilian management of the new borders. The Chairmanship strongly supported the continuation of the OSCE's facilitation efforts and technical assistance, ensuring the extension of the work programme through 2007.
- The *Sarajevo Process* was launched in that city in 2005. Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and (then) Serbia and Montenegro adopted a joint Declaration committing to a comprehensive regional solution by the end of 2006 for the thousands of wartime displaced persons and refugees. The OSCE, the EU and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees are facilitating the process. The Chairmanship did its utmost to overcome blockages, encouraging accelerated implementation of housing programmes in Croatia and improved financing of measures proposed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Despite strong urging on the part of the Chairmanship and the other *Process* facilitators, the Ministers of the three countries failed to meet the deadline. Work continues.
- The *Palic Process* was launched in 2004 by the OSCE. It brings together the judicial authorities of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and (now) Montenegro with the aim of enhancing inter-state co-operation in addressing war crimes investigations, prosecutions and trials. Issues include the recognition of the validity of testimonies and the protection of witnesses. The Belgian Chairman-in-Office proposed a regional conference of Ministers of Justice to deal with legal modifications such as extradition of nationals. However, this conference could not meet before the end of 2006. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte called for political attention to this matter in her address to the Permanent Council on 7 September. The Chairmanship initiated steps in this direction.

## Economic and environmental dimension

In our interdependent world, economic and environmental threats may put human security at risk. The OSCE has the tools to deal with them. The Chairmanship encouraged participating States and OSCE structures to explore further the Organization's potential to enhance co-operation and dialogue on these issues.

As is tradition, the main event in the second dimension was the *Economic Forum*, renamed the *Economic and Environmental Forum* in 2006 to better reflect the Organization's environmental work. For the first time, the *14th Forum* was held in two separate sessions, the first in Vienna on 23 and 24 January and the second in Prague from 22 to 24 May. Preparatory conferences in November 2005 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and in March in Baku, Azerbaijan preceded the *Forum*.

Participating States identified transport as the *Forum's* central theme, giving it a double focus. The first part of the *Forum* dealt with the link between transport development and regional co-operation and stability. The second part was dedicated to transport security.

The *Forum* generated political will in favour of more trade and transport development in the OSCE area.

The OSCE will provide support to international conventions and technical standards within the framework of its co-operation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe. Important transport projects such as the *Trans-European Motorways and Trans-European Railways Projects' Master Plan* as well as the

Eurasian transport links require a significant mobilization of people and other resources. The OSCE will continue to assist with raising awareness and encouraging adequate decision-making. Capacity-building activities will be co-organized with OSCE economic and environmental officers in the field to support the implementation of relevant legal instruments.

Participating States also pledged to enhance co-operation amongst themselves and with relevant international organizations on transport-related matters. Commitments will be reviewed regularly.

Special attention was given to the needs of landlocked developing countries. The OSCE reflected on how to support the implementation of the UN *Almaty Programme of Action*, which sets out commitments and actions to improve transit potential for developing States with no direct access to the sea. The government of Tajikistan offered to host an OSCE conference on the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transport through Central Asia until the year 2015.

The *Forum* reaffirmed the importance of good governance and emphasized the need for OSCE activities intended to enhance business and investment climates. It also encouraged the organization of roundtables with local business communities to improve transparency and to address corruption issues.

In zones of conflict, a lack of co-operation between the sides hampers transport. The *Forum* considered approaching transport not only as a benefit arising from a settlement but also as a confidence-building tool in its own right. The *Economic Rehabilitation*



The opening of the 14th Economic Forum in Vienna on 23 January

*Programme* in the Georgia-Ossetian zone of conflict along with adjacent areas is a prime example of such a confidence-building effort in transport and infrastructure development. The OSCE launched the programme with a donor conference hosted by the government of Belgium in Brussels on 14 June.

The *Forum* also discussed the possibility of transport development harming the environment and explored ways and means to address this risk. It was agreed that OSCE participating States should concentrate on adopting and implementing legislation related to the illegal transport of hazardous waste.

To follow up on the *Forum* and to fine-tune the OSCE's commitments, the Economic and Environmental sub-committee of the Permanent Council held further discussions and consultations.

The Ministerial Council Decision set the framework for future transport dialogue within the OSCE. As a result of the Decision, the OSCE will hold the transit transport conference offered by Tajikistan in Dushanbe in the second half of 2007.

In addition to the *Forum's* activities in the field of transport, the OSCE held conferences, workshops and training courses aimed at exchanging best practices and capacity building in the field of transport:

- a workshop on *Urban Transport Security* on 4 and 5 May in Vienna, which examined the lessons to be learned from the Madrid train and the London Underground bombings.
- a workshop with the International Labour Organization in Antwerp, Belgium, from 4 to 6 October, which addressed security in maritime ports, including measures to secure containers.
- a workshop on transport, security and environment in Tonsberg, Norway, from 16 to 18 October, which focused on protecting coastlines from the shipwreck of oil-laden cargoes.
- two seminars with the UN Economic Commission for Europe on the *International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods*, the first in Moscow in October and the second in Belgrade in December.

Furthermore, in 2006, increased attention was given to the challenges posed by environmental risks and threats. Participating States decided to dedicate the next *Economic and Environ-*

*mental Forum* to land degradation, soil contamination and water management.

The first Preparatory Conference took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in November. The meeting, which had a strong Central Asian focus, produced food-for-thought papers that will serve as a basis for the meetings of the 2007 *Forum*.

In summer, extensive fires in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region caused environmental and economic damage and threatened human health and security. The OSCE Chairman followed through on the agreement brokered between the parties, and an OSCE-led expert team conducted an Environmental Assessment Mission in the area in October. The report's recommendations could serve as a basis for an environmental operation. The OSCE stands ready to assist Armenia and Azerbaijan further in this undertaking.

Participating and Partner States as well as key partner organizations pursued co-operative work on labour migration, as decided at the end of 2005. The OSCE, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration



Participants at an OSCE workshop on transport, security and the environment examine a floating boom used to contain oil spills at the Norwegian Coastal Administration's Department of Emergency Response in Horten on 17 October.

published a *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination*. It was promoted at a special event on the margins of the *Prague Economic Forum*. Workshops were also held to introduce the *Handbook* in the OSCE region.

A full report on 2006 activities in the field of migration was presented to the Ministerial Council. In a statement, the participating States welcomed the report, confirmed the importance of migration-related issues and pledged to give them further attention. Concretely, the OSCE will contribute to the *Global Forum on Migration and Development*, the first session of which will be hosted by Belgium in July 2007.

The Chairmanship held a special event on public-private partnerships in combating trafficking in human beings on 16 November in Vienna. Participants discussed the economic causes for human trafficking and identified the responsibilities of and opportunities for the private sector in fighting it.

The OSCE published the *Best-Practice Guide for a Positive Business and Investment Climate*, financed by the Chairmanship and by a number of participating States. It was formally presented at the *14th Economic Forum* in Prague. To promote the guide, a first workshop was held in Kiev, Ukraine.

Overall, the Chairmanship strengthened the OSCE's work in the economic and environmental dimension. The *Forum* process was reinvigorated by splitting it into two parts and by focusing its work on political dialogue.

The Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee convened 17 times, including two special sessions, one in October to launch the *2007 Economic and Environmental Forum* process and another in November to review OSCE commitments to combat terrorist financing. The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) reported to the Permanent Council in January, March and October, which gave participating States the opportunity to guide the work of his Office.

### **Securing energy supplies**

When, at the start of the year, gas deliveries between at least two participating States were interrupted, the OSCE faced for the first time a concrete case where the supply of energy was at risk. The Chairman reacted immediately. On 3 January he emphasized the need for predictable and reliable supplies and the merits of diversification, smart route choice and efficient use, drawing upon the principles of the *OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension* adopted in 2003. He called for the resumption of dialogue and reiterated the possibility of holding an OSCE conference on energy security.

In order to prepare for this, the Chairman tasked the OCEEA with a technical information mission, gathering and analyzing relevant information and making suggestions for renewed international dialogue on this topic within the OSCE. The Co-ordinator consulted with competent international organizations and with government officials from participating States. He regularly updated the Permanent Council and its Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee on his findings. By September, key aspects of energy security had emerged, which could be dealt with through dialogue in the OSCE and which could be discussed most usefully by an OSCE energy security conference.

On 12 September, the Chairmanship convened a special session of the Permanent Council to exchange views with Ambassador Arne Walther, Secretary General of the International Energy Forum, which, like the OSCE, comprises producer, transit and consumer countries and promotes a global consensus-oriented approach to the issue of energy security, although it is wider in geographic scope. The OSCE could borrow from this experience to shape its own region-specific energy security dialogue.

Next, the Chairmanship, the Energy Charter Secretariat and the International Energy Agency co-organized a conference, opened by the Chairman in Brussels on 25 October, to examine the role of governments and international organizations in promoting energy security. It highlighted the strategic importance of inter-governmental dialogue to establish energy security in the OSCE area.

The need for concerted international approaches to tackle the issue of energy security was high on the international agenda in 2006 and was a key discussion item at the Group of Eight (G8) Summit held in St. Petersburg in July. These discussions made it obvious that the OSCE, as a platform for political dialogue comprising producer, transit and consumer countries, has a role to play in addressing the concerns of participating States and in promoting regional responses.

As a result, the OSCE Ministers adopted a Decision on *Energy Security Dialogue* in the region. While reiterating the 2003 strategy, they also expressed support for the principles and objectives aimed at strengthening energy security as agreed at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg. They also tasked the Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretariat with pursuing dialogue on the issue of security of energy supplies.

## Human dimension

During 2006, OSCE human dimension activities covered a broad range of themes. To stimulate the engagement of delegations in human dimension activities, the Chairmanship launched in 2006 a Working Group on Human Protection and Non-Discrimination. It also ensured that all human dimension activities integrated the promotion of equal treatment of women and men.

From the start of his term of office, the Chairman acknowledged the great value of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and human rights defenders. He met representatives to share objectives and listened to their concerns on 13 January, as part of the inaugural events of the Chairmanship. When travelling in the OSCE region during the course of the year, he made a point of meeting each time with civil society representatives to discuss OSCE and human dimension issues.

The first *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting* was devoted to *Human Rights Defenders and National Human Rights Institutions: Legislative, State and Non-State Aspects*. It highlighted the practical and political challenges faced by human rights defenders in the OSCE region and underlined the importance of their work. From the meeting emerged the suggestion of a Ministerial Decision to better ensure the protection of Human Rights Defenders. However, consensus on such a proposal at the Ministerial Council proved elusive, much to the Chairmanship's regret. To help give adequate attention to the needs and difficulties encountered in the field, the ODIHR appointed a Focal Point on Human Rights Defenders within its existing structure, an initiative that received wide support from participating States.

The Chairman also focused on combating intolerance and discrimination and promoting mutual respect and understand-

ing, following up on a 2005 Ministerial Decision that the OSCE dedicate 2006 to implementing important political commitments made in preceding years. Together with the ODIHR, the Chairman organized three *Tolerance Implementation Meetings*. The topics were: *Inter-Cultural, Inter-Religious and Inter-Ethnic Understanding* (Almaty, 12 and 13 June), *Education to promote Mutual Respect and Understanding and to Teach about the Holocaust* (Dubrovnik, 23 and 24 October) and *Addressing the Hate Crimes Data Deficit* (Vienna, 9 and 10 November). These were highly successful events allowing specific focus and encouraging action to correct obvious shortcomings.

The Chairmanship held a Holocaust Remembrance Event in Brussels on 27 January, the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp and the date designated by the UN as an annual International Day of Commemoration to honour Holocaust victims. The Chairman's Personal Representative on Tolerance, focusing more particularly on anti-Semitism, participated.

At its 2005 Ministerial Council, the OSCE demonstrated its support for the *Alliance of Civilizations* initiative, launched that year by Spain and Turkey and endorsed by the UN. With a view to contributing to a coherent approach to this global issue, the Chairman and the Secretary General delivered an OSCE contribution to the UN Secretary-General in New York in June, highlighting the conceptual framework, tools and the wide range of existing activities of the OSCE designed to stimulate mutual respect and acceptance among people of diverse backgrounds.

The three Personal Representatives reappointed by the Chairman as part of the overall fight against intolerance and discrimination pursued their activities, co-ordinating the implementation of political commitments by participating States through country visits and participation in relevant meetings.

### Searching for common ground: the cartoon controversy

As violent protests erupted over controversial cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in several newspapers in the OSCE region, the Chairman urged all sides to respect the media's basic right to freedom of expression, while also reminding the media that this freedom goes hand in hand with responsibility toward society. He made clear that States should not attempt to influence the content of media releases even when they occasionally might want to disagree with that content. He called for an open meeting where all participating and Partner States and institutions would jointly search for the common ground that momentarily seemed to have disappeared.

The meeting took place on 16 February and helped reassert freedom of expression as a fundamental cornerstone of democratic societies, while also highlighting the media's responsibility to foster rather than disrupt dialogue, mutual respect and understanding. The meeting produced a Perception Paper, including recommendations which the Chairman followed up on. He invited the Co-chairpersons of the *Alliance of Civilizations* to address the Permanent Council. The *Tolerance Implementation Meeting* in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on *Inter-Cultural, Inter-Religious and Inter-Ethnic Understanding* was held at a high level. Cartoonists from Muslim countries were invited as guest speakers to present their work during the *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Protection of Journalists and Access to Information* (Vienna, 13 and 14 July).

Throughout the year the discussions revolved around the necessary role of independent and free media, the importance of self-regulation and the adoption of voluntary professional standards by journalists to avoid media content that generates violence. Although the issues remained conceptually difficult, the Ministerial Council Decision on *Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding* clarified a number of aspects and tasked the Representative on Freedom of the Media with a review of best practices to avoid the recurrence of cartoon incidents.

### Building responsible, free media: the twinning initiative

Free media are essential to ensure democratic transparency and accountability. If they are to assume this role properly, they must possess the requisite resources and professionalism. Otherwise, journalism faces challenges to its credibility. Insufficient resources and lack of training may make media vulnerable to manipulation by interest groups or even State authorities.

The Representative on Freedom of the Media responded to this problem by initiating co-operation projects involving both media and State authorities. The projects were designed to build capacity and to call attention to the relationship between government and the media. Several OSCE field operations also supported media development, setting up locally co-ordinated training programmes for journalists and technicians. Because these projects appeared small-scale and limited, the Chairman sought ways to expand them and to increase their impact by directly involving a number of well-established and powerful media organizations.

The Chairman organized a media-twinning visit to Brussels in the week of 23 October for 14 journalists from across the OSCE to stimulate peer-to-peer exchanges with international media organizations established in Belgium. By 'twinning' similar media organizations, journalists could provide support, share experiences and build capacity in a direct professional-to-professional relationship. The discussions highlighted the potential of sector-driven study visits, training seminars and staff exchanges, which would allow media professionals to directly address reporting and editing skills, technical competence issues, media management, self regulation and voluntary professional standards. A twinning programme would require only limited involvement of a supporting and facilitating institution. In the present case, the existing structures of the OSCE could fulfil this 'matchmaking role'.

Delegations agreed on a Permanent Council Decision underlining the importance of media twinning and tasking the Representative on Freedom of the Media to encourage it.

The Brussels Ministerial Council adopted a Decision on *Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding*. While reiterating and strengthening existing obligations, the Decision requires work be done to improve the equality of opportunities, engage with youth, heed public discourse and highlight the role of free media. It also decided to convene in 2007 a High-Level Conference on *Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding* to follow up on the 2005 Cordoba Conference.

The Chairman devoted considerable attention to media-related issues. Together with the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Chairmanship organized a second *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Protection of Journalists and Access to Information*. This meeting examined a number of issues: protection of journalists and of their sources, limitations to access to information in the name of national security interests, restrictive laws on freedom of expression and the possible contribution of the media to the promotion of mutual respect and understanding. The Chairman financed the creation of a Database on Access to Information, currently being compiled by the Office of the Representative, which will provide a comprehensive review of laws and practices concerning access to information by the media in participating States.

General democratization issues and parliamentary democracy figured high on the agenda of the Chairmanship. To secure the OSCE's considerable institutional memory in the key field of democratization, the Chairmanship and the ODIHR launched a lessons learned exercise. The ODIHR consulted with democratization experts of field operations and institutions on how to preserve the knowledge built up over the years. This effort culminated in the third *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting* entitled *Strengthening Democracy through Effective Represent-*

*ation*. The discussions were a first step in the development of effective methodologies and explored ways of consolidating and, where possible, expanding OSCE activities to strengthen political parties, assist with parliamentary reform and increase legislative transparency.

To draw attention to the unfortunate exponential rise in the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography in the OSCE geographic area, the Chairman, together with the United States of America and France, co-sponsored a proposal for a Ministerial Council Decision on *Sexual Exploitation of Children*, clarifying definitions and formulating much-needed policy steps. The proposal received broad support among participating States, who



Representatives of travel and tourism businesses in Montenegro sign a Code of Conduct in Becici on 15 September to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

agreed on a detailed and innovative Ministerial Council Decision. Thus, the political foundation was laid for participating States and OSCE executive structures to address sexual exploitation of children as one of the newest priorities within the human dimension of the OSCE.

As is tradition, the yearly *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* took place in Warsaw in the two first weeks of October. It reviewed OSCE activities in the human dimension sphere, assessed results and considered how participating States respected their commitments. It also produced a broad range of

recommendations aimed at improving implementation of OSCE norms and values.

In May, the Chairman co-organized with the ODIHR a three-day *Human Dimension Seminar on Upholding the Rule of Law and Due Process in Criminal Justice Systems*. For more detail, see the box on organized crime (page 14).

The Chairman also devoted considerable work to the election-related activities of the ODIHR. For more detail, see the section on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE. (page 12).

## Permanent Council



King Albert II of Belgium (left) with Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugge of Belgium, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council in 2006, at the Hofburg in Vienna on 28 September

As the standing body of the OSCE between Ministerial meetings, the Permanent Council handles the bulk of political issues as well as the Organization's day-to-day business. It met 57 times and received no fewer than 27 High Guests of Honour. On 28 September, His Majesty King Albert II paid a highly appreciated visit to the OSCE.

The Chairman organized the work in a format pre-figuring the three-committee structure reflecting the three OSCE security dimensions. It would later be adopted by the Brussels Ministerial. Besides the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee, he created a group on non-military aspects of security and one on human protection and non-discrimination. Issues that cut across dimensions were apportioned within this structure. The working group on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE set up under the Slovenian Chairmanship continued to function separately in order to accomplish the workload mandated by the relevant Ljubljana decision.

The Permanent Council dealt with political issues that concerned all participating States. It considered how they implement OSCE commitments and how they contribute to the resolution of conflicts. Regular reports from Heads of Institutions, field operations

and the Chairman's Personal Representatives were particularly helpful in this regard. In some cases, the Permanent Council took concrete action, as was the case with the cartoon crisis. For more detail, see the box on the cartoon controversy (page 19).

Difficult decisions in the course of the year concerned the extension of the mandate of the Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Christian Strohal, the negotiation of the mandate of the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, the correction of dysfunctions in the OSCE Human Trafficking Mechanism and the tailor-made capacity-building programme for the Georgian Border Police.

On the other hand, in June the Permanent Council was pleased to welcome the accession of Montenegro as the 56th participating State.

The Permanent Council also travelled in 2006, thereby ensuring that the realities of the field were taken into account in the diplomatic work at the Vienna headquarters. Ambassadors visited Serbia and Montenegro in March, Georgia in July and Moldova in November.

## Montenegro

On 21 May, under international scrutiny, the Republic of Montenegro organized a referendum on its independence in conformity with the constitutional *Charter of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro* of 2003. In the name of the EU, Ambassador Miroslav Lajcak mediated the rules for the referendum among the different political parties. In particular, he helped establish a special majority requirement of 55 per cent of participating voters with a minimum turnout of 50 per cent. The ODIHR organized an extensive observation of the referendum process.

On 3 June, Montenegro proclaimed its independence. It turned to the OSCE as the first international organization to which it wanted to accede. The Chairman welcomed this vote of confidence in the OSCE and the norms and values it represents. He ensured swift passage of the Ministerial Decision, which was adopted after little more than two weeks on 21 June. The mandate of the new Mission covers all three OSCE dimensions, testifying to the commitment of the Montenegrin authorities to pursue vigorous reforms.

The final step of the accession process took place in Helsinki on 1 September when the Prime Minister of Montenegro signed the *Helsinki Final Act*.



Miodrag Vlahovic, Foreign Minister of Montenegro, at the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on 18 July

OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev

## Guest speakers at the PC in 2006

12 January:	Chairman-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, <b>Karel De Gucht</b>
2 February:	Personal Representative of EU Secretary-General/High Representative on Montenegrin dialogue, Ambassador <b>Miroslav Lajcak</b>
2 February (Special PC):	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, <b>Ursula Plassnik</b>
9 February:	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, <b>Gela Bezhuashvili</b>
2 March:	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, <b>Vartan Oskanian</b>
9 March:	Head of the EU Border Assistance Mission on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, Brigadier-General <b>Ferenc Banfi</b>
15 March (Special PC):	Minister of Counter-Narcotics of Afghanistan, <b>Habibullah Qaderi</b>
16 March:	High Representative – EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dr. <b>Christian Schwarz-Schilling</b>
21 March (Special PC):	President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, <b>Alcee L. Hastings</b>
27 March (Special PC):	Prime Minister of Georgia, <b>Zurab Nogaideli</b>
28 March (Special PC):	UN Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo, President <b>Martti Ahtisaari</b>
27 April:	EU Special Representative for Moldova, <b>Adriaan Jacobovits de Szeged</b>
4 May:	Ukrainian Deputy Minister for Emergency Situations and for the Protection of the Population from the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe, <b>Volodymyr Kholosha</b>
4 May:	Co-chairmen of the UN High-Level Group for the <i>Alliance of Civilizations</i> , <b>Federico Mayor</b> and <b>Mehmet Aydin</b>
11 May:	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro, <b>Vuk Draskovic</b>
16 May (Special PC):	First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, <b>Rakhat Aliyev</b>
18 May:	Personal Representative of the EU Secretary General/High Representative on Montenegrin Dialogue, <b>Miroslav Lajcak</b>
18 July:	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, <b>Miodrag Vlahovic</b>
7 September:	Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, <b>Carla del Ponte</b>
12 September (Special PC):	Secretary General of the International Energy Forum, Ambassador <b>Arne Walthers</b>
14 September:	NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General <b>James L. Jones</b>
26 September (Special PC):	Secretary of State of Kazakhstan and Deputy Chairman of the State Commission on Development and Concretization of the Programme of Democratic Reforms, <b>Oralbai Abdykarimov</b>
28 September (Special PC):	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, <b>Karel De Gucht</b> in the presence of the King of the Belgians, His Majesty <b>Albert II</b>
27 October (Special PC):	Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, <b>Kassymzhomart Tokaev</b>
27 October (Special PC):	Prime Minister of Georgia, <b>Zurab Nogaideli</b>
14 November:	President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, <b>Goran Lenmarker</b>
15 November (Special PC):	UN Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo, President <b>Martti Ahtisaari</b>
17 November (Special PC):	General Director of the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission, <b>Michael Leigh</b>



## Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC)



OSCE/Mikhail Eustafiev

At a *Seminar on Military Doctrine* at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna on 14 and 15 February, participants focused on security challenges to the OSCE region in the 21st century.

Established at the Helsinki Summit in 1992, the Forum for Security Co-operation is responsible for the military dimension of the OSCE. The Forum's Chairmanship rotates every four months according to the alphabetical order of the OSCE participating States. In 2006, the Forum was chaired successively by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Canada.

The high-level *Seminar on Military Doctrine*, held on 14 and 15 February with the participation of senior military and civilian defence experts, achieved its goal of examining changes in military doctrine derived from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict, emerging technologies and their impact on armed forces and their defence structures. As the nature of the threats becomes more diffuse, the military response complements civilian security measures.

As part of the Forum's work on existing OSCE commitments and new confidence- and security-building measures, participating States engaged in a dialogue regarding two proposals. These proposals related to prior notification of large-scale military transits and to the deployment of foreign military forces on the territory of an OSCE participating State where confidence- and security-building measures are being applied. The discussion led to a broader dialogue on the basis for these proposals, which is expected to continue.

The weekly Security Dialogue featuring a guest speaker proved to be an extremely useful platform for raising awareness of developments in other organizations and for providing information about some areas highlighted by the *Seminar on Military Doctrine*, such as rapidly deployable forces. The Forum Chairperson invited representatives from the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Collective Security Treaty Organization to provide briefings on their respective rapidly deployable forces concept. Other Security Dialogue presentations addressed issues ranging from terrorism and counter-terrorism, civil-military emergency preparedness, to sub-regional efforts in the defence area.

The *16th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting* was held on 7 and 8 March to discuss the present and future implementation of agreed confidence- and security-building measures, as established in Chapter XI of the *Vienna Document 1999*. At the Meeting, proposals were made for further implementation of OSCE documents.

The non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continued to be a topic of intense discussion. Following presentations by the EU on its strategy on non-proliferation, and by the Chairperson of the *Committee Established Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1540*, the Forum decided in September to hold a *Workshop on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540*, which aims to prevent the acquisition, use or transfer of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems by non-State actors. The Workshop, held on 8 November, afforded experts an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the *Resolution* and ways for the OSCE to assist participating States in fulfilling their reporting and implementation commitments, as well as to share best practices.

On 17 May, the Forum held a special meeting on small arms and light weapons (SALW) to prepare recommendations for formal OSCE statements to the *UN Review Conference on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects*, which took place in New York from 26 June to 7 July. The Chairman-in-Office and the Forum Chairperson delivered statements at the *Review Conference* and organized a Side Event to showcase OSCE activities and projects in the fields of SALW and conventional ammunition.

In November, the Forum adopted a decision to hold a special meeting on 21 March 2007 on combating the illicit trafficking of SALW by air. Participating States will be expected to share views on the potential for developing an information-exchange mechanism on their national air transport import and export controls, for engaging in a dialogue with private businesses in

the air transport sector and competent international organizations, and for developing a best practice guide.

Implementation of the OSCE documents on *Small Arms and Light Weapons* (2000) and *Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition* (2003) also continued to receive considerable attention. The first phase of the project in Tajikistan was successfully completed and projects are underway in Armenia and Ukraine (Novobohdanivka). Projects are also being developed in Kazakhstan and Belarus. A memorandum of understanding was concluded with the UN Development Programme to allow for co-operation on SALW and conventional ammunition projects. The Secretary General addressed the 26th joint meeting of the Forum and the Permanent Council on 15 November, providing an update and highlighting the implications of the surplus rocket fuel (*Melange*) projects, notably in Ukraine, and inviting further attention and guidance from participating States.

In March, the Forum finalized a new Annex to the *Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons entitled National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)*. The Annex is available both in hard copy and on CD-ROM in all the official OSCE languages, as well as in Arabic.

Two best practice guides related to the *Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition* have been completed and endorsed by the Forum. The *Guide on Stockpile Management* recommends best practices to facilitate and enhance proper

storage and control of conventional ammunition. The *Guide on Transportation* provides general recommendations and practical advice for the safe and secure transport of conventional ammunition.

The Forum also contributed to the *Annual Security Review Conference* in June by providing guidelines for the keynote speakers, in particular those addressing the politico-military aspects of security.

A Special Forum meeting on the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* was held on 27 September. The meeting focused on implementation of the *Code*. Experts from capitals joined in the discussions, which confirmed the continuing relevance of the *Code* as one of the most important normative documents of the OSCE addressing both the politico-military and the human dimensions of security.

The Forum continued to co-operate with the Permanent Council and its sub-body, the Working Group on Non-Military Aspects of Security. The discussions in the Forum about security sector governance, which is seen to be linked with the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*, attested to this ongoing collaboration on comprehensive issues that involve not only military but also economic, environmental and human aspects. The briefings to the Forum by heads of OSCE field operations were particularly useful in linking politico-military activities with the other dimensions of security.



Shoulder-fired weapons known as MANPADS are detonated in Tajikistan on 21 June as part of an OSCE assistance project aimed at helping the country destroy excess stockpiles.

# OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly represents the OSCE's parliamentary dimension. Comprising 320 parliamentarians, the Assembly's primary task is to support inter-parliamentary dialogue, an important aspect of the overall effort of meeting the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE region. The declarations passed by the Assembly each year, which are forwarded to governments and OSCE institutions, represent the collective voice of the parliaments of the participating States.

Originally established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater national parliamentary involvement in the OSCE's forerunner, the CSCE, the Assembly has become an active and prominent member of the OSCE family. The Assembly brings together domestic members of parliaments from the participating States several times each year to discuss OSCE-related affairs and to issue recommendations. Parliamentarians are provided with the opportunity to exchange views, debate best practices and to engage with international experts on OSCE issues. Each of the national parliaments today have members with OSCE expertise who are in a position to support and influence the Organization's policies. Through an active election observation programme, the parliamentarians also use their unique expertise as directly elected officials, and play a leading role in OSCE observation activities.

Each year the Assembly elects a President by majority vote to act as its high representative and to chair its primary meetings. The President regularly participates in the work of the OSCE at the ministerial level, including Troika meetings and the Ministerial Council. In July, the Assembly elected Goran Lenmarker, Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Swedish Parliament, as its new President.

The Assembly's International Secretariat is located in Copenhagen, hosted by the Danish Parliament. The Secretariat is headed by Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver. With a permanent staff of 15 people, the Assembly also maintains a small liaison office in Vienna. In addition to the Permanent Staff, the Parliamentary Assembly employs up to seven Research Fellows in both Copenhagen and Vienna. The Research Fellows provide high-quality research and linguistic assistance for the work of the Assembly.

## Inter-parliamentary dialogue

**15th Annual Session in Brussels, July.** The theme of this year's *Annual Session* was *Strengthening Human Security in the OSCE region*. Parliamentarians from 53 countries gathered in



OSCE parliamentarians vote during the Assembly's Annual Session in July.

Brussels at the Assembly's largest annual meeting to discuss current issues in the fields of international security, economics, the environment and human rights, and subsequently passed the *Brussels Declaration* with both political and technical recommendations. The *Declaration* calls for increased support for field operations, with a particular focus on South-eastern Europe, and closer co-operation with other international organizations. The parliamentarians are looking for increased dialogue among States to ensure reliable and secure supplies of energy. The Assembly also stressed the importance of effective parliamentary oversight of security services. The Assembly urged parliamentarians to continue providing political leadership to election observation missions, since this lends these missions visibility and credibility. Members also requested participating States to ensure that their territory is not used to assist rendition flights or to operate secret detention centres. They issued recommendations on settling the Transnistrian conflict in Moldova, dealing with the consequences of natural disasters, combating corruption and fighting anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance.

In accordance with traditional practice, Chairman-in-Office Karel De Gucht and Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut both addressed the session and answered questions from parliamentarians.

**Fall Meetings in Malta, November.** Meeting for the first time in Malta, the Assembly's *Fall Conference* focused parliamentary attention on the issue of migration. Experts and Assembly members discussed both positive and negative aspects related to migration. Parliamentarians from across the OSCE region and the Mediterranean participated, including for the first time special guest representatives from Libya.

The meeting in Malta, at the heart of the Mediterranean, was also the occasion of the Assembly's annual *Forum on the Mediterranean*, which included a special debate on the Middle East. The Forum was addressed by high-level officials from OSCE and partner States, including Egypt and Israel. Members discussed the importance of a two-state solution to achieving peace in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. They also raised the themes of free trade and social development, giving a broad perspective to the discussion.

**Winter Meeting in Vienna, February.** The Assembly met for its fifth annual *Winter Meeting* in Vienna in February. The second-largest event in the Parliamentary Assembly's calendar, it gave members of the Assembly the opportunity to hear briefings by senior OSCE officials on current developments. The parliamentarians were also able to follow up on the ongoing work of the Assembly, prepare for upcoming events and engage with their parliamentary colleagues from other countries on current issues.

During the meeting, the Assembly held a public debate on freedom of expression and respect for religious beliefs, following the world-wide controversy regarding the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in the media. This extraordinary debate was held to engage in an open political dialogue about this issue – a critical step in the search for common ground to overcome the difficulties. Opening the debate, then Parliamentary Assembly President Alcee L. Hastings called for freedom of the press to be exercised in a dignified and responsible manner. The special debate continued with introductory remarks by the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti.

Parliamentarians from many delegations across the OSCE as well as from Mediterranean partner States took the floor to exchange views during the debate. Delegates roundly condemned the violent reactions to the publication of the cartoons, and members called for a responsible exercise of freedom of expression. Other issues, such as the role of the press in democratic societies, the principle of secularism, blasphemy laws, the importance of education in tolerance, inter-religious dialogue and the need to fight extremism were also discussed.

## Issues in focus

**Guantanamo detention camp.** In February and March, Anne-Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate and the Assembly's Special Representative on Guantanamo, became the first political representative of a European body to officially visit the United States of America's detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Upon the invitation of the U.S. Department of Defense, the Special Representative met with senior representatives of the State Department and the Department of Defense and was

subsequently given a tour of the facility. She visited camps and cells housing detainees, met intelligence staff and observed an interrogation.

The Special Representative's visit was part of her work in following up and reporting to the Assembly on the situation of detainees from OSCE participating States in the facility. In July, she presented her report in which she called upon the U.S. Government to implement a calendar for closure of the facility. She also made a number of other recommendations, focused particularly on increasing transparency in the fight against terrorism and in the detention process.

**Gender issues.** During its winter meeting, and in conjunction with the 50th Session of the UN *Commission on the Status of Women* in New York, the Assembly organized a special panel discussion on 27 February on the theme *Women in Security Politics – Do Women Make a Difference?* Tone Tingsgaard, Assembly Vice-President and Special Representative on Gender Issues, gave an overview of the activities of the Assembly to promote the status of women within the OSCE and expressed her regret about the lack of progress in this respect. She also gave an overview of her experiences as the Vice-Chairperson of the Defence Committee of the Swedish Parliament. Participants noted the dilemma that, while wars of today involve women more than ever, women are under-represented in peace negotiations. It was stressed that security for women involves much more than military aspects. Economic, social and cultural factors such as job security are also very important. The discussion highlighted the particular ability of women to find common ground with women from other factions and groups, and to work together for peace on the basis of this common understanding.

The Special Representative on Gender Issues presented her *Gender Balance* report to the Assembly during the *Annual Session* in Brussels. She pointed out that, while women represent half of the staff of OSCE institutions, they generally do not hold senior positions. Implementation of the 2004 *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality* has given strong impetus to the process of gender mainstreaming, but she said the issue has not yet been tackled effectively.

“Measures to break the so-called ‘glass ceiling’ hindering women’s access to higher positions have yet to be taken, with the risk that the ‘glass ceiling’ will become a ‘concrete ceiling’.”

–Tone Tingsgaard, Special Representative on Gender Issues

## Election observation

The Assembly continued to play a leading role in observing elections in the OSCE area. Parliamentary observers used their unique knowledge of electoral processes to assess the conduct of elections in relation to participating States' OSCE commitments. As



OSCE/Andreas Baker

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Alcee L. Hastings led several OSCE election observation missions during his presidency.

politicians who have fought elections themselves, parliamentarians have particular expertise in political campaigns and electoral processes, bringing added credibility to OSCE observation missions. In observing elections, the Assembly works in close co-operation with the ODIHR and the region's other parliamentary assemblies.

The Assembly deployed more than 350 observers to monitor elections in Belarus<sup>1</sup>, Ukraine, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latvia and Tajikistan. In accordance with traditional practice, the Chairman-in-Office appoints senior Assembly members as his Special Co-ordinators to lead short-term observer missions and to provide political leadership. Chairman-in-Office Karel De Gucht appointed the following Special Co-ordinators to present the conclusions of the observation missions at press conferences on the day following the elections:

- President Alcee L. Hastings (United States of America) for the Presidential election in Belarus, and the Parliamentary elections in Ukraine;
- Vice-President Nevzat Yalcintas (Turkey) for the referendum on future state-status in Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro;
- Vice-President Joao Soares (Portugal) for the Parliamentary elections in Montenegro;
- David Heath (United Kingdom) for the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) for the Presidential election in Tajikistan.

## Parliamentary field work

The Parliamentary Assembly has established ad hoc committees, working groups and Special Representatives to focus on specific issues, in particular the following:

**Abkhazia (Georgia).** The ad hoc committee on Abkhazia (Georgia) has been working for several years to establish direct contact with representatives of Abkhazia. From 11 to 13 April, the Committee, headed by Vice-President Tone Tingsgaard, visited

Georgia and held meetings with officials in Tbilisi, and for the first time met with the Abkhaz leadership in Sukhumi. Members of the *ad hoc* committee listened to the views and ideas of members of the *de facto* Abkhaz parliament. During the visit, the members of the committee stressed that their mandate is not to negotiate a solution but to promote parliamentary dialogue in order to facilitate reconciliation and resolution of the conflict. The committee's work supports the ongoing UN-led conflict settlement process, and maintains close contact with the Mission to Georgia. The *ad hoc* committee is moving forward with plans to increase dialogue, including through further visits to the region.

**Belarus.** The working group on Belarus, headed by Uta Zapf (Germany), continued working throughout the year for an open dialogue with the Belarusian parliament and Government, as well as with opposition representatives and other interested parties. In close co-operation with the OSCE Office in Minsk, the group held several meetings both in Minsk and outside of Belarus with Belarusian parliamentarians and opposition representatives. The Members visited Minsk in late January and February to discuss the political situation in the run-up to the 19 March Presidential election. The Group urged the electoral authorities to take every possible step to ensure a fair campaign environment, including equal access to the media for all candidates and adequate access to the election proceedings for all observers.

On the sidelines of the *Annual Session*, the working group organized a roundtable discussion with the Belarusian delegation to the Assembly, OSCE parliamentarians and opposition representatives from Belarus. In co-operation with the Belarusian delegation to the Assembly, the group is also organizing a series of joint seminars, which will involve representatives of a wide range of Belarusian political forces.

**The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.** In meetings both in the South Caucasus and abroad, the Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Goran Lennmarker, encouraged reconciliation and rehabilitation in the area through parliamentary dialogue. The Special Representative co-operates closely with the Co-Chairpersons of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, who are working to facilitate a peaceful end to the conflict.

Lennmarker met with the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as with parliamentarians from both countries. Both as Special Representative and, since July, as President of the Assembly, he stressed that there is a golden opportunity for solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The political situation favours a timely solution to the conflict, and Lennmarker called on all parties to seize this opportunity for a mutually beneficial peace.

**Moldova.** Prior to the July *Annual Session* and in close co-ordination with the Mission to Moldova, the Head of the Parliamentary Team on Moldova, Kimmo Kiljunen visited Moldova to help promote constructive dialogue on a Transnistria settlement through improved parliamentary co-operation. The Assembly subsequently passed a resolution reiterating that any settlement of the conflict must be acceptable to all of the people of

<sup>1</sup> Nineteen OSCE Parliamentary Assembly observers were denied entry to Belarus and were therefore not able to participate in the observation mission.

Moldova, and noted the importance of the democratization of the Transnistrian region to this end. The resolution also encourages dialogue between legislators from both sides of the Nistru/Dniestr River.

**South-eastern Europe.** Slovenian parliamentarian Roberto Battelli was appointed Special Representative on South-eastern Europe to facilitate parliamentary dialogue in the region and to serve as a focal point for Assembly participation in the Parliamentary Troika of the *Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe*. In 2007, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will chair the Troika, which also includes the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. The Special Representative represented the Assembly at several *Stability Pact* events, including conferences focused on judicial reform and parliamentary oversight of the security sector.

The Special Representative also played a leading role in the observation of the referendum and the parliamentary elections in Montenegro, as well as of the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In December, the Assembly President and the Special Representative took a one-week trip to Serbia (including Kosovo), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania, travelling overland from Belgrade to Mitrovica, Pristina, Gracanica, Skopje, Tetovo, Ohrid and finally Tirana. The visits to these countries included a number of high-level talks as well as in-depth briefings about the work of the OSCE field operations.

[www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org)

### New leadership elected

At the close of the *15th Annual Session* in Brussels, the Assembly elected Goran Lennmarker of Sweden as President. Upon being elected, Lennmarker said that he wanted to reinvigorate dialogue in the OSCE and promote a wider discussion of OSCE issues beyond its own Institutions. Lennmarker, who has been a Member of the Swedish parliament since 1991 and has served in several senior positions within the Parliamentary Assembly, stressed that he would give priority to work on conflict resolution. Lennmarker has maintained a busy schedule since his election as President. In addition to chairing all of the Assembly's meetings, he has paid official visits to a number of participating States and represented the Assembly at meetings of other OSCE institutions. President Lennmarker has also appointed five Special Representatives to work on issues of particular interest.



OSCE/Andreas Baker

Goran Lennmarker addresses the Assembly after his election as President during the *Annual Session* in Brussels in July.

In July, the Assembly also elected four new Vice-Presidents from Austria, Portugal, Sweden and the U.S.

“Parliamentarians have an important role to play in supporting the OSCE’s conflict-resolution efforts. These conflicts are not ‘frozen’: people are suffering and will continue to suffer unless solutions are found. Parliamentary dialogue can complement official negotiations and lay the groundwork for lasting peace on a democratic footing.”

–Goran Lennmarker, President of the Parliamentary Assembly

# Field operations

## South-eastern Europe Presence in Albania

The Presence assisted Albania in consolidating its democratic institutions through legislative, judicial, property, regional administration and electoral reforms. It also focused on parliamentary capacity-building, anti-trafficking and anti-corruption activities. The Presence supported independent media and good governance, provided police training assistance and worked to strengthen civil society. The Presence's four field stations were involved in regional and local assistance and project work.

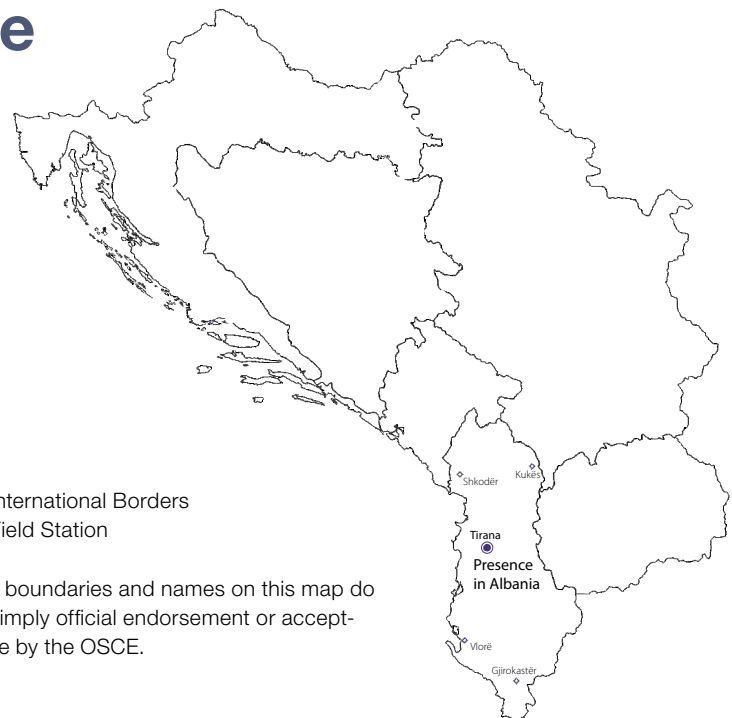
### Politico-military dimension activities

**Strengthening cross-border co-operation.** The Presence facilitated joint border co-operation meetings with Albanian border authorities and public officials along with their counterparts in Serbia, Kosovo (Serbia), Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. These meetings helped with the exchange of information and the promotion of cross-border agreements as part of the *Integrated Border Management* process. The Presence worked with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Commission in a project for the pre-screening of asylum-seekers and migrants.

**Assisting the state police.** The Presence provided training in fighting organized crime, anti-trafficking, first aid and traffic policing to more than 20 mid-level state police officials from all twelve regions. It supported public awareness campaigns on anti-*cannabis sativa* cultivation, human rights and road safety within the twelve regional police directorates. Together with other international experts, the Presence assisted with the drafting of a new state police law. To further increase police reporting capability, the Presence provided

more than 50 computers and printers as well as communications equipment.

**Assisting border police.** More than 100 police officers received training on how to use modern border surveillance equipment. The Presence led a solar power generators project. The generators now provide a back-up energy supply at eight border-crossing points, facilitating the uninterrupted flow of people, goods and services across Albania's borders. The Presence also provided regional police



- International Borders
- ◇ Field Station

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.



An Albanian policeman learns how to use modern border surveillance equipment at a training workshop in Lezha in April organized by the OSCE Presence.



A solar panel at the border crossing point of Murriqan

OSCE



LSA (Light Studio Agency)

A Central Election Commission employee takes in administration ballot boxes.



OSCE

Citizens in Shkodra read their rights on access to information. Under the *Know Your Rights* campaign more than 150 billboards have been posted.

directorates with six vehicles and numerous computers and printers. Two hundred border and migration police benefited from an English-language training project that aimed to increase their foreign language proficiency.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Supporting property reform.** Working with the Immoveable Property Registration Office to promote property reform, the Presence delivered capacity-building training and completed first registration activities for more than 20,000 properties. The Presence assisted the state Property Restitution and Compensation Agency in its work regarding land valuation and the creation of a digital claims database. The Presence offered expertise in drafting a reform strategy to link the processes of registration, legalization, restitution and compensation.

**Supporting decentralization and regional reform.** In co-operation with the Council of Europe, the Presence worked with the Government to review decentralization strategies and establish long-term priorities. Based on the Government's priority to decentralize the water system management process, the Presence trained 40 stakeholders in two cities on the roles local officials will have in managing water resources.

**Promoting good governance.** The Presence helped implement the *Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering* by providing anti-money laundering software for first- and second-tier banks. It assisted 14 communities and municipalities in increasing transparency in decision-making during budget processes. A project to improve tax

collection by computerizing databases was also conducted in five tax directorates.

**Promoting better environment management.** The Presence promoted implementation of the *Aarhus Convention* by the Government with the opening of an Aarhus Information Centre and the creation of an advisory board that includes civil society representation. In six regional seminars, the Presence introduced best practices in dealing with local environmental issues through a toolkit focusing on waste management and pollution. The Presence facilitated discussions in four municipalities on solid waste management issues for more than 60 participants from local government and civil society.

**Supporting the protection and reintegration of victims of trafficking.** The Presence contributed to the Government's efforts to draft the first national social protection standards plan for victims of trafficking. It also promoted the implementation of current legislation and international standards on compensation for victims. The creation of a database on trafficking cases helped improve victim referral mechanisms and enhance data collection. The Presence supported the Government in creating a code of ethics that included rules against economic and sexual exploitation of children within the tourism industry.

## Human dimension activities

**Furthering electoral reform.** The Presence gave technical support to the parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reform. With the help of external donors' funds, the Presence provided advice, training and equipment to the Ministry of the Interior and local government units to help prepare voter lists for the 2007 local elections. The Presence assisted the Central

Elections Commission in the training of election commissioners. It provided training on legislation and the role of police in light of upcoming local elections. It also promoted voter education campaigns. Together with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Presence extensively consulted with the Government to finalize a multi-year project supporting modernization of the Albanian Civil Registry and Address System.

**Strengthening the parliamentary assembly.** In a major extra-budgetary project, the Presence helped build the capacity of the committees, staff and services of the parliamentary assembly, including by organizing seminars and study visits for Members of Parliament. Assistance and technical equipment were also provided to improve public access and the transparency of the assembly's work.

**Strengthening the justice system.** To promote transparency and efficiency in the judicial system, the Presence published a report that analysed the criminal justice system in Albania. In co-operation with the National Judicial Conference, the Magistrates School, the Albanian Helsinki Committee and the Council of Europe, the Presence trained 120 judges in four regions on the role of the European Court of Human Rights and on judicial ethics. The Presence supported the First Instance Court for Serious Crimes by creating a website and by training administrative staff.

**Advancing legislative reform.** The Presence helped to draft legislation on the police, gender equality and witness protection. It published the 1998 constitutional debates and promoted more transparency in the legislative process by training sixty non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in four regions on techniques to comment on draft legislation.



**Promoting civil society and citizens' rights.** A network of Civil Society Development Centres, created by the Presence in 2001 to facilitate civil society's input into policy making, became an independent legal entity, a step on its way to full national control. With support from external donors, the Presence strengthened NGO capacities to perform their watchdog role by creating networks among more than 100 organizations and by enhancing the Centres' role as mediators between the government and civil society. The Presence provided technical expertise to the state structures tasked with implementing the Presence-supported *National Strategy on People with Disabilities*, after the Government's endorsement. With donor support and in co-operation with Albanian institutions, the Presence provided more than 160 billboards in 21 municipalities and produced 1,000 booklets to inform citizens of their key civic rights in relation to the State.

**Advancing gender equality and women's rights.** Working closely with the Government, local NGOs and the UN

Development Programme, the Presence assisted with the drafting of the *National Strategy on Gender Equality*. The Presence continued to provide assistance to victimized women through the donor-funded Women's Counselling Centre in Kukes. More than 1,500 people received counselling and medical assistance.

**Advocating Roma rights.** The Presence continued promoting the rights of the Roma community. It published the *National Strategy for Improving Roma Living Conditions* and trained teachers on issues related to Roma children's school attendance. The Presence worked to raise the awareness of Roma communities on political participation, in particular on encouraging voter registration and participation in local elections.

**Promoting the rights of the mentally ill.** In co-operation with the World Health Organization, the Presence organized training courses in four regions for 80 police officers on the rights of the mentally ill.

**Furthering civil service protection.** In order to strengthen the capacity of the Civil Service Commission, the Presence supported the publication of the 2005 Commission's decisions and trained its staff on best practices.

**Establishing self-regulation mechanisms in the media community.** In co-operation with the media and the Albanian Media Institute, the Presence helped draft a media code of ethics and created a Council on Media Ethics to oversee media performance in respecting professional standards. With external funding and support, the Presence and the People's Advocate Office trained 400 local government and media representatives from eleven regions on how to implement the law on access to information. It also provided advice to twelve local media outlets on how to promote local journalism.

**Head of Presence:**  
Ambassador Pavel Vacek  
Revised unified budget: €3,800,000  
[www.osce.org/albania](http://www.osce.org/albania)

## Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Events in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to be dominated in 2006 by the war that ended more than a decade ago. War crimes prosecution and mass grave discoveries remained regular items in the news. Politics still tended to revolve around the defence of ethnic interests. An attempt to reform the country's constitution narrowly failed in April, essentially over the issue of whether the proposed changes went too far or not far enough in protecting those same ethnic interests.

On the other hand, the country also took some positive steps. In January, it began negotiations with the European Union on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The near simultaneous introduction of a value-added tax increased revenues and brought many businesses in from the 'grey economy'. In October, the country held free and fair elections. In November, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) invited Bosnia and Herzegovina to join its Partnership for Peace.



## Politico-military dimension activities

**Compliance with politico-military commitments.** Bosnia and Herzegovina made further progress in complying with OSCE politico-military commitments, and authorities' awareness of those commitments grew. The Mission provided technical and logistical support to the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1-B of the *Dayton Peace Accords*. The entity Parties transferred their rights and obligations under this Article, which focuses on arms control, to the State – a step toward stability and the reduction of internal tensions.

Although the rate of destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons slowed, the reduction in the number of weapon and ammunition storage sites continued. Together with its international partners, the Mission began to develop a strategy to set up effective arms control mechanisms.

**Democratic control of the armed forces.** In order to strengthen parliamentary oversight of defence, the Mission supported visits by parliamentarians to their counterparts in Slovakia, France and Germany.

**Institution building.** The Mission laid the groundwork for security policy training for local officials. The Bosnia and Herzegovina's Council of Ministers approved its proposal. The Mission then provided technical advice to the Ministry of Security in preparation for the training course, which is scheduled to begin in 2007.

**Defence reform.** Although NATO now has primary responsibility within the international community for defence reform in the country, the Mission continued its work in support of this common goal. As a member of the Defence Reform Co-ordination Group, it provided expert advice to the Minister of Defence.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Municipal administration reform.** To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local government, the Mission assisted municipalities in reforming their management of finances and human resources.

As a result, realistic and comprehensive documents increasingly replaced 'wish lists' and a majority of municipalities held public hearings on their 2007 budgets. The Mission also provided a budget and finance manual and personnel registry software to municipal governments to help them increase management efficiency. Ninety per cent of these municipalities recommended the software for use by other municipalities.

**Jobs and the economy.** To assist young people in finding jobs and launching businesses, the Mission organized entrepreneurship training seminars and job fairs throughout the country. As a result, more than 100 participants found employment. The Mission also fostered partnerships among local businesses, civil society and municipalities in an attempt to identify barriers to local economic development and develop strategies to address them.

## Human dimension activities

### HUMAN RIGHTS

**Right to adequate housing and property restitution.** For more than five years, the return of property to its pre-war occupants and tenants formed the central focus of this Mission's human rights work. Practically all claims filed for repossession of property lost during the war have now been addressed, an unprecedented achievement in countries that have emerged from such conflicts. Most people who lost property have either returned to their pre-war homes or sold their recovered property.

**Support to regional refugee returns.** Since 2004, the OSCE Missions, the Delegations of the European Commission, and the offices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro have been working with the governments of these countries in an attempt to create conditions for the remaining refugees to return to their pre-war homes. Through the *Sarajevo Ministerial Declaration on Refugee Returns*, issued by the refugee ministers in January 2005, the then three and now four countries committed themselves to taking action to "resolve the remaining population displacement by the end of 2006". The countries, however, made little progress on this issue during

the year because they were unable to agree what actions to take.

**Reforming domestic human rights institutions.** Due to its complicated constitutional structures, Bosnia and Herzegovina has had three Ombudsman institutions for more than a decade. The international community has for some years aimed to merge them into one. In March, its efforts resulted in the passage of legislation unifying the three offices. A working group is now trying, with the Mission's advice and support, to put this legislation into practice.

**Rights to social protection and health-care.** Pensioners, the unemployed and members of national minorities such as Roma often face difficulty gaining access to social benefits and healthcare. To address this problem, the Mission drew the authorities' attention this year to the need to develop both a uniform legal framework and policies on rights to social assistance, health care and adequate standards of living. As a result, examples of good practice in dispensing social welfare increased in many municipalities.

### RULE OF LAW

**Monitoring criminal law reform.** Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a radically new criminal procedure code in 2003. Since then, the Mission has monitored trials to assess compliance with and the impact of these new codes. It has periodically reported on its findings, such as in a public report on plea agreements in January.

**Monitoring war crimes cases.** At the request of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the Mission monitored eight war crimes cases transferred by ICTY to the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for trial. It produced reports assessing the proceedings from the perspective of fair trial standards. The Mission's recommendations resulted in improvements of both practices for transferring cases and procedures for adapting indictments.

**Domestic war crimes prosecutions.** The Mission strived to build public support for and trust in the judiciary. To do so, it reached out to the public in co-operation with three local non-governmental organizations as well as with the state and entity prosecutors. As part of this, the Mission financed a film about the work of the prosecutors'

offices in investigating and prosecuting war crimes cases. It also helped the State Prosecutor's Office to prepare a national strategy for prosecuting the large number of war crimes cases awaiting trial.

**Combating trafficking in human beings.** The Mission provided technical and legal support in the creation of protocols for referral of victims of trafficking. It also helped set up training programmes for judges and prosecutors.

## DEMOCRATIZATION

**Promoting transparent and accountable government.** This year, thanks to a considerable grant from the US Agency for International Development, the Mission began a *Legislative Strengthening Programme* with the State Parliament. As part of this, the Mission published a *Public Hearings Manual* to guide parliamentary committees in consulting the public and to increase the capacity of civil society to participate in public hearings.

The Mission's local governance project, *UGOVOR* or *Contract*, successfully completed its first year. The first round of the *Beacon Scheme* – a programme designed to raise standards in local government by recognizing and rewarding excellence – attracted extensive interest and participation among municipalities.

**Improving legislation and regulatory frameworks.** In its continuing effort to help improve local governments, the Mission participated in working and consultative groups developing both legislative and constitutional amendments. The Mission welcomed the introduction of indirect taxation and a new system of revenue-sharing among the different levels of government, under which revenues are now allocated directly to municipalities from a central account rather than through several different accounts. The single, central account allows for clear and transparent administration.

**Strengthening civil society and citizen participation.** Prior to the general elections in October, the Mission supported a *Vote and Choose* campaign by civil society organizations. It also continued its *Open Parliament* initiative, which gives young people an opportunity to discuss topical issues with politicians in televised debates and regular visits to the State parliament.



The *Vote and Choose* campaign encourages youth to vote in Sarajevo on 13 September.



*Open Parliament* TV show recording on 28 April



Inclusive education at a Sarajevo primary school



Poster promoting Roma access to education

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## EDUCATION

**Monitoring developments in education.** Politics still exercises undue influence over education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Children in some parts of the country are kept apart on the basis of ethnicity and curricula vary by ethnicity. In an effort to build public support for changing this, the Mission this year systematically collected information about the state of education and began to make its findings public. The first such thematic report was entitled *School Boards in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Potential Advocates for Change and Accountability in Education*. It highlighted issues requiring continued attention and improvement in order to strengthen the role of school boards – and minimize the role of politics – in education.

**Supporting student councils to build democracy in the classroom.** The Mission emphasized the importance of school boards and student councils because they are a means to create a culture of democratic and non-political management of schools. The Mission therefore provided financial, organizational and logistical support to training students in effective student council organization. A working group developed a *Student Council Manual for Secondary Schools*, outlining rules and procedures to ensure the longevity and success of student councils.

**Promoting equal access and non-discrimination.** The Mission also provided political support to domestic efforts to find long-term solutions to the existence of three different and divergent curricula and three separate education systems in the country. The Mission lent logistical help and public relations assistance to the *Co-ordination Board for the Implementation of the Interim Agreement on Specific Needs and Rights of Returnee Children*. It also assisted efforts to establish a council for national minorities. This assistance included the organization of conferences on the educational needs of Roma and other national minorities.

## ELECTORAL REFORM

At the request of the Central Election Commission, the Mission provided expert advice and assistance throughout this election year. Amendments to the *Election Law* supported by the Commission and passed by the State Parliament

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in April introduced a new system of voter registration and protection of electoral rights. In October, the election observation mission dispatched by the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human

Rights described the general elections, the first in the post-war history of Bosnia and Herzegovina completely run by local electoral officials, as generally in line with international standards.

**Head of Mission:**  
Ambassador Douglas Davidson  
Revised unified budget: €18,077,000  
www.oscebih.org

## Mission to Croatia

Croatia made significant progress in 2006, reflected in the fulfilment of the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Croatia in four of the Mission's programmatic areas: police reform, civil society development, freedom of the media and political affairs. As a result, the Mission, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office, restructured the relevant units by year-end.

The two remaining programmatic areas, return and integration of refugees and the rule of law, showed further improvement, but require additional progress in specific areas before mandated objectives can be considered substantially met.

“Our Mission to Croatia is a success story. We have exceptionally good co-operation with the Croatian authorities and we are working on fulfilling our mandate in an atmosphere of trust.”

–OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut in a press interview on a visit to Mission headquarters on 29 March.



have returned to Croatia or have chosen to settle in their countries of exile.

The process of reconstruction and repossession of properties belonging both to Croats and Serbs drew close to a conclusion, however the provision of alternative housing solutions for the 30,000 former

holders of occupancy/ tenancy rights who lost their right to socially owned apartments should be accelerated. By the end of the year, only a few dozen of the 4,400 housing applications had resulted in the allocation of flats.

Throughout 2006, the Mission, in close

## Human dimension activities

### REFUGEE RETURN

The return of refugees to Croatia continued to be one of the Mission's core priorities. Throughout the year, the Mission worked with the Croatian Government to enable refugees to return under acceptable conditions.

By the end of the year, Croatian authorities had registered as returned some 122,000 of the 300,000 ethnic Serbs displaced by the 1991-1995 conflict. Recent statistics also showed that only 85,000 of the original 270,000 registered refugees remained in Serbia, indicating that most refugees



Prime Minister Ivo Sanader and close associates speak with the Head of the Mission to Croatia, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, on fulfilment of the remaining issues of the Mission's mandate on 8 September. (Photo taken by Minister of Culture Bozo Biskupic, who also attended the meeting.)

Bozo Biskupic



Vecernji list/Dino Stanić

A Serb returnee family cleans its war-damaged house in a village near Benkovac.



Vecernji list/Dino Stanić

Svetozar Skoric, a Serb returnee, shows one of the rocks used in the attack on his recently reconstructed house in Biljane Donje in the Zadar hinterland, on 25 July.

the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, remained at the centre of the Mission's work. During the year, the Mission saw progress, but also observed the need to consolidate this positive trend in order to enhance regional stability and facilitate refugee return. The Mission noted the need for a consistent application of a uniform standard of criminal accountability, without regard to national origin. It continued to call for improved witness security and support services, more effective interstate judicial co-operation and attention to the quality of legal defence. It saw the need for more political leadership in support of the judiciary's efforts to assign individual accountability and end impunity.

**Protection of minority rights.** In past years, considerable progress has been made in the implementation of electoral guarantees for national minorities provided by the constitutional *Law on the Rights of National Minorities*. However, in 2006 implementation of the *Law* continued to lag in some key areas, such as the employment of minorities in state and local administration and the judiciary. The *Law's* anti-discrimination provision remained dormant.

**Electoral legislation reform.** The Government began to reform the legislative framework governing elections during the year.

A new *Law on the State Election Commission* was adopted in April, establishing a permanent State Election Commission as a professional and permanent body in charge of administering electoral procedures. The Mission expects the

contact with the Croatian Prime Minister, created a political mechanism called 'the Platform' referred to below. The Mission, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Commission supported the *Sarajevo Ministerial Declaration on Refugee Returns*. Under this *Declaration*, signed in early 2005, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro committed themselves to resolving the remaining political and legal obstacles to population displacement by the end of 2006. In September, the principals of the three international organizations in the four countries met in Zagreb and urged each country to address outstanding issues by the end of 2006 by finalizing a Road Map and a Joint Implementation Matrix. In December, the Croatian government organized a meeting with representatives of Serbian refugees in Slavonski Brod.

## RULE OF LAW

One of the Mission's main concerns was to ensure the availability of effective tools

to guarantee that citizens' rights were respected, in particular those of national minorities, refugees and displaced persons. Judicial and administrative reforms begun in 2000 have continued through 2006. These reforms have yet to become sufficiently entrenched so that those who deal with the institutions notice a change. Significant delays and concerns about transparency remain.

During the process of institutional reform, human rights safeguards are key. The Ombudsman increasingly undertook efforts to ensure compliance with human rights standards while the Constitutional Court has yet to fully seize its role in ensuring respect for fundamental constitutional principles. Numerous proceedings pending before the Croatian courts relate to the rights of refugees and displaced persons and will be decided outside the *Sarajevo Declaration Process*.

The monitoring of war crimes proceedings, including those transferred from



Tomislav Pavlek

One of three OSCE-organized roundtables on electoral reform held at the Croatian Parliament and attended by high-ranking Croatian politicians

appointment of members to the Commission in early 2007.

Under its *National Anti-Corruption Programme for 2006/8*, the Government prepared a draft law on the Financing of Political Parties which was adopted at the end of the year.

The last of three public electoral roundtables, held 11 December, recommended improving the *Law on Voter Registration Lists* by modernizing the voter registration system, clarifying out-of-country voting and establishing clear, non-discriminatory residency criteria and possible amendments to the *Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence*.

**Media freedom.** The Mission and the Government agreed on three major actions to complete mandate-related media issues by year-end. These included the de-criminalization of libel, amendments to the *Law on Electronic Media* and *Law on Croatian Radio and Television* and ensuring an overall friendlier environment to media and increased media professionalism.

In autumn, legislation relevant to libel was amended to eliminate imprisonment as a sanction for libel, which can now be punished only with a fine. At year's end, the Ministry of Culture presented to the OSCE, the European Commission and relevant media experts draft amendments to the *Law on Electronic Media*, while the long-awaited amendments on the *Law on Croatian Radio and Television* will be presented next year.

## DEMOCRATIZATION

In early 2006, the Government agreed to establish a legal, financial and policy framework in which civil society could function effectively and freely in Croatia. These ranged from setting up a legal and institutional framework for civil society, including the development of a national civil society strategy, and the signature of charters on co-operation between local government and NGOs. A major achievement was the establishment of the Local Democracy Academy in September to train 16,000 officials and employees in local and regional self-governments.

**Police development.** In June, the Ministry of the Interior implemented the second phase of its community policing project. Deployed contact officers established

20 communal crime prevention councils throughout Croatia.

Amendments to the *Criminal Code* rel-

evant to hate crime were adopted in early summer. Police officers who will serve as police trainers on hate crimes took part in a training of trainers seminar in February.

### Moving mandate-related issues to conclusion

Early in 2006, Prime Minister Ivo Sanader and the Head of Mission agreed on a special negotiating framework between the Mission and the main stakeholders in the Government to move mandate-related issues toward conclusion. This framework, called 'the Platform', consisted of three separate monthly ministerial-level plenary sessions with the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs and the Ministry dealing with refugees, supported by numerous sub-working groups.

The meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed five mandate-related issues, namely the development of electoral legislation, protection of minorities, rule of law, ensuring freedom of the media, police reform and development of civil society. These meetings triggered a process that led to the completion of mandate issues in the four areas of political, media, police and civil society.



OSCE/Andrija Cirkovic

At the *Children Together* ceremony awards are presented to the best works of the art and literary workshops, which aimed at fostering closer ties among children from diverse ethnic backgrounds, Vukovar 12 December.

### Fostering Tolerance among Children

The Mission and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports organized a children's literary and art competition in the autumn to promote co-existence and friendship in the Danube region. The project *Children Together* helped children of different backgrounds develop communication skills and learn about tolerance and mutual trust. This project fostered closer ties among children from ethnically diverse backgrounds and demonstrated that it is possible to take pupils' differing backgrounds into account without resorting to segregation.

The project collected art and literary works from 30 elementary multi-cultural schools which teach in Croatian and at least one other minority language in Croatia's formerly war-affected region of eastern Slavonia. It honoured the best works at a ceremony on 12 December.

### Head of Mission:

Ambassador Jorge Fuentes  
Revised unified budget: €8,359,700  
[www.osce.org/croatia](http://www.osce.org/croatia)

# Mission in Kosovo

Discussions on Kosovo's future status dominated events in 2006. The Vienna-based status talks raised the expectations of all the interested parties, including the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) and minority and majority communities.

Regardless of the outcome of the talks, it was important for the Mission, a distinct component of the UN interim administration, to stay on course and continue to provide support to further strengthen democratic institutions and practices and enhance government accountability.

As Kosovo's institutions matured, the Mission underwent a comprehensive restructuring of its field presence and shifted its focus from institution building to pro-active institution monitoring, while maintaining an element of capacity building. Under this new strategy, 33 municipal teams monitored legislative, executive and judicial bodies for respect of human rights, rule of law and practices of good governance. Through its reporting, the Mission helped identify developments and shortcomings in the work of institutions and suggested corrective measures.

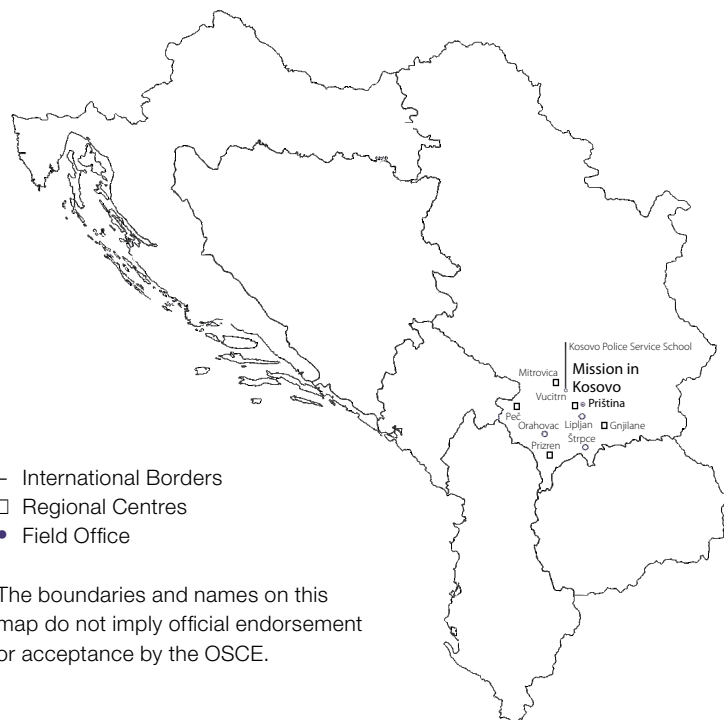
The Mission will continue its efforts with international partners, Kosovo's PISG and the public to help develop a multi-ethnic society with a more peaceful and prosperous future.

## Human dimension activities

### HUMAN RIGHTS

**Human rights capacity-building for Kosovo's institutions.** Human rights advisory teams of the Mission worked with 15 PISG ministries, including the Prime Minister's Office, to establish and develop human rights units. Mission experts provided technical assistance to the units on developing a *Human Rights Strategy* for each ministry, which would consolidate the PISG's human rights-oriented actions on topics such as minorities, returns and reintegration, gender and all forms of discrimination.

Through workshops and seminars, the Mission built the capacity of municipal officials, enabling them to incorporate a human rights compliant methodology in



their daily work. The Mission then offered these sessions to teachers, present and future lawyers and university students. It also carried out a human rights education project co-sponsored by the Slovenian government in primary schools of Gjilan/Gnjilane and Ferizaj/Urosevac.

**Monitoring the justice system.** The Mission monitored the criminal and civil justice systems in Kosovo for violations of domestic law and international human rights standards. The first-ever civil justice review, published in April, highlighted property law and delays in cases before courts. The Mission also looked at criminal courts, following up on recommendations made since 1999, and issued a new report focusing on witness protection, Minor Offences Courts and juvenile justice. The Mission met with judges across Kosovo to receive feedback on its reports.

**Property rights protection.** Activities to ensure a functioning property rights system in Kosovo were threefold. First, the Mission co-ordinated with the PISG on property rights in the *Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan* process through advice, co-ordination support and awareness-raising activities. Second, the Mission contributed to UN Security Council technical assessments. Third, the Mission provided expert advice on resolving conflict-related claims, cadastre reconstruction as well as property legal reforms such as regulating expropriations and regularizing informal housing settlements.

**Combating trafficking in human beings.** A group chaired by the Mission drafted a new, comprehensive standard operating procedure for the identification and referral of victims of trafficking. The group, comprising governmental agencies, local and international NGOs and

### New security structures at the village level

Local Public Safety Committees are consultative bodies that address security needs of local communities. They identify effective projects and action plans to address security issues locally in a close working relationship with the Kosovo Police Service. Local communities are now working together to develop specific safety projects. For example, Partes/Partesh, a Kosovo Serb village, is setting up a children's playground on currently unoccupied land.

Throughout 2006, the Mission delivered training to the Committees on mediation, problem spotting and solving as well as project implementation and development.

police, is focused on addressing the current trend of trafficking in humans, where the majority of victims are from Kosovo rather than trafficked to Kosovo. It further aims to improve mechanisms to help victims. Throughout Kosovo, the Mission supported training of victims' advocates, social workers, police officers and NGO activists on how to correctly apply the procedure to cases of possible trafficking victims.

## RULE OF LAW

The Mission helped develop capacities of present and future members of Kosovo's legal community. Training and support activities included preparing aspiring judges and lawyers for the judicial or bar exam and continuing legal education courses for lawyers. The Mission monitored, analysed and reported on the overall rule of law situation and the activities of the legislative and executive branches given the greater transfer of authority and resulting accountability of local institutions. Recommendations from the Mission ensure that rights are not being violated, laws are given force and that draft laws are compliant with human rights standards.

Two institutions the Mission helped to create, the Ombudsperson Institute and the Kosovo Judicial Institute, were transitioned in 2006 to local control. The Mission continued to support and advise both institutions on general human rights issues to help develop the theoretical and practical skills of judges and prosecutors in Kosovo.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

The *Assembly Support Initiative*, set up by the Mission and international partners, continued its work with the Assembly of Kosovo. The Mission assisted the Assembly Presidency in developing a reform package, which included introducing more regular plenary sessions and a parliamentary question time. These efforts, aiming at accountability within the Assembly and towards the PISG, were accepted and implemented in June.

The Mission helped integrate the Assembly of Kosovo into regional mechanisms of parliamentary co-operation, focusing on oversight of financial and security sectors.

In support of the future status process, the Mission facilitated a comprehensive

### Corruption ends with you!

Surveys show that the public in Kosovo recognizes corruption but feels that nothing can be done to counter it. As a result, corrupt practices develop deep roots and go unsanctioned.

The OSCE Mission has engaged and provided support to the Office of the Prime Minister in developing an *Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan*. More recently it supported the effective functioning of a new Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency. The Agency receives reports of corruption from the public, reviews governmental practices, reports to the Assembly of Kosovo, as well as to PISG executive bodies, and advises the Office of the Prosecutor.

Under the slogan *Corruption ends with you! Report corruption cases to the Anti-Corruption Agency*, the Mission developed a joint campaign with the Agency to help promote its role with the public and to encourage the public to stand up against corruption.



OSCE/Hasan Sopca

The head of the Political Party Alliance for the Future of Kosovo parliamentary group of the Kosovo Assembly takes part in a discussion between Assembly members and the Kosovo Police Inspectorate organized by the OSCE on 1 March.

support programme to develop the negotiating skills of decision-makers from all communities. The Mission also hosted discussions on constitutional issues, examining models which ensure democratically functioning institutions and guarantee human and minority rights.

**Strengthening local governance.** The Mission supported the local governance reform process at both central and local levels. Through pro-active monitoring of the Pilot Municipal Units, the Provisional Assemblies benefited from advice and capacity-building activities organized by

the Mission in co-operation with the PISG Ministry of Local Governance Administration. Work with these new bodies aimed at ensuring a transition to a decentralized local governance model.

In 2006, the PISG Ministry of Finance and Economy introduced programme budgeting as a strategic planning tool to create greater transparency in decision-making processes in municipal administrations. The Mission, together with the United States Agency for International Development, assisted the Ministry by training senior officials, producing promotional

### Helping communities find answers

In 108 villages in the Prizren region the Mission carried out the *My Municipality, My Rights* project to help village leaders learn about municipal responsibilities, ways to alert local authorities and effectively work with them to resolve everyday problems.

For Isuf Nezaj, a teacher and community leader, this project opened new doors. "When we wanted to discuss the problems we faced we did not know whom to approach. But now we are learning who is responsible so authorities can respond to our requests and proposals."

The Mission also initiated the *Bridges of Friendship* project to foster and institutionalize communication between people and municipal institutions through local advocacy initiatives.





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Representatives of Kosovo municipalities discuss budgeting processes at an OSCE training workshop in Brezovica, eastern Kosovo, on 6 and 7 July.

material for public budget hearings and pro-actively monitoring these hearings for compliance with legal regulations.

## EDUCATION AND YOUTH

During the year, the Mission helped the PISG develop two important governmental policies and strategies that aim to benefit youth both in and outside the educational system – the *Pre-University Education Strategy* and the *Kosovo Youth Policy and Action Plan*. It supported the Assembly of Kosovo in reviewing and drafting legislation on private education and qualifications.

The Mission also took the leading role in creating the legal conditions for good governance and the de-politicization of the University of Pristine/Pristina. With full support from the PISG Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the University Expert Group, the Mission helped with a number of full-scale democratic elections, ranging from the student parliament to the Rector.

## ELECTIONS

The Central Election Commission (CEC) is expected to assume responsibility for the 2007 election process, taking over from the Mission which managed all four elections held since 2000. The Mission handed over all electoral operations to local authorities and worked hard to build CEC capacities in areas such as the complex technical operations of compiling and improving the voters list, out-of-Kosovo voting and running the count and results centre.

The CEC and the Mission worked with the Election Forum to prepare appropri-

ate election legislation and procedures. The Forum, an advisory body comprised of political party, minority community and civil society representatives, discussed key issues including the introduction of an open list system, districting and securing equitable gender representation on ballots and in municipal assemblies. The Mission and the CEC Secretariat conducted a mock election exercise to test the change of the current election system from closed to open lists.

## Politico-military dimension activities

### POLICE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

**Support in public safety education and development.** In 2006, the former Kosovo Police Service School became the Kosovo Centre for Public Safety, Education and Development, a multi-disciplinary training institution which supports all public safety agencies – police, customs, corrections and emergency medical services – to promote greater inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination. It is overseen by a Board to ensure minimum education and development standards. More than 8,400 students from public safety groups benefited from the Centre's services in 2006.

During the year, 502 new police officers were trained, bringing the total number of basic recruits to 8,335; of these, 15 per cent were women and 16 per cent represent minority communities.

**Specialized training and organized crime initiatives.** The Mission helped



OSCE/Hasan Sopa

The OSCE monitored a mock election exercise, organized by the Secretariat of the Central Election Committee, at the Shaban Shala Primary School, Podujeve/Podujevo municipality, on 31 October.

build specialized expertise in the maturing Kosovo Police Service. It trained officers in skills such as management and leadership, criminal investigation and forensics. It also taught officers modern techniques to deal with domestic violence, community policing and to raise awareness of human trafficking.

The Mission, in co-operation with international donors, hosted training courses on combating organized crime. Programmes built the capacity of operational managers, increasing the Service's expertise and enhancing its ability to combat organized crime at its roots.

### Community-based safety activities.

The Mission continued to support the Community-Based Policing Steering Group – a body for crime prevention, community policing and community safety activities. It also promoted the *Kosovo Community Safety Strategy* and supported police-community partnerships through its *Community Safety Action Teams* programme. The teams are committed to reducing crime, increasing safety and security and preventing conflict.



OSCE/Hasan Sopa

Community Police Officer Avni Zahiti regularly visits schools in the Mitrovica/Mitrovica region in an effort to develop good relations between Kosovo police and youth on 13 June.



Enver Rrustemi, (standing) Acting Chief Executive of the Inspectorate, and his team during their first inspection of the main Kosovo police station in Prishtine/ Pristina, on 20 July.

### Ensuring police accountability

The Police Inspectorate of Kosovo is the Mission's latest institution-building effort. The Inspectorate is an Executive Agency of the PISG Ministry of Internal Affairs and is intended to enhance police accountability, reduce corruption and facilitate organizational development of the Kosovo Police Service. It serves as an independent oversight mechanism striving towards accountability and transparency – the anchors of democratic policing. It is unique in the Balkans. The Mission designed the comprehensive capacity-building programme on inspection and investigation procedures.

“The Inspectorate will strive to assist the Kosovo Police Service in its development as a democratic institution and its role should be viewed as helpful towards improving the performance of police operations,” said Fatmir Rexhepi, PISG Minister of Internal Affairs.

The first group of 19 inspectors were due to graduate in February 2007. In addition to the six Inspectorate interim reports on Kosovo Police Service performance, the Inspectorate's first annual report on the Service's Performance should be published early in 2007.

Comprised of nearly 1,000 police, local government, and community members, and approximately 50 trainers, they were active in 16 municipalities.

#### Head of Mission:

Ambassador Werner Wnendt

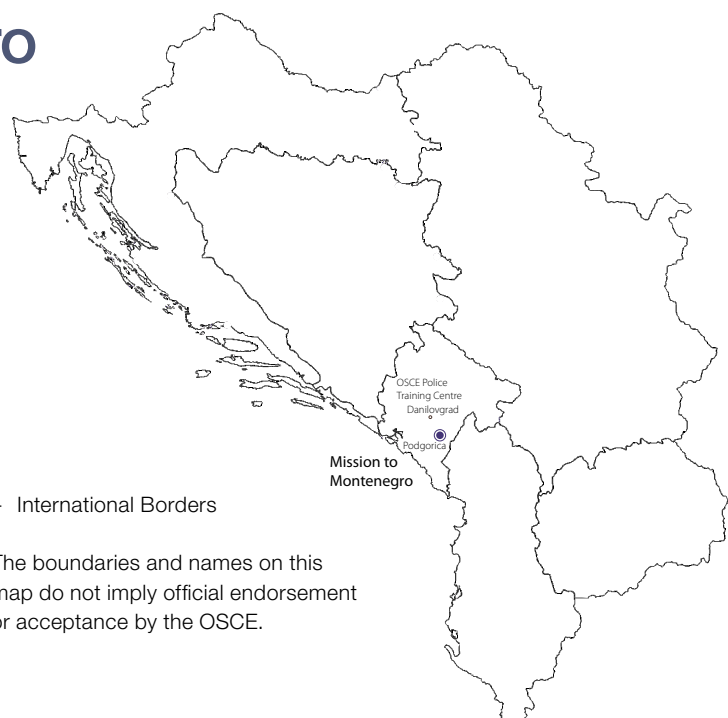
Revised unified budget: €32,954,700

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

## Mission to Montenegro

*The OSCE established the Mission to Montenegro on 29 June, seven days after the accession of independent Montenegro to the Organization. The new Mission, established at the request of the host country, has a broad mandate, covering all three OSCE dimensions. It continues the programmatic work of the Office in Podgorica, which was part of the former Mission to Serbia and Montenegro.*

*After the Referendum on the State-legal status of the Republic of Montenegro on 21 May, the main challenge the Mission faced was to support the Montenegrin Parliament, authorities and society in assuring a smooth transition to independent statehood. Steps on the way included acquiring international recognition,*



– International Borders

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.



OSCE/Ana Milišević

Certificate ceremony for in-service police officers who successfully completed various OSCE-organized training courses, at the Police Academy in Danilovgrad where the OSCE has its own Police Training Centre.

organizing parliamentary elections, forming the government, drafting a new constitution and the accession of Montenegro to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's Partnership for Peace programme.

The overall trends in Montenegro over the last year remained positive, characterized by continued progress and consolidation of the democratic reform processes. The main achievements were the peaceful resolution of the State status, the smooth dissolution of the State Union with Serbia, the restructuring of the Government and the conclusion of the talks on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Union. The main challenges ahead remain the establishment of consensus for the new constitution and the building of administrative capacity to legislate and fully implement reforms required for the further integration of Montenegro into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Police affairs.** The Mission assisted ongoing police reforms by aiding in the development of a *National Strategy on the Fight against Organized Crime* and by helping further Montenegrin Border Management and the country's participation in regional cross-border co-operation, initiated by the *Ohrid Regional Conference on Border Security and Management* in May 2003.

The Mission assisted in advancing community policing and the implementation of a number of legislative acts, including the *Law on the Protection of Witnesses*. The Mission conducted competence-building measures through general and specialist training programmes for police officers in

areas such as informant handling in the fight against organized crime and cross-border challenges related to asylum, migration and human trafficking.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Economic issues.** In close co-operation with local and international institutions, the Mission implemented the following projects: an international conference, *The Role of Audit Institutions in Preventing Corruption*; workshops on combating money laundering and stemming the financing of terrorism and on the prevention of trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors in travel and tourism; and the co-ordination of special teams for combating trafficking in human beings.

**Environmental issues.** A special highlight was the project *Help Protect Our Environment*, involving some 1,000 students in first- to fourth-grade primary school classes in two schools. The activities included environmental education, cleaning of school yards and the surrounding areas, an ecological carnival and the printing and distribution of informational material. The project was carried out in co-operation with the Podgorica Municipal Assembly, the Children's Alliance of Montenegro, the Public Company for Communal Services and governmental ministries.

## Human dimension activities

**Minority rights.** The Mission's programme *Developing Roma Leadership Potential in Montenegro*, financed by the Dutch Government, resulted in Montene-



OSCE/Ana Simićević

Primary schoolchildren wear the best five costumes of the Ecological Carnival to mark the end of the OSCE project: *Help Us to Protect Our Environment*.

gro's first seven Roma journalists, first five university students, support for 25 secondary students and viable and professional Roma NGOs active in the development of Montenegrin civil society. A Roma scholarship foundation to support Roma education was founded.

**Civic education.** To expedite the incorporation of civic education into the formal



Risto Bozović

Senad Sejdović, a 31-year-old Roma man who took part in a two-year OSCE project that aimed to empower the Roma community, is now a free-lance journalist with his own show on public radio.



OSCE/Vanja Vujović

Participants at a training session organized by the Mission to Montenegro, the Centre for Civic Education and the Bureau for Educational Services, aimed at developing the skills needed by the country's first generation of civic education teachers

education system of Montenegro, the Mission participated with other local organizations in the training of the first generation of civic education teachers.

**Parliamentary support and political parties.** During the pre-referendum phase, the Mission, in close co-ordination with other international organizations in Podgorica, actively supported the need for continuous dialogue between the two political options in Montenegro in the Referendum on the State-legal status on 21 May.

**Gender equality.** The OSCE-financed *Programme of Co-ordinated Actions for the Elimination of Domestic Violence in Niksic*, initiated by the NGO *SOS Line For Women and Children*, produced a network of people involved in the fight against domestic violence in Montenegro. The network has set up a task force, comprised of representatives of civil society and local governance.

**Media development.** The Mission promoted the adoption of a *Code of Conduct*

governing media coverage of the referendum and organized discussions on best journalistic practices. This enabled the media to report on the referendum in a balanced and objective manner. For the implementation of the *Law on Free Access to Information*, the Mission organized training for civil servants and raised public awareness through open debates with experts. Other activities included the development of academic institutions for journalists and a professional commentary on the *Strategy for the Electronic Communications Sector*. Together with the Council of Europe and the European Union, the Mission promoted the self-regulation of media through an exchange of experiences with the Swedish Press Ombudsman and the accession of the Self-Regulatory Body of Montenegro to the Alliance of Independent Press Councils in Europe.

**Judicial reform.** The Mission provided assistance to ensure more effective notification, investigation and prosecution of organized crime and corruption-related offences, with a focus on exchanging regional

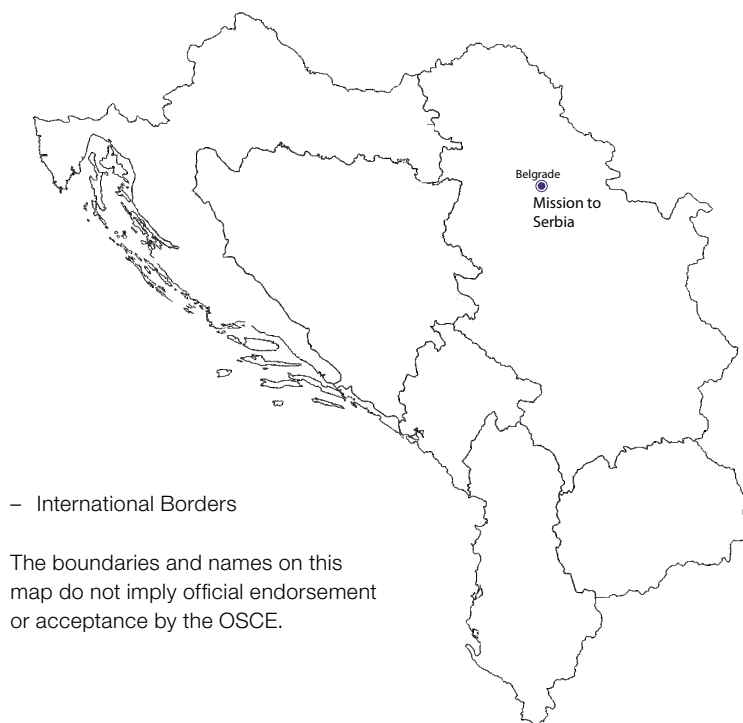
expertise and experience. It gave special attention to the implementation of the *UN Convention against Corruption*. It launched programmes on court mediation and monitoring of administration of justice to address the excessive duration of proceedings. The Mission provided the Association of Judges of Montenegro with support in advocating for the independence of the judiciary, to be included in the new constitution.

**Human rights.** The Mission helped build the professional capacities of the ombudsman's office to comment on and initiate changes in legislation. It assisted prison administrators in implementing reforms to penal legislation. It co-operated with the authorities to develop a *National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture* in accordance with the *Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture*.

**Head of Mission:**

Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu  
Revised unified budget  
(August-December): €917,300  
[www.osce.org/montenegro](http://www.osce.org/montenegro)

## Mission to Serbia



*The former Mission to Serbia and Montenegro was renamed the OSCE Mission to Serbia on 29 June, following the 3 June*

*declaration of Montenegrin independence. The renamed Mission to Serbia continued to operate under the mandate*

*adopted by a Permanent Council Decision in January 2001.*

*Advising Serbian institutions on the development and implementation of laws was a key activity of the Mission in 2006. It continued to assist the national authorities in developing a more accountable and representative police service. A comprehensive approach to the reform of the judicial and legal systems, prison administration and the prosecution of war crimes and organized crime proved particularly successful. The Mission promoted good governance, anti-trafficking, equal opportunities, human and minority rights, access to justice for refugees, free media and an environmentally sound energy policy.*

### Politico-military dimension activities

**Combating organized crime.** The Mission worked to strengthen the legislative framework to fight organized crime and

### Transforming the police high school into the Basic Police Training Centre

The biggest breakthrough in the reform of police education in 2006 came with the consolidation of plans and the political commitment to transform the Police High School in Sremska Kamenica into an entry-level Basic Police Training Centre. The Mission assisted the Ministry of the Interior with capacity-building of trainers and instructors, design of the curriculum and efforts to secure international support for a much-needed physical rehabilitation of the School's facilities. The transformation of the Sremska Kamenica School will irreversibly alter the way police recruits, both male and female, are trained to serve their communities.



OSCE/Milan Obradovic

Third-year students of the Police High School in Sremska Kamenica demonstrate their martial arts skills to Swedish students preparing a documentary on the OSCE and to the Swedish Ambassador to the OSCE, Krister Bringeus, in November.

develop the capacity of prosecutors and judges to deal with complex cases. The Mission helped improve the new criminal procedure code, participated in drafting an organized crime law and a law on the management of seized assets and facilitated international co-operation. It organized specialized training for border police, provided expert advice on the ongoing demilitarization of Serbia's borders and helped the Serbian border services develop the *Strategy for Integrated Border Management and Action Plans*, adopted in 2006.

"The efficient work of my office, its public outreach and, especially, our fruitful co-operation with colleagues from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, was very much made possible thanks to the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia."

—Vladimir Vukcevic, War Crimes Prosecutor in Serbia.

**War crimes.** The Mission monitored war crimes trials before Serbian courts and provided a number of training seminars and study visits for the judiciary and the police. It facilitated inter-state co-operation in war crimes proceedings and conducted a public outreach campaign to educate the public in Serbia about do-

mestic war crimes trials and the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Together with the Office of the Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor, the Mission organized study visits for Serbian journalists to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, where they witnessed war crimes trials and met victims.

**Anti-corruption and economic transparency.** The Mission actively supported institutions introduced by the *Laws on Public Procurement and on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest in the Discharge of Duties of Public Office*, assisted the Serbian Government in preparing a draft law on the Anti-corruption Body and continued to support, as associate member, the Anti-corruption Council. The Mission also promoted corruption-awareness campaigns, with special attention to south Serbia.

**Police reform.** The Mission supported implementation of in-service training for currently serving police officers in south Serbia, organized programmes targeting the management skills of senior police leaders in the countries of South-eastern Europe, and facilitated, in co-operation with the European Police Office (EUROPOL), a training programme on dismantling illicit drug production sites. The Mission played a leading role in the ongoing transformation of the police high school into a Basic Police Training Centre.

In co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Mission continued to support the development of community policing across Serbia, including the south Serbia region. It also continued to facilitate a four-year project, initiated in 2004, to improve the capacities of police, forensic experts, prosecutors and investigative judges to effectively investigate crime scenes and manage forensic evidence. The Mission worked to improve police accountability



OSCE

Stand on sustainable development and preservation of local values in Blace, central Serbia. With the help of the Mission, the municipality developed a *Local Environmental Action Plan* to reduce environmental threats in the small community.

by conducting assessments of detention facilities and organizing workshops that offered insight into available anti-corruption mechanisms and investigative techniques.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Strategic economic projects.** The Mission completed its functional analysis of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and its network, which will permit a more effective presentation of the Serbian economy to financial markets and facilitate foreign direct investment in Serbia.

**Development of small- and medium-sized enterprises.** The Mission supported the establishment of business incubator centres in Zrenjanin (province of Vojvodina), Vranje (south Serbia) and at Belgrade University.

**Youth entrepreneurship capacity building.** Young Entrepreneurs' Spirit seminars were held in ten municipalities across Serbia, with a special focus on organic agriculture. More than 250 participants attended the courses in 2006.

**Energy management.** In the framework of its *Energy Security Programme*, the Mission was engaged in a number of activities promoting the use of wind and solar power. The Mission developed an English-Serbian dictionary with a glossary on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

## Human dimension activities

**Good governance.** The Mission's efforts to increase the professional standards of the parliamentary civil service resulted in a newly established Human Resources Department and measurable improvements in the output of the Department for Public Relations. Parliament took ownership of numerous innovations that made central institutions accessible to citizens, and outreach events that took Parliament to schools and municipalities in remote and rural areas. The Mission also helped establish an office for harmonization of legislation with European Union law.



The Mission strives to address Serbia's need to protect the environment by developing a strategy and related legal framework, as well as by institutional capacity building to promote the Aarhus Convention and Kyoto Protocol.

**Refugee return and integration.** The Sarajevo Ministerial Declaration on Refugee Returns process for refugee return and integration remained at the centre of the Mission's human rights programme. It worked closely with the Missions to Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro as well as with the OSCE Secretariat. Work with the regional network of human rights advocates resulted



The Mission and non-governmental organization ASTRA present research findings on 4 December on the use of the Internet for trafficking of children.

in easier access to justice and a higher quality of legal aid provided to refugees region-wide.

**Anti-trafficking.** Following the successful implementation of the National Referral Mechanism in Serbia, the Mission worked to further develop the institutional framework of the latter and to train specialists involved in the identification, referral and provision of direct assistance to victims of human trafficking.

**Gender equality.** The Mission succeeded in forging a significant link between Roma women activists and the National Assembly. Also, it supported a high-profile media campaign to elect a virtual women's government. The Mission assisted the state Council for Gender Equality with a programme that educated 30 senior managers of the Labour Inspectorate on addressing gender-based discrimination at work. The international conference, *Women in the Army*, co-organized with the Ministry of Defence, resulted in the Ministry's pledge that the military academy would open its doors to female candidates in 2007.

**Protection of national minorities.** The Mission worked closely with the Government, National Minority Councils and civil society to foster minority participation in decision- and policy-making. Through its office in south Serbia, the Mission facilitated an agreement with the Albanian political parties to participate in the January 2007 parliamentary elections. This was the first time since 1990 that the Albanian national minority chose to participate in this key political process.

**Judicial reform.** The Mission supported the development and implementation of the *National Strategy for Judicial Reform*, adopted in May. It worked with the Ministry of Justice and judicial bodies in increasing the capacity of courts and their personnel. It also assisted in revitalizing and enhancing the capacity of the Judicial Training Centre and supporting training initiatives. It furthered the development of professional judges and prosecutors' organizations and their membership.

**Human rights institutions.** The Mission started a capacity-building programme for a network of the municipal ombuds-person institutions in order to strengthen their role in protecting rights of citizens at

OSCE/Milan Obradovic

OSCE/Milan Obradovic

### Integrating and empowering Roma and Sinti

The integration and empowerment of Roma and Sinti is a priority throughout the OSCE area. In September, the Mission to Serbia supported a Roma women activists' network visit to the National Assembly. In meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs), Roma activists were given the opportunity to raise awareness amongst elected representatives about the problems faced by Roma women.

"I would call the visit to the National Assembly historic," said Natasa Pavlovic Perisic, Chair of *Hora* women's NGO from Valjevo, western Serbia. "As a direct result of the visit, we had the first Roma woman ever in Serbia as a candidate on a political party list for the January 2007 parliamentary elections."

In a follow-up in November, a Mission effort brought members of Serbia's Parliament and state officials on a visit to Roma settlements in western Serbia. The delegation met with local authorities and Roma activists to explore possibilities for improving education, employment and healthcare opportunities.

"Roma women informed me with great pride about their successful meeting with the Serbian parliamentarians, organized with the support of the Mission to Serbia, and a follow-up visit of Serbian MPs to Roma settlements in western Serbia," said Sonja Lokar, Chairperson of the *Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe* Gender Task Force. "I compliment your Mission for the good work in building capacities of the Roma women in this country."



OSCE/Milian Ovradovic

Ana Sacipovic (centre), journalist, leader of the Roma women's group *Osvit* of Nis and co-founder of the SOS hotline for Roma women, was invited to be a candidate for the January 2007 parliamentary elections on the list of the G17 Plus political party, following a Mission-organized visit to Parliament in September.

the level of local self-governments, municipalities and cities. The Mission continued supporting the Vojvodina Provincial Ombudsperson.

**Prison reform.** The Mission worked with the Ministry of Justice's Prison Administration to transform the prison system

into a modern penal system by creating a new legal framework embodied in the *Law on Enforcement of Penal Sanctions* and several by-laws. It continued to support training for all categories of prison staff and started programmes to educate inmates and raise health care standards in all detention facilities. Also, special em-

phasis was placed on assisting the prison administration in developing the concept of alternative sentencing.

**Media reform.** As the ongoing licensing of private electronic media and distribution of frequencies are crucial matters, the Mission provided legal advice to the relevant bodies and interested parties. Both public service broadcasters, Radio-Television of Serbia and Radio-Television of Vojvodina, are undergoing decisive changes, and the Mission provided expertise on organizational transformation and improvement of programming quality and diversity. The Mission played a lead role in promoting the freedom of information by supporting the implementation of the *Law on Free Access to Information*. It organized a series of training workshops for journalists and editors. Capacity-building of the media and co-operation with professional associations of journalists remained a key activity in 2006.

#### Head of Mission:

Ambassador Hans Ola Urstad  
Revised unified budget: €8,585,000  
[www.osce.org/serbia](http://www.osce.org/serbia)



OSCE/Milian Ovradovic

In 2006 the Prison Training Academy in Nis was established by law. The Mission had advocated establishing an Academy since the launch of the *Prison Reform Programme* four years ago.

# Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

The main events of 2006 were the parliamentary elections held in July and the change of government that followed. Despite the change in leadership, the country's commitment to the reform process and to future participation in Euro-Atlantic organizations remained constant. For the Mission, this meant a year focused on the implementation of various pieces of legislation and core national policies key to the reform process. 2006 was the crucial first year of implementation for laws related to decentralization, judicial reform, broadcasting and other areas.

Besides changing its focus from assisting with the development of legislation to supporting its implementation, the Mission also made a conscious move this year to provide its domestic partners, from ministries to non-governmental organizations, with the tools to take over the responsibility for training, monitoring and advocacy activities that the OSCE had previously supported.

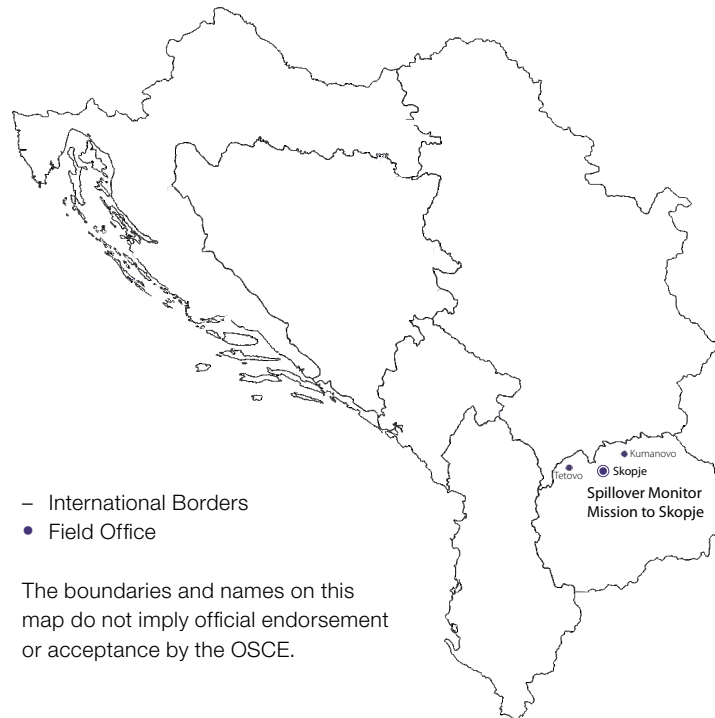
## Politico-military dimension activities



Border police survey their area of responsibility.

**Police reform.** One of the clearest examples of domestic partners taking over responsibility has been in the work of the border police, recently transformed from a military unit into a part of the police services. The Mission initially conducted basic training for border police officers, but this year the border police established regional training co-ordinators and the Mission began training internal trainers who will assume the task of further developing their colleagues' policing skills.

To improve the country's capacity to combat organized crime, the Mission provided training to police officers on money laun-



- International Borders
- Field Office

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

dering, surveillance, narcotics recognition and other relevant topics. It also organized a study visit for senior Ministry of the Interior officials to review training methods in the Scottish Police College.

**Monitoring and early warning.** The Mission's confidence-building monitors played a key role in following up on police reform and the decentralization of authority to local government. They were also instrumental in providing early warning about violence and increased tensions in the pre-election period, allowing the international community and political leaders to react quickly to prevent escalation.

The Mission's monitors are in the field every day talking to local government of-

ficials, police officers, religious leaders and ordinary citizens. In 2006, the Mission also took a more scientific approach by conducting surveys on two key issues: community policing and decentralization. Information gathered from these surveys was useful both for measuring the success of past activities and for directing future action.

**Decentralization.** The completion of the first year of the devolution of power from the central government to municipal governments was one of 2006's most important landmarks. The Mission was heavily engaged in supporting this process, as it was one of those accelerated by the *Ohrid Framework Agreement* that ended the 2001 conflict. A Mission-conducted survey of municipalities

"I am very grateful to our border police, who mean a lot to us. Before, when it was the army, maybe they'd pass by once a year, but now the border police are here every day and help us. Before, the church was robbed several times, also our flocks and our houses, but now it is not like that. This is not just good for us, but for the whole country."

–Lenka Jankova, of the village of Bajkovo.



OSCE/Shpend Ahmeti



### Parliamentary elections

The parliamentary elections of 2006 were the first to be held under a new *Unified Election Code*. The Mission played a key role in helping lawmakers implement the recommendations of the ODIHR in this important piece of legislation. Even while legislative drafting was still going on, the Mission hosted a series of regional political roundtables with support from the Norwegian Government. These workshops engaged more than 500 political party leaders and activists at the central and local level in practical, honest discussions about how to prevent irregularities from occurring and improve inter-party dialogue. At the same time, the Mission-supported *Women Can Do It* programme lobbied heavily for gender quotas in political party candidates lists and worked to get women more involved in the election process. Women make up 28 per cent of the new parliament.



OSCE/Maria Dotsenko

Woman votes in parliamentary elections.

showed that decentralization had been successful overall, but it also noted that under-financing of the new competencies still threatened the process. The Mission trained municipal finance officers in budgeting and reporting in the first part of the year, then focused on revenue and tax collection in order to improve the financial situation of the municipalities. More than 370 municipal officials completed the training. This effort was coupled with the publication of handbooks for municipal officials on budgeting, reporting, taxes and internal auditing.

Decentralization gives citizens the opportunity to be more directly involved in local decision-making. This is the focus

of the Mission's efforts to provide policy support to the central government as well as to the Association of Local Self Government Units. The Mission promoted a variety of mechanisms through which people can effectively participate in their communities. Gender Equity Commissions, present now in more than half of the municipalities, were one example. They are an important part of the municipal decision-making system. The Mission also provided important capacity-building assistance to the Committees for Inter-Community Relations that have been formed in the majority of mixed-ethnic municipalities as a tool for ensuring participation of all ethnic communities.

The Commissions and the Committees are clear institutional mechanisms through which citizens can influence their local government. However no such clear mechanism exists in the area of education. Amidst much debate in the media about funding for schools, renovations and the naming of directors, the Mission implemented a multi-faceted project to reduce tensions and channel the debate into constructive discussions and problem-solving at the local level. The Mission first published and widely distributed a handbook on education and decentralization and then held a series of six roundtable discussions with members of parent councils, school staff, municipal officials and representatives from the relevant ministries on concrete ways to deal with local education issues. Finally, the Mission began activities to strengthen the capacity of parent and teacher councils to engage in local decision-making.



OSCE/Mirvete Mustafa

Building in Skopje

The passage of the new *Law on Police* ushered in a decentralization process within the police service. Under the new structure, local Crime Prevention Councils will work with police to improve local security. The Mission conducted preparatory training for members of the more than 70 Citizens' Advisory Groups it has developed over the last several years as part of the *Community Policing Programme*. The Advisory Groups, through which community leaders, representatives of local government and interested citizens communicate directly with local police, facilitate public participation in the future Crime Prevention Councils.

## Human dimension activities

**Judicial reform.** With the necessary constitutional amendments and much of the relevant legislation in place, the Mission focused on the technicalities of implementing judicial reform. It assisted with the establishment and inauguration of the Judicial Training Academy. It also trained judges and prosecutors to help them function in the specialized courts that are now part of the judicial system. The Mission worked with those who specialize in organized crime and helped prepare the judiciary for the expected return of cases from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

One of the expected results of judicial reform is that citizens will have more faith in the judicial system, and the first steps in achieving this were taken this year with activities aimed at increasing transparency and efficiency in the courts. The Mission worked with judges and their staff to produce annual reports for each court and present them to the public as useful, accessible documents on the work of the judicial system. Acting upon the initiative of several Appellate Court judges, the Mission also helped develop software for case distribution, install it in all courts and train court staff to use it. This software not only makes case distribution more efficient but also prevents anyone from unduly influencing the process.

**Anti-trafficking.** With a national action plan in place, the struggle to combat trafficking in human beings focused on implementation. The Mission's priority was to make the national referral mechanism fully functional. The key to this was training the likely first points of contact for victims of human trafficking, social workers, police officers and representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, and getting them involved in identifying and properly referring victims.

A reliable witness protection programme is another crucial part of any anti-trafficking effort. The Mission worked to develop the professional competencies of the Witness Protection Unit of the Ministry of the Interior and strengthen its co-operation with counterparts in the countries of origin of trafficking victims.

**Strengthening local partners.** In its efforts to further enhance the rule of law

in the country, the Mission has for many years been working closely with certain domestic organizations, developing their capacity for activities such as monitoring, reporting, lobbying and providing legal aid. This year the Mission concentrated on strengthening their organizational function and improving their chances for sustainability. The most advanced of these groups is the Human Rights Support Network, made up of five organizations which provide legal aid and advocacy for individual human rights abuse cases. From the end of 2006, the Network will no longer rely on the Mission for core support of its activities.

The Mission assessed the needs for capacity building and the potential for sustainability of a total of 27 local partners working in the area of the rule of law. This provided a solid basis for planning future activities with these entities. The Mission also continued its support for the ombudsman institution with the help of the Swedish International Development Agency, providing training for staff, establishing an internal legal library of more than 300 publications and helping with the networking of the regional offices.

**Media development.** The first year of the implementation of the *Law on Broadcasting* was marked by both successes and setbacks. The Mission supported the implementation of this *Law* by providing significant technical assistance to the broadcast regulatory authority. Partly due to this support, the deadlines for key decisions and by-laws outlined in the *Law* were met. On the other hand, the multilingual public broadcaster faced a serious crisis in the second half of the year after the financing system outlined in the *Law* failed to bring in much-needed revenue. The Mission monitored developments closely as a prolonged labour strike over unpaid salaries led to confrontations with the newly selected management bodies of the broadcaster. Later, working closely with local authorities, the Mission played a constructive role in supporting management's efforts to control the situation and overcome the crisis.

**Freedom of the media.** The Mission witnessed two major breakthroughs in the area of media freedom in 2006. The first occurred in January with the passage of the *Law on Free Access to Public Information*. The Mission worked with local

partners to build the capacity of the new National Commission established by the law and develop tools for its implementation.

Working closely with the Representative on Freedom of the Media and local media advocacy groups, the Mission organized a high-level conference on decriminalization of defamation, which was shortly followed by changes to the Criminal Code abolishing prison sentences as a penalty option for defamation.

### Head of Mission:

Ambassador Carlos Pais

Revised unified budget: €10,386,200

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

# Eastern Europe Office in Minsk

The Office in line with its mandate focused its activities in 2006 on assisting the Government of the host country in further promoting institution building and consolidating the rule of law and in developing relations with civil society, as well as supporting the country in addressing economic and environmental issues. It also implemented a number of projects involving the Chernobyl-affected areas and worked with authorities and civil society to raise awareness of environmental issues.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Rehabilitation of Chernobyl-affected areas.** The Office co-sponsored the international conference *Twenty years after Chernobyl: Strategy for recovery and sustainable development of the affected regions*, which took place in Minsk and the affected territories of the Gomel region from 19 to 21 April. The Office supported the scientific sessions and the publication of the *Abstracts Proceeding* of the conference.

As a founding member of the *Co-operation for the Rehabilitation of Living Conditions in Chernobyl-affected Areas*, a programme involving national and regional authorities, international organizations and non-governmental organiza-



tions (NGOs), the Office participated in the project assessment committee and the approval board held in November in the Brest Region. The Office approved three projects, but due to late registration their implementation was put forward to 2007.

**Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC).** The Office, in co-operation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and its ENVSEC partners UN Development Programme and UN Environment Programme, con-

ducted regional consultations in Minsk, which resulted in a draft assessment report for the Eastern Europe region on the ENVSEC initiative.

The final report includes a work programme with priority cross-border projects focusing on joint approaches to the management of water, forestry and natural reserves in the Polesie area shared by Belarus and Ukraine.

**Raising environmental awareness.** The Office supported training sessions on the



Deserted houses succumb to nature in the exclusion zone of the Chernobyl-affected area.



OSCE staff visit a greenhouse in Olmany, Eastern Polesie, on 15 June.



In Eastern Polesie, Office staff take stock of the situation with farmers. The Office has been supporting agro-economy projects for the betterment of living conditions and sustainable development in this mostly rural region.

*Aarhus Convention* at the Aarhus Centre opened under a joint project with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection in December 2005. The Office helped conduct outreach campaigns and legal consultations on ecological issues and donated the equipment provided within the joint project to the Centre.

## Human dimension activities

**Anti-trafficking.** The Office assisted with the ODIHR/*La Strada*-run *Anti-Trafficking Assessment* project, which reviewed what referral mechanisms are in place in Belarus for victims of trafficking.

In October, the Office co-sponsored an international conference on *Co-operation between Source and Destination Countries on Trafficking in Persons with the Focus on the Demand Side*, which was organized by the Ministry of the Interior and the International Organization for Migration.

**Gender issues.** Within the framework of the annual global initiative *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*, the Office co-sponsored the information campaign *Domestic Violence Should Not Become Part of Your Life*. The event included a press briefing for the relevant Ministries, NGOs and journalists; a meeting with refugees residing in Belarus to raise awareness on the issue; posters, calendars and billboards; and frequent

broadcasting of video on national television.

**Monitoring activities.** The Office observed court hearings related to freedom of association, the right to peaceful assembly, freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention and the right to a fair trial.

These hearings involved, among other cases, a former 2006 Presidential candidate and the members of a domestic election observation group who observed the 2004 parliamentary elections and the leader of a youth organization who were charged with criminal code provisions adopted in December 2005 that prohibit the organization or management of unregistered public organizations.

The Office followed a number of court hearings involving some NGOs, trade unions, political parties and newspapers with regard to legal registration.

The Office closely monitored the situation around the Belarusian Helsinki Committee, which has been summoned repeatedly to court in connection with Ministry of Justice and tax authorities' lawsuits.

The Office monitored the developments following the March 2006 Presidential election. The Office visited the main administration detention centre in Minsk and attended administrative hearings when access was not denied. In total, several hundred people were sentenced to an

administrative arrest of up to 15 days (no official data available), including approximately 20 journalists.

**Individual complaints.** The Office received approximately 80 new individual complaints of alleged human rights violations. In the main, these concerned the actions of law enforcement agencies and centred on the belief that the right to a fair trial had been denied. Where appropriate, the Office raised its individual or patterns of cases with the relevant Belarusian authority.

### Head of Office:

Ambassador Ake Peterson  
Revised unified budget: €874,200  
[www.osce.org/belarus](http://www.osce.org/belarus)

# Mission to Moldova

The Mission focused in 2006 on defusing tensions in the Security Zone, handling the consequences of the new customs rules introduced in March covering export from the Transnistrian region, and attempting to get the political settlement negotiations back on track. The 17 September 'independence' referendum and the 10 December 'presidential' elections in Transnistria – neither one recognized nor monitored by the OSCE – shaped the political environment of this work. Other important areas of the Mission's activity included mediating the controversy over the Moldovan Latin-script schools on the left bank, combating human trafficking and promoting the rule of law and freedom of the media.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Political settlement negotiations.** To spur on the settlement talks, the Mission drafted in early 2006 documents that suggested: a possible delimitation of competencies between central and regional authorities; a mechanism for monitoring factories in the Transnistrian military-industrial complex; a plan for the exchange of military data; and an assessment mission to evaluate conditions and make recommendations for democratic elections in Transnistria. The Transnistrian side, however, refused to continue negotiations after the March introduction of new customs rules for Transnistrian exports,

and thus no progress could be made including on these projects. Attempts to unblock this stalemate through consultations among the mediators (OSCE, Russian Federation and Ukraine) and the observers (European Union and the United States of America) in April, May and November and consultations of the mediators and observers with each of the sides separately in October were to no avail.

**The Joint Control Commission (JCC).** In April, the mediators helped find a mutually agreeable accommodation which returned to Moldovan farmers from Dorotcaia unrestricted access to their land on Transnistrian-controlled territory. This suc-

cess also unblocked the work of the JCC – the body responsible for implementing the July 1992 *Agreement on Principles of the Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Transdniestrian region of the Republic of Moldova* and supervising the Joint Peacekeeping Forces in the Security Zone – which had been frozen since April 2005. In September, two new JCC working groups were established. They regulate disputes between the sides on relations between Moldovan police and Transnistrian militia in the town of Bender and review the presence of unilaterally established posts in the Security Zone. The Mission, as an observer in the JCC, is deeply involved with both working groups.



OSCE/Chad McGougan

The Mission to Moldova routinely patrols the Transnistrian section of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border.



OSCE/Bernard Auesdat

Around 20,000 tons of ammunition are still stored in the Russian Federation depot at Colbasna in Moldova's Transnistrian region.

**Building confidence and security while reducing threats.** The Mission provided financial and logistical support to the Ministry of Defence as it destroyed surplus and outdated artillery ammunition. As part of Moldova's broader defence reforms, the Mission also worked closely with the Ministry on proposals for further assistance in the destruction of ammunition and equipment and in developing programmes to re-train and re-settle retiring military personnel.

**Removal of Russian Federation arms and equipment.** On 13 November, a group of 30 OSCE Heads of Delegations, along with OSCE Mission members, gained access for the first time since March 2004 to the Russian Federation ammunition depot at Colbasna, near the Moldovan-Ukrainian border in northern Transnistria. There were no withdrawals, however, of Russian ammunition or equipment from Transnistria during 2006, and more than 21,000 tons of ammunition remain stored in the region. During the year two Voluntary Fund donors, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, withdrew their contributions from the Fund.

## Human dimension activities

**Election and electoral reforms.** The Mission and the ODIHR provided joint advice to the Moldovan parliament that considerably improved electoral legislation. With the support of the ODIHR election experts, the Mission reported on the December Bashkan gubernatorial elections in the autonomous Gagauz region in Moldova's south.

**Protecting language rights.** The Mission promoted and hosted negotiations on the existence and functioning of Moldovan Latin-script schools in the Transnistrian region. Nonetheless, the issue of the school building in Ribnita, which was confiscated by the local Transnistrian authorities in 2004, remains unresolved.

**Monitoring human rights.** The Mission responded to a large number of individual human rights complaints. These were predominantly from criminal defendants protesting violations of procedural rights during pre-trial detention, poor detention conditions and lack of adequate medical assistance. The Mission monitored several high-profile court cases which involved

issues such as the right to a fair trial or torture. The Mission also devoted special attention to the remaining two imprisoned members of the Ilascu group, convicted by Transnistrian authorities of alleged crimes during the 1992 conflict, and later ordered released by the European Court of Human Rights.

**Capacity-building through promoting human rights.** In 2006, the Mission supported small-scale projects aimed at promoting human rights and tolerance across the Dniestr/Nistru river. For example, the 'Rebuilding Bridges' concert in August brought together rock musicians and their fans from both banks of the river and was a major success.

**Promoting freedom of the media.** The Mission helped build capacity in the media sector and supported reform of Moldova's broadcasting legislation. With help from the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Mission provided legal and technical expertise which improved the draft broadcasting law. Financial support for the training of journalists and the newly created Moldovan School of Journalism are expected to heighten professionalism in the Moldovan media. The Mission also began a comprehensive programme to assess the state of regional media.

**Preventing human trafficking and promoting gender equality.** The Mission hosted regular technical co-ordination meetings in Chisinau as well as in the regions and a special donor meeting on anti-trafficking activities. In autumn, the Mission and *Winrock International* launched

a new website, called the Anti-Trafficking and Gender Network. It is accessible in English, Romanian and Russian at [www.atnet.md](http://www.atnet.md).

The Mission also organized training courses aimed at increasing the capacity of governmental and civil society actors in the fields of combating trafficking in human beings, preventing domestic violence, promoting gender equality, as well as protecting and assisting victims of trafficking or domestic violence. It supported the authorities' anti-trafficking activities and a number of projects aimed at protecting the vulnerable.

In the legislative sphere, the Mission's work focused on advocating for the *Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men*, which entered into force in March. The Mission also provided extensive expertise and advocacy for a bill on domestic violence.

**Trial monitoring programme.** In March, the Mission and the ODIHR, in partnership with the American Bar Association's *Central Europe and Eurasia Legal Initiative* and the Institute for Penal Reform, began a *Trial Monitoring Programme*. A network of national trial observers attend, observe, and systematically collect data on hearings and trials in the national courts of Moldova in cases concerning issues such as trafficking human beings or arms.

### Head of Mission:

Ambassador Louis O'Neill  
Revised unified budget: €1,622,500  
[www.osce.org/moldova](http://www.osce.org/moldova)



'Rebuilding bridges' was the motto of an OSCE-sponsored rock festival at the Vadul-lui-Voda resort near Chisinau on 12 August. Bands from both banks of the Dniestr/Nistru river performed.

# Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

The Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine focused in 2006 on projects aimed at assisting Ukrainian authorities in adapting legislation, institutions and policies to the requirements of heightened democratic standards and in strengthening the rule of law. The field presence also helped to re-train hundreds of laid-off military personnel, clean up the Novobohdanivka ammunition explosion site as well as attract investments to and stimulate small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) development in Ukrainian regions.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Helping demobilized soldiers.** The Ministry of Defence is downsizing its armed forces. In co-operation with the Ministry, the Project Co-ordinator helped to provide soon-to-be discharged military officers with employment options. It has developed and delivered practical retraining courses on various topics including small business development, management and marketing to more than 800 officers in 20 cities. Specialized retraining for military pilots, engineers and navigators is also available and all discharged personnel are entitled to professional assistance with job searching, developing interview skills and resume writing. As a result, more than 78 per cent of participating officers have found employment.

The Project Co-ordinator also assisted the Ministry in establishing a Resource and Career Centre for discharged military servicepersons. Through seminars and publications the Centre has helped increase Ministry staff awareness of the rights of discharged military personnel on important issues such as pensions, re-training, housing and employment.

**Destruction of munitions.** The Project Co-ordinator began work with the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency Situations to safely clean up the Novobohdanivka ammunition depot which has been the site of several explosions since 2004. The Project Co-ordinator provided equipment requested by the Ukrainian partner, such as protective vests, Kevlar helmets and mine and ferrous metal detectors. It began training Ukrainian experts on appropriate techniques and use of equipment



in order to detect and retrieve unexploded ordnance.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Supporting local business development.** Implemented in partnership with the Eurasia Foundation, the field operation's main project in this area co-

operates with local employment centres in supporting small businesses with advisory services and training and works with local government on policy issues to help create favourable conditions for entrepreneurs.

In 2006, 50 households in the southern part of the Odessa region, near one of Europe's most famous nature reserves, started up eco-tourism activities after training in hospitality and tourism management. During the 2006 holiday season,



Munitions disposal experts from the OSCE Secretariat, the European Commission and the German Armed Forces conduct joint assessments of the Novobohdanivka ammunition depot in August.

Courtesy of Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency Situations

the project participants hosted more than 1,500 tourists.

**Assisting Ukrainian regions in attracting foreign direct investment.** In 2006, after establishing a Rivne regional investment promotion agency a year earlier, the Project Co-ordinator developed an investment profile of the region, including industry and company profiles. As a result of the promotion of the agency's activities, the Rivne region was chosen by the Financial Times group's fDi Magazine as the 2006/07 *Region of the Future* for the western Commonwealth of Independent States, and both the city of Rivne and Rivne Region were among the nominees for the title of most cost-effective location in Europe.

In autumn, the project expanded its activities to the Chernihiv region and assisted the national investment promotion agency InvestUkraine in research which provided the representatives of regional administrations with information and strategies on the establishment of industrial zones and best practices in attracting foreign investment.

## Human dimension activities

**Good governance and strengthening of democratic institutions.** At the request of the Ukrainian authorities and with the support of the ODIHR, the Project Co-ordinator placed special emphasis on further strengthening the country's election procedures. It assisted Ukraine in improving its legislative framework related to elections, improving voter lists and developing manuals for institutions responsible for conducting elections. The most demanding task this past year was to assist in establishing the electronic central voter registry in preparation for the parliamentary elections in March. With the Project Co-ordinator's assistance, approximately 1.3 million inaccuracies were deleted from



Shots from the TV Public Service Announcements against trafficking in persons developed by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in cooperation with the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports and the Ukrainian Eurovision-2004 winner Ruslana

the voter lists, contributing significantly to the internationally acknowledged adherence of these elections to recognized democratic standards.

**Anti-trafficking support.** To help Ukraine combat trafficking in human beings, the Project Co-ordinator extended a nationwide awareness-raising campaign on the problem, featuring the Ukrainian singer and winner of the 2004 Eurovision Song Contest, Ruslana. To support the important role of government officials in detecting and preventing trafficking, the office compiled publications on different aspects of the issue, and conducted training seminars for relevant officials and organizations. The Project Co-ordinator also continued to assist the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities in the implementation of a pilot project on economic empowerment for Ukrainian orphans.

**Supporting the rule of law.** The Project Co-ordinator partnered with Ukraine's newly created Administrative Courts and European administrative justice experts to suggest amendments to the country's draft Administrative Procedure Code and other legislation related to the courts in order to improve definitions of administrative offences and application of new legislation. To support this legislative work, the Project Co-ordinator is also working with the Academy of Judges to create a training curriculum on administrative issues for new and practicing judges. At the request of the Ministry of the Interior, the Project Co-ordinator established a project aimed at monitoring detention facilities to ensure that human rights are being respected. Together with lawyers, government representatives and NGOs, the Project Co-ordinator developed a guide for the work of mobile monitoring groups, which will be included in the internal regulations of the Ministry. Training sessions for four mobile groups were held in October.

In the area of human rights, the Project Co-ordinator provided expert assistance to the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee on European Integration by conducting independent reviews of draft laws, evaluating their conformity with international human rights standards and European standards of law.

**Website.** The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine launched a Ukrainian-language website (<http://www.oscepcu.org>) to inform citizens, state authorities, civil society and journalists about the Co-ordinator's activities.

**Project Co-ordinator:**  
Ambassador James F. Schumaker  
Revised unified budget: €2,323,600  
[www.osce.org/ukraine](http://www.osce.org/ukraine)



# South Caucasus Office in Baku

The Office extended its involvement across the spectrum of Azerbaijan's democratic development aspirations and commitments as a participating State, expanding both the volume and diversity of projects handled. It focused on providing assistance to the reform of police and justice administration as well as to the fight against corruption.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Police assistance programme.** Teachers of the Baku Police School, newly trained in modern teaching methods, ran a second course for their colleagues, mentored by partners from the Czech Republic. All training staff have now completed the course.

The Office launched its three-phase community policing project in July. The project, which is designed to bring police closer to the community, made use of seminars, lectures, public events and television and radio programming. Local police officers also visited Turkey to experience community-based policing there.

**Freedom of assembly.** The Office, with the support of the Federal Republic of Germany, delivered two further training courses in 2006 for the Ministry of the Interior and, for the first time, a course for the Baku Police. Command and control, situation evaluation and legal obligations, practised in a command-post environment, were balanced by practical exer-



cises in crowd control, culminating in a demonstration of skills before the media, international community and senior government officials.

**Elimination of rocket fuel component stocks.** The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, with the Office's support, began the disposal of the *Melange* portion of liquid rocket fuels stored on two sites in Azerbaijan. The Office, with the help of an international expert, established projects to monitor a *Samine* spill at one of the sites.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Development of small- and medium-sized enterprises.** The Office created a database of existing and potential Az-

erbaijani exporters, providing a fundamental tool for business and regional economic development. The database gives those listed access to the expertise, know-how and best practices of leading investment promotion agencies in other transition economies.

**Anti-corruption activities.** The Office helped establish an operational anti-corruption network. In co-operation with *Transparency Azerbaijan*, the Office created a new Anti-Corruption Centre in Guba, while also supporting centres in Baku, Ganja and Lenkaran. The Centres enable people to report corruption cases they experience, and assist them, where appropriate, in taking their cases to courts. They also encourage the relevant authorities to enforce new legislation and to process cases.

**Water issues.** The Office further supported the *Environment and Security Initiative*



Interior Ministry troops and police officers take part in a practical exercise, part of a training programme for law enforcement agencies, in Baku in October.



Site of leaking *Melange* containers, Azerbaijan

(ENVSEC), a joint OSCE, UN Development Programme and UN Environment Programme activity. The Office also continued to support the OSCE/NATO South Caucasus *River Monitoring Programme*. Thirty water monitoring stations along the Kura and Araks river basin provide unique data for the management of the region's water resources, keeping a balance between increasing domestic and industrial demand and the needs of a fragile ecosystem.

## Human dimension activities

### RULE OF LAW

**Improving pre-trial detention.** An expert group established by the Office to improve the pre-trial system elaborated amendments to the draft law on Pre-Trial Detention and Custody on Remand, under review by the Parliamentary Standing Commission.

**Trial monitoring.** The Office monitored more than 250 trials in 2006 as part of its long-term programme to increase respect for the right to a fair trial and promote judiciary-legal reform in the country.

**Presumption of innocence.** The Office issued a report on the practice of presumption of innocence in the country. Among its recommendations were that public officials and the media refrain from damaging the reputation of the accused and that public officials' comments on ongoing criminal cases be more closely regulated.

**Improving juvenile justice administration.** Representatives of various ministries and civil society met regularly to discuss the development of a juvenile justice system as part of the Office's efforts to help harmonize national legislation and procedures with the country's international obligations on children's rights. The working group's brief included issues relating to prevention, penalties and social integration.

**Torture prevention programme.** The Office delivered more than 25 training courses for judges, officers of prosecutors' offices and administrators of penitentiary institutions.

The Office published a booklet, entitled *200 Questions– 200 Answers about Torture*, for

the public and a manual, *Discovering and Punishing Torture*, for investigators, law-enforcement officials, judges and lawyers.

### DEMOCRATIZATION

**Capacity-building programme.** The Office organized two workshops for domestic non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the fields of gender mainstreaming, women's rights and anti-trafficking. They highlighted a variety of advocacy methods including public participation, impact litigation and community organizing. In December, the Office followed up with training courses on media relations skills.

The Office supported the process of drafting laws on public associations, foundations, charities and volunteer associations and highlighted shortcomings in existing laws.

**Freedom of the media.** Through a series of seminars, the Office promoted more balanced, informed and inclusive media coverage and facilitated responsible and inclusive public discussion of issues such as labour migration, domestic violence and anti-trafficking. The Office supported training for journalists and government spokespersons to strengthen their professional skills and, in May, resumed its media roundtables to provide an information-sharing platform for international organizations.

To improve the media's legal environment, the Office helped initiate a discussion on defamation and libel law. A journalists' union, with Office support, will lobby for complete decriminalization of libel as well as for revisions to the civil code, focusing particularly on establishing appropriate ceilings for damages.

The Office commissioned a British Broadcasting Corporation team to assess public television's current operations and immediate development needs. The report, delivered in October, serves as a basis for the Office's ongoing effort to help public television transform into a professional, balanced public broadcaster.

**Domestic violence.** The Office facilitated discussions on the draft Law on Domestic Violence and helped co-ordinate efforts to train police and the judiciary, particularly in rural areas.



More than 150 women lawyers, legal experts and law students attended an OSCE-organized conference on the participation of women in the legal sector, in Baku on 28 November.

**Gender issues.** In February, the Office sent a team to southern Azerbaijan in order to assess any discrimination and inequality faced by women, locate governmental and NGOs active in alleviating problems in this field, and recommend strategies to promote gender equality. The team recommended establishing a centre in 2007 to reach out to all women in the region. In May, the Office facilitated an in-depth public discussion on the *Law on Equality* in order to increase public awareness, transparency and accountability in the process of drafting the law. Participants presented their comments and recommendations to the drafters.

**Trafficking in human beings.** The Office and the Ministry of the Interior refurbished a building designated as the country's first secure accommodation for victims and those at risk of being trafficked. The Office also designed and funded a training scheme for at-risk women in the northern regional town of Guba. With the support of the municipal government, young women gained secretarial skills and were helped to find employment, thereby reducing their vulnerability.

### Head of Office:

Ambassador Maurizio Pavesi  
Revised unified budget: €1,733,000  
[www.osce.org/baku](http://www.osce.org/baku)

# Mission to Georgia

The Georgian-Ossetian conflict resolution process – one of the main focuses of the Mission's mandate – saw development of confidence through economic rehabilitation this year, but it made little political progress. Dialogue within the Joint Control Commission (JCC) was stalled by year-end, with no progress toward demilitarization. Several incidents exacerbated ever-present tensions in the zone of conflict. These included the firing on a Georgian Ministry of Defence helicopter flying over the zone, a fatal exchange of fire between Georgian and Ossetian militia and various explosions, including several from landmines.

Despite this, important achievements in the area of confidence building were made. The Mission completed a needs assessment study into the economic infrastructure in the zone of conflict and adjacent areas and subsequently launched a large OSCE-led international Economic Rehabilitation Programme.

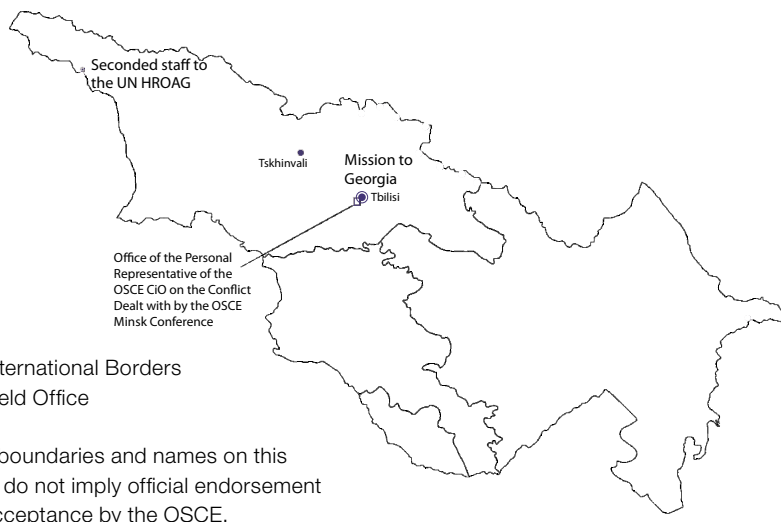
The Mission further developed its human rights and rule of law programmes, notably for penitentiaries, to reach more of the regions. It assisted the Central Election Commission reform process before and after the October local elections. The Mission continued to help build the Government's capacities for border management, police reform and action against terrorism. It also helped support the development of the Government's policy on good governance and anti-corruption.

## Politico-military dimension activities

### CONFLICT RESOLUTION

**Georgian-Ossetian conflict.** To help resolve the conflict peacefully, the Mission took advantage of the political, economic and human dimension tools at its disposal.

On the political front, it participated actively in meetings of the JCC, co-chaired by the Georgian, South Ossetian, North Ossetian and Russian sides, and intensified consultations with all stakeholders to ensure that the sides maintained dialogue and searched for mutually acceptable solutions.



The Mission continued to urge the sides to improve the security situation, in particular with proposals to move forward the demilitarization of the zone of conflict and to promote joint law enforcement co-operation.

The Mission has carried forward several initiatives to build confidence among the communities, including programmes on economic and infrastructure rehabilitation, civil society and human rights development and conflict reporting training for journalists for unbiased media coverage of events.

Monitoring the activity of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces (JPKF) and the security situation in the zone of conflict continue to be important Mission tasks.

**Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.** The peace process resumed within the UN-led Coordinating Council of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in May, but was again suspended in July after a large-scale Georgian special operation in the Georgian-controlled upper Kodori Valley in Abkhazia and the establishment there of the 'Government-in-exile'.

### Economic rehabilitation in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict

The Mission has been engaged in two major economic rehabilitation initiatives in the zone of conflict. The sides agree that implementation of such programmes serves as an effective mechanism for confidence-building and, ultimately, for the full-scale resolution of the conflict. The Mission continued to co-ordinate a programme funded by a €2.5 million European Commission grant. The Mission also launched a unique international initiative stemming from an OSCE-led needs assessment study into social infrastructure, roads, agriculture, business and finance. Backed by international pledges of almost €8 million, and in close co-operation with the four sides and the international community, the Mission commenced the implementation of the large-scale *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* in October by developing plans and logistics for immediate projects such as the rehabilitation of the Tskhinvali water supply system and the provision of grants to local agricultural associations.



OSCE/Martha Freeman



Mission Military Monitors and the Head of Mission Ambassador Roy Reeve in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict

Still lacking agreement from the Abkhaz side, there was no progress in 2006 regarding the opening, in Gali, of a branch office of the joint UN-OSCE Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia.

#### OTHER POLITICO-MILITARY DIMENSION ACTIVITIES

**Destruction of obsolete weapons.** The Mission continued dismantling obsolete ammunition and destroying munitions which could not be dismantled. It improved infrastructure at the ammunition dismantling base, reprocessed nearly 3,500 containers of smoke chemicals and completed the installation of TNT smelting equipment.

**Police reform.** The Mission continued to assist the Ministry of Internal Affairs in implementing its police reform, laying the foundation for future work in areas such as human resources management and community policing development.

To combat money laundering, the Mission

OSCE/David Khizanishvili

helped the Ministry and financial police increase analytical capacity by organizing the introduction of advanced software.

**Action against terrorism.** The Mission launched a series of specialized crisis management training programmes and assisted the Ministry of Internal Affairs in developing a Crisis Management Centre.

In co-operation with the United Kingdom's Cranfield University and New Scotland Yard, the Mission prepared the way for the establishment of a Bomb Data Centre in Georgia.

Other projects contributed to the strategic objective of the OSCE's *Counter-Terrorism Programme* by supporting a sustainable capability within the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs to develop its long-term counter-terrorism capacity.

The Mission helped Georgian agencies strengthen co-operation with European counterparts, notably with Austria, France, Romania and Spain.

**Strengthening border management capacities.** In June, the Mission successfully completed a year-long programme to improve the capacity of Georgian Border Police in border management. The OSCE Mission's *Training Assistance Programme* aimed at transferring the skills it had gained from five years of border-monitoring experience.

A total of 784 mid-ranking and non-commissioned officers completed the



The Mission assists the Georgian border police to build capacity in border management.

training, some of whom were identified as potential future instructors.

In August, the Mission launched a new three-pronged training programme:

- Training of Trainers – addressing the request from the Georgian Border Police to assist in establishing a functional training unit
- Rapid Reaction Training – increasing the capabilities of the Rapid Reaction Unit of the Georgian Border Police
- Operational Planning – addressing Senior Border Management Personnel in the Regional Command and Georgian Border Police Headquarters

OSCE/David Khizanishvili



The Mission assisted the Ministry of the Interior to implement its reforms, including the stocking of the Policy Academy library.

OSCE/David Khizanishvili



A 'hostage' is released during an exercise, after members of a special police team held negotiations with the 'hostage-takers'. The Mission and experts from the French special unit RAID organized hostage negotiations training for the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

OSCE/David Khizanishvili

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Economic issues.** The Mission focused on developing small- and medium-sized enterprises, on supporting the fight against corruption and on providing economic policy guidance to the Government. The Mission also produced a trade-facilitation handbook on new customs regulations for distribution at borders, organized a youth summer camp on the basics of entrepreneurship, and completed an extensive analysis, conducted with Parliament, designed to foster sound economic policy planning.

**Environmental issues.** The Mission worked on identifying environmental problems that can result in instability and potentially lead to conflicts. Assisted by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the Mission supported the OSCE-UN Environment and Security (ENVSEC) initiative in developing projects in areas of environmental concern. It further supported the NATO-OSCE *River Monitoring* project, and continued to help raise public environmental awareness through the Aarhus centre.



OSCE/David Khizanishvili  
NGO representatives receive certificates for OSCE-funded human rights training of trainers.

law for the staff of the Ministry of Justice, on criminal law for the investigators and prosecutors of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara and on newly adopted labour legislation for public servants.

The Mission initiated and funded human rights education in schools in the regions and supported a programme of free legal aid for prisoners in remand custody in western Georgia.

### DEMOCRATIZATION

Much activity this year focused on Kvemo Kartli, a region heavily populated by national minorities. Technical and financial support was given to three resource centres to provide IT classes, legal advice and human rights training to the local Azeri, Armenian and Georgian population, as well as Georgian-language training where needed. The Mission provided capacity-building assistance to a number of newly founded NGOs in the two remote districts of Tsalka and Dmanisi.

In the run-up to the October 2006 local elections, the Mission held co-ordination meetings, at the technical and ambassadorial level, with governmental structures and international organizations. It assisted the Central Election Commission by financing the launch of a more comprehensive and informative website and, together with the National Democratic Institute and the Council of Europe, gave strategic advice. In addition, it financed monitoring and auditing of the Central Electoral Commission's voter list update. In collaboration with the ODIHR, the Mission and Parliament established and managed the Centre for Parliamentary Reform, which will co-ordinate donor activities and provide strategic advice to the parliamentary leadership.

**Rule of law.** The Mission developed practical recommendations for the effective reform of penitentiary institutions, arranged a professional training programme for penitentiary and probation staff and supported rehabilitation programmes for inmates.

**Anti-trafficking.** The Mission worked with the Government and civil society towards the adoption of anti-trafficking legislation. It delivered training for law enforcement officials and the media and implemented a small grants programme for urban and regional NGOs to combat trafficking at the grass-roots level.

**Freedom of the media.** The Mission concentrated on improving the flow of information between Tbilisi and regions mainly populated by non-Georgian-speaking ethnic minorities. In the Marneuli and Bolnisi districts the Mission funded the re-broadcasting of the public television evening news, simultaneously translated into Azerbaijani. The Mission also facilitated a trip of 15 journalists from leading Tbilisi newspapers to the southern district of Samtskhe-Javakheti, to encourage and support accurate reporting about this Armenian-speaking region in media publications with national coverage.

## Human dimension activities

### HUMAN RIGHTS

The Mission continued monitoring cases of individual human rights violations. It monitored trials, providing legal advice to victims and addressing alleged violations with the Government. The Mission also monitored conditions in Georgian prisons and the Government's efforts to reform the judiciary.

It provided comprehensive training programmes on international human rights



OSCE/Ciff Volpe  
Representatives of the Mission and other international organizations visit a new penitentiary in Kutaisi.

### Head of Mission:

Ambassador Roy Reeve  
Revised unified budget: €11,690,600  
[www.osce.org/georgia](http://www.osce.org/georgia)

# Office in Yerevan

The Office made significant strides in 2006 on two major ongoing projects: the recycling of rocket fuel component and the promotion of trust between the police and the population.

The Office also widened the scope of its activities in the economic and environmental sphere and focused on providing legal and policy expertise on elections, migration, anti-trafficking, media and cyber security. It worked to build capacity in the fields of human rights, gender equality and youth leadership.

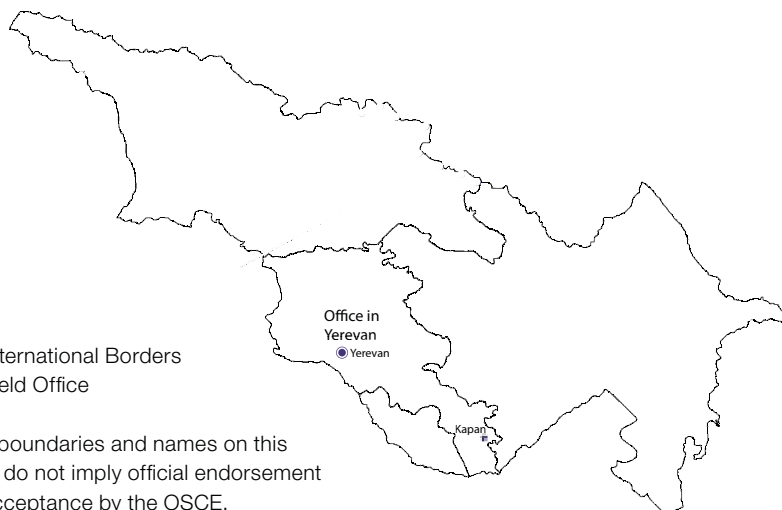
**Electoral reform.** In light of the May 2007 elections, the Office assisted the authorities in reforming the *Electoral Code* in line with the ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations. Most of these recommendations were incorporated into the text of the amendments. The Office also supported the publication of two manuals on election administration procedures.

**Support to the National Assembly.** Building on past years' experiences, the Office supported professional capacity-building of National Assembly staff through a three-week training course and a study visit by selected staff members to the Federal Parliament of Belgium.

**Fighting corruption.** The Office assisted the anti-corruption NGO coalition through the establishment of a pilot network of anti-corruption reception centres in Yerevan and the regions. The Office and its international partners also discussed strategies aimed at tackling corruption practices through the review of the Gov-

- International Borders
- Field Office

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.



ernment's new *National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the 2007-2010 period*.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Police assistance programme.** The Office completed the renovation of the Police Training Centre and in November initiated a follow-up project to introduce a new curriculum and improved training methodology. It also launched a project on community-based policing in a pilot district.

**Cyber security.** The Office, jointly with a Task Force composed of experts from law enforcement agencies, organized a roundtable to recommend legal and practical measures to improve information security and combat the use of the Internet by terrorists.

**OSCE communications network.** The Office assisted the Ministry of Defence in obtaining the necessary equipment, tech-

nical assistance and training to connect to the OSCE Communications Network.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Supporting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).** The Office supported the elaboration of the *SME Statistical Guidebook 2004-2005* and commissioned the development of an Indicators' System aimed at measuring the effectiveness of government SME support. The Office also contributed to the translation into Armenian of the OSCE *Best-Practice Guide for a Positive Business and Investment Climate*.

**Promoting principles of the Aarhus Convention.** New Public Environmental Information Centres started operation with the Office's support in Syunik, Tavush and Lori provinces. The Centres help create a climate of transparency in environmental

### Elimination of rocket fuel component stocks (*Melange*)

As part of its economic and environmental and politico-military activity to dispose of *Melange*, the Rocket Fuel Component Disposal Facility at Kaltakhchi in the north of Armenia was inaugurated on 12 May.

"The *Melange* project in Armenia is an outstanding example of what practical cooperation between the OSCE and a participating State can achieve and could well serve as a model throughout the OSCE region," said OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, who attended the inauguration at the invitation of Armenian Defence Minister Serge Sargsyan.

The Office initiated the project in response to a request by Armenia's Defence Ministry to assist in recycling 872 tons of the highly toxic and volatile substance in an environmentally friendly way, converting it into a mineral dressing for agricultural use.



OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (right) and Armenian Defence Minister Serge Sargsyan at the opening of a *Melange* processing installation at Kaltakhchi, Lori province on 12 May.

OSCE/Gohar Avagyan

### Opening of a programme implementation presence in Syunik province

On 30 June, the Office opened a presence in Kapan to support local stakeholders in promoting economic development and investments while taking into account environmental risks in a region such as this with a large mining industry.

The Office and authorities forged a legal basis for the establishment of such presences in Armenia's regions.

"The Government pays special attention to the development of Armenia's regions and rural areas, and we are grateful to the OSCE for assisting in this matter," said Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanian, speaking at the inauguration.



OSCE

Schoolchildren and local volunteers help clean up the land around King Vahan's Monastery in Syunik, part of an environmental-awareness campaign organized by the programme implementation presence and the Aarhus Centre in Kapan on 13 October.

affairs by linking governmental authorities with relevant NGOs.

**Environment and security initiative (ENVSEC).** In partnership with the UN Environment Programme, the UN Development Programme and in association with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the Office continued to engage in the ENVSEC initiative aiming at promoting co-operation on security-relevant environmental issues. The Office focused on environmental hotspots identified by ENVSEC, arranging environmental impact assessments of tailing storage sites from mining and dressing production. Within the same framework, the Office continued to support implementation of the OSCE-NATO South Caucasus Co-operative River Monitoring Project to provide a scientific basis for effective management of water in the Kura-Araks basin.

## Human dimension activities

**Support to the ombudsman institution.** The Office together with the ODIHR organized a visit of Armenia's new Ombudsman to the Lithuanian ombudsman institution, aimed at capacity building of the institution through sharing experience on the operational methods of treatment of individual complaints. The Office together with the Ombudsman's Institution organized a conference devoted to the human rights situation in the country and coinciding with International Human Rights Day.

**Criminal justice and penitentiary reforms.** The Office supported the launching of the Chamber of Advocates' official website and the publication of a study on *Judicial Systems in Europe and the USA*, prepared by the General Prosecutor's Office's Training Centre. It initiated, with the Council of Europe, training on European

human rights standards for lawyers and public defenders and organized courses with the ODIHR focused on investigating cases of domestic violence and sex crimes.

The Office organized two workshops on alternative sentencing for Ministry of Justice staff, supported civil society monitoring activities in penitentiary institutions and the publication of the Public Monitoring Board's annual report. The Office also played a key role in a three-month pilot project on public monitoring of police detention centres.

**Human rights in the army.** The Office organized a roundtable, recommendations of which included introducing amendments to the current legislation on Alternative Military Service and establishing mechanisms for civilian control of the army.

**Public awareness.** The Office assisted with the production of three public service television announcements on tolerance, fair trial and prohibition of torture. The Office also helped organize a confer-



OSCE

The Armenian General Prosecutor's Office receives a freedom of information award for its website, following an event linked to the Right to Information Day and organized jointly by the OSCE and Freedom of Information Centre in Armenia.

ence devoted to the International Day of Tolerance.

**Media freedom.** The Office organized public discussions on media freedom and freedom of information and facilitated expertise on media legislation. The Office followed up on the implementation of recommendations of the July report on Armenia issued by the Representative on Freedom of the Media.

**Anti-trafficking efforts.** The Office provided expertise and technical assistance in the development and revision of the *National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*. It held training courses and seminars on the implementation of national anti-trafficking policies. The Office also provided technical assistance to two NGOs conducting studies on trafficking.

**Migration and freedom of movement.** In response to Government and civil society requests, the Office provided expertise on migration management focusing on the protection of migrants' rights, returnees and reintegration and assisted in improving legislation on migration. The Office commissioned a survey on labour migration flows from and back to Armenia from 2002 to 2005.

**Addressing gender issues.** The Office helped implement the *2004 National Plan of Action on the Advancement of Women* and supported ODIHR projects aimed at promoting women's leadership. The Office also promoted gender awareness among young people through an essay contest.

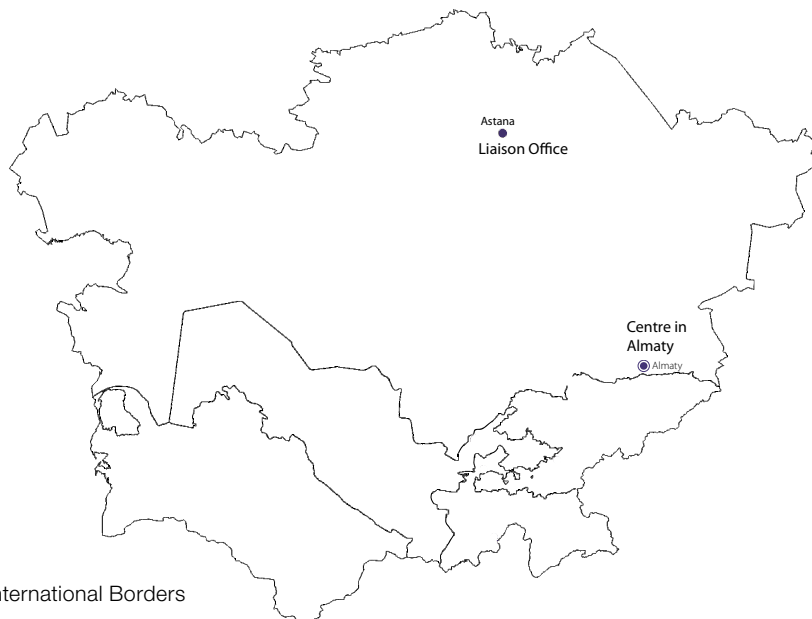
### Head of Office:

Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin  
Revised unified budget: €1,599,200  
[www.osce.org/yerevan](http://www.osce.org/yerevan)

# Central Asia Centre in Almaty

The Centre devoted special attention in 2006 to supporting the follow-up of Kazakhstan's international commitments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Centre further enhanced co-operation between state institutions and civil society and encouraged both to participate across the spectrum of its programmes.

Prioritizing its activities, the Centre focused on the development of modern policing and the fight against terrorism. It worked to combat corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism and supported ecology and environmental education. The Centre also focused on combating trafficking in human beings.



The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Development of a modern police force.** The Centre helped develop the Kazakhstani police force through an exchange of best practices with community police in Spain and with police regulators in the United Kingdom. In support of these activities, the Centre arranged a conference in which police personnel shared views on the crime prevention activity of law enforcement bodies and the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in this process.

**Destruction of hazardous weapons and munitions.** Responding to Kazakhstan's

security and environmental concerns, the Centre, in co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and the Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit, continued to provide assistance for the elimination of the highly dangerous rocket fuel component *Melange*.

**Combating terrorism.** The Centre supported training of Kazakhstani officials and military officers to enable them to give special attention to ensuring respect for human rights while fighting terrorism.

**Confidence building.** To promote confidence- and security-building meas-

ures in line with the *Vienna Document 1999*, the Centre delivered a series of regional arms control training courses for military officers from Central Asian countries.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

### ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

**Combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.** The Centre published a practical manual for entrepreneurs



Representatives of the OSCE and Kazakhstan's Ministry of Defence discuss rocket fuel disposal during a visit to *Melange* storage facilities in Saryozek, south-eastern Kazakhstan.

OSCE/Aldar Botagayev





OSCE/Medina Ibrahimova

An NGO representative, a member of the local authority and an oil company representative discuss the rules for preparation and implementation of public hearings at the Atyrau Workshop on 19 October.



OSCE/Medina Ibrahimova

The Vice-Minister of Environment Protection Alzhan Braliev and a pupil from a primary school in Shropshire, United Kingdom, during a study tour on education for sustainable development in December

of small- and medium-sized enterprises on the role and duties of state bodies in fighting corruption. To assist the authorities to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the Centre conducted a series of roundtables in nine regions throughout Kazakhstan, a country of comparable geographic size to western Europe. Experts were invited not only from Central Asia, but also from OSCE partner States, such as Afghanistan and Mongolia.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

**Promotion of the Aarhus Convention on the environment.** The Centre developed a manual that explains how to organize public hearings for different types of environmental decisions, such as the elaboration of national and regional plans, environmental impact assessments or permits for economic activities that might affect the environment.

**Promoting environmental security.** The Centre disseminated information on radiological safety to people living in or near contaminated areas of the former nuclear Semipalatinsk test site. Following up an information campaign in the area, the Centre focused on youth coming from the Semipalatinsk district, who learned basic radiation safety and the ground rules of behaviour in contaminated areas during a two-week summer camp in Almaty.

**Education for sustainable development.** The Centre intensified its activities in the field of education for sustainable development, and focused in particular on integrating concepts of sustainable environmental development into Kazakhstan's educational programmes.

## Human dimension activities

**Implementation of international commitments, electoral reforms, democratization.** Starting in February, the Centre conducted a series of seminars on the implementation of ICCPR, primarily focusing on the harmonization of national legislation and international commitments, with special emphasis on freedom of association and assembly, freedom of religious beliefs and expression and anti-torture measures.

On electoral reforms, the Centre, in co-operation with Kazakhstan's Central Election Commission, supported further improvement of election legislation in line with the ODIHR recommendations, through roundtable discussions with broad participation by representatives of political parties and civil society.

The Centre continued to support democratic development in the country. Two conferences on promoting public participation in parliamentary decision-making and on local self-government development were organized with the Centre's assistance.

**Anti-trafficking activities, gender equality.** The Centre drew attention to forced labour and trafficking of children by facilitating the organization of a Central Asian regional conference on the issue, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Following assessment missions in several regions, the Centre organized workshops and training on trafficking for local officials, law enforcement officials and journalists.

On gender issues, the Centre, together with national and international experts,

facilitated the establishment of a working group that is drafting legislation on gender equality and conducted informal hearings and roundtable discussions on the draft. The draft law, which largely reflects the United Nation's *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, was accepted by Parliament in 2006 for further consideration.

**Rule of law.** In co-operation with the ODIHR experts, the Centre focused on rule of law activities, such as following up on a two-year trial monitoring project, with the aim to promote improvements within the judiciary. The Centre also provided comments on draft laws under consideration in Parliament, especially related to freedom of assembly and the media. The Centre contributed to further penitentiary system reforms, such as improving respect for human rights and health in prisons, and advocating the introduction of public monitoring of police cells.

**Media developments.** The Centre continued to monitor media developments, and support journalistic education, especially in the regions. The topics covered included the interaction between media and civil society as well as media legislation, which is in the focus of public debate. In order to enhance co-operation between officials and journalists, the Centre conducted a training programme throughout the country to improve the exchange of information between state organs and media outlets.

### Head of Centre:

Ambassador Ivar Vikki  
Revised unified budget: €1,936,100  
[www.osce.org/almaty](http://www.osce.org/almaty)

# Centre in Ashgabad

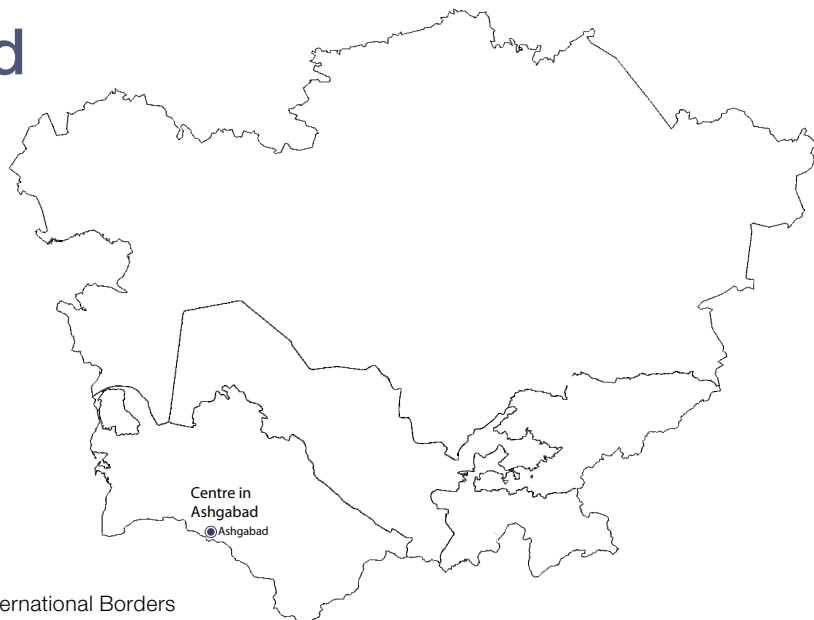
The Centre intensified its efforts to assist Turkmenistan in translating OSCE commitments and values into policy, increased its outreach activities and strengthened its co-operation with the UN and international donors.

The Centre's activities remained focused on border security, combating terrorism and trafficking in drugs and small arms and light weapons, promoting small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), raising public awareness on environmental issues, implementing international human rights law in the national legal system and supporting civil society development. It paid special attention to education and youth employment. A number of individual legal cases brought to the attention of the authorities were positively resolved.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Border security and management.** In close co-operation with Turkmenistan's law-enforcement authorities, the Centre carried out a one-week practical training course on border management at border crossing points in Turkmenbashi and Turkmenabat. Four international experts shared their expertise and best practices on the operational aspects of border management and co-operation across the border with Turkmenistan's border and customs officials.

**Combating trafficking in drugs.** The Centre supported the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in implementing a two-week practical training course for Turkmenistan's law enforcement



– International Borders

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officials on drug searches in railway cars and on vessels. Together with the European Union's TACIS programme, it helped to organize a two-week practical training course on screening procedures for persons and goods at border crossing points.

**Promoting confidence and security building.** The Centre continued activities under its programme *Promoting confidence and security building in Central Asia* and organized two two-day workshops on combating illicit arms trade and on tracking small arms and light weapons. Seven international experts addressed issues ranging from improving stockpile security and destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons to control over international arms brokering. They paid special attention to the threat stemming from man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) to civil aviation.

**Policing training.** The Centre organized a one-week practical training course on community policing at the Turkish Police Academy in Ankara and facilitated the participation of a high-ranking Turkmenistan police officer in the OSCE Chiefs of Police Meeting in Brussels.

“Community policing is about creating a forum for the community to have an input into how their community is policed, what issues are important for their safety and having a police that is representative of and upholds the values of a democratic society.”

–Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic, Head of the Centre in Ashgabad.



Border management training, Turkmenbashi ferry



Border management training: drug search on a vessel

The Centre continued to support English-language and computer classes for State employees, scientists and students throughout the country initiated by the TACIS Programme in close co-operation with Turkmenistan's State Customs Service and the Supreme Council of Science and Technology.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Development of the tourism sector.** The Centre organized a conference on sustainable tourism development focusing on private entrepreneurship. The Centre also supported the publication of tourist brochures about the ancient sites of Merv and Nisa, and a study visit for Turkmenistan tourism experts to the United Kingdom.

**Lectures on the global economy.** The Centre organized lectures on the global economy at two universities in Ashgabad. The lectures addressed globalization, sustainable development and international economic relations.

**Support to small- and medium-sized enterprises.** The Centre published a six-volume collection of domestic law on entrepreneurial activities and supported training projects for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Centre organized a study tour to Lithuania for teachers of a private business school operating under the Union of Entrepreneurs. As a follow-up to the study tour, an enterprise simulation class was set up at the school.



Participants at a sustainable tourism development conference in May visit the archaeological site of Nisa.

**Raising environmental awareness.** The Centre provided support to the implementation of the country's *Environmental Action Plan* and, in co-operation with the municipality of Khazar, organized a summer camp on ecology for more than 30 school children from low income families. In addition, the Centre supported the development of environmental protection resource centres for the Nature Conservation Society of Turkmenistan in Ashgabad and Mary.

## Human dimension activities

**Supporting legislative reform.** The Centre continued to offer legal expertise and advice on best practices for the country's legislative reform, specifically on the *Law on Migration* and on the *Criminal Procedure Code*.

**Democratization and civil society.** The Centre sponsored the participation of civil society representatives in seminars abroad, and supported activities of youth non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the development of resource centres that provide access to information and deliver language and computer courses, and the organization of youth summer camps focusing on education, health and safety issues.

### Spreading the word

More than 2,500 visits were received by the Centre's Information Unit which provides information about the OSCE, computer facilities and a small library, and hosts presentations, workshops and roundtables on OSCE-related topics.

**Promoting human rights.** Three Turkmenistan Members of Parliament took part in a study trip to France to meet Deputies and to get acquainted with the French legislative process. The trip focused on developing legislation in compliance with international human rights standards.

The Centre, in co-operation with Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry, organized three seminars on international human rights law. The courses focused on OSCE human dimension commitments and



Participants at a human rights seminar for Turkmenistan prosecutors and judges in Ashgabad in November

means to implement them effectively into the domestic legal system. Judges and prosecutors, law enforcement officials and legislators attended.

**Monitoring.** The Centre delivered more than 1,200 legal consultations on issues ranging from lack of due process of law and disregard for property rights to restrictions on freedom of movement, and brought individual cases to the attention of Turkmenistan's authorities.

### Promoting education

The Centre facilitated the publication of English textbooks and a tri-lingual Turkmen, Russian and English aid for English teachers, as well as materials on preventing HIV/AIDS developed by U.S. Peace Corps volunteers and local experts. The Centre also supported training courses on health issues, and promoted the Master's Programme in Political Sciences at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and other educational opportunities for students.

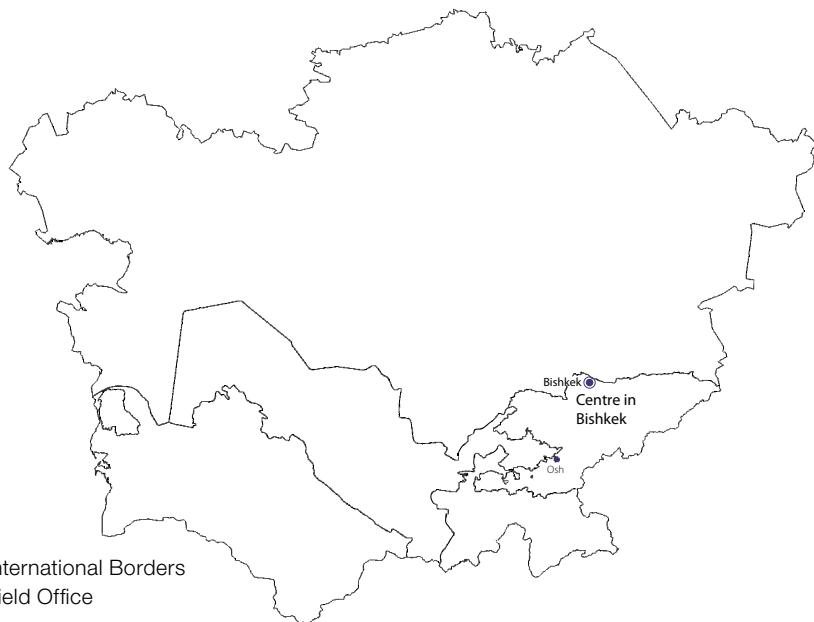
### Head of Centre:

Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic  
Revised unified budget: €1,211,600  
[www.osce.org/ashgabad](http://www.osce.org/ashgabad)

# Centre in Bishkek

Issues of constitutional, legal and economic reforms dominated political discussions and developments in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2006. The Centre supported these reforms, focusing mainly on enhancing political stability and legal reform, improving the human rights situation and assisting media development, ecological security, good governance and the development of the economy.

The Centre continued its long-term commitment to supporting police reform and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. It strengthened its outreach and programmatic activities in the regions by enhancing its co-operation with local and regional authorities and civil society institutions via a regional network of local project co-ordinators.



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## Politico-military dimension

**Police programme.** The Centre, partnering with relevant governmental and judicial bodies and civil representatives, helped develop a legal and institutional framework for substantive police reform. It assisted with planning, co-ordination and implementation. The Centre also extended community policing activities to the regions by strengthening capacity of the Ministry of the Interior's community policing unit and of neighbourhood inspectors in the pilot zones. It also conducted outreach activities such as police open days. The Centre helped build the skills of anti-riot units in Bishkek and Osh, paying special attention to the need to respect human rights while maintaining public order. The Centre also provided training and

equipment to increase the operational efficiency of police investigation units, upgraded the emergency response centre in Osh and set up dog handlers' units.

**Supporting the development of political parties.** In co-operation with international and local partners, the Centre focused on increasing the potential of political parties by providing training on issues such as internal party democracy and management, regional branches development and modern campaigning techniques. The Centre supported initiatives aimed at training young representatives of political parties and stimulating women's participation in political life.

**Supporting youth policy development.** The Centre paid attention to the improve-

ment of public policy mechanisms and decision-making processes in the area of youth. Focus groups, roundtables and national events were held to ensure wide discussion of topical issues and youth policy development elaboration. As a result, the policy paper on the problems of youth participation in the country's development was published.

**Addressing inter-ethnic tension.** As tensions rose in the country's north at the start of the year, the Centre supported peaceful development in areas that had seen problems between different ethnic groups. A *Peace-building and Community Mobilization* approach helped to overcome underlying conflict potential and funnelled energies toward common community needs. The Centre also promoted



Youth in a training session on the functioning of the political system



Two attendees discuss a presentation at the General Assembly of the Kyrgyz Community-Based Tourism Association.

harmonious multi-ethnic co-existence through feature articles in the media and popular magazines.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Economic issues.** The Centre focused on spreading the activities of business associations throughout the country in an effort to improve the business community's lobbying efforts for governmental reform and its understanding of fundamental issues affecting the private sector. Tourism sector development remained a Centre priority, given its importance for rural area income generation.

**Environmental issues.** Environmental risks are a major threat to the well-being of the population of Kyrgyzstan. The Centre raised awareness about those risks amongst donors through roundtable meetings, documentary films and by providing capacity-building support to relevant state agencies.

**Good governance.** The Centre worked with the newly established National Agency for Corruption Prevention. The Centre hired an international expert to assist the Agency with developing a strategy and action plan.

**Supporting local media.** The Centre and Field Office in Osh facilitated the opening of Public Media Centres in three provinces to enhance possibilities for local media and to improve access to information for the rural population. The Centre supported public television reform and helped provide training to local journalists on writing analytical pieces and to

local authorities on public relations. It also helped provide legal consultation and mediation to local media outlets and journalists. A group of journalists was trained on labour migration issues.

## Human dimension activities

**Constitutional and legal reform.** The Centre supported constitutional reform and promoted the transparency, consistency and inclusiveness of the process. It assisted the ODIHR and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission in providing suggestions on the draft of the new Constitution, facilitated stakeholder discussion on the amendments and engaged in public-awareness raising about the constitutional process. The Centre also supported electoral system reform and capacity-building of domestic election observers.

**Implementation of international human rights standards.** The Centre continued to support the Training Centre for Prosecutors, trained young lawyers on the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and facilitated the access of the indigent population to free legal aid. The Centre initiated activities aimed at promoting human rights in temporary detention facilities and at the Adaptation and Rehabilitation Centre for Juveniles of Bishkek.

**Promoting gender balance and fighting trafficking in human beings.** An analysis of local budgets from a gender perspective, supported by the Centre, facilitated the capacity-building of local parliamentarians in budget planning, management and monitoring. The Centre provided suggestions on the draft of the new State Programme on Anti-trafficking

and facilitated the review of this document by the authorities, local NGOs and international experts.

## Osh Field Office

In 2006, the OSCE Field Office in Osh directed its activities towards the implementation and consolidation of political and economic reforms undertaken at local levels and addressed, together with local authorities and civil societies, the roots and origins of locally identified tensions.

## Politico-military dimension activities

The Office worked with concerned communities and local authorities to address tensions at the border and near-border areas. It identified existing and emerging sources of potential conflict and launched processes to decrease tensions through mediation and negotiation. The Office also focused on inter-ethnic relations through initiatives targeting youth and journalists covering ethnic-related issues. Finally, the Office triggered a political dialogue between political parties' representations and the wider public at the local level and provided training courses for existing and newly established political parties' branches.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

The Field Office worked in close cooperation with local authorities and

### OSCE Academy

In its fourth year of work, the Academy, whose focus is regional security issues, graduated 21 students in its third class of Master of Arts in Political Science (Central Asia). It launched its fourth Masters course with 25 students who came mainly from Central Asia. The Academy lengthened its programme into a 14-month course, with greater emphasis on thesis research and practical internships.

In July, the Academy concluded a regional research project on *Legal Aspects of Border Management in Central Asia*, which was published in book form.



An OSCE Academy student addresses a comment to the podium during a discussion with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier in November.



OSCE

Building confidence between the police and the public in the south of the Kyrgyz Republic



OSCE

A police officer talks to children at a Police Open Day in Osh.

business actors to promote economic development in the regions, improve both legislation and the business environment and attract investment. The Office also worked to protect the environment in the south of the country through capacity building and educational and advocacy programmes.

The Office worked with local authorities to improve conditions for private investment. It targeted its work at improved government-business relationships, de-

velopment of investment analysis skills, and the systematic collection and distribution of information on credit, investment and businesses.

### Human dimension activities

The Office focused on building confidence between law enforcement bodies and the public and improving the conditions of detention and treatment of detainees.

The Office also contributed to increasing access to justice for the rural population through free legal aid. The Office continued to tackle trafficking in human beings and supported initiatives promoting gender equality and the prevention of domestic violence, especially in rural areas.

#### Head of Centre:

Ambassador Markus Mueller

Revised unified budget: €3,153,200

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

## Centre in Dushanbe

*The Centre enhanced its politico-military activities with the launch of a second phase of its small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition programme. It also continued its assistance to demining efforts. It developed a number of resource centres in support of several economic groups and took up the issue of radioactive waste in the north. The Centre also focused on human rights education among young people and on media and gender issues.*

### Politico-military dimension activities

**Small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition.** The Centre successfully completed the first phase of its programme to destroy small arms and conventional ammunition. It identified a new demolition site in Lohur, south of Dushanbe, and 34 tons of ammunition were destroyed during capacity-building



- International Borders
- Field Office

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training on ordnance disposal. In Dushanbe, the Centre created a small arms destruction facility where 26,000 weap-

ons were destroyed. It refurbished seven storage sites for small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition.

**De-mining.** With support from the Centre, the *Fondation Suisse de Deminage* cleared 307,356 square metres of land. De-mining teams destroyed 1,100 anti-personnel mines and 657 unexploded ordnance.

The Centre supported the Ministry of Defence in implementing its observation and data-exchange commitments as outlined in the OSCE's *Vienna Document 1999*. Tajik inspectors, supported by the Centre and trained by the Russian Federation and Germany, conducted in France their first active quota inspection under the *Vienna Document*. The Tajik Ministry of Defence Verification Centre was connected to the OSCE's global network for information exchange.

**Political dialogue and elections.** The Centre facilitated dialogue between the government and religious organizations, ensuring an atmosphere of mutual confidence. The Centre's *Law and Religion* project provided joint training and enhanced legal and political awareness for local authorities, Muslim clergy and political parties.

The Centre co-organized ten meetings of the Social Partnership Club to stimulate constructive dialogue between the government, political parties and public organizations on important national issues. The Social Partnership Club is a key component of the Public Council, established under the peace agreement of 1997, which brings together all political parties, national minorities and civil society and functions as a representative, advisory and co-ordination organ.

Although some shortcomings were reported by ODIHR's election observation mission, the OSCE supported *Education Seminars on Election Standards* which resulted in a number of concrete improvements during the 6 November presidential election.

The Centre supported the *Civic Education for Youth in Tajikistan* and *Civic Education Summer Camps* which raised awareness among youth of issues such as human rights and democracy. Several youth groups were formed following the camps to further disseminate the knowledge gained.

**Countering violent extremism.** National experts participated in international work-



A French explosive ordnance disposal expert provides training in the destruction of ammunition.

shops on combating terrorism and drug trafficking, and on improving travel document security. The Centre supported a project on countering violent extremism and terrorism, which raised awareness among the population on the modus operandi of extremist groups.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Labour migrants' rights – support to land reform and small businesses.** Within the framework of the poverty reduction programme established by the government, the Centre supported the creation of three information networks of resource centres for labour migrants,

farmers and entrepreneurs. All centres provide information, training and practical assistance on topics such as new agricultural technologies and drafting of business documents. Potential labour migrants may receive individual counselling.

**Capacity-building on environmental issues.** The OSCE-established Aarhus Centre in Dushanbe provided technical assistance to the State Committee on Environment and Forestry in finalizing the new *Law on Nature Protection* and five by-laws.

Under the project *Survival through Action*, the Centre helped train the population of Taboshar in the economic use of scarce potable water to avoid the use of radio-nuclide-contaminated open water sources.



Tajik women at a sewing workshop in Kalanak, Rasht Valley. The workshop was started with OSCE support in 2005 and continues to function after funding ending, providing both jobs and training.



Planting trees at an irrigation channel in Kumsangir, Khatlon to stabilize the banks and avoid erosion

**Preventing erosion.** The Centre conducted an awareness-raising campaign in Khatlon focusing on land reduction caused by erosion. The Centre also planted some 30,000 poplar and spruce trees in areas vulnerable to erosion, in order to reduce population pressures on the local environment and prevent land degradation.

**Raising awareness.** The Centre supported Green Patrols, which raise awareness of environmental issues among youth. It offered the 70-most-active pupils and students a chance to participate in the *National Ecological Youth Summer Camp* and the *International Youth Ecological Forum*.

## Human dimension activities

**Human rights.** The Centre organized a summer camp, introducing 20 university students from around the country to theoretical and practical aspects of human rights protection. In co-operation with the UN Office of Peace-Building in Tajikistan, the Centre supported Tajikistan's efforts to become a leading participating State by offering human rights as a subject in the secondary school curriculum. The Centre also worked with the Tajik NGO *Human Rights Centre* in monitoring more than 100 trials.

**Judicial and legal reform.** The Centre, in co-operation with other local and international organizations, organized 11 conferences and roundtables on such diverse topics as prison conditions; institution of a human rights ombudsman;

independence of the judiciary; and review and analyses of draft laws on: freedom of conscience and religion, and NGOs and public associations.

**Media development.** The Centre supported print media in the most populous and poor areas of the Khatlon region. In Kurghontepa, the OSCE sponsored the independent newspaper *Bomdod*, which became a forum for political dialogue. The Centre also continued its support to the only independent Uzbek-language periodical in Tajikistan, *Nafosat*. It provided technical assistance in printing two newspaper start-ups, *Sobytiya* and *3+1 Kishovarz*.

Some 400 people a month visited the two information centres, established with OSCE support in 2004, in Dushanbe and the Rasht Valley. The information centres train journalists and journalism students, provide access to the Internet and other information sources as well as technical support in news research and production.

An OSCE-initiated Internet election portal provided better access to background information on the presidential election in Tajikistan on the website of the independent news agency Asia Plus ([www.asiaplus.tj](http://www.asiaplus.tj)).

**Raising gender awareness.** The Centre worked with the Tajik State Employees Training Institute and the Institute for Upgrading the Qualifications of Secondary School Teachers to include gender issues in the curriculum.

The Centre also provided training courses on gender issues, attended by a total

of 100 government employees and 80 teachers.

**Rights enforcement mechanisms.** The Centre supported a forum for representatives of governmental agencies, women's NGOs and the international community, which enabled the parties to better define their respective responsibilities for the implementation of the national *Gender Action Plan*.

**Women's resource centres.** The nine OSCE-supported women's resource centres continued to provide psychological and legal support in addition to playing a preventive role through the organization of events such as seminars on gender awareness and women's rights and courses for the economic empowerment of women. The Centre contributed to capacity-building for managers of the women's resource centres.

**Anti-trafficking.** The Centre focused on capacity building and regional co-operation of the Tajik Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and local NGOs by supporting their participation in international and regional conferences.

### Acting Head of Centre:

Klaus Rasmussen

Revised unified budget: €3,936,700

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



# Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

On 30 June, the OSCE participating States established a new form of co-operation with the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Centre in Tashkent became the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan.

The Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan was tasked with assisting the Government in its efforts to ensure security and stability, including fighting against terrorism, violent extremism, illegal drug trafficking and other transnational threats and challenges; supporting the Government with regard to further socio-economic development and the protection of the environment; and assisting the Government in the implementation of OSCE principles taken within the Organization's framework, including those related to the development of civil society.

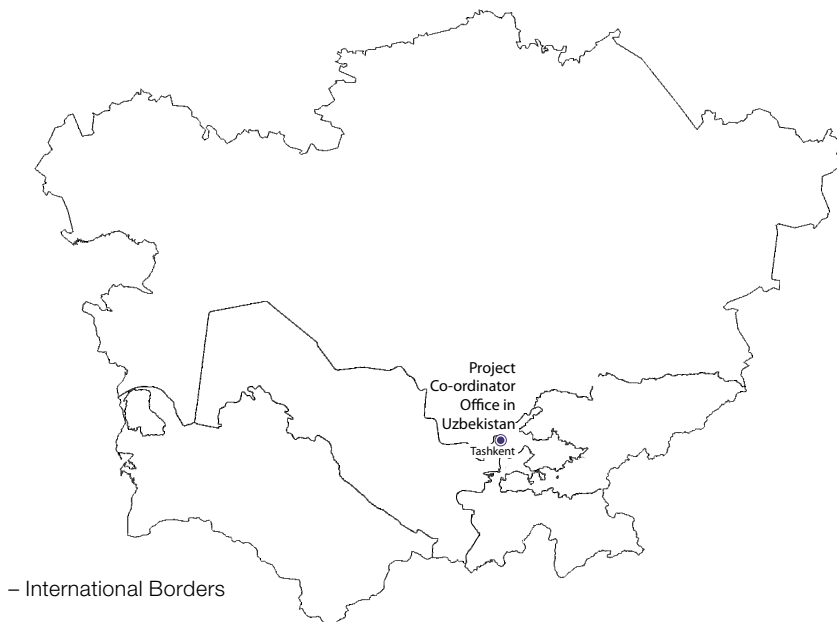
The field operation continued the OSCE's work to assist the authorities in fighting terrorism and drug trafficking. The field operation strengthened its efforts in the economic and environmental fields, focusing particularly on the promotion of entrepreneurship and good governance in local communities. The OSCE also encouraged gender equality and worked against trafficking in human beings.

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Capacity-building.** The Project Co-ordinator facilitated the participation of Uzbek officials in a number of workshops organized under OSCE auspices, focusing on issues such as combating terrorism, travel document security and suppressing illicit drug trafficking. Following up on these trips, the Uzbek authorities presented their recommendations for future joint activities with the field operation.

**Internet cafe for journalists.** The field operation provided free Internet access for media representatives during the first part of the year. Journalists, media professionals and students of journalism faculties used the resources of the Internet cafe and training courses offered to improve their computer and Internet skills.

**Legal clinic for journalists.** The field operation organized consultations and legal support for journalists and media



The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

representatives during the year. The lawyers of the OSCE-supported Legal Clinic briefed journalists and media representatives on media-related legislation, advised journalists on compliance with national legislation before publishing their articles, and provided legal defence and representation in courts.

Together with the EuropeAid Co-operation Office, the field operation established an Information Training Centre for deputies to the Lower House of Parliament and provided equipment, assistance in daily operation and guidance for elaborating an appropriate centre. In addition, the field operation and EuropeAid published a book on the *Legislative Chamber of Parliament of Uzbekistan* and organized a study tour for parliamentarians to European Union countries and Russia.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Labour migration management.** In January, the field operation facilitated participation of a delegation in a workshop on *Labour Migration Management in Central Asia* held in Almaty. The delegation included representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Centre for Effective Economic Policy under the Ministry

of Economics, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population and the Centre for Social and Marketing Research.

**Promoting entrepreneurship.** The field operation held training courses on the basics of entrepreneurship for youth jointly with the National Youth Social Movement and offered a series of business training courses for women in co-operation with the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. Under the project *Promoting Development of Arbitration and Supporting Farmers in Uzbekistan*, the OSCE, the Farmers' Association of Uzbekistan and the NGO *Legal Problems Research Centre* implemented training courses to educate local lawyers in the development of arbitration



Small- and medium-sized enterprises youth training. Young participants were required to develop their own business ideas, which were reviewed by experts and trainers.

OSCE



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Leaders of mahallas, or self-governing communities, are trained in financial and legal skills at courses supported by the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan.

and on farmers' rights. On the basis of the participants' comments, the OSCE developed recommendations to help them deal with the obstacles they face in running their businesses.

**Fight against drug trafficking.** The OSCE's field operation funded publication of 1,000 copies of the *Information Bulletin regarding the drug situation in Central Asia in 2005*, which was prepared by the National Information-Analytical Centre on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan. It is drawn from information received from the national centres on drug control in neighbouring countries.

**Security issues in regional transport.** The Project Co-ordinator supported the participation of an Uzbek delegation at the OSCE's *Economic Forum* which focused on transport issues. As a follow-up, the office published a guidebook which contained International Road Transport rules and regulations and practical tips for locally based international truck drivers.

**Promoting good governance in local communities.** During the first half of the year, about 150 representatives of the self-governing communities or mahallas in the Ferghana Valley participated in a pilot training course on the basics of budgeting, accounting and financial reporting initiated by the Republican Mahalla Foundation. This training, organized by the Project Co-ordinator, provided participants with the tools needed to manage communities efficiently and raised aware-

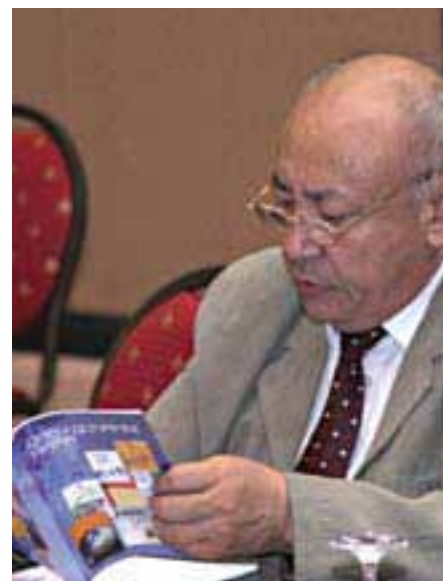
ness about the representatives' rights, opportunities and responsibilities.

**Environmental education.** The OSCE supported the working group which is drafting a secondary school curriculum on environmental education focused on water conservation issues.

## Human dimension activities

**Empowering women.** The field operation, together with governmental, non-governmental and international organizations, followed up the training course *Improvement of the National Mechanism on Gender and Development* with a series of regional trainings that reinforced participants' capacity to promote gender equality issues. The office also supported two television documentaries on portraits of Uzbek women leaders, organized two roundtables in the regions on the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* and supported publication of 100 copies of the handbook on *National and Monitoring Reports on CEDAW Implementation in Uzbekistan*.

**Preventing trafficking in human beings.** From February to July, the field operation focused its activities on the prevention of human trafficking with two awareness-raising campaigns conducted in close cooperation with regional law enforcement authorities. The field operation translated into Uzbek the ODIHR *Handbook on National Referral Mechanisms*.



OSCE

The Project Co-ordinator and the Authorized Person for Human Rights in Uzbekistan's Parliament launched a handbook on ombudsmen.

**Building capacity at the ombudsman institution.** In February, the field operation supported the ombudsman institution by organizing seminars on its work and related workshops in the regions. The OSCE funded the publication of 1,000 copies of the handbook *Ombudsmen of the World*, which details a number of countries' experiences in developing ombudsman institutions. In co-operation with the Uzbek Ombudsman, the field operation organized a conference on *Strengthening Co-operation between the Ombudsman and the Legislative Chamber of the National Parliament* with the participation of international experts.

**Support to legal education.** The field operation supported the development, publication and distribution of the manual *Legal Remedies at Civil Courts*.

**Prison reform.** The field operation provided 1,100 books in Russian and Uzbek and free access to the Internet for teachers and trainees of the Prison Training Centre's Resource Unit, which was established by the field operation in co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior in 2005. About 400 staff members from different penitentiary establishments throughout Uzbekistan took advantage of these opportunities.

**Project Co-ordinator:**  
Ambassador Miroslav Jenca  
Revised unified budget: €1,015,300  
[www.osce.org/tashkent](http://www.osce.org/tashkent)

# Assistance with Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements

## Representative to the Estonian Expert Commission on Military Pensioners

The main task of the Representative is to participate in the work of the Estonian Expert Commission on Military Pensioners, which makes recommendations to the Government on residence permits for retired Russian military personnel who stayed in Estonia after the bulk of Russian forces was withdrawn in 1994.

### Activities and developments

The OSCE Representative continued to provide assistance in the review of appli-

cations for residence, mostly temporary, at four sessions of the Commission, the final one in August.

**Permanent residence permits.** A revised law on aliens came into force as of 1 June as a result of harmonization with a 2003 European Union Council Directive. In terms of residence, all third-country nationals, including military pensioners, became eligible for long-term resident status if they met certain requirements. Under the revised law, military pensioners are no longer treated as a separate

group and the Citizenship and Migration Board now reviews all their applications for residence.

The Commission, having completed its task after the review of some 26,400 cases since its establishment in 1993, was deactivated as of 1 September, allowing termination of the mandate in 2006.

OSCE Representative: Uwe Mahrenholtz  
Revised unified budget: €101,600

## Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

The Representative continued to provide assistance in the implementation of the 1994 Agreement between the Latvian and the Russian Governments on social guarantees for military pensioners of the Russian Federation and their families residing in Latvia.

In 2006, a total of 16,739 people were eligible under the Agreement, 463 less than in 2005. At the time of the Agreement in 1994, a total of 22,320 people were eligible.

### Activities and developments

**Housing problems.** The Commission's discussions centred in 2006, as in previous years, on issues surrounding the potential eviction of military pensioners and their families from so-called "denationalized" accommodation. Following

the adoption of a law regulating the return of nationalized property to the legitimate owners or descendants, Latvia stipulated a seven-year grace period for tenants in these properties and, when this period ended, followed up with additional special conditions for military pensioners and their families as well as others affected. These included financial support and priority access to social accommodation. Given budgetary constraints, a waiting list for applicants to social accommodation needs to be established and the relevant Latvian and Russian authorities are working closely together in order to resolve potential hardship situations.

**Resettlement programme successfully launched.** A Latvian-financed resettlement programme for military pensioners who wish to leave Latvia and take up permanent residence outside the country was launched on 1 January. By year end,

this programme delivered financial aid for resettlement to 91 persons. It will be continued in 2007 and nearly the same figure of interested applicants is expected.

OSCE Representative: Helmut Napiontek  
Revised unified budget: €8,200

# Institutions

## Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is the main institution for the OSCE's human security dimension, a broad security concept that includes: the protection of human rights; the development of democratic societies, with emphasis on elections, institution-building and governance; strengthening the rule of law; and promoting genuine respect and mutual understanding among individuals as well as nations.

The ODIHR also promoted tolerance and non-discrimination, through seminars, educational programmes on the Holocaust and by addressing a data deficit on hate crimes.

The ODIHR has more than 125 employees from 29 of the 56 OSCE participating States. Ambassador Christian Strohal, an Austrian diplomat, has headed the ODIHR since March 2003.

To help ensure democratic elections, the ODIHR deployed some 2,700 observers to 15 election observation or assessment missions in both new and long-standing democracies this year. The Office also supported efforts to increase the diversity of observers from across the OSCE region.

To support States' efforts to combat racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination, the ODIHR launched a new online information system that provides data, legislation and best practices for combating hate and xenophobia.

The ODIHR maintained a training programme for officials and civil society. Some 100 staff members from OSCE field operations were given in-depth briefings on human dimension issues, and numerous training courses were conducted for government

officials and members of civil society on issues ranging from anti-trafficking to trial monitoring.

The ODIHR helped prepare and follow up on OSCE meetings and conferences in the human dimension area, including the annual *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* in Warsaw, the largest human rights conference in Europe, with about 1,000 participants from governments, international organizations and NGOs.

In addition to maintaining its regular publications programme, the ODIHR prepared a report on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE entitled *Common Responsibility: Commitments and Implementation*. The report, written in response to a specific task from the 2005 Ministerial Council and in consultation with



Ballot boxes in Minsk during the 19 March presidential election in Belarus



Residents of the capital, Minsk, register to receive ballots at a polling station during the 19 March presidential election in Belarus.

### Election observation and assessment missions

Country	Type of Election	Date	Type of Mission
Canada	Parliamentary	23 January	Assessment
Belarus	Presidential	19 March	Observation
Ukraine	Parliamentary	26 March	Observation
Italy	Parliamentary	9-10 April	Assessment
Azerbaijan	Repeat parliamentary	13 May	Limited observation
Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro)	Referendum	21 May	Observation
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Parliamentary	5 July	Observation
Montenegro	Parliamentary	10 September	Observation
Bosnia and Herzegovina	General	1 October	Observation
Georgia	Municipal	5 October	Limited observation
Latvia	Parliamentary	7 October	Limited observation
Bulgaria	Presidential	22 October	Assessment
Tajikistan	Presidential	6 November	Observation
United States	General (mid-term)	7 November	Assessment
Netherlands	Parliamentary	22 November	Assessment

all participating States, contains a number of conclusions and recommendations for follow-up.

## Elections

The ODIHR deployed more than 2,700 observers to ten election observation missions and five election assessment missions. To enhance the geographic composition of missions, 70 short-term and 28 long-term observers were financed through the ODIHR's Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions. This voluntary fund was established in 2001 to ensure participation of nationals from 19 participating States not in a position to regularly second individuals for ODIHR observation missions.

The ODIHR fielded five election support teams to help field operations monitor the following electoral events, to which an observation or assessment mission was not deployed: parliamentary by-elections in Kyrgyzstan, municipal by-elections in Ukraine, municipal elections in south Serbia and Azerbaijan and the gubernatorial election in Gagauzia, Moldova.

**Election law reform and reviews.** Thirteen legal reviews of electoral law, prepared together with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, were published in 2006. These reviews, financed by a voluntary fund established by the ODIHR in 2001, contained recommendations on how to bring legislation into line with OSCE commitments.

**Follow-up and implementation of recommendations.** While follow-up is first and foremost the responsibility of States, the ODIHR supports these efforts, especially in response to signalled interest from the States concerned. In 2006, follow-up activities were conducted in Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia and the United Kingdom. These activities included reviews of election legislation, roundtables, conferences and expert discussions.

**Emerging challenges.** The ODIHR continued to identify challenges to the conduct of democratic elections, including those related to new election technologies and procedures. Electronic voting systems must maintain the same standards and principles as traditional systems of voting, especially as regards transparency, secrecy of the vote and accountability.



Voters examine their ballot papers as they stand next to lists of candidates during the Ukrainian parliamentary elections in Kyiv on 26 March.



A detachable screen at a Vienna, Virginia, polling station during the U.S. mid-term elections on 7 November.

OSCE/Urdur Gunnarsdottir



Law Professor Daniyar Kanafin speaks at the OSCE/ODIHR Summer School on Criminal Justice, in Almaty on 7 August.

OSCE

The ODIHR conducted an expert study of e-voting systems during local elections in Belgium in October. The purpose was both to increase knowledge of how such systems work in practice and to consider effective means of observing e-voting. Similar exercises were conducted during the assessment missions to the United States of America and the Netherlands.

In July, the ODIHR organized a meeting for e-voting experts and its election department on *Observation of Electronic Voting* to discuss the challenges of observing an electronic voting process and to identify areas in which the ODIHR's observation methodology could be developed to take into account the increasing use of new technologies in elections.

**Methodology.** Since its first *Election Observation Handbook* was published in 1996, the ODIHR has regularly updated the *Handbook* to take into account new challenges and experiences gained over more than a decade of observation. In 2006, the ODIHR worked on developing guidelines related to observation of voter registration processes and media monitoring during observation missions.

**Training.** The ODIHR launched a training programme for election observers to help ensure a common approach in the implementation of the ODIHR's methodology. The first training course was held in November at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek for short-term observers from 19 countries. The Office also continued to support national efforts, training Austrian, German, Norwegian and Russian observers to participate in election missions.

## Democratization

In 2006, the ODIHR became the focal point for the implementation of the OSCE-Council of Europe *Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in South East Europe*, and supported the Belgian Chairmanship in its priority area, reform of criminal justice systems.

**Rule of law.** Criminal justice reform was at the top of the ODIHR's agenda this year for promoting the rule of law. At the *Human Dimension Seminar* in May, participants discussed challenges facing criminal justice systems across the OSCE area and shared

experiences from their jurisdictions. Participants concluded that threats to security, such as organized crime, required adequate responses from law enforcement agencies, but that these responses must not come at the expense of due process and the guarantee of a fair trial. Co-operation and exchange of best practices were deemed essential to the promotion of institutional and legislative reforms.

The ODIHR hosted 25 criminal justice practitioners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan at a Summer School on Criminal Justice in Almaty in August. Participants discussed how Central Asia could benefit from the experience of other OSCE countries in reforming their criminal justice systems. The use of degrading and inhuman treatment by law enforcement agents is a clear sign of a failing criminal justice system. The ODIHR continued to promote preventive mechanisms such as public monitoring of places of detention, and support States' efforts to improve their capacity to investigate allegations of mistreatment. A conference in May on the prevention of torture, organized with the Mission to Moldova, highlighted the need for reforms and discussed practical recommendations for policy makers.

In its function as a depository of best practices, the ODIHR has begun to compile a trial-monitoring reference manual based on OSCE experience, notably in the field operations in South-eastern Europe. The manual highlights the lessons learned from these activities.

The ODIHR supported practical seminars and training courses for defence lawyers in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and South-eastern Europe. In addition, the Office facilitated policy-oriented debates on reform of the defence bar across Central Asia and the South Caucasus.

**Legislative support.** The ODIHR continued to provide expert assistance to participating States in their efforts to develop legislation that complies with OSCE commitments. The Office commented on numerous legislative acts concerning human trafficking, gender equality, extremism, police reform, freedom of association, political parties and freedom of assembly.

Methodologically, the ODIHR encourages local ownership of initiatives and follow-up activities to foster inclusive and transparent legislative processes. In Ukraine, for example, the ODIHR

and the Office of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine carried out a review of the *Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence*, which was followed by a roundtable organized by the authorities and attended by civil society organizations. Amendments to improve this law are being drafted.

The ODIHR is developing guidelines for legislation on freedom of assembly. A nine-person panel is overseeing the drafting, which involved consultations with national experts at four roundtables in Almaty, Belgrade, Tbilisi and Warsaw. The guidelines will provide legislators with a practical toolkit that incorporates the views and good practices of a variety of OSCE States.

The ODIHR maintains a legislative database ([www.legislationline.org](http://www.legislationline.org)) that helps legislators identify good practices and observe patterns in legislative activity across the OSCE area. The database is currently being expanded to include materials on legislative processes and is being translated into Russian.

**Democratic governance.** The ODIHR continued to carry out its task of developing a methodology for improving legislative processes, as defined at the 2004 *Human Dimension Seminar*. The focus in 2006 was on ways to improve procedures and practices of preparing, drafting, adopting, publishing, communicating and evaluating legislation. The Office reviewed the transparency and inclusiveness of existing legislative frameworks and proposed remedies for the risks and gaps identified.

Following a pilot assessment of the legislative process in Georgia in 2005, the ODIHR and the Mission to Georgia continued to assist the Georgian parliament in managing its own reform process through the Centre for Parliamentary Reform. Similar assessments will be conducted in Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The methodology for the self-assessment of political parties, developed by the ODIHR in 2005, was piloted in Georgia in 2005 and 2006. The project resulted in a publication entitled *The Political Landscape of Georgia*. Based on research conducted by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, the ODIHR and the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Development and Democ-

racy, this publication contains a comprehensive analysis of the political party situation in Georgia and recommendations for its improvement.

Based on these findings, the ODIHR conducted workshops in Georgia for political parties' regional party politics, strategic planning and party funding. The workshops included training of trainers and the development of toolkits. The ODIHR is also developing a web-based tool on party programmes for citizen outreach.

In a related effort to strengthen democratic practices through local means, the ODIHR is co-operating with the Institute for Public Policy in Bishkek to increase local capacity for political research and analysis in Kyrgyzstan. They are training research fellows, helping organize internship exchanges with foreign think tanks and building the Institute's resources through a new library and added journal subscriptions.

**Participation of women in democratic processes.** The ODIHR conducts country-specific programmes in the South Caucasus and Central Asia aimed at increasing women's participation in democratic processes. In 2006, the Office's priorities included promoting co-operation between government and civil society at the national and local levels, building capacity and expertise in civil society and government structures, developing women's leadership, integrating gender-equality aspects into policy-making and preventing and combating domestic violence.

The ODIHR supported the Women's NGO Coalition, which organized activities throughout Georgia aimed at increasing women's political participation in local governance. The Coalition worked with women candidates to promote gender equality as an integral part of their electoral platforms and to raise awareness among the electorate of issues related to intra-party democracy and women's political participation. Out of a total of 1,734 district or municipal seats, 197 (11.36 per cent) were won by women.

In Azerbaijan, the ODIHR conducted a programme designed in co-operation with the Austrian Federal Police to provide training for the heads of police departments from 24 regions of the country. Follow-up workshops were held at the district and department levels in these regions. The ODIHR also assisted with the development of training materials on domestic violence for Azerbaijan's Police Academy.

**Migration and freedom of movement.** The ODIHR continued its programmes on protection of the human rights of migrants and migrant workers and development of effective migration policies in a number of OSCE States, in addition to launching new initiatives based on tasks received from the 2005 Ministerial Council.

In order to facilitate dialogue and co-operation between participating States, the ODIHR co-organized several workshops for senior government officials from countries of origin, transit, and destination of migrants as well as international migration experts.

In April, the ODIHR, in co-operation with the Centre in Almaty, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



Marianne Mikko, an Estonian Member of the European Parliament, at an ODIHR conference on the institutional development of political parties, in Tbilisi on 17 March.

OSCE



OSCE/Urdur Gunnarsdottir

Participants at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw on 10 October

Almaty Cluster Office and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, launched a research project aimed at assisting with the development of migration policy in line with OSCE commitments in Kazakhstan.

The ODIHR assisted Albania with expert advice for the modernization of Albania's civil registration system and the implementation of the country's address system.

## Human Rights

**Anti-trafficking.** Central to the ODIHR's anti-trafficking work is the promotion of the human rights of trafficked persons and those vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. The protection of victims of trafficking was a prominent topic at the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* in October.

The ODIHR encourages participating States to establish multi-agency National Referral Mechanisms as an effective means of identifying, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking. In order to promote compliance with OSCE commitments and Referral Mechanism standards, the ODIHR conducted assessments in 2006 in Belarus, France, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Russian Federation, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The ODIHR works to ensure that trafficking issues are taken into account in other programmes. In September, for example, a regional roundtable held in Tirana aimed to involve Roma associations in anti-trafficking work. The ODIHR also began working with migrants' rights organizations to formulate strategies for promoting and protecting the rights of those who are vulnerable to being trafficked.

**Human rights and the fight against terrorism.** The ODIHR helps participating States ensure that their counter-terrorism strategies are consistent with their human dimension commitments and international human rights standards.

The training courses on human rights and counter-terrorism for senior public officials that began in 2005 were continued this year, with courses for officials from Serbia and Kazakhstan held in June and September in Belgrade and Astana, respectively.

To supplement these courses, the ODIHR has been developing a manual on human rights protection in counter-terrorism, which is expected to be published in 2007.

In March, the ODIHR held a workshop on solidarity with victims of terrorism in Onati, Spain. In November, the ODIHR, together with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, hosted a technical workshop in Liechtenstein on human rights and international co-operation in counter-terrorism.

The ODIHR also produced research papers on human rights and combating terrorism and related offences, solidarity with victims of terrorism and protecting human rights while combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

**Human rights training and education.** A training programme developed by the ODIHR for NGOs working in the field of human rights was implemented in Armenia and Tajikistan. In October, participants met in Ukraine for a follow-up course that taught them the skills necessary to train others.

In February, the ODIHR concluded its training of NGOs from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in monitoring pre-trial detention centres. The final part of this training course was a session on writing monitoring reports and a regional seminar for NGOs and government representatives on preventing human rights abuses in places of detention.

The ODIHR continued to conduct quarterly human dimension courses for OSCE staff. To date, the ODIHR has trained more than 240 staff members from all the field operations.

**Human rights and the armed forces.** The ODIHR launched a programme on human rights and the armed forces, based on the premise that armed forces personnel will be more likely to uphold human rights in the discharge of their duties if their own human rights are protected in the institutions in which they serve.

The ODIHR and the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces collaborated on the preparation of a handbook on the human rights of armed forces personnel. Due to be published in 2007, the handbook will provide examples of how military structures can ensure respect for human rights while taking into account the realities and necessities of defence and military security. In this context, the ODIHR and the Geneva Centre organized two roundtables on issues related to the human rights of armed forces personnel. The first was held in September in Berlin and focused on the importance of the 'citizen in uniform' concept as a means of safeguarding the rights and freedoms of armed forces personnel. The second was held on military unions and associations in October in Bucharest.

**Women and security.** The ODIHR, in conjunction with the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Gender Equality Agency of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, conducted a project on the implementation in South-eastern Europe of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the main international instrument for promoting women's right to participate in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction. The project included



two regional roundtables in March and September in Sarajevo that resulted in a plan for the regional implementation of the resolution.

In September, the ODIHR and the UN Development Fund for Women in the Commonwealth of Independent States organized a roundtable in Almaty on the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Central Asia. Government representatives and NGOs made recommendations on how to implement the Resolution, including the creation of a mechanism for interaction between civil society and a regional network of interested actors.

The ODIHR supported the Moldovan authorities throughout the year in their drafting of legislation to combat domestic violence. This involved organizing a study tour to Romania for officials and NGO representatives, a series of expert review meetings, meetings with the Parliamentary Committee leading the drafting process, as well as a regional event gathering key players including both civil society and government representatives and experts from Ukraine and Romania to discuss Moldova's draft law and to share experiences.

**Death penalty.** The ODIHR monitors developments regarding the death penalty in all 56 participating States, with the aim of facilitating exchanges of information, increasing transparency and encouraging compliance with international safeguards. The Office's annual review, *The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area*, which includes essays from five participating States on their experience in the use of the death penalty, was released at the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* in October.

The ODIHR supported the efforts of a human rights group in Uzbekistan that conducted awareness-raising activities among the general public on abolition of the death penalty.

**Trial monitoring.** The ODIHR concluded its trial-monitoring projects in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Reports will be prepared for the governments of both countries and will include recommendations for improving their criminal justice systems.

**National human rights institutions and human rights defenders.** In recognition of the crucial role played by independent national human rights institutions and the difficulties faced by human rights defenders in many situations, the ODIHR, in response to a recommendation made at the *March Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting*, established a focal point for national human rights institutions and human rights defenders, and developed a programme of activities for 2007 in this area.

## Tolerance and non-discrimination

**Combating hate crime.** One of the major difficulties in combating hate crime is the lack of accurate statistics. Having identified gaps and deficiencies in the collection of hate crime data, the ODIHR developed tools, including working definitions and a police reporting form, to support States' efforts to improve data collection and legislation related to hate crime.

A meeting on *Addressing the Hate Crime Data Deficit* was held in Vienna in November, allowing practitioners to share their exper-



Law enforcement officials listen during a seminar on responding to hate crimes, organized by the ODIHR and the French Gendarmerie in Paris from 11 to 13 December.

tise. This resulted in the creation of a network of experts who will be available to support States wishing to develop methodologies for collecting data on hate crime.

In October, the ODIHR launched its Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Information System (<http://tnd.odihr.pl>), which provides access to action plans, statistics, legislation and information on initiatives from participating States and organizations.

The ODIHR issued its first report on *Challenges and Responses to Hate-Motivated Incidents in the OSCE Region* for the period January to June 2006. This marked the ODIHR's first effort to provide an overview of trends pertaining to hate-motivated incidents, focusing on examples provided by OSCE participating States.

The ODIHR's *Law Enforcement Officer Programme on Combating Hate Crime* was implemented in Croatia in 2006, resulting in an increased awareness of the need to address the issue of hate crime and to co-operate closely with affected communities. As a follow-up measure, Croatia's Interior Ministry decided to integrate hate crime training into the national police training curriculum. In November, the ODIHR conducted a needs assessment in Poland with respect to future implementation of the programme. In December, the ODIHR organized a training-of-trainers seminar in Paris that provided an overview of the programme for police and prosecutors from 14 countries.

**Freedom of religion or belief.** The ODIHR's 60-member Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which serves as an advisory and consultative body to OSCE States in their efforts to advance religious freedom, provides legislative assistance to individual States and also comments on specific cases. The Panel responded to requests for legislative reviews from six participating States in 2006, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Serbia, Albania and Romania.

The Panel also initiated a project to develop guidelines on teaching religion at state schools in the OSCE region in order to promote increased awareness and tolerance of religious diversity among youth.

**Mutual respect and understanding.** The ODIHR co-operated with international organizations, institutions and experts,

especially with the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Research and Remembrance, on the development of tools for educators. Suggestions for Holocaust memorial days were developed together with Yad Vashem, Israel, and 12 national experts and are available in ten languages. Country-specific teaching materials on anti-Semitism were also developed for seven OSCE States by the ODIHR, the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and national experts. These materials have been tested in schools and will be available for the next school year.

The ODIHR compiled and assessed information on strategies and initiatives for promoting respect for diversity in formal education systems throughout the OSCE region. The conclusion of the assessment was that long-term strategies to include the topic of diversity in formal education are sorely lacking. Development of curricula and teacher training were identified as key areas to remedy this situation.

The ODIHR also contributed to an organization-wide effort to support the UN *Alliance of Civilization* initiative.

**Building the capacity of civil society.** The ODIHR organized preparatory roundtables for NGOs prior to three tolerance implementation meetings in Almaty, Dubrovnik and Vienna.

The ODIHR continued to support the efforts of NGOs to address, monitor and report on hate crime and violent manifestations of intolerance. The ODIHR's focus was on strengthening NGO networks throughout the OSCE region. For example, the ODIHR supported the establishment of a complaints bureau on Internet hate speech in Slovakia, thus broadening the scope of activities of the International Network against Cyberhate, an Amsterdam-based civil society network.

In May, the ODIHR and the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims convened a roundtable to discuss measures to discourage stereotypical and prejudiced representations of Muslim communities in public discourse. Participants underlined the need for regular training for journalists on reporting on diversity-related issues, particularly on Muslims and Islam. Participants also stressed the role political leaders can play to increase the representation of Muslim communities in political discourse.

## Contact point for Roma and Sinti issues

A number of States took steps to rid their societies of anti-Roma bias, both by adopting legislation to combat discrimination and by establishing institutions to enforce such legislation. Some countries have also developed national strategies to improve the situation of Roma and related populations.

The ODIHR facilitates reviews and assessments of the implementation of the *Roma Action Plan*. The Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues has been particularly active in this area, using conferences and other events to reassert commitments on Roma-related issues, distribute documentation related to the situation of Roma throughout the OSCE region and to facilitate the participation of Roma and related groups in these events. The ODIHR was involved in several initiatives in 2006 in an attempt to determine how international organizations can better co-ordinate their Roma-related efforts. It participated, for example, in the international conference *Implementation and Harmonization of National Policies for Roma, Sinti and Travellers: Guidelines for a Common Vision* hosted by the Romanian government in Bucharest. The focus of this initiative, which involved the combined efforts of several international organizations, was to examine successful joint measures to improve the living conditions of Roma, Sinti and Travellers and to make recommendations where more progress is needed.

In 2006, the ODIHR sent a questionnaire to all participating States to elicit feedback on initiatives that had been launched under the *Action Plan*, as well as on challenges that States have faced in attempting to implement it. The Office is preparing a report that analyses the information received as part of a broader effort to develop a methodology for reviewing and assessing implementation of the *Action Plan*.

The ODIHR used the occasion of the *Human Development Implementation Meeting* to discuss this methodology with interested partners. The Office shared lessons learned from its review of the implementation of Poland's and Romania's national strategies on Roma. During the meeting, the ODIHR also facilitated a number of side events on particular issues addressed by the *Action Plan*, including gender issues, policing in multi-ethnic societies, formalizing informal settlements, facilitating Roma integration into labour markets and policies concerning Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians within the framework of the settlement of Kosovo's political status.

Revised unified budget: €13,303,600  
[www.osce.org/odihhr](http://www.osce.org/odihhr)

# High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

Armed conflict between States over territory or economic resources has diminished in the OSCE region in recent decades, but conflict generated by internal tensions between different groups within States has been on the rise. Friction over ethnicity, religion or language, often in the context of majority-minority relations, has flared into violence.

To respond to this challenge, the CSCE, the forerunner to the OSCE, established the post of the High Commissioner on National Minorities in 1992. The High Commissioner's role is to provide early warning and take appropriate early action to prevent ethnic tensions from developing into conflict. His mandate describes him as "an instrument of conflict prevention at the earliest possible stage".

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities is Rolf Ekeus of Sweden. He took up his duties on 1 July 2001.

Throughout the year, the High Commissioner continued to promote dialogue, confidence and co-operation among OSCE participating States on tensions involving national minority issues, and sought to contain and de-escalate majority-minority frictions in individual participating States.

He also continued work on thematic issues which affect inter-ethnic relations throughout the OSCE region, such as policing and integration policy.

In February, the High Commissioner presented the fifth set of recommendations elaborated under his auspices by internationally recognized independent experts, namely the *Recommendations on Policing in Multi-Ethnic Societies*. The Recommendations establish a detailed roadmap for building trust and confidence between police services and persons belonging to national minorities. They provide States with practical guidance for policy makers, police, national minority communities and NGOs on how

to approach policing and address the issue of police-minority interaction in multi-ethnic settings across the region.

The High Commissioner also addressed the thematic issue of finding the right balance between integration and respect for diversity. This concept is central to the growing debate on integration in many participating States. With a view to illuminating it, the High Commissioner commissioned an extensive study on integration policies in diverse societies. He presented this study, which covers the policies of seven Western democracies together with his own analysis, at the July session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels.

The study found parallels between the High Commissioner's aim and approach and those followed by the countries included in the study. The High Commissioner considers this balanced approach and the need to develop more inclusive societies as relevant for all diverse societies regardless of whether this diversity



South Kyrgyzstan: police-minority communication is vital for community safety

OSCE/Medimir Kiyusha



Central Asian States agreed to co-operate on minority education issues at the conference sponsored by the High Commissioner in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

OSCE

stems from relatively recent immigration or from the long historical multi-ethnic character of a State.

The High Commissioner was particularly active in Central Asia over the year. His work in 2006 culminated in a regional ministerial conference entitled *The Challenge of Educational Reform in Multi-ethnic Central Asia* held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in November. At the conference, the States of Central Asia decided to establish an institutionalized process for future dialogue to promote practical co-operation on curriculum and textbook development, language teaching, teacher training, in-service training, distance learning and information technology. The agreement reached at the conference will help the States address common challenges in the modernization process of their educational systems – including minority education – as well as in the integration of communities that have ethnic and cultural ties with neighbouring countries.

## Country Reports

**Croatia.** The High Commissioner met representatives of the Government and minorities and discussed issues related to the implementation of the constitutional *Law on the Rights of National Minorities* during a visit to the country in April. Together they looked at proportional representation in the state administration and the judiciary, the tendency of ethnic separation of students in a number of schools in eastern Slavonia and issues related to refugee returns to Croatia. The High Commissioner found some improvement in the area of refugee returns and was encouraged by steps taken to address the separation of students in eastern Slavonia. He stressed to authorities the importance of promoting further integration in the area of education and implementing the *Law's* provisions in the area of minority representation in the judiciary and the administration.

**Georgia.** During a November visit, the High Commissioner noted increased Government attention towards minorities. The Government informed him that it had taken numerous measures to improve the social and economic situation in the regions of Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo-Kartli, which are mostly populated by Armenian and Azeri minorities, respectively. The Government renovated dozens of schools and kindergartens and reconstructed many roads. In municipal elections, ethnic minorities received election-related information in their mother tongue



A Georgian-language lesson in the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti, which is mostly populated by an Armenian minority

and the Central Election Commission set up a toll-free hotline operating in six languages to answer the public's inquiries. The High Commissioner welcomed these positive developments and encouraged the Government to ratify the *European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages* and to develop its law on national minorities – two important commitments made by Georgia upon its accession to the Council of Europe.

The Government welcomed the High Commissioner's conflict prevention and civic integration activities in Georgia, in particular his projects in the regions of Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo-Kartli. In 2006, in addition to the eleven projects already being implemented in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, the High Commissioner launched six projects in Kvemo-Kartli which replicate the successful activities underway in Samtskhe-Javakheti. Within the framework of the *Management of Inter-Ethnic Relations* Project alone, for example, 225 civil servants from Kvemo-Kartli attended seminars aimed at increasing the sensitivity of civil servants to their multi-ethnic society and provided training in effective management of inter-ethnic relations. In Abkhazia, the High Commissioner completed the first phase of his project *Teachers for Understanding*, which aims at enhancing the skills of Georgian- and Abkhaz-language teachers and at building confidence between the two communities, including teachers. The language-teaching methodology seminars carried out during the first phase of the project reinforced the instructional skills of approximately 100 teachers working in 33 schools of Abkhazia.

**Kazakhstan.** The High Commissioner advised the authorities on the best ways to reinforce the role of the State language while also respecting the linguistic rights of national minorities. Within the framework of his ongoing co-operation with the Committee on Languages, the High Commissioner hired a consultant in June to develop recommendations for the authorities focused on effective methodological support of a sustainable State language acquisition system for the adult population of Kazakhstan. The recommendations, which were presented to the authorities in Astana, will serve as the basis for discussion on further co-operation between the High Commissioner and the Committee on Languages.

**Kyrgyzstan.** The High Commissioner worked closely with the Ministry of the Interior on enhancing co-operation and communication between the police service and persons belonging to national minorities. The High Commissioner and the Minister of the Interior signed a memorandum of understanding under which human resources departments were assigned the function of minority focal points. This followed up on a successful conference entitled *Modernizing Police and Promoting Integration: Challenges for Multi-Ethnic Societies*, organized with the Ministry of the Interior and with the support of the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit in June. The co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior also included training programmes in the management of sensitive inter-ethnic relations in southern Kyrgyzstan.

In the field of education, the High Commissioner assisted authorities in implementing the *2004 Report and Recommendations of the Working Group on Integration through Education* and supported the related activities of the Multi-cultural Education Sector of the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth Policy.

**Latvia.** The High Commissioner focused on issues surrounding education reform and the naturalization process during a visit to Latvia in April. He continued to stress the need to ensure that the quality of education does not suffer as a result of the implementation of education reform. The High Commissioner welcomed the establishment, in October 2005, of the State Agency for Evaluation of General Education Quality. Furthermore, he underlined the need to make all necessary material and training available, and to carry out sufficient quality checks in the schools in question at regular intervals. The number of non-citizens in Latvia remains high and the High Commissioner urged the authorities to accelerate the naturalization process in the country. He also stressed the need for the government to pay special attention to non-citizens who find it difficult to meet the present naturalization requirements, especially the written language test, due to their age or education. He also recommended the allocation of additional resources and funds to the Naturalization Board to enable it to handle the growing number of applications in an orderly and timely manner.

During the period under review two experts commissioned by the High Commissioner completed a *Practical Implementation Guide* for the state language inspectors of Latvia. The Guide will assist the State Language Centre and the language inspectors to achieve a balanced and effective implementation of the *State Language Law*, taking account of relevant national and international legislation.

**The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.** The High Commissioner followed developments at South East Europe University, established to provide ethnic Albanian students with high-quality academic education in a multi-ethnic educational environment. Since its founding, it has significantly improved ethnic under-representation in higher education in the country with total enrolment exceeding 5,000 students, 75 per cent of whom are ethnic Albanians.

In 2006, the High Commissioner concluded the *Transition Year Project*, which sought to increase the number of ethnic Albanian students admitted to state universities in Skopje and Bitola. The project, which ran over nine years, provided intensive preparation courses for examinations in 13 subjects in the Macedonian language for Albanian-speaking pupils in their fourth year of secondary school. Throughout its implementation, seven high schools located in mainly ethnic Albanian areas in the country and about 1,000 students took part. In some schools, up to 88 per cent of the student body participated. The High Commissioner plans an in-depth evaluation of the *Project's* impact in early 2007.

In 2006, three seminars were organized in Ohrid, Resen and Struga in support of the *Project*, one of the High Commissioner's most ambitious. They were designed to encourage ethnic Albanian teachers to network with one another and to take part in ethnic sensitivity training.

**Moldova.** In March, the High Commissioner visited Chisinau for meetings with senior government officials as well as representatives of civil society and the media. He also travelled to the autonomous region of Gagauzia where he has been supporting a language-training project for civil servants of Gagauz and

Bulgarian origin. Because the High Commissioner believes that a strong command of the State language is the key to national minorities' successful integration into mainstream society, many of his projects in Moldova focus on language teaching and training. The High Commissioner decided to continue the successful Gagauz project for another year in order to better address the needs of the local population, especially of those employed in public service. In addition to the language training, the High Commissioner intends to launch a media project together with Moldovan schools of journalism. The project's aim is to assist lecturers in developing and delivering a course on balanced reporting, covering issues such as identity, ethnicity, inter-group relations and conflict.

**Montenegro.** On 10 May, prior to the referendum on independence, the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro adopted the *Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms*. The High Commissioner had been actively involved in the preparation and drafting of the law since its 2003 inception. The adopted version of the law is considered compatible with generally accepted international standards, though some issues will require further clarification in the course of its application and implementation.

Following a referendum on independence and September elections, Montenegro has begun to draft a Constitution. The High Commissioner is following this process closely to help ensure that appropriate minority rights are enshrined in that document.

**Serbia.** The High Commissioner highlighted several issues related to the integration of national minorities in the areas of the judiciary, police and education during visits to Belgrade in January and September. He assisted in promoting co-operation and integration in the education system in south Serbia and encouraged authorities to ensure adequate representation of national minorities in the judiciary to help them comply with their obligation to provide bilingual court proceedings in areas where national minorities reach a specified threshold.

Regarding Vojvodina with its unique ethnic diversity, the High Commissioner emphasized the need to respond in a timely manner to inter-ethnic incidents, in order to prevent tensions rising in the province due to a lack of proper reaction from law enforcement bodies. While some progress has been made, the High Commissioner encouraged the authorities to continue to take a pro-active stance in order to make further improvements.

During his visit to Belgrade, the High Commissioner also sought support for his engagement to promote reconciliation in Kosovo.

**Kosovo.** The High Commissioner sought ways to provide assistance to international efforts in support of minority rights and to promote improved relations between communities during a visit to Kosovo in February and September.

In October in Stockholm, Sweden, he launched a process intended to support a long-term, structured and systematic approach to seeking truth and achieving reconciliation in Kosovo. The goal of the initial meeting was to establish a common language which could be used to discuss reconciliation and issues of transitional justice. The participants included high-ranking

members of political parties from both the Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serbian communities as well as members of civil society, opinion makers, educational leaders, representatives of the media and members of family associations.

**Uzbekistan.** The High Commissioner resumed his dialogue with Uzbek authorities on matters pertaining to his mandate in the area of national minority issues during a November visit. He informed himself about the situation of national minorities in Uzbekistan and discussed ways in which he could assist Uzbekistan in the further integration of its ethnic communities with respect for their educational, linguistic and other rights.

**Romania.** The High Commissioner co-operated with the Romanian authorities on a number of legislative initiatives concerning national minorities. He provided a detailed analysis of the draft Law on the Statute of National Minorities in Romania, which Parliament is currently discussing. He also commented upon the draft Law on Romanians Abroad and designated experts from his office to take part in the public debate on the draft legislation organized by the Foreign Ministry.

The High Commissioner supported a Romanian-Ukrainian initiative to set up a joint monitoring mission that would look into the situation of Romanian minorities in Ukraine and Ukrainian minorities in Romania. He endorsed this initiative as a positive example of bilateral co-operation in the sphere of minority protection, appointing two members of his staff to take part in the monitoring mission and assist the Governments. The first phase of the monitoring was successfully completed in October and November and a follow-up is scheduled for spring 2007.

**Turkmenistan.** As part of the ongoing dialogue with the authorities in Ashgabad, the High Commissioner met the country's leadership during a March visit and focused on ensuring the rights of national minorities in the multi-faceted process of nation-building unfolding in the country. During his trip, which included a visit to the Lebap region in the north, he also discussed the situation in the field of education as well as the programme of resettlement for some members of minority communities located in the northern border areas.

**Turkey.** The High Commissioner travelled to Ankara in December, following up on previous visits aimed at creating a dialogue with Turkish authorities.

**Ukraine.** The High Commissioner raised issues of inter-ethnic relations in Crimea and the integration of Crimean Tatars into Ukrainian society during an October visit. The discussions focused on problems in the areas of housing, infrastructure, employment and education as well as with regard to the land property rights of Crimean Tatars. The High Commissioner will be exploring ways to help address the complex issue of language education in Crimea. A balanced approach meeting the educational needs of all communities is of utmost importance for inter-ethnic harmony. Considering the peculiarity of the multi-ethnic peninsula the High Commissioner will also seek to initiate a dialogue in Crimea on international standards and best practice in the area of policing, based on the recently published *Recommendations on Policing in Multi-ethnic Societies*.

During the second half of the year, the High Commissioner launched a project on the management of inter-ethnic relations in Crimea. The project will involve training seminars for local civil servants and representatives of local ethnic communities with the aim of promoting mutual tolerance, trust and co-operation.

In addition to the situation in Crimea, the High Commissioner addressed issues of minority and language policy in Ukraine during his visit. A particular priority is the amendment of minority-related legislation. The High Commissioner continues to provide assistance to Ukrainian authorities in their efforts to bring legislation and practice into line with European standards.

Revised unified budget: €2,766,700  
[www.osce.org/hcnm](http://www.osce.org/hcnm)

# Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM)

The youngest of the specialized OSCE institutions, the Representative on Freedom of the Media was formally established in 1997 following a decision taken at the 1996 Lisbon Summit. Recognizing freedom of expression as a basic human right, the Representative's mandate is to ensure free, independent and pluralistic media in the participating States.

His primary tasks are to:

- observe relevant media development in OSCE participating States to provide early warning on violations of freedom of expression; and
- in close co-operation with the Chairman-in-Office, assist participating States by advocating and promoting full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments regarding freedom of expression and free media.

The second Representative on Freedom of the Media took up his position in March 2004. A writer and former dissident, Miklos Haraszti was one of the founders of the Hungarian Democratic Opposition Movement.

The Representative's office in Vienna has some 15 employees.

The right to freedom of expression and freedom of the media continued to be under threat worldwide, including in the OSCE region. Journalists were harassed, arrested, insulting publications criminalized, newspapers and television stations closed down and Internet sites blocked. And, despite the more than 15 years that have passed since far-reaching political change took place in Eastern Europe, the transition from State media to public service broadcasting remained a challenge.

Sadly, threats and even killings remained an intimidation to the media in the OSCE region. The murder in October of Anna Politkovskaya, who in 2003 received the OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy, was a tragic example. The Representative

repeatedly urged the authorities in the OSCE participating States to track down the killers, not only for the sake of justice but also to protect journalistic freedom.

The controversy over cartoon depictions of the prophet Mohammed dominated the agenda of the Representative for much of 2006. Conferences were held in Warsaw, Vienna and Budapest to address the issue of the responsibility, particularly in relation to religious freedom, which goes hand in hand with freedom of the press. Participants identified ways to foster tolerance and understanding and counter hate speech without endangering freedom of expression.



The cartoon controversy and media freedom issues were discussed at a media conference in Vienna on 13 and 14 July.



Ali Dilem, cartoonist with the Algerian daily *Liberte*, during his presentation on artistic depictions and media freedom at an OSCE media conference in Vienna on 13 and 14 July.

Another topic of concern in quite a number of countries, especially in Western Europe and in the United States of America, was the searching of news outlets and the imprisonment of journalists who refused to identify their sources after publishing allegedly classified information.

**Country reports.** In addition to interventions in dozens of individual cases of violation of the freedom of the press, the Representative continued his series of assessment visits to various countries. In April, he visited Kosovo to follow up on his previous report on the March 2004 riots, and published a report on the state of media freedom in Kosovo.

The high number of media outlets is also one of the reasons for the fragility of the still nascent media environment in Kosovo. Media outlets operating at a loss are an accepted feature, and this translates into low-budget journalism of uneven quality, vulnerable to interference with editorial independence.

The Representative also published a report on the state of media freedom in Armenia after his assessment visit, which said that although Armenia has substantially improved media legislation, media pluralism remains limited to the independent, financially weak and less influential print media. By contrast, pluralistic information offered by the broadcast outlets remains limited to a few opposition voices present in some of the programmes, even though State television has been transformed into a public-service broadcaster and numerous private channels exist.

**Internet.** Freedom of the media on the Internet remained high on the Representative's agenda. On 30 April, a two-year project, *Guaranteeing Media Freedom on the Internet*, was completed. The project comprised the second and the third Amsterdam Internet Conferences and a new publication, *Media Freedom Internet Cookbook*, in English and Russian. As a direct result of the project, Internet issues have acquired a higher profile in the OSCE region.

A follow-up project, *Internet Governance in the OSCE Region*, was launched this year and a first workshop was held in Paris in December. A publication with practical guidelines is envisaged for the spring of 2007.

The Office also participated in workshops of the first UN *Internet Governance Forum* in Athens and is active in a dynamic coalition on media freedom on the Internet under the UN umbrella.

**Access to information.** There is a growing and legitimate demand in the participating States for stronger security measures. However, governments also need to respect the media's right to information of public interest. Recently, journalists have come under increased pressure because of investigative pieces that used confidential information, or for not revealing their sources. That trend threatens to weaken the media's ability to uncover and inform about wrongdoing, including corruption, undermining its role as the fourth estate.

The Representative conducted an in-depth review of existing legislation and practices in the participating States on access to information, including sanctions for publishing classified materials or for refusing to reveal journalists' confidential sources. The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of those sanctions on freedom of the media.

The Representative, who plans to present the results of this review to the Permanent Council in 2007, will report that there is a tendency among some OSCE participating States to deny journalists their right to publish confidential information. He believes the liability for disseminating unauthorized information should lie solely with the officials who were obliged to maintain the secrets. The review will include recommendations for the participating States.

**Libel and defamation.** Libel and insult provisions of criminal codes are often used to silence journalists and to prevent critical reporting. In February, best practices of handling defamation cases were shared during a conference in Skopje. A resolution was adopted prompting the country to abolish imprisonment as a possible punishment for defamation. The Government elaborated and approved amendments to the *Criminal Code*, which Parliament passed by unanimous vote on 10 May.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Government, the Mission to Croatia and the Representative, the amendments to the



*Criminal Code of Croatia* entered into force on 28 June, dropping imprisonment as an option for punishment for defamation.

The Representative's long-term campaign against criminal defamation laws and disproportionately severe punishments in civil cases has resulted in increased understanding among governments and legislators of the need for change. A growing number of nations have actually made reforms. Seven OSCE participating States – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and the U.S. – have removed criminal libel and insult provisions from their penal codes. Some participating States – including Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia – have removed imprisonment as a punishment option for defamation. The Representative has conducted this campaign in co-operation with the Council of Europe, which has also helped raise awareness of this issue within European Union institutions.

**Self-regulation.** The Representative continued to promote the creation of self-regulatory mechanisms by and for media professionals independent of government control in order to foster ethical standards and media quality while preserving editorial independence. His position is that such self-regulatory mechanisms, for instance codes of ethics or press councils, are more promising as instruments for the promotion of cultural respect and mutual understanding than the passage of regulatory legislation.

**Hate speech and intolerance.** At an international conference on hate speech organized by the Central European University and other international academic institutions in Budapest on 31 March and 1 April, the Representative initiated the special event, *Panel of Diplomats*. During the discussions, the Heads of Mission of the Russian Federation, U.S., France, Turkey and Slovakia debated their different perceptions on legitimate limitations to speech, thereby taking an important step towards the development of a common view.

**Training.** The Office continued its successful series of training projects, *Interaction between the media and the State press*

*services*. The training course aimed to teach press and public information officers new techniques of effective management of press services. The course included modules on the legal bases of interaction with journalists and an overview of international experience and practice in this sphere. The training also focused on improving journalists' professional and ethical skills.

In summer, the Office, together with the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, conducted an extensive training programme in several Ukrainian cities. About 150 press secretaries and journalists attended the seminars, which were held in Sebastopol, Kharkov, Donetsk and Odessa. In July, in co-operation with the Office in Baku, the Office organized a three-day training course for journalists from the main Azerbaijani media outlets as well as for spokespersons and representatives of the press services of key government bodies. The seminar was a follow-up of an earlier session held in Baku the previous year, which took place at the initiative of the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister. In September, the same workshop was held in Kazakhstan, jointly organized by the Office and the Centre in Almaty. The representatives of the official press services in Astana, including from the presidential administration, the Government and the parliament, as well as journalists from various Kazakhstani media outlets, seized the opportunity to discuss information exchange between media and the authorities. Given positive feedback from participants, the Office plans to develop the training to include self-regulation issues in 2007.

As a follow-up to the *3rd Amsterdam Internet Conference*, the Representative, together with the International Research and Exchange Board, developed an Internet training programme for young online journalists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The training courses were carried out in the summer in Osh, Kyrgyzstan and Khujand, Tajikistan, by a team of Research and Exchange Board experts. Some participants will serve as trainers in similar projects in the South Caucasus region, enhancing the training's sustainability.

Improving public access to government information at the regional level by increasing transparency and strengthening relations



IREX/Colin Guard

An OSCE-sponsored training programme for young journalists, administered by the International Research and Exchanges Board in Tajikistan, from 14 to 18 August

between the authorities and the media was the main topic of a seminar held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in November, organized jointly by the Representative and the Centre in Almaty.

**Legal assistance.** Providing legal assistance to OSCE participating States is another focus of activity. During the year, the Representative commented on a number of laws or draft laws, including the Albanian *Law on State Secrets*, the Moldovan *Audiovisual Code*, proposed Irish Defamation and Privacy Legislation, the draft EU Directive on Audiovisual Media Services, the *Media Law* in Kazakhstan, draft defamation legislation in Azerbaijan and digital broadcasting legislation in Armenia.

**Media conference and training event.** The *Central Asia Media Conference and Training Event*, organized together with the Centre in Bishkek and conducted by the Eurasia Foundation, took place on 19 and 20 October. This year, in response to feedback from participating States and the media about changing needs, the focus was on *The Business of Media* and included practical training for local media on management issues and business skills. A similar event took place in Tbilisi on 2 and 3 November, also focusing on media as businesses.

**Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting.** The *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting* held in Vienna on 13 and 14 July looked at three major challenges in the domain of freedom of the media. First, it addressed the issue of access to information, a precondition for the journalistic task of implementing the public's right to know about issues of public importance and hold government officials accountable for their words and actions. Second, a high-profile panel of speakers discussed the interrelation between artistic expression and self-regulation and respect for cultural sensitivities, especially in light of the recent cartoon controversy. Third, the last session focused on the administrative difficulties faced by independent media outlets in some participating States. Independent media can only exist if the administrative requirements *vis-a-vis* the media, be they governmental or privately owned, are applied in a non-discriminatory manner. It was agreed that such media regulations should pro-actively uphold provide relevant OSCE commitments and provide for a legal environment that allows journalists to carry out their work without fear of physical or administrative reprisal.

**Co-operation and networks.** In order to carry out its enormous task of monitoring the media situation in all 56 participating States, the Office has over the years developed a close network of co-operation throughout the OSCE region with: other international organizations; international, regional and local NGOs; and journalists and press associations. This network guarantees the Representative's capacity to respond swiftly to any violation of freedom of the media and to be ahead of current legislative proposals and other developments in the region's media landscape.

The Representative met with parliamentarians of different countries, including members of the Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament. He continued to co-operate closely with the Council of Europe and UNESCO and strengthened his contacts with European Institutions. His Office participated in the first UN *Internet Governance Forum* and a series of other national and international meetings.

At year-end, a Joint Statement condemning violence against journalists and urging increased self-regulation was issued by the Representative, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Ambeyi Ligabo, the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, Ignacio J. Alvarez and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, Faith Pansy Tlakula.

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

# Secretariat

## Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU)

The Action against Terrorism Unit is the focal point for OSCE counter-terrorism co-ordination and activities. Established in 2002, it works closely with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and other international partners.

Overall, the Unit's three main objectives are as follows:

(1) to provide support to the political process with regard to combating terrorism through expert advice and advocacy: Responding to requests by the Chairman-in-Office, participating States and the Secretary General, ATU prepared 15 food-for-thought and concept papers during the year on various anti-terrorism issues, such as countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism; fighting incitement and recruitment of terrorists; enhancing travel document security; strengthening the role of police in combating terrorism; improving co-ordination between investigators and prosecutors in terrorist cases; strengthening public-private partnership and the role of civil society in preventing terrorism. Many of these ideas were taken up in three Ministerial Council documents and reflected in a number of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities.

(2) to contribute to enhancing the capabilities and capacities of participating States to address the multi-faceted and evolving terrorist threat through the organization of capacity-building activities: ATU organized, supported or otherwise facilitated twelve capacity-building activities at the OSCE-wide, regional and national level. Among the most important were:

- *Three training workshops on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism (Vienna, Yerevan, Bucharest)*
- *Two training workshops on travel document security (Belgrade, Vilnius)*
- *Workshop on Urban Transport Security (Vienna)*
- *Workshop on Preventing Terrorism: Fighting Incitement and Related Terrorist Activities (Vienna)*

- *A container/supply chain security training workshop (Istanbul)*

(3) to foster information exchange and co-ordination on counter-terrorism issues within the OSCE and with outside partners: ATU further expanded the scope and enhanced the substance of the *Counter-Terrorism Network* and the regular in-house co-ordination meetings of all OSCE structures. It also conducted numerous formal and informal consultations with a significant number of other international organizations in many cases resulting in joint capacity-building activities. A significant achievement of the Unit was the roundtable of counter-terrorism practitioners of major regional and sub-regional organizations held in Copenhagen on 28 and 29 July.

ATU maintains a website ([www.osce.org/atu](http://www.osce.org/atu)) containing information on current OSCE anti-terrorism activities and links to key co-operation partners.



The OSCE is examining ways of enhancing container security in order to prevent terrorists from exploiting this means of transport.

OSCE

## Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)

The Conflict Prevention Centre co-ordinates the activities of the OSCE's field operations and assists them in the implementation of their mandates. It is also the focal point in the Secretariat for developing the OSCE's role in the politico-military dimension. In particular, the CPC is responsible for supporting the Chairmanship, the Secretary General and the decision-making bodies in implementing OSCE tasks in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The CPC comprises:

- The Mission Programme Section, which analyses developments in the field to identify early warning signals of potential crisis situations and acts as the primary point of co-ordination and liaison with field operations;
- The Project Co-ordination Cell, which supports field operations in the planning, development and evaluation of

- their projects and programmes;
- The Operations Unit, which co-ordinates operational planning within the Secretariat, provides an analytical capacity, serves as the focal point for border security and management and, through its Situation/Communications Room, monitors developments in the OSCE area and serves as an emergency crisis cell;
- The Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit, which provides advice and expertise in the politico-military dimension of security.

## Mission Programme Section

In 2006, the **South-eastern Europe Desk** provided assistance in the accession of Montenegro as the 56th OSCE participating State and the subsequent establishment of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. The Desk continued to follow closely the overall reform processes supported by the OSCE in the region.

The Desk facilitated two regional co-operation processes: the process of interstate co-operation in war crimes proceedings, which was launched in Palic, Serbia in November 2004, and the process of refugee return based on the regional ministerial *Sarajevo Declaration* of January, 2005. Regarding the latter, the OSCE initiated a process to co-ordinate the positions of the international community in view of a forthcoming ministerial meeting to take place in Montenegro in 2007.

The Desk, with the support of the Mission in Kosovo, was active in planning the OSCE's involvement in Kosovo following a decision on its future status. In this context, it co-ordinated closely with partner organizations, primarily the UN, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The **Eastern Europe Desk** supported OSCE efforts to kick-start negotiations toward the peaceful settlement of the Transnistria issue which had broken down in spring. The Desk further assisted field operations in Ukraine and Minsk in satisfying the demand for projects from State authorities.

The **South Caucasus Desk** focused on assisting field operations in activities related to the settlement of unresolved conflicts. The Desk contributed to the preparation of several high-level visits linked to the dynamic political developments in the region. The Desk supported the Mission to Georgia in its preparations for a large-scale *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and adjacent areas, and in developing a capacity-building programme aimed at strengthening capacities of the Georgian Border Police. The Desk supported OSCE preparations for an OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission to fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The **Central Asia Desk** helped the Chairmanship and Secretary General establish a new mandate and memorandum of understanding for the OSCE presence in Uzbekistan. The Desk also assisted in responding to the political tensions in Kyrgyzstan. It contributed to a CPC-organized expert assessment mission to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to identify areas for assistance in strengthening border security and management.

In line with the OSCE *Action Plan on the Promotion of Gender Equality*, the CPC developed a practical Handbook to help officers include gender perspectives in the analysis of situations in the field, in policy and strategic development. The Handbook identifies areas of possible intervention and includes country-specific data on gender equality.

## The Project Co-ordination Cell

Following an initiative of the Secretary General, the Cell focused on the conceptualization and development of a performance-based planning system to ensure that OSCE programmes respond to political and operational objectives and that they deliver on their objectives effectively and efficiently. It piloted the new approach with three field operations, the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Office in Yerevan and the Centre in Bishkek. Based on this experience, the Cell elaborated a blueprint for the introduction of the new planning system OSCE-wide, and developed a comprehensive set of working tools and guides. These documents concluded a year-long pilot process. The new planning system will improve programme co-ordination and will serve as the basis to prioritize and develop additional activities funded by extra-budgetary resources.

Besides this major endeavour, the Cell actively updated and distributed project management tools to field operations. It collected best practices from several field operations which will be analysed and further disseminated in 2007. In line with the OSCE *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*, the Cell finalized guidelines to streamline gender aspects into the development and planning of field operations projects.

Finally, the Cell continued to co-ordinate the assessment of all extra-budgetary funded projects from OSCE field operations. It co-ordinated the assessment of 118 extra-budgetary projects planned by field operations with a combined value of more than €25.6 million.

## Operations Unit

**Operational planning, liaison and analysis.** The Operations Unit acts as the primary point of co-ordination for operational planning within the Secretariat. In 2006, the Unit addressed such issues as the possible future involvement of the OSCE in Kosovo/Serbia and the closure of the Office of the OSCE Representative to the Estonian Expert Commission on Military Pensioners. It launched various follow-up activities, including an assessment visit to Kosovo.

The Unit provided active support to the Working Group on Non-military Aspects of Security. In particular, it helped draft food-for-thought papers and reports, for example on an OSCE Framework for Security Sector Governance, and on an OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network. As in previous years, the Unit also supported the Chairmanship in the organization of the *Annual Security Review Conference*. At the 2006 *Conference*, the OSCE's security-related activities were reviewed with an emphasis on the crisis management cycle,



OSCE/Henry Bolton

An assessment team vehicle crosses a river on the Tajik-Afghan Border near Kala-i-Khumb, an area commonly used by heroin traffickers.



OSCE/Henry Bolton

The CPC border assessment team crosses the Aksu Plain, Gorna Badakhshan, en route to the Chinese border

including confidence- and security-building measures. In addition, the Unit provided input to conferences on such issues as security sector governance, conflict prevention, mediation support, crisis management, disarmament demobilization and re-integration and early warning.

**Border security and management.** As part of its contribution to the activities of the Working Group on Non-military Aspects of Security related to the implementation of the OSCE *Border Security and Management Concept*, the Unit supported the establishment of an OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network. In addition, following a request from Tajikistan, the Unit conducted two field visits in order to provide technical assistance in enhancing its border security and management. As a follow-up, the Unit initiated the development of project proposals. The Unit also facilitated the sharing of lessons learned and best practices, as called for in the *Border Security and Management Concept*, by organizing conferences devoted to this issue. It also assisted the Chairmanship in the framework of the *Ohrd Border Process*.

**24 hours/7 days a week operational response capacity.** The Unit, through its Situation/Communications Room, continued to serve as the focal point of all OSCE field operations, the Chairmanship, the Secretariat and the Delegations, especially outside working hours. In doing so, it ensured a vital link in the security chain to field operations and delegations alike. The Situation/Communications Room produced daily briefs, special briefings, bi-weekly regional summaries and calendars of upcoming events for CPC staff. It also provided operational assistance for emergency cases including security incidents, crises and medical evacuations. Unit members attended a meeting with representatives of other situation centers with the aim of strengthening information exchange at the operational level.

## Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit

In 2006, the Support Unit assisted with the preparations, conduct and follow-up to the *Military Doctrines Seminar*, the *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting*, the *Annual Security Review Conference* as well as two special Forum for Security Co-operation meetings on small arms and light weapons (SALW)

and on the *Code of Conduct*, and a *Workshop on Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1540*. At the request of the Forum for Security Co-operation, the Support Unit conducted an overview of information exchanged on the implementation of the *OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*. It provided input to national and regional workshops on the issue, including in Switzerland, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Support Unit supported and assisted participating States with projects on small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition, which includes the rocket fuel component *Melange*. In April, the Support Unit participated in an assessment visit to Tajikistan in order to plan the second phase of a project in this area, following the successful completion of the project's first phase in November. In July, the OSCE and the European Commission conducted a joint high-level assessment visit to Novobohdanivka in Ukraine to develop a project there. The Support Unit helped develop a project to destroy conventional arms in Moldova.

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the UN Development Programme for technical co-operation in the implementation of projects. The Unit also developed memoranda of understanding for *Melange* elimination projects in Kazakhstan and Ukraine. It participated in the evaluation board of tendering for the project in Kazakhstan. In March, a roster of experts on



OSCE

The Situation/Communications room monitors developments in the OSCE area and provides a daily briefing to Senior CPC staff members.



OSCE

An OSCE expert team assesses the storage conditions of small arms and conventional ammunition in Khorog, Tajikistan.



OSCE

Inside the storage facility

*Melange* was finalized and they were also invited to the evaluation board.

The CPC actively contributed to the *UN Review Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW*, which took place in New York from 26 June to 7 July. The CPC organized and conducted an OSCE Side Event, and provided support in preparing the OSCE's report to the meeting.

The Support Unit organized and participated in several workshops on small arms and light weapons. In March, it supported a *Workshop on Control over Brokering in SALW in South-eastern*

*Europe and the Caucasus*, organized jointly by the governments of Germany, Norway and the Netherlands. In co-operation with Kyrgyz authorities, the Support Unit conducted a *Seminar on SALW and Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management and Security* in Kyrgyzstan in June. It also helped organize two small arms and light weapons workshops in Turkmenistan in November.

The Support Unit presented progress reports on small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition projects to the Ministerial Council, together with a photo exhibition on project activities, information leaflets and a documentary film. The Support Unit also supported delegations in publishing an Annex on man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) to the OSCE *Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)*.



OSCE

Leaking Melange Container, Kazakhstan, 2006

The CPC continued to manage the OSCE Communication Network, an important Confidence-and Security-Building Measure under the *Vienna Document 1999*. This network facilitates the exchange of important information to further openness and transparency in military affairs. The technology was further enhanced and software adapted to meet user needs. Capacity-building efforts were undertaken to widen and deepen expertise among participating States. The CPC also chairs the OSCE Communications Group, which provides valuable oversight by and for delegations.

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

## Department of Human Resources (DHR)

The Department of Human Resources ensures that open, efficient and transparent recruitment procedures take place and that once employed, all staff, whether contracted by the OSCE or seconded by a participating State, will have their administrative and training needs properly and professionally met. It consists of a Recruitment, a Personnel and a Training Section. In 2006, the Department expanded its services to include a Job

Evaluation Officer, providing for a comprehensive classification overview of the whole OSCE.

The Department maintains, reviews and updates the OSCE *Staff Regulations and Staff Rules* on a continuous basis. During 2006, three new *Staff Instructions* were issued pertaining to a professional working environment, Integrated Resource Management

(IRMA) System training and Special Service Agreements, allowing for more efficient and streamlined human resource procedures.

The **Personnel Section** worked closely with its counterparts in the institutions and field operations to develop steps to improve the management of the OSCE personnel, such as promoting an increase to local salary scales, revision of Board and Lodging Allowances and negotiating better conditions under the social security schemes with the aim to retain qualified staff.

The fully operational on-line recruitment system enabled the **Recruitment Section** to concentrate its resources on structured and competency-based interviewing techniques and on providing training of recruitment and selection skills to potential interview board members. In 2006, the Department issued 100 vacancy notices for contracted positions attracting 7,580 applications. During the year, 78 interview boards were held at the Secretariat and 429 candidates interviewed for positions in field operations and at the Secretariat. The Department processed 2,384 nominations for seconded positions, resulting in the deployment of a total of 331 staff/mission members to field operations, institutions and the Secretariat.

The *Junior Professional Officer Programme* is a new activity for the Organization. The Department launched the pilot project in May, offering young nationals of participating States an opportunity to work in an international context. There were 191 nominations from 33 participating States. Paying careful attention to geographical and gender balance, the Department selected six young professionals from Albania, Azerbaijan, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Portugal for the nine-month programme. The intensive and comprehensive work experience includes assignments in the participants' fields of expertise in the Secretariat and at a field operation, and mandatory specialized training programmes.

In accordance with the OSCE *Training Strategy* and the 2004 *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*, the **Training Section** in 2006 held a total of 86 workshops with more than 1,300 participants, more than double those trained a year earlier. In order to provide staff with a smooth and efficient integration into the OSCE, the Section held 13 *General Orientation "GO" Programmes* in the Secretariat for more than 350 newly recruited OSCE officials. As of January, the Training Section assumed full responsibility for IRMA-related training, conducting 12 training sessions at the Secretariat and regionally for more than 200 staff. Furthermore, it conducted an additional 61 workshops for nearly 760 staff members including support to pre-mission training activities in participating States.

## Department of Management and Finance (DMF)

The Department of Management and Finance provides financial and administrative support to OSCE participating States, the Secretariat, institutions and field operations. The Department comprises **Conference Services, Finance Services, Mission Support, Information and Communication Technology** and the **Prague Office**.

**Supporting meetings and conferences.** Conference Services supported the Chairmanship and participating States of the OSCE, the Joint Consultative Group, the Open Skies Consultative Commission as well as the OSCE Secretariat with preparing for and conducting meetings and conferences. The services included meetings and protocol assistance, document distribution and translation and interpretation in six OSCE languages. In 2006, Conference Services also co-organized a number of events outside Vienna, such as the *Economic Forum* in Prague, the *Tolerance Implementation Meetings* in Almaty and Dubrovnik as well as the *Ministerial Council* in Brussels.

**Consolidating management reforms.** Following the rollout of the Integrated Resource Management System (IRMA), the Department focused this year on consolidating information and procedures, reviewing and updating relevant Financial/Administrative Instructions and on providing extensive support and functional training to Fund Administration Units in the field. Emphasis was placed on delivering mission-focused support in finance,

information and communications technology, procurement, asset management and travel.

The OSCE's management reforms were initiated in 2001 in response to the Organization's rapid growth and aimed at delivering best practice in managing human, financial, material and information technology resources. The Oracle-based Integrated Resource Management System (IRMA) provides a common technical platform, while the Common Regulatory Management System provides regulations, rules and instructions for the management of all OSCE resources.

Major efforts were made to improve on-line reports (e.g. on extra-budgetary contributions and OSCE assets) to participating States and programme managers across the OSCE. The Delegates Dashboard, designed to provide delegates easy access to structured information and reports, was further developed and integrated into the Organization's information security infrastructure.

The Department also played a key role in supporting the Secretary General with the introduction of Performance Based Programme Budgeting, an approach designed to enhance the



OSCE Delegates Dashboard

current programming and budgeting cycle by helping both participating States and the OSCE's senior management focus on results rather than just on resources needed and activities undertaken. This methodology is increasingly adopted by international organizations and government agencies as a means to improve accountability and transparency in the use of resources.

**New premises on Wallnerstrasse.** Significant progress was made in the renovation of the new Secretariat premises at Wallnerstrasse 6 – an historic building provided to the OSCE by the Austrian Government. Currently scheduled to be ready for occupancy in November 2007, the premises will offer the OSCE a modern and attractive working environment and improve its visibility by consolidating the Vienna-based offices in one representative building in the heart of the city.

## PRAGUE OFFICE

As the initial seat of the CSCE Secretariat, the Prague Office inherited the historical collections of CSCE conference documents and has been maintaining the OSCE paper archive of policy documents ever since. As the guardian of the CSCE/OSCE institutional memory, the Office serves as an information provider for staff and public in need of historical data, references or substan-



The OSCE Prague Office

tive documents. Nine years ago, the Office became the home of the Researcher-in-Residence programme and has since made its archives accessible to more than 140 researchers from 32 countries in the OSCE area, as well as from China, Korea, Japan, Algeria, Morocco, Israel and Australia. The reference library of secondary source literature has been expanded by hundreds of books, periodicals and scientific journals containing articles and analyses of OSCE activities in 35 languages.

In co-operation with the Secretariat, the Office keeps the online electronic document library updated, disseminates OSCE publications (such as the *OSCE Magazine*, the *Annual Report* and *OSCE Decision Reference Manuals*, also printed in Prague) and maintains the Organization's mailing list. In 2006, the Office published a collection of 270 books in all OSCE working languages containing 17 years of conference proceedings. A corresponding microfiche collection and several thousand historical documents were also converted to electronic format. Once again, the Office provided extensive logistical support to the Prague session of the *14th Economic Forum*.

# Gender Section

During 2006, the Gender Section continued to work on the implementation of the *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality* as foreseen by Decision No 14 of the 2004 Ministerial Council. As mandated by the *Action Plan*, the Secretariat and institutions, with the support of the Gender Section, developed their own implementation plans which contained concrete measures, tasks and responsibilities for achieving the objectives set in the *Plan*.

In June, the Gender Section identified results achieved and constraints encountered in the implementation of the *Plan* and produced the first evaluation report, which the Secretary General presented to the Permanent Council. The report also outlined ways forward for achieving the goals of the *Action Plan*.

The Gender Section provided technical assistance throughout the year to all Focal Points for Gender Issues in the Secretariat,

missions and institutions through communication, co-ordination and discussions during the annual network meeting. The Section also developed the OSCE Toolbox for the Promotion of Gender Equality containing reference material on international commitments and standards, handbooks and guidelines on gender mainstreaming, as well as several OSCE-specific documents and instructions. Among these tools is a glossary on gender terms, a guide to gender mainstreaming in the organization of events, and a guide for Conflict Prevention Centre mission programme officers, entitled *Filling the Gaps: Gender in the Analysis, Policy and Strategy Development of the Conflict Prevention Centre*. The Gender Section visited the field on a number of occasions to provide direct support to field operations. It provided assistance and input to the Training Section in the development of gender-specific training, and throughout the year has participated in the gender session of the *General Orientation (GO) Programme* for new staff members.



In order to promote knowledge of the work on gender issues not only within the Organization but also among the public, the Gender Section produced two publications: a fact sheet in Russian and English and a booklet with more specific information on the promotion of gender equality and the way gender mainstreaming has been developed in the Organization over the last seven years.

To highlight the commitment of the Organization to combating gender-based violence, the Senior Adviser organized a public event in connection with International Women's Day in March. A film was shown documenting the plight of Afghan women due to conflict and displacement. A panel discussion followed, chaired

by the Ambassador of Norway to the OSCE. Among the speakers were the filmmaker, a representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and an Austrian Parliamentarian.

The Gender Section also continues to monitor the working environment, in particular in relation to equal treatment and equal opportunities for women and men. It assisted in the drafting of the new policy on harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination which was issued in March this year. The Gender Section also developed a booklet for all staff, with easy-to-read explanations on the new policy, in order to raise awareness of the importance of developing and maintaining a working environment with equal and fair treatment of all staff members.

## Legal Services

The lack of legal capacity and privileges and immunities in most participating States continues to be an obstacle to the smooth operation of the OSCE. Meetings of the *Group of Legal Experts*, gathering representatives from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Poland, Turkey, Russia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United States of America and the OSCE's Chairmanship, were assisted by Legal Services during June and September at the Hofburg. The *Group's* efforts to review and recommend solutions to effectively address the implications of the OSCE's lack of international legal status and uniform privileges and immunities reached a successful conclusion in 2006, culminating in a Ministerial Decision

creating an open-ended working group tasked to finalize a draft convention and to submit it through the Permanent Council to the Ministerial Council.

Legal Services expanded in 2006 and, accordingly, increased its support for activities in a number of important areas. Legal Services particularly focused on the creation of a proper legal framework for the execution of large projects on the territories of participating States and assistance on more complex legal issues to OSCE field operations and institutions.

## Office of Internal Oversight (OIO)

The Office of Internal Oversight made great strides this year in advancing the scope and breadth of audit work and in making the Office fully operational. Staffed with certified auditors, the Office of Internal Oversight is now an effective tool for monitoring compliance with the regulatory framework, providing assurance on the adequacy of internal controls and assisting managers in the achievement of their objectives. An independent validation team of experts conducted a quality-assurance assessment of the Office and certified that it is in full compliance with the standards and the code of ethics of the Institute of Internal Auditors. The internal and external audit regime of the OSCE was also reinforced this year by the work of the Audit Committee, which was established by the Permanent Council to oversee and advise on audit-related governance issues.

Using best practices, the Office of Internal Oversight relies on risk assessment methodologies to develop its audit workplan. The 2006 plan took into account risks associated with activities and operations, as well as the priorities of the Organization and audit work requested by management. While audit work for adequacy of controls and compliance with regulations continues to form the basis of the Internal Oversight programme, the Office

has expanded its activities to include management audits and inspections, programme evaluations and investigations. In 2006, it carried out reviews within the Secretariat, conducted field visits to missions and institutions, and issued a total of 23 reports containing more than 200 recommendations. In addition, the Office followed up on previous audit recommendations to ensure that management had addressed them effectively. More than 90 per cent of the recommendations of the past two years have been adopted, and management took steps to complete implementation of the remainder. The Office recently completed a review of the OSCE ethical framework and *Code of Conduct*, and issued a *Fraud Prevention and Detection Policy* and *Fraud Awareness Guidelines* for distribution throughout the OSCE. A robust training programme at the Secretariat, field operations and institutions is planned for 2007 to promote fraud awareness.

# Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)



Handbook on labour migration policies

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities carried out an increased number of activities in 2006, particularly within the area of environmental security, with the OSCE chairing the *Environment and Security Initiative* (ENVSEC, [www.envsec.org](http://www.envsec.org)). It also stepped up activities in the areas of combating money laundering, the financing of terrorism, corruption and trafficking in human beings, and conducted projects on migration and the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises. It

produced two major publications: a *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination* and the *OSCE Best-Practice Guide for a Positive Business and Investment Climate*. At the request of the Chairmanship, the Co-ordinator gathered information on energy security within the OSCE, which he presented to participating States. The OCEEA, in co-operation with the Energy Charter Secretariat and the International Energy Agency, organized an international conference in Brussels on the role of governments and international organizations in the field of energy security. This led to the adoption of a Ministerial Decision on *Energy Security Dialogue in the OSCE*, the implementation of which requires more energy-policy-oriented actions. The Ministerial Council Decision tasks the OSCE Secretariat to develop a dialogue on energy security and recalls the objectives of the Group of Eight Summit in St. Petersburg.

**Economic and Environmental Forum.** In co-ordination with the Chairmanship, the OCEEA brought to a successful conclusion the *14th Economic Forum on the topic of Transportation in the OSCE area: Secure transportation networks and transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability*. This not only led to a substantive Ministerial Decision on a *Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE* but also to a number of concrete follow-up activities. These included a training seminar on port security in Antwerp, Belgium, a workshop on *Transport, Security and Environmental Protection*, organized by the Norwegian Government in Tonsberg, Norway, two training seminars in Moscow and Belgrade on the implementation of the UN Economic Commission for Europe's *International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods* and an expert

workshop on the transit and transport problems of landlocked countries, in preparation for an OSCE conference on the prospects for development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transport through Central Asia until the year 2015, scheduled for late 2007.

The first preparatory conference for the OSCE's *15th Economic and Environmental Forum* was held on 16 and 17 November in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, with a focus on land degradation and soil contamination. The *Forum's* first session took place in Vienna in January 2007.

**Environmental Assessment Mission.** From 3 to 13 October, the OCEEA led an Environmental Assessment Mission to fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The Mission's mandate was to assess the short-term and long-term impact of wildfires, identify measures for counteracting detrimental effects and make suggestions for an environmental operation in the region, as foreseen in a UN General Assembly Resolution. The OSCE led a team including both local experts appointed by the Armenian and Azerbaijani authorities as well as experts from a number of international organizations.

**OCEEA supported dialogue on labour migration management in the area of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).** Following the recommendations of the *13th Economic Forum* and recent labour migration trends and patterns in the OSCE area, the OCEEA contributed to the intensification of the exchange of good practices and the sharing of innovative policies and initiatives in the area of effective labour migration management. The Office published a *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination*, which was prepared in partnership with the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization. The *Handbook* serves as a concrete tool for best-practice exchange and policy discussion. A first regional capacity-building workshop on developing effective labour migration policies was held with ten CIS member States in Moscow on 6 and 7 December. The *Handbook* was well received by policy-makers and migration experts from the region. As a result, the OCEEA is considering holding additional regional and national workshops in the region in 2007. The *Handbook* is currently available in English and Russian, with further translations planned.

# Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Combating trafficking in human beings remains a priority for OSCE institutions, bodies and field operations. The OSCE *Action Plan* puts forth recommended actions for the participating States based on a multi-dimensional and comprehensive approach.

The new Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings combined, through a 21 June Ministerial Council Decision, the functions of the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit into a new Office located within the OSCE Secretariat. Eva Biaudet, former Minister of Health and Social Services in Finland, was appointed to the position of Special Representative and Co-ordinator in October. The mandate of this Office, derived from a 2003 Ministerial Council Decision, includes providing assistance, upon request, to the participating States in the areas of awareness raising, policy planning and co-ordination at the national level, legislative reform capacity building and effective co-operation among governmental institutions, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to protect the rights of trafficked persons. The Office also plays a role in co-ordinating anti-trafficking efforts across the OSCE Secretariat, field operations and institutions. Consistent with its mandate to provide a comprehensive and human rights-based approach, the Office continues to raise the visibility and understanding of all forms of trafficking in human beings and to encourage the development of national and regional initiatives.

## Highlights of 2006

- The Alliance against Trafficking in Persons held a high-level conference on *Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children: Prevention – Protection – Prosecution* on 17 March. The Alliance, launched by the former Special Representative in July 2004, provides a forum for co-operation and the exchange of ideas among international and regional institutions, organizations and leading NGOs. This event marked the culmination of a joint project of the Special Representative, the *AGIS Programme* of the European Commission, the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior, and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the International Organization for Migration and the Swedish Migration Board, the Belgian Federal Police and the European Police Office (EUROPOL). The conference, held in Vienna and attended by close to 400 participants, focused on the exchange of good practices, as well as the elaboration of practical recommendations to prevent human trafficking, ensure comprehensive protection for victims and effectively prosecute perpetrators. The conference addressed the following main issues: specific measures to combat child trafficking via capacity building for law enforcement professionals; long-term mental and physical health consequences for victims of trafficking, in particular traumatization; and implications of the health status of trafficked victims, particularly women and children, for the prosecution.
- The first OSCE regional anti-trafficking conference in Central Asia, *Combating Trafficking in Human Beings – A Regional Response*, held in Astana on 18 and 19 May and organized in close co-operation with the authorities of Kazakhstan, the ODIHR, the Centre in Almaty as well as other field operations, brought together representatives from government agencies, civil society and international organizations in a successful dialogue on best practices and ideas for further co-operation. The reflections from the conference prove that a regional format of anti-trafficking events can contribute to the development of synergy and better cross-border co-operation, networking, wider attendance of local stakeholders and broader access to international expertise, and should be applied to other OSCE areas. A follow-up meeting in the region is planned for 2007.
- The Alliance against Trafficking in Persons' high-level conference *Trafficking for Labour Exploitation/Forced and Bonded Labour: Prosecution for Offenders, Justice for Victims* held in Vienna on 17 and 18 November, provided a forum for the exchange of concrete national experiences in bringing perpetrators to justice and ensuring legal redress for victims. The conference shed light on addressing all forms of trafficking in the OSCE region, and this emphasis was reflected in the Brussels Ministerial Decision on *Enhancing Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Including for Labour Exploitation, Through a Comprehensive and Proactive Approach*. By adopting this Decision, the participating States agreed to involve new actors in combating trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation, such as labour inspectorates, social protection units, medical institutions, the business community and others as well as to take relevant proactive measures in this specific area. The Ministerial Council also tasked the Permanent Council to consider ways to further strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, including for labour exploitation, taking into consideration, among other issues, the outcome of the November Conference.
- The Office published its first Annual Report, *From Policy to Practice: Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the OSCE Region*. This report provides an overview of the efforts of the participating States, as well as the OSCE bodies, in combating human trafficking and identifies challenges encountered in the implementation of the OSCE *Action Plan*. The conclusions and recommendations of this document will contribute to future programmatic activities and increase the ability of the Organization to provide assistance to the participating States.

# Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU)

The Strategic Police Matters Unit aims to support democracy and the rule of law in the policing services of all participating States. This year, the Unit implemented *Police Assistance Programmes* in several countries in South Caucasus and Central Asia, notably in Armenia and Azerbaijan, and a *Short-Term Assistance Project* in Georgia. The Unit also developed a new *Police Assistance Programme* emphasizing community policing and human resources management for the Georgian Police Academy, which will be implemented in 2007.

Together with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Unit hosted a joint workshop on the UN *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* on 2 and 3 March. The workshop resulted in an increase in timely responses by participating States to a UNODC self-assessment questionnaire regarding the *Convention*. Several States also provided updated information regarding their progress in bringing their laws into line with the *Convention*.

In order to address growing security threats from international terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and drug trafficking, as well as the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Chairmanship and the Belgian Federal Police organized a one-day *OSCE Chiefs of Police Conference* on 24 November. Participants from more than 50 States affirmed their strong commitment to mutual co-operation and agreed to hold similar police chief meetings every three years.

The OSCE Policing OnLine Information System (POLIS), designed by the Unit, was launched on 24 November. The System is a comprehensive, multilingual database that provides information on all aspects of law enforcement activities within the OSCE area, including police assistance, training techniques and funding opportunities. It can be accessed at: <http://polis.osce.org>.

The Strategic Police Matters Unit believes that policing activities should be based on a set of internationally adopted and accepted standards, best practices and lessons learned. Under the leadership of the Senior Police Adviser and together with police experts from participating States and partner organizations, it produced a *Guidebook on Democratic Policing*. As a living document, the *Guidebook* will be open to the inclusion of newly adopted standards and future examples of good practice.

The Unit implemented a training programme, *Multi Agency Proactive Investigations into Trafficking in Human Beings*, which it had designed for police prosecutors, judges and NGOs in eight participating States. The unique programme develops the investigative skills necessary for prosecuting a human trafficking case without relying on a victim's testimony. Over the course of two weeks, trainees investigated a simulated case in real time.

# Partnerships for Security and Co-operation

## Interaction with Organizations and Institutions in the OSCE Area

In 2006, interaction with other organizations remained a vital aspect of the OSCE's work in the promotion of security and stability in the OSCE area. Under the leadership of the Belgian Chairmanship, the Organization worked consistently to strengthen ties and deepen co-operation with the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), Council of Europe (CoE), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and other organizations and institutions based on relevant Ministerial and Permanent Council decisions by participating States.

The Permanent Council, responding to UN calls to enhance co-operation with regional organizations, adopted the *Declaration on Co-operation with the United Nations* on 16 March. In it, participating States declared the readiness of the OSCE to continue playing its role as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and to take proactive steps to pursue closer co-operation with the UN.

The OSCE made a significant contribution to the UN *Alliance of Civilizations* initiative. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General presented the report in June.

Dialogue and co-operation with the EU was intensified during the year. With the CoE, co-operation shifted from mere exchange of information and cross-representation at events to planning and implementation of joint activities.

The OSCE took active part in the annual *High-Level Tripartite meeting* with the UN and the CoE, hosted by the UN Office at Geneva in July. The agenda focused on peace-building from a European regional perspective and was preceded by an expert-level meeting on inter-community relations in post-conflict environments.

International, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives were regularly invited to OSCE events such as the *Ministerial Council meeting*, the *Annual Security Review Conference*, the *Economic Forum*, the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* and other relevant meetings, while the OSCE took part, upon invitation, in many of the events organized by partner organizations.

The three OSCE institutions, 19 field operations and the Secretariat worked closely with their international partners both at the headquarters level and in the field. The Section for External Co-operation was the focal point for institutional contacts with other organizations and Partner States.

The Conflict Prevention Centre participated in the Steering Group on future institutional arrangements in Kosovo, together



OSCE Chairman-in-Office Karel De Gucht (right) and the Organization's Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (left) are welcomed to the UN by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, New York on 26 June.

UN Photo

with representatives from the UN, EU and NATO. Throughout the year, it took part in bilateral meetings to clarify possible post-status involvement. It also pursued work on further enhancing interstate co-operation in war crimes proceedings in line with the *Palic Process* and on facilitating, together with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), an expert-level meeting in Novi Sad, Serbia, with EU experts attending as observers. In addition, the Centre worked closely with the European Commission and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on refugee returns within the framework of the *Sarajevo Declaration Process*.

In the field of border security and management, the Conflict Prevention Centre continued its close co-operation with the EU, NATO and the *Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe*. They assisted countries in the region in implementing the *Way Forward Document* of the *Ohrd Border Management and Security Process*. Furthermore, in order to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and best practices in modern border management, the Centre organized two conferences in 2006: the first in Dubrovnik in July and the second in Vienna in October, the latter attended by experts from 26 international organizations.

In April, the Conflict Prevention Centre convened a meeting chaired by the OSCE Secretary General in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on security and stability in Central Asia. The meeting attracted more than 40 high-level participants from a broad range of international organizations. Another major event with international organizations took place in connection with the *Caucasus Regional Heads of Mission Meeting* in Tbilisi, Georgia, in September. It brought together representatives from the UN Department

for Peacekeeping Operations, UN Development Programme (UNDP), the EU, CoE, NATO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Action against Terrorism Unit organized, with support from Denmark, a roundtable of counter-terrorism practitioners, bringing together representatives from six international and 13 regional and sub-regional organizations.

In 2006, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities assumed the Chairmanship of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), and while co-operation was maintained with the UNDP, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and NATO, two new partners joined the initiative: the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe.

The Senior Gender Adviser participated in several co-ordination meetings with European organizations and specialized agencies of the UN, including the annual meeting of the Organizational and Institutional Gender Information Network.

In the context of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, which is comprised of leading organizations working against trafficking in human beings, the OSCE Anti-Trafficking Mechanism organized a number of significant events, such as the High-Level Conference in March on *Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children: Prevention – Protection – Prosecution*. It was held in co-operation with the Austrian EU Presidency and became the culminating event of a project financed by the European Commission *AGIS Programme 2005*.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) maintained close contacts with other organizations such as the UN, CoE and EU. The ODIHR regularly shared information with the UN Electoral Assistance Division with respect to election monitoring and the two were among a number of organizations that supported the development of the *Declaration of Principles for International Elections Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers*.

The Representative on Freedom of the Media continued his co-operation with a wide range of international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the CoE and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). He also maintained close contacts with European institutions and the ICTY on media-related issues. The Office participated in the first UN *Internet Governance Forum* in October and a series of other national and international meetings. A joint statement signed by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression condemned violence against journalists and urged increased self-regulation.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities provided advice to Martti Ahtisaari, UN Secretary-General Special Envoy for the future status process for Kosovo, in the ongoing international

effort in support of a framework protecting the rights of all communities living in Kosovo.

The Parliamentary Assembly maintained contacts with counterparts in other international inter-parliamentary organizations, in particular the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the European Parliament as well as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In several instances, Parliamentary Troikas consisting of the three parliamentary bodies of the OSCE, CoE and EU were established to co-ordinate efforts in specific projects, such as promoting and strengthening democratic institutions. Such a Troika has been working to promote dialogue and democratic development in Belarus. In 2007, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will chair a Troika organized to support the *Stability Pact*. The OSCE election observation missions, conducted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the ODIHR, were often joined by representatives of the Parliamentary Assemblies of NATO, PACE and the European Parliament.

The Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference maintained contacts with organizations such as the EU, CoE, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the ICRC and various international NGOs, regarding problems related to internally displaced persons and refugees, prisoners of war, missing persons and detainees as well as mine clearance.

## United Nations

In January, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed the UN Security Council on the priorities of the Belgian Chairmanship.

On 20 September, the Greek presidency of the UN Security Council convened a meeting of the Security Council at the ministerial level on *Co-operation between the United Nations and Regional Organizations in Maintaining International Peace and Security*. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General attended the meeting. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed participants, highlighting the OSCE's contribution as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

In February, the OSCE participated in the first meeting of the Standing Committee of the UN *High-Level Meeting Process with Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations*, whose main task was to make the necessary preparations for the UN Secretary General's High-Level meetings. The OSCE was represented at the *7th High-Level Meeting* on 22 September in New York, which focused on challenges and opportunities in co-operation, as well as at the second meeting of the Standing Committee which preceded it.

The Belgian Chairmanship represented the OSCE at the inaugural meeting of the UN Peacebuilding Commission on 23 June in New York, while the Secretary General addressed the 3rd meeting of the *Alliance of Civilizations* High-Level Group in Senegal in May.

In the context of the Chairmanship's priority on transport, the OSCE maintained close relations with the UN Economic Commission for

Europe through projects aimed at awareness raising and joint capacity building in the field of transport and through the promotion of international conventions and standards.

The OSCE also co-operated closely with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the promotion of the *Almaty Programme of Action* to facilitate access to the sea for landlocked countries.

The UN hosted the annual *OSCE-UN Staff-Level Meeting* in New York on 8 and 9 May. The OSCE participants held meetings with their counterparts from a number of UN bodies and institutions. Various thematic and regional issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The Conflict Prevention Centre contributed to the UN *Review Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW*, which took place in New York from 26 June to 7 July, and organized an OSCE Side Event during the meeting. It further developed a memorandum of understanding with UNDP for technical co-operation in the implementation of SALW and conventional ammunition projects, which was signed on 2 June.

The Conflict Prevention Centre also contributed to a roundtable series on security sector reform organized by the Slovak delegation to the UN, held in New York.

In October, an OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission was conducted in the fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The Mission benefited from the assistance of experts from the UN-affiliated Global Fire Monitoring Centre, who were identified by the Joint Environment Unit of the UNEP and the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as well as experts from the UNEP itself, the CoE, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission.

The Senior Police Adviser met in October with the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations Police Adviser, the Director of the Police Division and the UN Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. The Strategic Police Matters Unit continued to work on the promotion and implementation of the UN *Convention on Transnational Organized Crime* and hosted a joint workshop with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime on 2 and 3 March. The Unit and UNODC also worked together on a Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit.

In the fight against terrorism, the OSCE deepened ties with the UN, in particular with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, the Al Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee and its Monitoring Team, as well as with the UNODC. Importantly, the Action against Terrorism Unit collaborated closely with the UNODC, the UN Counter Terrorism Committee and the Executive Directorate on the ratification of the universal anti-terrorism instruments and the drafting of anti-terrorism legislation.

The Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit contributed to a number of UNODC conferences and events, such as the UNODC-OSCE Workshop on the information-gathering mechanism to support the work of the March and October *Conferences of the State Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized*

*Crime*. In February, the Unit contributed to the expert meeting on *Indicators of Trafficking* in Geneva organized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights. The Unit also contributed to an International Labour Organization (ILO) trafficking workshop in Moscow in March, for the elaboration of a *National Action Plan*.

The Senior Adviser on Gender Issues attended several co-ordination meetings at the UN Office in Bratislava with the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UNDP and the UN Population Fund, and participated in the regional Programme Appraisal Committee to select projects on combating violence against women to be funded by the UNIFEM. She also represented the OSCE Secretariat in several conferences addressing the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Contacts with the Senior Gender Adviser of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations were intensified and the OSCE Senior Gender Adviser participated in the revision of gender-related materials together with counterparts from UN Peacekeeping Missions and gender focal points from the military and navy of several member States.

In connection with the *14th Economic Forum* on transport in the OSCE area, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities strengthened its co-operation with UN partners such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and in particular with the Office of the UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Close co-operation between the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the UNODC on the *Global Programme against Money Laundering* and the *Global Programme against Corruption* continued. They held a workshop for prosecutors from Central and Eastern Europe in Vienna in September, and another in Montenegro, with the help of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities also supported the UNODC *Global Programme against Corruption* by holding two expert group meetings aimed at reviewing the draft *Technical Guide to Promote the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption*, due for publication in 2007.

On 24 and 25 October, a joint UNODC-OSCE workshop on combating the threat of illicit drugs in the OSCE area took place in Vienna. The event brought together experts from capitals and other international organizations and assessed the threat of illicit drugs, discussed the impact of trafficking of Afghan heroin and underlined the need for States to work together closely and to implement international legal instruments.

The ODIHR co-organized a technical workshop with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights and international co-operation in counter-terrorism in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, in November. In addition, the ODIHR established a focal point for national human rights institutions and human rights defenders, in order to formulate a programme of joint activities with the UN High Commissioner.

The ODIHR contributed to the development of the UNODC Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit, and the Office co-sponsored

seminars in Moscow on international standards on ethics and accountability for prosecutors and judges. The ODIHR also contributed to the activities of the UN Economic Commission for Europe at a roundtable on Gender Equality and Growth Prospects for the region of the UN *Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia* in Baku in June.

The ODIHR and the UNIFEM for the CIS held a regional roundtable in Almaty in September on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities maintained contacts with the UN Secretariats in New York and Geneva, as well as with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UNDP. The UN Secretariat expressed interest in drawing on the experience of the OSCE High Commissioner to develop structures serving the purpose of conflict prevention, notably in forming practical conflict prevention tools. The High Commissioner exchanged information with the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues and the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and continued co-operation with the UN Working Group on Minorities.

In February, under the leadership of the Special Representative on Gender Issues of the Parliamentary Assembly, a group of women parliamentarians from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly participated in the 50th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and organized a Side Event on *Women and Security Politics*.

## European Union

The Finnish Presidency of the EU, addressing the OSCE Ministerial Council in December, underlined that the EU consistently regarded the OSCE as an indispensable actor in the European security landscape and expressed the EU's commitment to the values, norms and principles of the OSCE in all three security dimensions.

In February, the Austrian Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed the Permanent Council in the context of the Austrian EU presidency, pointing out the immediate task of strengthening the confidence of all participating States in the OSCE as an international organization with a central interest in the individual human being. She called for a Joint Declaration on Co-operation between the EU and the OSCE.

The Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General took part in both the May and November OSCE-EU Ministerial Troikas, one during each EU Presidency. Two meetings of the EU Political and Security Committee and the OSCE Ambassadorial Troika were held in February and October. A number of regional and thematic issues of mutual interest, as well as OSCE-EU co-operation, were addressed during the two sets of meetings.

The Secretary General addressed the EU Political and Security Committee in March and in November, calling for the EU's active involvement in the OSCE as a unique instrument for dialogue and co-operation. In addition, throughout the year, the Secretary General held a series of bilateral meetings, both with the

European Commission and the EU Council Secretariat, including EU High Officials dealing with Central Asia, South Caucasus, Moldova and the Balkans.

A number of high EU officials briefed the OSCE Permanent Council on activities of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, the Balkans and EU enlargement. An informal meeting of the EU Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management was hosted in Vienna in March. In June, the EU hosted the annual *OSCE-EU Staff-Level Meeting*.

From 5 through 7 July, the OSCE and the European Commission conducted a joint high-level assessment visit to Novobohdanivka in Ukraine to develop a project for the destruction of small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition.

The Conflict Prevention Centre participated in a workshop on development co-operation in Central Asia hosted in Berlin in December by the upcoming German EU Presidency. It also maintained regular working-level contacts with the office of the EU Special Representative for Central Asia.

The Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit contributed to the European Commission's *Expert Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings*, held in June and organized by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and the EU. In January and February, it held meetings with the European Commission and contributed to an urban security seminar with the European Parliament, as well as a training seminar for EU delegations worldwide organized by EuropeAid.

The Action against Terrorism Unit maintained a dialogue with the EU Council and the European Commission on topics of common interest, such as information exchange and co-ordination. This dialogue may produce an enhanced framework for EU-Action against Terrorism Unit counter-terrorism co-operation in future.

The ODIHR's *Legislative Assistance Programme* for Central Asia involved co-operation with and funding by the EU. In October, the ODIHR, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance organized a working-level meeting on issues pertaining to the lack of data on hate crimes. The same agencies participated in an ODIHR-organized *Tolerance Implementation Meeting* in November in Vienna. In addition, the ODIHR completed the *Roma, use your ballot wisely!* project financed by the European Commission.

During the year, the High Commissioner on National Minorities maintained close links with the European Commission, in particular with the Commissioner and the Directorate-General for Enlargement.

## Council of Europe

The OSCE and the CoE made progress on the four priority areas identified in the 2005 *Declaration on Co-operation*: the fight against terrorism, the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the fight against trafficking in human beings and the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination of national minorities. They discussed these issues at the third and fourth



meetings of the OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group in March and September, at which the OSCE focal points and their CoE counterparts presented joint reports. As a result, the first major joint event of the two organizations in the field of counter-terrorism, an expert workshop, was held in Vienna on 19 and 20 October.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the OSCE Secretary General and a representative of the Parliamentary Assembly attended the *15th OSCE-CoE High-Level Meeting*. Co-operation between the two Organizations on a number of regional and thematic issues was discussed.

At the invitation of the OSCE Belgian Chairmanship, the *16th OSCE-CoE High-Level Meeting* took place on 21 September in New York in a '2+2' format. Participants emphasized the importance of OSCE-CoE co-operation and its further strengthening, and expressed their strong political will to improve synergies through joint planning of activities. They also addressed the question of co-operation on election observation.

The two Secretaries General continued their close working relationship in 2006 and held a number of bilateral meetings on the margins of various OSCE and CoE events. In May, the OSCE Secretary General addressed the annual Session of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE in Strasbourg.

The *9th Annual '3+3' Meeting* at the level of senior officials was held in Vienna in June, focusing on a number of thematic issues of mutual interest, including the four priority areas.

The first OSCE-CoE meeting on the implementation of the *Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in South-East Europe*, signed by the two Secretaries General in 2005, was held in Strasbourg in March.

The ODIHR and the Venice Commission established a formal framework to review election-related legislation. Furthermore, the ODIHR maintained close working relations with several of the CoE's directorates-general on counter-terrorism, human rights, gender equality and legal affairs.

The ODIHR and the CoE established an informal framework for the exchange of information and the co-ordination of activities related to gender equality and women's participation in democratic processes. The ODIHR took part as an observer in the 36th meeting of the CoE Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men in November.

Concerning Roma communities, the OSCE and the CoE co-organized a roundtable in Thessaloniki, Greece, in November.

The ODIHR and the CoE co-operated on the Country Profiles on Counter-Terrorism Capacity drawn up under the aegis of the CoE and the ODIHR's Legislationline database.

The CoE and the OSCE participated in a number of co-operative events and aimed to support each other's standards and commitments in the field of trafficking in human beings, with a particular focus on the rights of victims. The Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit participated in two CoE seminars in September and December, while the CoE contributed to the Alliance's *High-Level*

*Conference on Child Trafficking and Law Enforcement* in March, as well as to the OSCE's *Conference on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation* in November, both in Vienna.

Various meetings took place between the OSCE/ODIHR and the CoE's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, with the participation of the EU's Observatory of Racist and Xenophobic Phenomena and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The OSCE also contributed to the CoE's White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue.

The OSCE High Commissioner continued his co-operation with the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities of the CoE, the Advisory Committee on the *Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities* and the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights. The CoE Secretariat and the High Commissioner plan a joint publication in 2007 on minority rights standards. The High Commissioner maintained co-operation with the Venice Commission on issues such as non-citizens and minority rights, dual vote for persons belonging to minorities and assessment of minority-related legislation in some OSCE participating States.

## North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

In October, ahead of the OSCE *Ministerial Council* and the Riga NATO *Transformation Summit* in November, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed the North Atlantic Council at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, while NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, U.S. Marine Corps General James L. Jones, briefed the Permanent Council on aspects related to NATO's mission in Afghanistan on 14 September.

At regular OSCE-NATO staff meetings in January, April and October, representatives exchanged views on issues such as democratic governance of the security sector/defence reform, ongoing co-operation within the ENVSEC and regional issues and Mediterranean dialogue.

The Senior Adviser on Gender Issues presented the work of the OSCE on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in a seminar organized by NATO and the Dutch military in April.

## International Organization for Migration

The IOM remained an important partner for the OSCE both in the field and at the institutional level.

The IOM, the ILO and the OSCE co-organized and co-financed a workshop on the *Labour Migration Handbook* for the CIS Countries in Moscow in December.

The ODIHR and the IOM office in Moscow finalized a project on the provision of information and expert support to the state programme on regularization of migrants, and in March organized a workshop on the future implementation of the programme for the Russian Migration Agency and representatives of other relevant government agencies.

## International Committee of the Red Cross

Contacts between the OSCE and the ICRC continued at the level of headquarters with the visit of the Diplomatic Adviser of the Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit to the OSCE Secretariat in January, where he met with representatives of various departments.

## Other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives

In April, the Chairman-in-Office attended the *Heads of State Summit of the Vilnius Conference*. In May, the Secretary General represented the OSCE at the *9th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the South East European Cooperation Process* in Thessaloniki, Greece, and at the *GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) Summit of Heads of State* in Kyiv, Ukraine, at which the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM was established. In June, the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General participated in the *Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership*, convened in Bucharest, Romania. In October, the Secretary General addressed the *10th Anniversary Conference* of the Southeast Europe Co-operation Initiative, and in November the Chairmanship attended the *Annual Summit of Heads of Government of the Central European Initiative* in Tirana, Albania.

The Secretary General held bilateral meetings with the Executive Secretary of the CIS in September and December and with the Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in December. Representatives of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Action against Terrorism Unit and Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit visited the CIS and CSTO headquarters in Minsk and Moscow, respectively.

CIS, GUAM, the CSTO, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation and the *Stability Pact* took up invitations to the OSCE *Ministerial Council* in Brussels in December.

Through bilateral contacts and the sharing of best practices, the Action against Terrorism Unit co-operated with the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre, the CSTO, the Group of Eight, the International Atomic Energy Association and the International Maritime Organization.

With regard to energy security, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities established contacts with a number of organizations such as the Energy Charter Secretariat and the International Energy Agency. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities also co-operated closely with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on issues such as combating corruption and promoting investment. In December, the OSCE was admitted as an observer to the seven-member Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, at the OECD's fifth plenary meeting in Moscow.

The Gender Section exchanged information and experience with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank regarding gender issues, through the Organizational and Institutional

Gender Information Network, comprised of international organizations, specialized agencies as well as European, African and Asian regional organizations such as development banks and the CoE.

The Strategic Police Matters Unit maintained regular contact with counterparts of the *Stability Pact* initiative to fight organized crime, and attended policy level meetings. The Unit also participated in a meeting on the fight against illicit drugs, organized in the framework of the Russian Federation presidency of the Group of Eight, and maintained contact with the South East Europe Co-operation Initiative in Bucharest.

The Strategic Police Matters Unit addressed the possibility of co-operation on child pornography issues at a meeting with the Director of International Law Enforcement Affairs of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children.

The ODIHR and the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces collaborated on the development of a handbook on human rights of armed forces personnel.

## International financial institutions

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities continued to work with organizations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on issues such as money laundering, financing of terrorism, migration, business development, small- and medium-sized enterprises, good governance and human capacity building.

## Non-governmental organizations

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office attached particular importance to co-operation with NGOs. As well as hosting a meeting with NGOs in January, the Chairman-in-Office included meetings with representatives of civil society organizations during his official visits to participating States.

The OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations increasingly co-operated with NGOs throughout the year. A number of NGOs contributed to OSCE activities, and in some cases were directly involved as project partners.

In April, the International Peace Academy in co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat and with the support of the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, organized a seminar on *Building Partnerships for Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding between the UN and regional organizations*.

## Co-operation in the field

### SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

A major project, the *Sarajevo Ministerial Declaration on Refugee Returns*, was carried out with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the European Commission and four OSCE Missions: Croatia,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro. The Conflict Prevention Centre supported the EU-funded *Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS)* regional project on integrated border management strategies.

The **Presence in Albania** facilitated joint cross-border co-operation with the UN Interim Administrative Mission in Kosovo, the NATO Kosovo Force and the Kosovo Police Service. It was a major implementing partner for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' project on pre-screening asylum-seekers and migrants. It co-operated with the European Commission on electoral reform and building the capacity of civil society and NGOs.

The **Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** monitored eight war crimes cases transferred by ICTY to the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for trial. Thanks to a grant from the US Agency for International Development, the Mission began a *Legislative Strengthening Programme* with the State Parliament.

The **Mission to Croatia** increased co-operation with the UNDP through the opening of field offices in identical locations, and worked together with the UNDP on a winter aid project for refugees. It worked with the European Commission to advocate a legal framework for civil society development.

The **Mission to Montenegro** co-operated with the UNODC's money-laundering programme in assisting the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to organize a national workshop on combating money laundering and suppressing the financing of terrorism.

The **Mission to Serbia** collaborated with the ICTY on implementing organized crime legislation and completed the *Reporting on the Environment* programme with the support of UNESCO. The European Agency for Reconstruction funded the implementation of the OSCE *Action Plan for Roma Integration* and, together with the EU Customs and Fiscal Assistance Office, assisted the Mission with its border management programme. The Mission launched a joint initiative with the International Financial Corporation on introducing corporate governance to Serbian companies.

The **Mission to Kosovo** signed an agreement with the UN Department of Civil Administration on the anticipated transition from the UN-led international presence in Kosovo to a strong OSCE field presence. The Mission worked with the CoE on the protection of national minorities and human rights.

The **Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje** implemented a training course to improve the management skills of the personnel in ombudsman offices with financial support from the Swedish International Development Agency.

## EASTERN EUROPE

The **Office in Minsk** co-sponsored an IOM-hosted international conference on anti-trafficking.

The **Mission to Moldova** worked with the UNODC and UNICEF on anti-trafficking, with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the EU on issues pertaining to Transnistria and with the CoE

on local democracy, elections and human rights. It held regular contact with the ICRC regarding detention conditions in Transnistria and Moldova.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** co-operated on an *ad hoc* basis with the NATO Liaison Office in Ukraine to assist in the resettlement of discharged military personnel. With the ILO, it implemented programmes against child abuse. It worked with the European Commission to establish an electronic voter list prior to the March parliamentary elections.

## SOUTH CAUCASUS

In the South Caucasus, the Office in Baku, the Mission to Georgia and NATO co-operated and co-funded the South Caucasus *River Monitoring Project* for the Kura-Araks water basin.

The **Office in Baku** co-operated with the UNDP and UNIFEM on gender equality. It met regularly with EU representatives and continued to work closely with the CoE on freedom of assembly legislation.

The **Mission to Georgia**, together with the UNDP and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, continued to implement an infrastructure rehabilitation programme in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict funded by a €2.5 million European Commission grant. The European Commission also pledged a multi-million Euro contribution to an OSCE *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* launched in this area in 2006.

The **Office in Yerevan** worked with the UNDP, the largest UN representation in Armenia. Representatives of the European Commission Delegation to Armenia actively participated in the International Working Group on Elections in Armenia, chaired by the Office. The International Working Group on Anti-trafficking was co-chaired by the UNDP, the IOM and the Office.

The **Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference** provided assistance to the OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission, which was conducted with the help of the Global Fire Monitoring Centre, the UNEP, the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the CoE, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission.

## CENTRAL ASIA

The Conflict Prevention Centre co-operated with UNODC on border security and management in Central Asia, with the aim of having an operational impact on the flow of Afghan-sourced narcotics. It also worked in close co-ordination with the EU *Border Management and Drug Action Programme*.

The **Centre in Almaty** and NATO jointly supported environmental activities. The IOM and the Centre regularly exchanged information. The Centre co-operated with the World Bank and financed activities on water management with the Asian Development Bank.

The **Centre in Ashgabad** undertook joint programmes with the EU's *TACIS Programme*.

The **Centre in Bishkek** held a training course for future OSCE field operations' workers with a trainer from the UNDP Tajikistan Mine Action Centre. It co-operated with the Venice Commission in the area of constitutional reform.

The **Centre in Dushanbe** co-operated with the UNDP, the UN Tajikistan Office of Peace-Building, the UNEP and NATO. It continued to fund the OSCE-IOM Information Resource Centre for

Labour Migrants in Dushanbe. It also worked closely with the ICRC to form the Penitentiary Reform Working Group.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** collaborated with several EU projects, including a handbook for the legislative chamber and a parliamentary resource centre. It developed a gender equality project in co-operation with the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the Swiss Embassy.

## Interaction with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with Organizations and Institutions outside the OSCE Area

**The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation are:** Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

The Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2006 was held by Spain.

**The Asian Partners for Co-operation are:** Afghanistan, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

The Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group in 2006 was held by Slovenia.

### Relations with the Partners for Co-operation

#### REPORT OF THE OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP

The Belgian Chairmanship worked steadily to increase the level of involvement of the Partners for Co-operation in the mainstream of OSCE activities, promoting mutual dialogue and the Partners' active participation in relevant OSCE bodies and forums. This was achieved by inviting the Partners for Co-operation to participate in most meetings of the Permanent Council. Upon invitation of the rotating Chairpersons of the Forum for Security Co-operation, they also participated in the Forum's meetings. In addition, the Partners were invited to all major OSCE regular and *ad hoc* conferences and seminars. The Chairman of the Permanent Council, for his part, participated in all meetings of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups in order to inform the Partners for Co-operation of relevant developments in the OSCE. Representatives of the Chairmanship took an active part in the *2006 OSCE-Thailand Conference on Challenges to Global Security: From Poverty to Pandemics* and in the annual *OSCE Mediterranean Seminar*.

In order to give further impetus and more concrete substance to the OSCE's dialogue with the Partners for Co-operation, the Belgian Chairmanship, with the support of the Slovenian and Spanish Chairmanships of the respective Contact Groups, took

resolute steps to promote the establishment of a Partnership Fund. While consensus on this issue could not be reached in 2006, the debate highlighted the importance that both Mediterranean and Asian Partners attach to establishing a tool to further their co-operation with the OSCE.

The Chairmanship paid special attention to issues of tolerance and non-discrimination. It convened two informal meetings in the wake of the controversy regarding the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in the media: on promoting mutual respect and freedom of expression in the OSCE and on values related to free media. The valuable contributions made by the Partners for Co-operation to both meetings were duly taken into account in the preparation of two food-for-thought papers by the Chairmanship in February and March.

A number of events in 2006 concerned Afghanistan, an Asian Partner for Co-operation that shares borders with three Central Asian participating States. On 30 and 31 March, the Chairman-in-Office visited Kabul, where he met with President Hamid Karzai. His visit followed an address by Habibullah Qaderi, Afghan Minister of Counter Narcotics, to the OSCE Permanent Council on 14 March. On 14 September, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, General James L. Jones, was invited to brief the Permanent Council on aspects related to NATO's mission in Afghanistan.

Upon invitation of the Japanese organizers, the Belgian Chairmanship sent a representative to deliver a statement on behalf of the Organization to the seminar *Community Building in the Multi-ethnic Societies of the Western Balkans*, which took place on 22 March in Tokyo.

On the eve of the Brussels Ministerial Council, Pierre Chevalier, Special Envoy for the 2006 OSCE Belgian Chairmanship, chaired the traditional meetings between the OSCE Ministerial Troika, the Secretary General and the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Heads of Delegations of the Partners for Co-operation. Both meetings concentrated on a

review of the work conducted in the course of the year and on prospects for increased co-operation in the future, resulting in important suggestions for further strengthening the dialogue between the Partners and the OSCE.

### REPORT OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

In 2006, the OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners for Co-operation jointly exerted considerable efforts to give new impetus to their relations. As Chair of the Asian Contact Group, Slovenia focused on issues of common concern, while ensuring that the discussion was well targeted.

**Work of the Asian Contact Group.** Under the Slovenian Chairmanship, the Contact Group held five meetings during the year, concentrating on issues of common concern in the three dimensions. The Group's discussions focused on questions of human security, economic and environmental matters, anti-terrorism and border security and management.

**OSCE-Thailand Conference.** The key event of the year was the *2006 OSCE-Thailand Conference on Challenges to Global Security: From Poverty to Pandemics*. The conference was the second such gathering in Bangkok, a testimony to Thailand's active role as an Asian Partner. In its dual capacity as Chair of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and of the Human Security Network, Slovenia was prepared to bring human security themes into the discussion with the Asian Partners.

The conference highlighted that poverty and pandemics are two classic cases of comprehensive security threats, involving all three OSCE security dimensions and requiring a systematic and multi-disciplinary approach. Participants in the conference also noted that, although the OSCE is neither a development nor a health organization, it could contribute significantly to reducing the security risks posed by poverty and pandemics based on its own distinctive approach.

Dimitrij Rupel, Foreign Minister of Slovenia, noted in his opening address that the threat of pandemics is real and tangible and that the solution lies in systematic and concerted action. He further highlighted economic development and co-operation as the main elements for solving the problem of poverty. While globalized markets offer opportunities to the business sector, it is the role of the countries and regional and international organizations to limit and remove obstacles to these endeavours.

**Side Event with the Asian Partners at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.** For the first time, the Asian Partners initiated a Side Event on human security on the margins of the annual *Warsaw Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* in October. The event aimed to deepen knowledge about human security within the OSCE. Suggestions were made by participants for the formulation and implementation of appropriate projects for the promotion of human security by the OSCE participating and Partner States.

**The OSCE confidence- and security-building measures regime.** To illustrate the concrete working of the OSCE's regime

of confidence- and security-building measures under the *Vienna Document 1999*, Slovenia organized a visit by the Asian Partners to the First Brigade of the Slovenian Army and to the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of Slovenia in October. A simulation of an inspection under the *Vienna Document 1999* was conducted by participants. On the same occasion, the Asian Partners also visited the headquarters of the International Trust Fund for Demining, where they received an in-depth briefing of activities under the aegis of the Fund. The visit allowed the Asian Partners to further deepen their understanding of the OSCE commitments in the politico-military dimension.

### REPORT OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

**General outlook.** A year that began focused on migration, following the success of the 2005 Mediterranean Seminar in Rabat, became a year that spotlighted instead the importance of tolerance and integration, following the controversy regarding the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in the media. Under the leadership of the Spanish Chairmanship, the Group also considered ways to bring order and structure to its work, envisaging a road map to enhance continuity and coherence. At the same time, due attention was paid to politico-military and economic and environmental matters.

The Spanish Chairmanship of the Contact Group made a systematic effort to keep the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation regularly informed on the various activities of the Organization, including by providing increased access to relevant OSCE documents where possible. Furthermore, attempts to involve the Mediterranean Partners in the work of the OSCE were increased.

**Work of the Mediterranean Contact Group.** In 2006, the Mediterranean Contact Group met nine times, as in previous years, covering all three dimensions of security. Preparatory meetings of the Contact Points preceded these meetings. Guest speakers at the Contact Group meetings included: the President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; the Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs; the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, who made a presentation on the outcome of the *Prague Economic Forum*; the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media; the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, who made a presentation on the *Budapest Process* and the OSCE *Border Security and Management Concept*; the Director of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development; the Special Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office for Tolerance and non Discrimination (twice, in view of the Mediterranean Partners' interest in these issues); a representative of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation; the Forum's Co-ordinators for small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition; and a Council of Europe expert on inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue. The last meeting also included a report by the Chairman on the work of the Contact Group and a presentation by the incoming Finnish Chairman for 2007.

**Seminar on multilateral diplomacy.** From 6 to 8 March, Spain, in co-operation with the United States Institute of Peace and the

Secretariat, organized a Seminar on Advanced Negotiating Skills and multilateral diplomacy at the Madrid Diplomatic School. The seminar focused on multilateral negotiations in the context of the OSCE, increasing participants' awareness of the work of the Organization and its specific role in promoting European security, with particular focus on conflict prevention and early warning.

**Side event at the Economic Forum.** On the margins of the Prague *Economic Forum*, Spain organized a side event with the Mediterranean Partners on 23 May, with keynote addresses by an expert from the Spanish Ministry of Transportation and the head of the European Commission's delegation to the OSCE. The event focused on the role of transport in regional integration and trans-Mediterranean co-operation. Regrettably, not all the Mediterranean Partners were represented. With the exception of one delegation, there was also little interest shown in participating in a seminar on the verification of agreements in the politico-military field that the Spanish Ministry of Defence would have organized in Madrid and Toledo on 21 and 22 November.

**OSCE Mediterranean Seminar.** The main event in 2006 was the annual *Mediterranean Seminar* on 6 and 7 November, hosted for a fourth time by Egypt in Sharm el Sheik. This year's seminar, *The OSCE Mediterranean Partnership: from Recommendation to Implementation*, focused on three main topics: the economic and human dimensions of migration; the role of the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination; and ways and means to improve the Mediterranean dialogue.

Discussion in the first session emphasized the necessity to combat illegal migration, while acknowledging that legal migration is of substantial benefit to both countries of origin and of destination. A proposal was made to translate the OSCE-International Organization for Migration-International Labour Organization *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination* into Arabic, for which Spain has committed the funds. A further proposal was made to elaborate a code of conduct on migration.

In the second session, participants agreed that much could be accomplished within the OSCE framework through education, the media, legal assistance and the extension of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' *Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme*. Furthermore, many noted the necessity of involving civil society to implement and disseminate the OSCE's human dimension commitments. In this respect, it is regrettable that a proposal by the host country to hold a side event with Mediterranean NGOs could not be realized due to logistical and financial problems.

As to the future of the Mediterranean dialogue, many agreed that the initial phase of increasing Mediterranean Partners' awareness of the OSCE was nearing completion and that it was time to move from recommendations to implementation. In this respect, several proposals were made for a more concrete dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners in the future.

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretariat continued in 2006 to provide support and advice to the Troika with regard to strengthening relations with both the

Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation. This included co-organizing the *OSCE-Thailand Conference* in April and the *Mediterranean Seminar* in November.

The Secretary General made a number of visits to Partner States for consultations on further strengthening relations with the OSCE.

In January, he travelled to Tokyo upon the Government of Japan's invitation, where he consulted with high-level officials from the Foreign Ministry and from the Defence Agency. He briefed officials on the OSCE's range of activities and latest developments and exchanged ideas on how to strengthen co-operation between Japan and the OSCE. The Secretary General also held a public lecture on the OSCE, aimed at increasing awareness of the Organization in the Japanese academic world and the media.

The Egyptian Government invited the Secretary General to visit Cairo in March, where he met with Foreign Minister Ahmed Ali Abu El Gheit and other Ministry officials. The visit focused on the issue of tolerance and non-discrimination, following the controversy regarding the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in the media, as well as on strengthening relations between Egypt and the OSCE. On this occasion, the Secretary General also met with representatives of the Egyptian Commission for Human Rights and the Council for Foreign Relations.

In April, on the margins of the *OSCE-Thailand Conference*, the Secretary General met with Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon, to discuss ways to follow up on the conference and future co-operation between Thailand and the OSCE. On that occasion, Minister Suphamongkhon reiterated his country's commitment to maintaining an active relationship with the Organization, in particular to promoting strengthened relations with the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Upon invitation by Mongolia's Foreign Affairs Minister Naymaa Enkhbold, the Secretary General visited Ulaanbaatar in October. This was the first visit by an OSCE Secretary General to Mongolia, and it took place in the year in which the country celebrated the 800th anniversary of its statehood. The Secretary General held meetings with the President of Mongolia, the Speaker of the Parliament, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs. They expressed Mongolia's strong interest in and commitment to further building upon its partnership and co-operation with the OSCE. Mongolian leaders reiterated their country's interest in hosting a future annual OSCE conference in Asia.

The Secretary General also received visits from a number of officials from Mongolia and the Republic of Korea, including the Minister of Justice of Mongolia and high-level representatives of the Unification Ministry and of the Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea. These meetings provided the opportunity to further increase awareness of the OSCE's activities, while at the same time reflecting on possible future joint initiatives. Furthermore, the Secretary General received substantive input from some Partner States for the elaboration of the OSCE's contribution to the United Nation's *Alliance of Civilizations* initiative, as mandated by the Ljubljana Ministerial Council.

Special attention was also paid at the expert level to relations with the Partners for Co-operation. On 24 October, the Secretariat and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime co-organized a Joint Expert Workshop on combating the threat of illicit drugs, which focused on, among other issues, the trafficking of drugs originating in Afghanistan.

Partners for Co-operation were also involved in some activities organized by OSCE field operations. On 14 July, a Tajik-Afghan meeting on ecological co-operation took place, initiated by the Environment and Security Initiative partners – the OSCE, the UN Development Programme and the UN Environment Programme – and the Tajik State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry. A programme of joint actions on environmental protection by Afghanistan and Tajikistan was designed during the meeting. Abduvohit Karimov, Chairman of the Tajik State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry and Mustapha Zaher, Director General of the Afghan National Agency for Environmental Protection, discussed environmental problems threatening the ecological security of both States and elaborated actions to counter these threats and ensure stability by co-operative sustainable management of natural resources and co-operation on environmental issues. On 2 October, Mongolian police experts participated in an international symposium on best practices and lessons learned from community policing, organized by the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Centre in Bishkek.

## Interaction with Organizations Outside of the OSCE Area

Dialogue with organizations outside of the OSCE region in 2006 was marked by a number of high-level visits and cross-representation at events.

Following the Brussels Ministerial Council, Pierre Chevalier, Special Envoy of the Belgian Chairmanship, visited the Secretariat of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, to discuss possible ways of strengthening relations with the OSCE. Discussions with him focused on the recent activities of both organizations in Central Asia and their initiatives to counter terrorism.

On the margins of his visit to Egypt in March, the Secretary General met Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States. The two sides noted the need to strengthen mutual relations. The meeting with Secretary General Moussa was followed by a discussion at the working level, in which potential areas for increased co-operation were identified.

On 25 March, the Secretary General visited the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, upon the invitation of Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu. During the visit, the two sides stressed the need to increase co-operation in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination and fighting Islamophobia. Referring to the ten-year *Programme of Action* adopted by the last Islamic Conference Summit in Makkah, the Conference's Secretary General expressed strong interest in the OSCE's experience in election observation, conflict prevention and resolution and good governance.

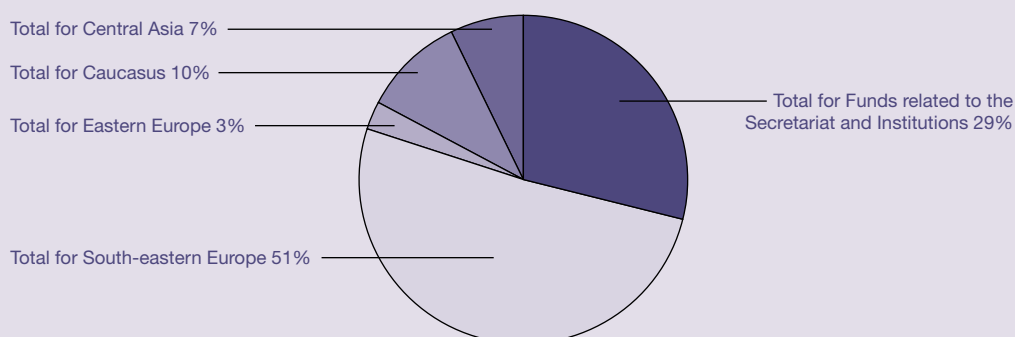
In June, the Secretary General attended the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Baku, Azerbaijan, and submitted a written contribution. He also held a bilateral meeting with Secretary General Ihsanoglu.

A number of OSCE experts participated, upon invitation, in relevant events organized in the course of the year by regional organizations outside of the OSCE area.

In the course of the year, representatives of organizations from outside the OSCE area were regularly invited to participate in key OSCE events, such as the *Ministerial Council*, the *OSCE-Thailand Conference*, the *OSCE Mediterranean Seminar* and other relevant events, in particular in the area of combating terrorism. A number of organizations outside the OSCE region, such as the African Union, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated in a seminar on *Building partnerships for crisis prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding between the United Nations and regional organizations*, which was organized by the International Peace Academy in co-operation with the OSCE in Vienna on 4 and 5 April.

# 2006 Revised Unified Budget

Fund	Revised Budget PC.DEC 786	% of Total
<b>I. FUNDS RELATED TO THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS</b>		
The Secretariat	29.589.600	18,19%
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)	13.303.600	8,18%
High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)	2.766.700	1,70%
Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM)	1.133.800	0,70%
Total for funds related to the Secretariat and Institutions	46.793.700	28,76%
<b>II. FUNDS RELATED TO OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS</b>		
<b>South-Eastern Europe</b>		
Mission in Kosovo	32.954.700	20,25%
Tasks in Bosnia and Herzegovina	18.077.000	11,11%
Mission to Croatia	8.359.700	5,14%
Mission to Serbia	8.585.000	5,28%
Presence in Albania	3.800.000	2,34%
Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje	10.386.200	6,38%
Mission to Montenegro	917.300	0,56%
Total for South-Eastern Europe	83.079.900	51,06%
<b>Eastern Europe</b>		
Mission to Moldova	1.622.500	1,00%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	2.323.600	1,43%
Office in Minsk	874.200	0,54%
Representative to the Estonian Commission on Military Pensioners	101.600	0,06%
Representative to the Latvian-Russian JC on Military Pensioners	8.200	0,01%
Total for Eastern Europe	4.930.100	3,03%
<b>Caucasus</b>		
Mission to Georgia	11.690.600	7,18%
Office in Yerevan	1.599.200	0,98%
Office in Baku	1.733.000	1,07%
High Level Planning Group	146.100	0,09%
The Minsk Process	499.700	0,31%
Personal Representative of the CiO on the Conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference	986.900	0,61%
Total for Caucasus	16.655.500	10,24%
<b>Central Asia</b>		
Centre in Almaty	1.936.100	1,19%
Centre in Ashgabad	1.211.600	0,74%
Centre in Bishkek	3.153.200	1,94%
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	1.015.300	0,62%
Centre in Dushanbe	3.936.700	2,42%
Total for Central Asia	11.252.900	6,92%
Total for Funds Related to OSCE Field Operations	115.918.400	71,24%
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>162.712.100</b>	<b>100,00%</b>







# Contact Information

Press and Public Information Section

OSCE Secretariat

Kärntner Ring 5-7

A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Tel.: +43 1 514 36 180

Fax: +43 1 514 36 105

info@osce.org

www.osce.org

## OSCE INSTITUTIONS

Parliamentary Assembly

Raadhusstraede 1

1466 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Tel.: +45 33 37 80 40; Fax: +45 33 37 80 30

E-mail: osce@oscepa.dk

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

19 Aleje Ujazdowskie

00-557 Warsaw, Poland

Tel.: +48 22 520 06 00; Fax: +48 22 520 06 05

E-mail: office@odhr.pl

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Prinsessegracht 22

2514 AP The Hague, The Netherlands

Tel.: +31 70 312 55 00; Fax: +31 70 363 59 10

E-mail: hcnm@hcnm.org

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Kaerntner Ring 5-7

A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Tel.: +43 1 512 21 45-0

Fax: +43 1 512 21 45-9

E-mail: pm-fom@osce.org

## OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS

### SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

OSCE Presence in Albania

Sheraton Tirana Hotel & Towers 1st Floor

Tirana, Albania

Tel.: +355 4 235 993; Fax: +355 4 235 994

E-mail: Post.Albania@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fra Andjela Zvizdovica 1

71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel.: +387 33 752 100; Fax: +387 33 442 479

E-mail: info.ba@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Croatia

Florijana Andraseca 14

10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Tel.: +385 1 309 66 20

Fax: +385 1 309 66 21

E-mail: osce-croatia@osce.org

OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Beogradska 32

38000 Pristina, Kosovo, Serbia

Tel.: +381 38 240 100; Fax: +381 38 240 711

E-mail: press.omik@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Serbia

Cakorska 1, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Tel.: +381 11 367 24 25

Fax: +381 11 360 61 19

E-mail: ppiu-serbia@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Montenegro

Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinjskog 147

81000 Podgorica, Montenegro

Telephone: +381 81 406401

Fax: +381 81 406431

E-mail: omim@osce.org

OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

QBE Makedonija Building, 11 Oktomvri Str. 25 MK-1000, Skopje

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Tel.: +389 2 3234 000; Fax: +389 2 3234 234

E-mail: info-mk@osce.org

### EASTERN EUROPE

OSCE Office in Minsk

Prospekt Gasety Pravda 11

220116 Minsk, Belarus

Tel.: +375 17 272 34 97

Fax: +375 17 272 34 98

E-mail: office-by@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Moldova

Str Mitropolit Dosoftei 180

2012 Chisinau, Moldova

Tel.: +373-22-887809; Fax: +373 22 22 34 96

E-mail: Moldova@osce.org

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

16 Striletska St., 01034 Kyiv, Ukraine

Tel.: +380 44 492 03 82

Fax: +380 44 492 03 84

E-mail: osce-ukraine@osce.org

OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian

Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

Mahlerstrasse 12/5/651

A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Tel.: +43 1 514 36 207; Fax: +43 1 514 36 22

E-mail: helmut.napiontek@osce.org

### CAUCASUS

OSCE Office in Baku

4, M. Magomayev Lane, 2nd floor

Icheri Sheher

Baku AZ1004, Azerbaijan

Tel.: +994 12 497 23 73

Fax: +994 12 497 23 77

E-mail: office-az@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Georgia

Krtsanisi Governmental Residence

Krtsanisi St.

0114 Tbilisi Georgia

Tel.: +995 32 202 303; Fax: +995 32 202 304

E-mail: po-ge@osce.org

The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

4 Freedom Square, GMT Plaza, 1st Floor

0105 Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel.: +995 32 99 87 32; Fax: +995 32 98 85 66

E-mail: prcio@osce.org

OSCE Office in Yerevan

89 Teryan St., Yerevan 0009, Armenia

Tel.: +374 10 54 10 62, 63, 64

Fax: +374 10 54 10 61

E-mail: yerevan-am@osce.org

### CENTRAL ASIA

OSCE Centre in Almaty

67 Tole Bi Street, 2nd Floor

480091 Almaty, Kazakhstan

Tel.: +7 3272 79 37 62; Fax: +7 3272 79 43 88

E-mail: almaty-kz@osce.org

OSCE Centre in Ashgabad

Turkmenbashi, Shayoly 15

744005 Ashgabad, Turkmenistan

Tel.: +993 12 35 30 92; Fax: +993 12 35 30 41

E-mail: info\_tm@osce.org

OSCE Centre in Bishkek

139 St. Toktogula

720001 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Tel.: +996 312 66 50 15

Fax: +996 312 66 31 69

E-mail: pm-kg@osce.org

OSCE Centre in Dushanbe

12, Zikrullo Khojaev Str.

734017 Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Tel.: +992 372 24 58 79, +992 372 24 33 38

Fax: +992 372 24 91 59

E-mail: cid-tj@osce.org

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Afrosiyob Street 12 b, 4th Floor

700015 Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan

Tel.: +998 71 120 44 70

Fax: +998 71 120 61 25

E-mail: osce-cit@osce.org

## Acronyms

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATU	Action against Terrorism Unit
CEC	Central Election Commission
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFE Treaty	Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CPC	Conflict Prevention Centre
CSCE	Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization
EC	European Commission
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
EU	European Union
EUROPOL	European Police Office
FSC	Forum for Security Co-operation
GUAM	Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRMA	Integrated Resource Management System
JCC	Joint Control Commission
JPKF	Joint Peacekeeping Forces
KFOR	NATO-led Kosovo Force
MANPADS	Man-portable Air Defence Systems
MP	Member of Parliament
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	non-governmental organization
OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PA	Parliamentary Assembly
PACE	Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly
PISG	Kosovo's Provisional Institutions of Self-Government
SALW	small arms and light weapons
SMEs	small- and medium-sized enterprises
TACIS	Technical Assistance to the CIS, a programme sponsored by the European Union
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNIFEM	UN Development Fund for Women
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime



■ The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe works for **stability, prosperity and democracy** in 56 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.

□ Press and Public  
Information Section  
Office of the Secretary General  
OSCE Secretariat  
Kaerntner Ring 5-7, 4th floor  
1010 Vienna, Austria  
  
Tel: +43-1 514 36 180  
Fax: +43-1 514 36 105  
email: [info@osce.org](mailto:info@osce.org)  
[www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org)