



Activity Report

June 2007 – May 2008

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE
Economic and Environmental Activities



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1. Introduction by the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities



Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

Dear Readers,

Working successively under the Spanish and Finnish Chairmanships, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEAA) has pursued over the past 12 months its mandate of promoting a more effective co-operation between OSCE participating States to counteract threats and challenges to security and stability caused by economic and environmental factors.

To define priorities under this overarching objective, my Office elaborated Action Plans for 2007 and 2008 (SEC.GAL25/07 and SEC.GAL37/08), which helped us focus on those issues where our added value could be the most significant.

Under the Spanish Chairmanship in 2007, the environmental aspects of security received special attention. This was reflected in the theme selected for the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum, namely, "Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: land degradation, soil contamination and water management". The focus on environmental concerns also resulted in the adoption of two documents at the Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid in November: the Declaration on Environment and Security and the Decision on Water Management. The Ministerial Council meeting and the Economic and Environmental Forum held in Prague in May 2007 represented the Organization's first carbon-neutral events. In November 2007, participating States also adopted the Permanent Council Decision on the Development of an Internal Environmental Policy for the Operation of OSCE Executive Structures, which was an important accomplishment to mitigate the OSCE's environmental impact and long-term costs.

Among other awareness-raising events in the environmental sphere, we organized an Intensive Course in Environmental

Diplomacy for delegates of the Economic and Environmental Committee in co-operation with the University of Geneva, a study trip for OSCE delegations to the European Centre for Renewable Energy in Gussing, Austria, a screening of Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* in Vienna, as well as an OSCE photo contest with the theme Land and water, protecting our fragile environment, in which more than 1,000 photographs competed.

My Office continued and expanded its participation in the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative. The Initiative, which is run in close co-operation with other international partners, has a portfolio of more than 50 projects and an overall budget of \$11.3 million. In line with the objective of highlighting the impact of environmental issues on security, ENVSEC partners began new assessment activities with national partners in Eastern Europe, as well as in the Amu Darya and East Caspian regions.

As a follow-up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum, my Office organized in Tashkent together with the Spanish Chairmanship and the Uzbek Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources a technology transfer conference for the Central Asian states focusing on issues of water management and land degradation. My Office, in co-operation with the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, also organized a workshop to set up a regional drought management centre for Central Asian countries.

In 2007, my Office continued to work very closely with the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, in particular in the area of migration management. In close co-operation with the International Organisation for Migra-

tion and the International Labour Organization, it published the Mediterranean Edition of the Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies. The Handbook was officially launched at a regional workshop in Rabat in December 2007.

In an effort to foster regional co-operation in Central Asia and to assist rural economic development, we worked with field operations to launch a project to develop community-based tourism in Central Asia. The initiative seeks to strengthen networking and co-operation among tourist operators and border communities as well as to establish a regional association with a website to better market the region internationally.

In 2007, my Office continued its transport-related activities, following the recommendations of the 14th Economic and Environmental Forum and the Brussels Ministerial Decision on Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE. Activities were conducted in the areas of cross-border facilitation, the promotion of good governance in customs and the specific challenges of landlocked countries. In this context, the OSCE organized, together with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, a conference on the prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015, which was held in Dushanbe in October.

The Office stepped up its activities in the areas of combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism and corruption, with numerous national and regional activities in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. Among others, the Office organized a regional conference on combating money laundering and terrorist financing for the countries of South-Eastern Europe. The event, which was held in Montenegro in September 2007, attracted considerable interest from across the region. Both events were designed to inform regional decision makers

about the main international standards, the role of international organizations in fighting these challenges, as well as to promote regional co-operation and better co-ordination among national agencies such as financial, law enforcement and prosecution services.

Together with the incoming Finnish Chairmanship, the Office initiated the preparatory process for the 16th Economic and Environmental Forum. The first Preparatory Conference on Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment was held in Helsinki in September.

The first part of the 16th Economic and Environmental Forum, which took place in Vienna on 21-22 January 2008, allowed, at a more political level, a fruitful exchange of experiences and the identification of areas where the OSCE could reinforce existing co-operation processes. The second preparatory to the Forum conference took place in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan, on 6-7 March 2008, devoting particular attention to maritime co-operation in the Caspian and Mediterranean seas, environmental governance as well as the challenges faced by landlocked countries.

Throughout the last 12 months, the OCEEA has continued to provide support to the economic and environmental activities of the OSCE's field presences, the most significant of which are described in this report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those, particularly the economic and environmental officers both in the Office and in the field presences, without forgetting our generous donors, who have, in one way or another, contributed to the success of our activities in terms of promoting enhanced security and stability, economic and social well-being and human rights.

I hope the following report will provide you with a good synopsis of what we have been doing. For more information and the latest updates on our work, please visit www.osce.org/eea.



Bernard Snoy

2. Current Issues and Recent Developments in the Economic and Environmental Dimension

The work of the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension (EED) continued to advance through the interaction and joint efforts of its main pillars: the Economic and Environmental Committee (EEC), the Economic and Environmental Forum (EEF) process, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and the Economic and Environmental Officers (EEOs) from the OSCE field operations.

2.1 Political dialogue on topical Economical and Environmental issues

The EEC continued to be a valuable tool for ensuring continuity and consistency in the EED activities by providing a framework for political dialogue among the 56 participating States, for regular reporting on the work done, for prioritizing future activities and for identifying potential threats to security and stability.

According to its mandate, the OCEEA continued to provide working support to the activity of the EEC and its Chairpersons. The OCEEA also presented regular reports on its own activities. Activity reports included references and updated information about ongoing activities in various areas, including OSCE activities in the field, OCEEA staff participation in relevant international meetings and co-operation with other international organizations.

Ensuring an adequate follow-up to the 15th EEF under the Spanish Chairmanship, which focused on "Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: land degradation, soil contamination and water management", was a continuous theme of both the OCEEA and the EEC over the reporting period. The discussions in the EEC helped identify the most appropriate follow-up actions. Based on the input received through the EEC, the Chairmanship and the OCEEA continued to plan activities and contacts with partner organizations.

Within the EEC framework, a debriefing on the Second Part of the 15th EEF (21-23 May 2007, Prague) took place on 12 June 2007. On 16 July 2007, a detailed follow-up plan prepared by the OCEEA under the guidance of the Spanish

Chairmanship was discussed more thoroughly. The EEC was kept informed with regard to the progress in implementing various follow-up activities and their conclusions and results. For example, activities such as the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on transfer of technology concerning land and water management focusing on the region of Central Asia (Tashkent, 30-31 October 2007), or the OSCE Chairmanship/NATO Workshop on water scarcity, land degradation and de-



The 15th Economic and Environmental Forum, 15 May 2007, Prague.

certification in the Mediterranean region - environment and security aspects (Valencia, Spain, 10-11 December 2007) featured on the EEC agenda.

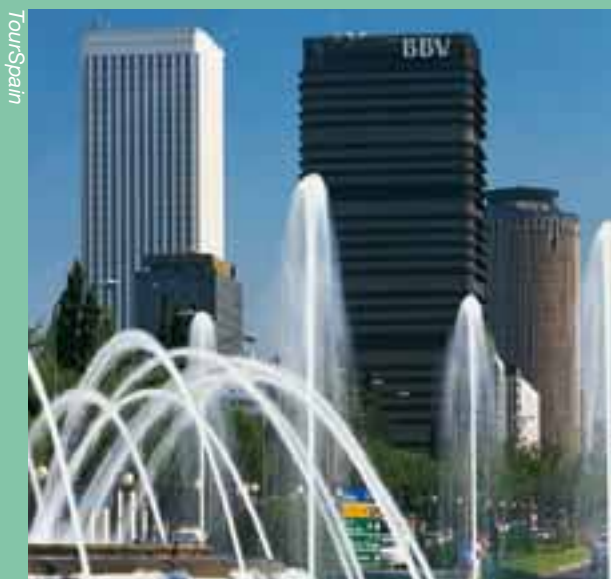
(For more details on follow-up activities to the 15th EEF, please see the Chapter on Activities in the Environmental Dimension)

In the second half of 2007, the EEC was instrumental in discussing and negotiating a number of documents that were subsequently adopted by the Madrid Ministerial Council, namely the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security (MC.DOC/4/07) and the MC Decision on Follow-up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum: Water Management (MC.DEC/7/07).

In the second half of 2007, based on a food-for-thought paper and a proposal by the OCEEA, the EEC discussed and finally submitted to the permanent Council for adoption a draft PC Decision on the development of an internal environmental policy for the operation of OSCE executive structures (PC.DEC/809 of 22 November 2007).

■ Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security

The OCEEA assisted the Spanish OSCE Chairmanship during the negotiations leading to the Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security (MC.DOC/4/07), a document that reflects the consensus achieved in the Organization in recognizing the importance of good environmental governance for the OSCE participating States and declares that “Environmental degradation, including both natural and man-made disasters and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be a potential additional contributor to conflict” adding that “Climate change may magnify these environmental challenges”. Furthermore, the 56 participating States recognize that “Environmental co-operation and the promotion of early warning could be useful tools in diminishing tensions as part of a broader effort to prevent conflict, build mutual confidence and promote good neighbourly relations”.



The Azca complex can be found in the centre of Madrid's business district.

It also has to be noted that, while not having been negotiated in the EEC framework, a number of other Madrid Decisions may have future implications for EED activities, due to their cross-dimensional nature: the MC Decision on protect-

ing critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attack (MC.DEC/6/07) or the MC Decision on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan (MC.DEC/4/07).

■ The MC Decision on Follow-up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum: Water Management

Bearing in mind the importance of appropriate follow-up to Economic and Environmental Fora, as well as relevant OSCE documents, the existing co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations and the previous OSCE experiences with regard to integrated river basin management, the Ministerial Council Decision (MC.DEC/7/07) stipulates that the OSCE might make contributions in the field of water management by, inter alia: providing a framework for dialogue; contributing to relevant international events related to water management (i.e. the Expo Zaragoza 2008, the Fifth World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009, etc.); promoting dissemination of best practices; paying attention to transboundary issues; promoting good public and corporate governance as well as a better civil society and business community participation in the area of water management.

In this context, the Ministerial Council, inter alia, decided to:

- Endeavour to enhance the existing co-operation between the OSCE and the UNECE, as well as the existing co-operation with other relevant international organizations on water management related matters;
- Encourage participating States to strengthen dialogue and co-operation on water management within the OSCE;
- Task the OSCE structures to support the participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments;
- Encourage participating States to consider the ratification of existing international environmental legal instruments related to water management and relevant to the OSCE region and support their full implementation by the participating States that are parties to them.

The EEC was instrumental in the adoption, on 21 June 2007, of the Permanent Council Decision (PC.DEC/798) on the theme, format and organizational modalities of the 16th EEF under the Finnish Chairmanship. According to this decision, the Forum would focus on “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment”. Two meetings of the Forum were

scheduled to take place on 28-29 January 2008 in Vienna and on 19-21 May 2008 in Prague. Following this decision, the Finnish Chairmanship and the OCEEA engaged in the preparatory process. The EEC continued to play an important part in the 16th EEF process, with this subject being discussed at virtually every EEC meeting.

■ Given the cross-dimensional nature of many OSCE areas of involvement, on 15 April 2008, at the initiative of the Finnish Chairmanship, a joint meeting of the Economic and Environmental Committee and the Security Committee was convened for the first time.

The agenda included issues such as: the implementation of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept (MC Decision No. 2/05); economic and environmental aspects of border management, including a debriefing on the Round Table on Border Crossing Facilitation and Good Governance in Customs, which was held in Kyiv in December 2007; the follow-up to the MC Decision No. 4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan: cross-dimensional aspects; the OCEEA proposal regarding the development of a Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings.

Staff members from both the OCEEA and the Border Unit within the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC/BU) as well as a representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) addressed the joint meeting.

Other areas of focus of the EEC over the reporting period included:

- The preparations and the results of the OSCE Conference on prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015 (Dushanbe, 23-24 October 2007), a direct follow-up to the recommendations of the 14th Economic and Environmental Forum in 2006 and a task set by the Brussels Ministerial Council Decision on future transport dialogue in the OSCE (MC.DEC/11/06);
- The ongoing and planned activities related to labour migration (EEC meeting on 13 March 2008), developed after the 13th Economic and Environmental Forum in 2005 and the Ljubljana Ministerial Council decision on migration (MC.DEC/2/05);
- A number of awareness-raising activities concerning the link between security and the environment, initiated by the OCEEA or the Chairmanship, such as: a debriefing on the study trip of the EEC to the European Centre of

Renewable Energy in the city of Güssing in Burgenland, Austria, on the occasion of the International Environment Day on 5 June 2007 (EEC meeting on 12 June 2007); a presentation of a Short Intensive Course in Environmental Diplomacy (EEC meeting on 16 July 2007);

- A debriefing on a Technical Workshop on “Oil spills response and remediation: status of regional co-operation in the Caspian Sea, available technologies and exchange of best practices from the OSCE region” (Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, 10-11 March 2008), an activity initiated during the 15th EEF process, but also having obvious links with the theme of the 16th EEF (EEC meeting on 15 April 2008).



On the road from Lake Sevan to Yerevan, Armenia's capital city.

According to the established tradition, the last meeting of the EEC in 2007, on 14 December, was used to assess the results of the Ministerial Council and their implications for the EED as well as to review, discuss and evaluate the work of the past year and make suggestions for future improvements. At the first EEC meeting in 2008, on 15 January, Finland, the new Chairmanship, presented its priorities and introduced the plan of work for 2008. On 12 February 2008, the Co-ordinator presented to the EEC the OCEEA Action Plan for 2008 and received useful feed-back.

2.2 Enhancing synergies between Vienna and the OSCE field presences

As co-operation and co-ordination between the headquarters and the field are crucial for the effectiveness of EED activities, the OCEEA continued to strive to maintain a regular dialogue and information exchanges with the OSCE field presences over the reporting period.

As part of this effort, the annual Co-ordination Meeting with the EEOs took place on 12-13 September 2007, in Helsinki, back-to-back with the First preparatory Conference for the 16th EEF (10-11 September 2007). The meeting was organized with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the OSCE Chairmanship for 2008. It was opened by Ms. Anu Laamanen, Deputy Director General, Political Department, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and Mr. Bernard Snoy, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. The OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, also joined the meeting and addressed the EEOs.

During the Co-ordination Meeting, the EEOs had the opportunity to present their priorities. A number of new ideas and replicable projects were presented in greater details, such as:

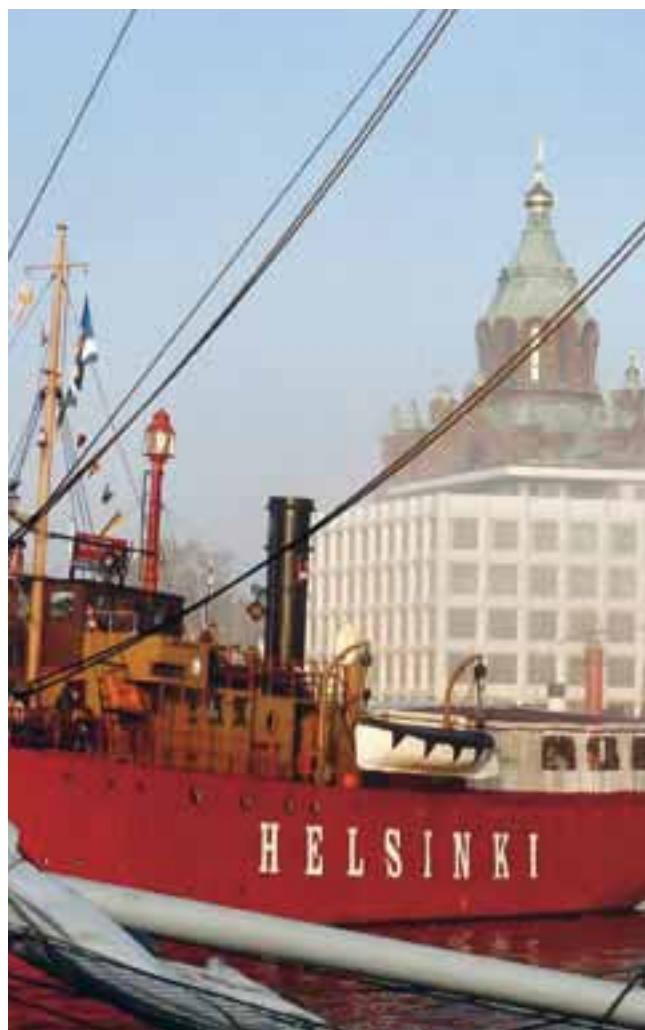
- the System of Indicators for Evaluation of State and Donor Supported SME Development Projects and a related Monitoring and Evaluation Handbook, as well as results of a first test-run project developed by the OSCE Office in Yerevan;
- the “Anti-Corruption Centres” project, developed by the OSCE Office in Baku;
- the possibility of developing further projects relating to sustainable energy, renewable energy resources and energy efficiency.

The OCEEA also presented its Action Plan for 2007-2008 and discussed it with the EEOs, with a view to improving the co-ordination between Vienna and the field and identifying areas for joint activities.

The Meeting, which also represented an opportunity for the then incoming Finnish Chairmanship to present, at an early stage, its priorities, also focused on the preparatory process for the 16th EEF - “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment”. Discussions focussed mainly on issues related to the Caspian and the Black Seas. Both maritime security as well as environmental issues (ballast water, oil spills etc.) were considered relevant for that region. The need to raise local concerns to a political level was emphasized, along

with the need for capacity-building and training for civil servants, civil society and local authorities. The ideas collected during the meeting were further utilized along the Forum’s preparatory process.

Regional working groups were focused on: Central Asia, South Caucasus, South-Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe. Three main thematic sessions were held for each regional



The Port of Helsinki, located close to the city centre, serves as a transit port for passengers heading to Sweden or Estonia.

group, covering economic issues, environmental issues and good governance (in particular anti-corruption and anti-money laundering) issues.

All in all, the Co-ordination meeting tackled a broad range of topics, including:

- follow-up activities to the 15th EEF such as the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on technology transfers (Tashkent, 30-31 October 2007), the joint OSCE/UNCCD

Technical Workshop to initiate a longer term initiative aimed at creating a regional drought/desertification monitoring/management centre in Central Asia (Tashkent, November 2007), a study visit to Spain on issues related to drought management and dam safety for experts from Eastern European countries (November 2007);

- addressing the needs of landlocked countries, transit and transport development in and through Central Asia in preparation for the Conference in Dushanbe (23-24 October 2007);
- promoting investment and activities related to the OSCE Best-Practice Guide for a Positive Business and Investment Climate and the Regional Initiative “Investment and Development in the Central Asia and Black Sea Countries”;
- the regional project “Community-based Tourism Development in the Central Asian Region”;

- remittances and labour migration, economic empowerment and anti-trafficking;
- the Aarhus Centres and related training events; and
- the ENVSEC Work Programme and assessments.

A shorter, half a day round of discussions with the EEOs was also held in Vienna, on 30 January 2008, following the First Part of the 16th EEF (28-29 January 2008).

In addition, in order to facilitate a closer dialogue between the Vienna Delegations of the OSCE participating States and the EEOs, on 30 January 2008 an EEC meeting with the participation of the EEOs was held. Two EEOs, from the OSCE Office in Baku and the OSCE Centre in Astana, presented their priorities and activities. An open debate followed, involving all the EEOs and the Delegations, focusing on EED priorities and the co-ordination between Vienna and the field presences.

3. The 16th Economic and Environmental Forum

On 21 June 2007, the Permanent Council Decision PC.DEC/798 adopted “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment” as the central theme for the 16th Economic and Environmental Forum.

Two preparatory Conferences, in Helsinki (10-11 September 2007) and in Ashgabat (6-7 March 2008), as well as the first part of the Forum in Vienna (28-29 January 2008) were organized by the OCEEA in close co-operation with the Finnish Chairmanship of the OSCE for the year 2008. They allowed experts and policy makers from OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, international and regional organizations, the business community, academia and non-governmental organizations, as well as OSCE Field Offices,

to analyze and discuss issues related to the Forum’s theme across the OSCE region. Numerous proposals for follow-up activities were put forward.



Finland holds the OSCE Chairmanship in 2008.

3.1 Helsinki Preparatory Conference

The First Preparatory Conference for the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum was held on 10-11 September 2007 in Helsinki and gathered over 180 participants.

The Helsinki Conference confirmed the relevance of the theme - “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment” – and added more information and knowledge on related issues and existing initiatives in the OSCE region. The Helsinki Conference dealt with various environmental, transport and security related topics and focused on different maritime regions, in particular the Baltic Sea, the Barents Sea and the Black Sea, as well as on regions that have inland waterways. A Concept Paper was circulated in advance to introduce the topic of the Conference (SEC.GAL/157/07).

The Helsinki Conference contributed to defining more clearly the possible role of the OSCE. At the Closing session of the Conference, following the two day discussions, the Finnish

Chairmanship for 2008 identified some preliminary conclusions of the conference:



Finnish Tourist Board

Winter conditions pose great demands on merchant ships and in turn, on maritime nature.

- The OSCE has a key role to play in mobilizing political will in participating States to address security and environmental issues in relation to maritime and inland waterways co-operation;
- As a facilitator, the OSCE can lend its support to the work done within the existing international frameworks, in particular the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). As one concrete example, the need for an early ratification and implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention was highlighted;
- The OSCE is well-placed to enhance the exchange of best practices of regional co-operation mechanisms such as the Baltic Marine Environmental Protection

Commission (the Helsinki Commission – HELCOM) and the Black Sea Commission;

- The role of the OSCE field presences was highlighted, in particular in terms of capacity-building and promotion of regional co-operation;
- The OSCE provides a platform for conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation, including in issues pertaining to waterways;
- The work done within the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) was highlighted, and the OSCE will continue to contribute to this initiative;
- The OSCE projects and capacity-building activities benefit from co-operation with international organizations and financial institutions; the EU Central Asian Strategy opens perspectives for support;
- The OSCE contributes to the multi-stakeholder dialogue among various actors, including the business community, the civil society and the academia.

Belgian Foreign Ministry/Philip Vanourtrive



Water transport is very important for Belgium both due to its strategic North-sea access, and to its inland waterways such as the one in the photo.

The OCEEA circulated the Consolidated Summary of the Conference including all the reports and recommendations from the sessions under the reference number SEC. GAL/191/07.

3.2 Vienna Forum

Building on the results of the Helsinki Conference, the first part of the 16th Economic and Environmental Forum (Vienna, 28-29 January 2008) gave a strong political stimulus for the OSCE's involvement in the areas of maritime and inland waterways co-operation.

The Vienna Forum, which brought together over 250 participants, highlighted the complexity of security, environmental and economic issues related to maritime and inland waterways co-operation and the multiple linkages among them. The main recommendations could be grouped in the following categories:

- **Strengthening interagency co-operation**

Concerning the further development of co-operation with the IMO, a number of areas were mentioned, including combating invasive species transfer and developing oil spill response capacity. The OSCE should as well continue its co-operation with the UNECE as well as with other partners, both in the area of transport security, including trade facilitation, and in strengthening the institutional dimension of inland waterways and water management, in particular in a transboundary context.

- **Contributing to the implementation of existing legal instruments**

There are a number of international legal instruments in place, such as the IMO or the UNECE Conventions. Nevertheless, the full implementation of commitments is lagging behind. The OSCE should focus on promoting the ratification and implementation of existing conventions, regulations and standards, therefore avoiding duplication. This could be done by facilitating the dissemination of information regarding best management practices.

- **Contributing to the policy debate**

The need for an integrated approach between various conventions relevant for maritime and inland waterways co-operation, in order to find better synergies, was also highlighted. With regard to security issues, a stronger focus should be on promoting resilience and on managing risk. The OSCE could be guiding the policy debate and identifying new areas of co-operation. Workshops and training programmes could be envisaged, as well as the possibility of conducting a joint resilience analysis of an OSCE security issue.

- **Supporting regional co-operation**

The Vienna Forum also emphasized that maritime and transboundary waterways issues are most efficiently addressed by using a regional and subregional approach. The OSCE, as a political organization, could be instrumental in further

promoting and supporting subregional, regional as well as interregional co-operation. The OSCE could give a political impetus to existing co-operative arrangements and could also contribute to sharing of experience and best practices, both within as well as among various regions. In particular, the importance of preparedness and response capacity to combat oil accidents was mentioned.

- **Promoting multi-stakeholders co-operation**

The OSCE should therefore work on facilitating the participation of all stakeholders in planning processes regarding maritime and inland waterways co-operation activities, both with regard to environmental protection and to enhancing security.

- **Continuing the work on transboundary water issues**

The OSCE could facilitate technical assistance for solving transboundary water issues. Transfer of technology could be another area where the OSCE, in co-operation with partners, could help.

The Consolidated Summary of the Vienna Forum was circulated under the reference number EEF.GAL/3/08/Rev.1.

3.3 Ashgabad Preparatory Conference

The Second Preparatory Conference to the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum was held on 6-7 March 2008 in Ashgabat and gathered over 150 participants.

Maritime co-operation usually requires a multifaceted approach combining global, regional and subregional initiatives. The importance of regional co-operation, an eco-system approach and integrated coastal zone management was stressed. Effective maritime co-operation should be based on the implementation of relevant international conventions. Then, at the national level, corresponding national legislation and effective national institutions should be put in place. Capacity-building is yet another important element. Stakeholder participation was again emphasized as an important element of good governance.

With regard to the Caspian Sea region, the need for closer co-operation between the littoral States was stressed, in particular with regard to environmental matters, oil spills preparedness and response and emergency preparedness. The important role played by the Framework Convention on Protection of the Marine Environment in the Caspian Sea (Teheran Convention) as well as by the Caspian Environmental Programme was emphasized. The OSCE could act as a political platform to enhance regional co-operation and also facilitate training and capacity-building activities, using also the OSCE field offices in the region.

With regard to oil spills prevention and response, a number of elements were emphasized, such as: the importance of regional co-operation, of regional and national contingency plans developed in compliance with international obligations, the increased need for national capacity-building, and the crucial relevance of the co-operation between all stakeholders - governments, oil and shipping industries, local communities and NGOs. Research, technology and creative thinking should also be encouraged. The regional oil industry co-operation under the Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI) was yet another positive example. The OSCE, in co-operation with partners such as the IMO, the OSPRI, the Caspian Environmental Programme (CEP), could develop capacity-building programmes contributing to the protection of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea Region, in particular with regard to oil spills preparedness and response.

The OSCE should continue to support existing “Aarhus Centres” and new “Aarhus Centres” could be established



OSCE

The OSCE supports efforts to deal with regional environmental problems of the Eastern Caspian Sea and their impact on the local population.

in the Caspian Sea region to provide the public with quality ecological information, encourage civil participation, provide training and facilitate dialogue.

The OSCE should continue its work on issues related to transport and transit and in addressing the specific challenges of landlocked countries. Future regional activities should build upon existing international agreements and conventions. Future activities should in particular address facilitation issues, contribute to a more effective implementation and enhance know-how through capacity-building. Addressing corruption is yet another important area of involvement. The develop-

ment of a Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings would be a natural consolidation and extension of the OSCE engagement to-date.

It was stressed that the OSCE had a role to play in promoting the ratification and proper implementation of related international legal instruments such as the ILO/IMO Code of Practice on Security in Ports, the IMO's International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and the WCO's SAFE Framework of Standards. Raising awareness should be complemented with capacity-building activities.

With regard to river basin co-operation and water management in Central Asia, it was pointed out that the existing agreements needed an update. There is also a need for transparent information exchange. Another topical issue for the region is the regulation of the energy/water nexus and the development and improvement of water saving strategies. Water related issues would be best dealt with at the

regional level. The importance of building co-operation with Afghanistan was furthermore a priority. The OSCE could be a political platform for the region, promoting advancement of current legal agreements, holding training events to assist specialists in the region and working with NGOs.

The OCEEA circulated the Consolidated Summary of the Conference including all the reports and recommendations from the sessions under the reference number SEC. GAL/67/08/Corr.1.

All the recommendations emerging from the three above-mentioned meetings were analyzed in Vienna by the OCEEA, together with the Chairmanship as well as all participating States, in the framework of the Economic and Environmental Committee. These discussions paved the way and provided useful guidelines to the preparations for the second part of the 16th Economic and Environmental Forum, which will be held in Prague on 19-21 May 2008.

4. Good Governance

The process of economic transition is often accompanied by institutional weakness, resulting in a legal vacuum that can be easily exploited by criminal and corrupt elements. Crime and corruption in turn deter domestic and foreign investment and can favour the mismanagement of public resources. A sound business environment and good governance are essential preconditions for sustainable economic growth, enabling states to reduce poverty and inequality and to increase social integration, thereby fostering stability and security. Based on OSCE Ministerial and PC Decisions, as well as on the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, the OCEEA focuses its activities in the area of good governance on the fight against corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as on organized crime. All activities in the area of good governance take place in close co-operation with partner organizations. One of the key partners of the OSCE is the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Joint activities between the OSCE and UNODC include the promotion of the UN Convention against Corruption as well as the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The OCEEA and UNODC also co-operate closely in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism by implementing joint activities aimed at capacity-building and legislative development.

4.1 Promoting transparency and combating corruption



One of a collection of posters by students illustrating their perception of corruption.

Albania – Supporting the National Anti-corruption Strategy

The OSCE Presence in Albania supported the drafting process of the National Anti-corruption Strategy through

promoting participation and consultation with relevant stakeholders via a donor round table, as well as the organization of a conference on “Local Government Efforts in the Fight against Corruption” to promote awareness and discussion on this issue among local government units (LGUs). The latter event encouraged the adoption of local level practices and policies in line with the central strategy aimed at increasing competency of LGUs in key areas of financial management and service provision. The project was implemented in partnership with the Anti-corruption Unit of the Council of Ministers and LGUs.

Albania – Prevention of Conflict of Interest at the Local Level

The OSCE Presence in Albania supported the High Inspectorate for Disclosure of Assets and Audit (HIDAA) in its efforts to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure transparency. The Presence, in partnership with the Inspectorate, delivered training workshops on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest for 316 newly elected mayors and responsible authorities and provided literature outlining the materials that were covered during the workshops.

Albania – Supporting the Albanian Assembly’s Initiative for Membership in the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC)

In co-operation with the USAID, the OSCE supported the National Assembly in organizing a Conference on establishing a regional chapter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC). The event took place on 5-7 November 2007 in Tirana and was attended by the representatives of the parliaments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro and Romania. An executive board comprising two members of each delegation was established, while Mr. Leonard Demi, MP from Albania, was elected to head the new body. National chapters were also expected to be established by the participants upon their return home. The Albanian body was expected to draft an anti-corruption Action Plan.

Azerbaijan – Addressing Corruption at the Local Level

In support of the government’s national anti-corruption strategy and in partnership with the NGO “Transparency Azerbaijan”, the OSCE Office in Baku funded the activities of two Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres in Sheki and Quba. The Centres provide free legal counselling to individuals with corruption complaints and collect statistics used for advocacy vis-à-vis regional and central authorities on good

governance issues. Outreach training workshops in rural areas, also targeting public officials, have been particularly successful as they raise the awareness of corruption related problems in society and offer a platform for addressing individual cases.



Anti-corruption workshop in Azerbaijan.

Belarus – Seminar on “Best International Practices in Combating Corruption”

In December 2007, the OSCE Office in Minsk, in close co-operation with the OCEEA, the Ministry of Justice, the Council of Europe and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), organized a national seminar on “Best International Practices in Combating Corruption”. The event was part of the co-operation programme aimed at assisting Belarus with implementing international conventions and with participating in international co-operation networks and mechanisms. It was attended by high level national experts as well as international experts from the Council of Europe and UNODC. Discussions focused on the implementation of international conventions and on other instruments of international co-operation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Code of Ethics for Elected Officials

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina supported the country’s Parliamentary Assembly in developing a code of conduct within the framework of the mission’s Legislative Strengthening Programme (LSP). The code stipulates the standards of acceptable conduct for MPs and applicable sanctions as well as establishes a self-enforcement mechanism. The code entered the parliamentary process and is expected to be adopted within the reporting period. Once the code is approved by both Houses of Parliament, the State Parliament will become the first in South-Eastern

Europe to adopt a code of conduct for MPs. At the local level, 27 municipalities developed a code of ethics for elected officials. Although its introduction in municipalities complements legal obligations, it is a voluntary code and, as such, represents a commitment to serve citizens and a recognition of institutional integrity as a core value. In municipalities, a code of ethics has practical value in holding elected officials accountable and in sanctioning those who violate it.

■ Armenia – Student Contest

In 2007, the OSCE Office in Armenia supported two NGO partners (Millennium NGO and “The Future Is Yours”) in holding a contest of paintings and slogans on the topic of corruption and its consequences. The contest was held among high school students of the 8-11th grades. Over 200 paintings were received from schoolchildren from Yerevan and several Armenian regions. Twelve paintings and slogans were selected as winners of the contest. The winning paintings were exhibited during the award ceremony and were published in the 2008 calendar. The contest was organized in the framework of the Office’s Anti-Corruption Reception Centres Project as an awareness-raising event targeting the youth in Yerevan and in the regions.



One of the participants of the contest at the prize-giving ceremony.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Live Broadcast of Parliamentary Sessions

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented a project on broadcasting sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly live via the Internet. The project, carried out within the framework of the Legislative Strengthening Programme, will increase the transparency of the state legislature’s work

by allowing public control from within and from outside of the country. The Parliament assumed full ownership of live broadcasts and decided to progress from audio streaming, provided by the Programme, to video streaming, which it plans to fund itself.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sound Budgeting and Public Expenditure Control

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina supported 105 municipalities in developing realistic and transparent budget planning and reporting, as well as proper expenditure control within the framework of the Municipal Administration Reform Programme. Forty-nine municipalities implemented the budget module of the Programme, introducing a budget calendar, a committee to oversee the budget process, and effective financial management guided by written procedures. In the reporting period, over 400 public hearings on municipal budgets were held across Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, 44 municipalities implemented the expenditure control module of the Programme, introducing transparent, accurate and legally sound accounting procedures and clear budget documentation to ensure proper spending of public funds.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Participative Strategic Development Planning

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina supported 80 municipalities in establishing Municipal Development Planning Committees (MDPCs). The purpose of MDPCs is to undertake strategic planning in partnership with citizens, enabling citizens to influence the strategic planning process. During the reporting period, 29 municipalities established such committees as permanent municipal bodies, amending all relevant municipal acts accordingly and developing their working procedures.

Georgia – Promoting Transparency and Combating Corruption

In 2007, in order to support the efforts of promoting transparency and combating corruption, the OSCE Mission in Georgia developed a project on “Monitoring Georgia’s Implementation of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network (ACN) Recommendations”. The project was implemented by Transparency International Georgia and was focused on monitoring compliance of the Georgian authorities with 14 out of the 21 recommendations made by the OECD to the Georgian authorities. The final results of the exercise were introduced during the review meeting in Paris in September 2007. The report discussed the situation with regard to combating corruption and pointed out the areas in need of improvement. Moreover, it provided an impartial assessment of the progress made by state institutions in line with the commitments made to the international community. The report was distributed to various non-governmental organizations and made available to all interested parties.

Montenegro – Raising Awareness of the Fight against Corruption

In 2007, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro started the implementation of the project “Raising awareness of the fight against corruption in Montenegro”. The main goal of this project is to build the public relations capacity and increase the visibility of the anti-corruption programmes, activities and efforts undertaken by the Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative (DACI) of the Government of Montenegro. The project will be completed by 1 June 2008.

Kosovo/UNMIK – Promoting Transparency and Combating Corruption

In September 2007, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, in co-operation with the UNDP, started the second media campaign to foster the work of the Anti-Corruption Agency. Over the course of the year, the Mission organized trainings for the staff of the Agency and facilitated its participation in international conferences on combating corruption and promoting good governance. Furthermore, the Mission assisted in staff recruitment, supported budgetary approval and developed the Agency’s website (www.akk-ks.org). In February 2008, a court issued the first verdict on a corruption case investigated by the Agency. In March 2008, the Agency presented its first annual activities report to the Assembly of Kosovo.

4.2 Strengthening of Legislation and Promotion of International Standards

The OCEEA, in close co-operation with the UNODC Global Programme against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Corruption Network, actively promotes the implementation of one of the most important international instruments on the fight against corruption, the UN Convention against Corruption, which was adopted in December 2003 and came into force in December 2005. Over the reporting period, a number of joint activities were conducted in Central Asia, the South Caucasus and South Eastern Europe, with more activities planned in the coming year.

Armenia – Development of Sustainable Mining Practices, Renewable Energy and Sound Waste Management Practices

The OSCE Office in Yerevan, in line with the efforts to raise awareness, to strengthen institutional and human capacity and to encourage public-private partnership in addressing environmental risks with local and regional implications, organized a study tour to Austria with the aim to get acquainted with the best practices and contemporary environmental governance. This experience is required to address environmental problems with a focus on the environmentally sound rehabilitation of closed and operational mining and metallurgical industries. In co-ordination with the OCEEA

and based on the priorities set by the Armenian government, it was decided to incorporate the issues of renewable energy and waste management into the agenda and to visit the European Centre for Renewable Energy in Güssing, Austria, as well as waste management sites near Vienna. The Office is currently developing a project on a sustainable model of waste management in the Syunik province. The primary objective of the project is to develop comprehensive waste management programmes for the towns of this province.

Georgia – Strengthening Legislation and Promoting International Standards

In order to support the reform of local self-governance, the OSCE Mission in Georgia introduced two projects focusing on strengthening local governance structures in two municipalities in a region with a minority population. The project aimed at providing advice and support to municipal activities, offered trainings and built up capacity of local communities through the OSCE Good Governance Centres. The main target group included local officials and municipal staff of the two selected municipalities as well as local councillors. The overall goal of the project was achieved through improving the performance of local structures and raising capacity of municipal staff to perform duties.

Serbia – Support to Enforcement of the Environmental Protection Legislation

The OSCE Mission to Serbia focuses on assisting the host country with strategic programmes on legislation and institutional capacity-building. During 2007, the Mission provided substantial help and technical assistance in drafting the Law on Waste, the Law on Packaging Waste and in amending the Law on Environmental Protection. These three framework laws are considered foundations of the environmental legislation. However, there is still a lot to be done in developing regulations and increasing capacities to enforce these laws properly. The OSCE Mission to Serbia agreed in principle with the Ministry for Environmental Protection to continue co-operation on the programmes to develop legislation and to train judges and prosecutors on the environmental legal package based on the EU legislation and EU Directives.

Uzbekistan – Promotion of Commercial Arbitration

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan implemented a project on the promotion of commercial arbitration in association with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan and the local NGO “Legal Problems Research Centre”. This project offered necessary expert and technical assistance to the national efforts in developing arbitration courts as an additional impulse to the formation of market relations, the enhancement of an entrepreneur legal protection system and the improvement of the investment climate in the country.

Uzbekistan – Promotion of Intellectual Property Rights

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan implemented an extrabudgetary project on the promotion of intellectual property rights. This initiative was aimed at bringing together all involved branches of national agencies dealing with this particular issue, arranging an analysis of current practices and legislation in the area of intellectual rights protection, and discussing how the current system could be improved. Appropriate recommendations were given to the host government.

Fourth Annual European Economic Crime Conference

The Fourth Annual European Economic Crime Conference in Frankfurt, Germany, on 21 November 2007, co-organized by the OSCE, focused on combating money laundering and economic crime, in particular corruption and fraud, with a particular emphasis on the risks faced by the countries in economic transition and countries with a weak regulatory framework. These countries constitute a vulnerable link in the global economy because they attract flows of illegal profits, which are then channelled to the countries with advanced banking systems. At the conference experts looked into the threats posed by organized criminal networks. The conference was held within the framework of the 10th Euro Finance Week in Frankfurt am Main in co-operation with international partners, including the EBRD, Europol and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

4.3 Activities aimed at Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

In the OSCE participating States, measures to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism play a key role in the efforts to promote economic development, good governance and the rule of law. Based on OSCE Ministerial and Permanent Council Decisions, the OCEEA has been actively involved in addressing these threats in co-operation with UNODC’s Global Programme Against Money Laundering (GPML), Council of Europe, NATO as well as other international partners. The OCEEA and the GPML have developed a range of joint national and regional activities aimed at combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism and co-operate closely on their implementation.

International Seminar on Combating Terrorist Financing in the OSCE region

Terrorism and terrorist-funding activities constitute an important security threat across the entire OSCE region, as well as a huge challenge for investigators, prosecutors, financial institutions, regulators and policy makers. The rising aware-

ness of this threat among participating States has resulted in a number of OSCE activities aimed at building capacity and improving international co-operation in combating terrorist financing, including a high-level Conference on Combating Terrorist Financing in Vienna in November 2005. The OSCE has also conducted a range of regional events as well as national capacity-building activities in a number of OSCE countries. In this context, the OSCE, along with the Financial Integrity Network, organized an International Seminar on Combating Terrorist Financing in Switzerland on 15-17 October 2007. The seminar, which was attended by investigators and prosecutors as well as Financial Intelligence Units representatives and other experts, aimed at increasing international co-operation and providing an in-depth ex-

OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev



Terrorist attacks in recent years have demonstrated the vulnerability of urban and regional public transport systems. Photo: the Moscow underground.

change of experience between governments, especially law enforcement agencies, banks and other private sector actors and international experts. The participants also looked at the use of modern financial instruments by terrorists, and a special session was devoted to cyber-terrorism. Speakers included public and private sector professionals with hands-on experience in combating the financing of terrorism.

South-Eastern Europe – Regional Conference on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

On 24-25 September 2007, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, the OCEEA, in co-operation with the Global Programme against Money Laundering of the UNODC, organized a



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Regional Conference in Montenegro.

two-day regional conference on combating money laundering and terrorist financing in Becici. The main focus of the event consisted in informing regional decision makers about the key international standards in the area of combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the role of international organizations in fighting these challenges, as well as about the promotion of regional co-operation and better co-ordination among financial, law enforcement and prosecution services. More than eighty representatives of prosecutors' offices, police services, government ministries from South-Eastern Europe, international organizations and local institutions involved in combating money laundering attended the event.

Albania – Combating Money Laundering

The OSCE Presence in Albania provided assistance to the Directorate of the Fight against Money Laundering (DoFAML) in improving its technical capacities and raising the efficiency of data gathering from second-tier banks through the dissemination of Anti Money Laundering (AML) software to twelve other second tier banks operating in Albania. The AML software, designed in the framework of OSCE support

to DoFAML, is now operational in seventeen second-tier banks operating in Albania, thus contributing to raising the efficiency of data sharing between banks and the Albanian Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). In addition, the Presence provided technical assistance to the FIU by donating a high-tech scanner and provided ORACLE training for the IT expert working in the Albanian FIU to improve the administration of the AML-database. Support was also given to the hiring of an outside expert to conduct an assessment of technical needs of the FIU.

Armenia – Training of Trainers on Issues Related to Combating Money Laundering

From 28 January to 8 February 2008, the training of trainers on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing was conducted at the Serious Organized Crime Agency in Harlow, UK. The training targeted staff members from different government ministries and institutions. The training was organized by UNODC within the framework of technical assistance provided to combating money laundering and terrorist financing in Armenia. The event was financially supported by the OSCE. The training provided participants and future trainers with practical skills needed to prepare training curricula based on needs assessments and to use different training methods during each successive phase of training. Follow-up training sessions will be conducted in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2008.

Belarus – Workshop on Combating Money Laundering

International standards in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as the role of international organizations were discussed at an OSCE workshop in Minsk on 14-15 November 2007. The two-day event, organized by the OSCE Office in Minsk in co-operation with the OCEEA and the National Legislative Drafting Centre, brought together representatives of the Prosecutor's office, the National Bank, members of Government and Parliament, as well as international experts from Latvia, Ukraine and the UNODC.

Kazakhstan – Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

The OSCE Centre in Astana continued to work closely with a parliamentary working group that is developing a draft law on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). In order to renew the discussion of the draft law, which had been stalled in previous years, the Centre organized a roundtable conference for all main stakeholders in December 2007. The purpose was also to discuss the functioning of a future Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and international best practices in this field. International and national experts highlighted the importance of the Forty Recommendations of the Financial Action Taskforce (FATF), as well as the establishment of an independent FIU. It was recommended that the parliamentary working group should take a renewed look

at the draft law and involve representatives of civil society organizations. In March 2008, the hearings in the Parliament on the AML/CFT draft law were resumed.

Montenegro – Workshop on Preventing Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

On 7 and 8 June 2007, the OCEEA, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro and the UNODC jointly organized a two-day national workshop aimed at national capacity-building in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing in Kolasin. The workshop was held as a follow-up to a first national workshop organized in the country in December 2006 and focused specifically on the role of banks in implementing the existing national legislation and international commitments, on detecting, monitoring and reporting suspicious transactions, as well as on internal compliance, issues related to staff training and on the financing of terrorism. 83 participants of



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Workshop in Montenegro on Preventing Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.

the event included representatives of all Montenegrin banks, several ministries and judicial bodies, as well as international banking experts.

Turkmenistan – Workshop on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

Supporting the efforts of Turkmenistan to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism was the aim of a workshop held in Ashgabat on 4-5 March 2008. The two-day event was organized by the OSCE, the World Bank, the UNODC, the International Monetary Fund and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG). The workshop helped train officials from

various government bodies on international standards in building an effective system to fight money laundering and terrorist financing. It was also designed to help national officials implement best practices in Turkmenistan to meet the country's international obligations and contribute to the global fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Participants noted that developing a Financial Intelligence Unit in Turkmenistan to collect, analyze and process confidential financial information was the key accomplishment in preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism on the national and international levels. Turkmen officials learned more about the work of financial intelligence from the experts from Belarus, Italy, Russia, Slovenia and the United States, who shared their experience in the field. Turkmenistan is in the process of drafting a new law to improve its national efforts to fight organized criminal activity and more effectively contribute to the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Uzbekistan – Combating Money Laundering

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, in close co-operation with the host Government, supported a joint OSCE/UNDP anti-money laundering (AML) initiative in Uzbekistan. The objective of the project was the organization of working visits and the training of personnel of the Central Bank, the Ministry of Finance and the State Tax Committee by studying best practice examples in AML, including operating procedures, technical facilities and application of software developed for tax authorities in the European Union. These events were arranged under the auspices of the national programme aimed at developing and introducing an integrated interstructural information database in Uzbekistan. In addition, the project offered the elaboration of recommended measures in the area of prevention of criminal money laundering and submission of proposals on the adoption of relevant legal and regulatory instruments.

5. Economic Activities

5.1 Investment and business development

The OCEEA, as part of its efforts to foster sustainable economic growth, peace and security in the OSCE region, continued to promote development of conditions supportive of an investment friendly environment and institutional capacity-building for business development.

On 13 June 2007, an expert workshop was organized in Vienna jointly by the OCEEA and the OSCE Office in Yerevan to discuss the “System of Indicators for Evaluation of State and Donor Supported Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME) Development Programmes” that had been developed by the Armenian company “Alpha Plus Consulting” at the initiative of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. The experts discussed the methodology used to arrive at the Systems of Indicators in comparison to other evaluation methodologies as well as its first applications and wider promotion plans. The developed evaluation methodology was considered by the expert meeting as an important evaluation and monitoring tool that could improve the accountability, and thus facilitate better governance of SME development programmes. It was decided to continue to promote the Systems of Indicators using different OSCE venues as well as other relevant frameworks.

The OCEEA also continued its support to the development and launch of the “Investment and Competitiveness Initiative for Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia” led by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The aim of the Initiative is to support sustainable development in the Central Asia region by promoting entrepreneurship, attracting private direct investment and improving the legal and institutional environment.

Albania – Promoting Investment and Improving Business Climate

The OSCE Presence in Albania provided assistance to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy by making the OSCE Guide on “Best Practices on Investment Promotion and Improvement of the Business Climate” available in Albanian, promoting dialogue and an exchange of best practices among the countries of the Balkans. In addition to organizing a “Regional Workshop on the OSCE Best-Practice Guide for a Positive Business and Investment Climate”, a national seminar was organized on “Dialogue on Business and Investment Policy Reform and its Implementation in Albania” with the participation of academics, media and civil society from Tirana, Shkodra, Durresi and

Vlora regions. The project was implemented in partnership with the Centre for Research and Development and Albinvest (Albanian Agency for Investment Promotion) and financially supported by the OSCE Spanish Chairmanship.



The opening session of the Regional Conference on “OSCE Best-Practices for a Positive Business and Investment Climate”, Tirana, 17 October 2007.

Armenia – Leveraging State Financial Support to SMEs

The OSCE Office in Yerevan together with the Armenian National Centre on SME Development initiated a peer review of the SME Loan Guarantee Scheme funded by the Government within the complex of activities aimed at increasing effectiveness and impact of state support to SMEs. The purpose of the review was to reveal existing impediments by undertaking a large-scale client survey, as well as to assess bottlenecks in the regulatory framework and operating modalities with the overarching goal of significantly increasing the access of start-up businesses

to credit resources. As a result of the review, a number of recommendations for improvement of the regulatory basis, operating arrangements and monitoring techniques were presented and subsequently accepted by the National Centre. The comprehensive evaluation toolkit “The System of Indicators for the Evaluation of State and Donor Supported SME Development Projects”, which was developed in 2006 with OSCE support, served as the methodological basis for the peer review.

Armenia – Sustainable Rural Development Programme

The OSCE Office in Yerevan, responding to a request by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, continued to support the Armenian government in tackling socio-economic problems of the Syunik region through its Programme Implementation Presence (PIP). The OSCE PIP in Syunik began assessing and analyzing the needs of 30 rural communities in the region, thus contributing to the state poverty reduction strategy and, more specifically, the rural poverty eradication programme. The strategic objective of this project is to complete the planning phase of the rural poverty eradication programme, which aims at empowering villages and enabling their economic sustainability and viability, thus strengthening the economic security of the region and of Armenia as a whole. The project was co-financed by the “Deno Gold Mining Co.”, a Syunik-based Canadian mining company. The co-operation underlined the emerging public-private partnership in the region, which will further facilitate private investments in Syunik.

Azerbaijan – Regional Economic Development

Responding to the Azerbaijani government’s key priority of diversifying the national economy by boosting the

private farmers. The training focused on basic business skills (applying the “Start and Improve Your Business” programme), international accounting standards and agricultural production methods. In addition to the courses, private farmers and entrepreneurs received individual counselling by experts. These capacity-building activities enjoyed significant demand in the regions. The OSCE Office in Baku will continue working to match demand, enhance sustainability and increase the overall impact on the national economy. These business development activities cover 19 regions in Azerbaijan. This extensive regional presence offers a unique basis for dialogue with regional authorities and civil society on the whole range of issues covered by the Office’s mandate.

Belarus – Comprehensive Training in Agribusiness Development in Polesia

The OSCE Office in Minsk, together with the districts of Stolin, Slavgorod and Bragin and the French Professional Agricultural Organization of International Co-operation and Rural Development (FERT), designed a project aimed to improve business skills of local farmers. The project introduced best agribusiness practices applied in the European Union to the participants of the training. The training sessions were held in the framework of the international programme “Co-operation for Rehabilitation of living conditions in Chernobyl affected areas in Belarus” (CORE).

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Local Economic Development

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina works to strengthen the partnership between local businesses, civil society and municipalities in addressing barriers to local economic development. Through this partnership, obstacles hampering local business can be identified, bureaucratic procedures streamlined and, most importantly, unemployment reduced through creating an environment conducive to local economic growth. With the Mission’s support, 23 municipalities introduced participatory planning procedures and created economic development action plans. The municipality of Zavidovići established an Agency for Local Economic Development, which assists small and medium entrepreneurs to start their businesses. In co-operation with the regional development agency, the municipality has also set up a business incubator, which hosts newly established enterprises in need of office space and professional assistance.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Youth Job Fairs

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organized Youth Job Information Fairs with the aim of putting employers and potential employees in contact with each other. The fairs offered information on vacant positions as



Fostering rural development in Azerbaijan.

non-oil sector and generating work opportunities in the regions, the Office in Baku, jointly with the NGO “Norwegian Humanitarian Enterprise” and the microfinance institution “Viator Mikrokredit”, facilitated the training of entrepreneurs, accountants, business managers and

well as advice on how to apply for them, including trainings on writing CVs, job research techniques, interviewing skills and other useful tips. The fairs brought together a range of agencies that could assist young people with finding jobs, including businesses, employment bureaus, regional development agencies and municipalities. During the reporting period, 2,000 young people visited six fairs, in which 152 private and public companies participated as exhibitors. As a result, 105 young people found employment.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Youth Entrepreneurship

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented the Youth Entrepreneurship Project, which supports young people in starting up their own businesses by providing training, advice and access to potential sources of funding, such as micro-credit institutions. Candidates with a genuine interest in opening and running their own businesses were offered intensive three-day training seminars, during which they learnt about the practical issues involved in putting their plans into practice. During the reporting period, 250 young people participated in 20 seminars; consequently 35 new businesses were established.

Georgia – Supporting Small and Medium Business Development in the Gali Region

The OSCE Mission to Georgia designed a project to build private business capacities in the Gali Region of Abkhazia. The project stimulated the establishment and development of local businesses and promoted the creation of employment opportunities for the population of Gali. The project targeted youth, start-ups, small and medium businesses, as well as farmers. In the framework of the project, intensive training was provided to the selected 30 people from different districts of the Gali Region. They were trained in business planning, financial management, accounting and marketing. Training sessions helped the participants to enhance business skills and start new businesses, or expand existing ones. In addition, the Business Consulting Centre provided daily on-job management coaching to local farmers and businessmen.

Georgia – Regional Student Consulting Programme

In 2007, the OSCE Mission to Georgia, in co-operation with the USAID SME Support Project, financed the Regional Student Consulting Programme in Samtskhe-Javakheti. The project provided for the establishment of a Business Development Centre (BDC). The BDC provides consulting services in marketing, financial management, business planning and project proposal writing to local entrepreneurs, farmers and business-oriented youth. Furthermore, the BDC contains a database with information on the prices of agricultural products and agricultural machinery,

recommended suppliers and much more. The overall objective of the project was to enhance skills and capacities of start-ups and entrepreneurs for the development of a functioning SME market in Georgia.

Serbia – Promoting Eco-tourism

The OSCE Mission to Serbia implemented the project “Eco-tourism as a Function of Economic Development” in three villages of the Sokobanja municipality, which is the first ecological municipality and spa centre in Serbia. In 2006, according to the Organization for Tourism, Culture and Sports, 100,000 tourists spent 1 million nights in Sokobanja, with tourism becoming the main economic activity of the region. The overall aim of the project was to support local sustainable economic development by increasing the quality of eco-tourist services, educating private householders in rural areas, promoting Sokobanja as a quality tourist destination, and facilitating co-operation of householders and travel agencies. Within the project, the OSCE Mission to Serbia conducted a promotional campaign and a training programme, categorized rural accommodations and launched a database in support of the 15th International Scientific and Professional Conference “Ecological Truth” in Sokobanja.

Serbia - Increasing Tourist Competitiveness in Eastern Serbia

The OSCE Mission to Serbia developed a project aiming at facilitating local economic development through increasing tourist competitiveness of Eastern Serbia. The project would affect eight municipalities of Eastern Serbia. The project specifically aims at promoting Eastern Serbia as a new tourist destination through improving institutional co-operation, bringing about structural change, and encouraging innovations. In addition, the project is expected to improve management of existing tourist facilities, increase opportunities for economic development, and reduce unemployment in Eastern Serbia.

Serbia – Innovative Technology Incubator Centre

In December 2007, The OSCE Mission to Serbia, in co-operation with NGO “Democratic Transition Initiatives - DTI” as well as the government of Israel, the Municipality of Palilula, the City of Belgrade and the University of Belgrade opened the Innovative Technology Incubator Centre in Belgrade. The Centre provides a great opportunity for the students with best programmes and technologies developed at the Innovation Centre to set up their own businesses. Four hundred thirty students in their final academic year enquired about the Incubator programmes and 78 students applied to join the initial Incubator training titled “How to Start-up My Own Business” at a job fair in Belgrade in 2008.

Serbia – Young Entrepreneurial Spirit

In 2007, the OSCE Mission to Serbia initiated the third round of the Young Entrepreneurial Spirit programme in a view of training young, educated but unemployed people



Student entrepreneurs in Serbia.

in the least developed regions of Serbia, with the objective of demonstrating the effectiveness of entrepreneurial approach as a part of the strategy on poverty reduction. The trainees were taught skills necessary to set up their own businesses and to self-educate in the free market. A special feature of the training programme was a session on organic agriculture, one of the most profitable sectors of the market. The courses were conducted in six Belgrade Municipalities (Rakovica, Čukarica, Novi Beograd, Stari Grad, Zvezdara, and Palilula) and in Central Serbia (Grocka, Smederevo, Pozarevac, Obrenovac and Lazarevac). As a result, more than 1,000 trainees obtained a Y.E.S. diploma.

Tajikistan – Economic Security

To support the State Poverty Reduction Programme, the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe financed numerous regional small business development projects, enabling beneficiaries to start their own businesses. Starting in 2006, several permanent resource and training centres for entrepreneurs were opened throughout the country to help the government realize its goal of fighting poverty through promoting the development of small businesses. In addition to teaching clients how to start and manage a business, the centres offer legal and tax advice for entrepreneurs. Many of the clients of the centres are women whose men have gone abroad as labour migrants. The centres also seek to attract returning migrants who might like to invest their

foreign earnings in creating a small business, rather than working outside the country. To raise the capacity of rural entrepreneurs, the Centre opened information centres for agricultural businesses and farms in the Khatlon Region and the Rasht Valley as a next step in the process of supporting agricultural development. Centres in predominantly agricultural areas offer information and training in crop and livestock improvement, in marketing produce most effectively, in how to obtain credit from the banking sector and how to exercise the newly confirmed right to choose which crops to grow.

Ukraine – Economic Development Project

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine initiated the Local Economic Development Project (LEaD) aiming at enhancing entrepreneurship and stimulating economic development and job creation in the economically depressed rural regions of Ukraine. The Sumy Union of Small and Medium Enterprises – one of the project's implementing partners – co-ordinated a unique partnership between the local government, the Sumy station of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Science and the Farming Institute



An agricultural trainee finds a job at a gardening research centre.

to coach unemployed individuals in modern farming techniques. Trainings provided formal instruction, internships at successful farms, classes with recognized experts, and a manual on new agricultural producers. The project

provided new economic opportunities for the residents of the most depressed regions of the Sumy oblast. Most importantly, this project demonstrated how effective public-private partnerships could be. Under the project, the Women's Information Consulting Centre of Zhytomyr introduced new business practices to unemployed rural people, including helping them generate income by taking advantage of the demand for local traditional crafts.

OSCE



Classes on stonecutting enable an unemployed man to generate income for his family.

Turkmenistan – Lectures on Global Financial Markets and International Finance

On 12-17 November 2007, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat organized a series of lectures on concepts and practices relating to foreign exchange and Eurocurrency markets, exchange rate systems and monetary policy for Turkmenistan's financial agencies. The project sought to promote understanding of the latest trends facing world financial markets and to contribute to Turkmenistan's integration into the global economy.

Turkmenistan – Support to Women Entrepreneurs

On 15 October 2007, the Centre in Ashgabat organized a seminar for women entrepreneurs in the Mary province. The one-day meeting provided local women entrepreneurs with first-hand knowledge and insights into strategic planning and marketing and brought together business owners, employees of the local government's accounts and

taxation departments and members of initiative groups. The seminar resulted in proposals to establish links between women entrepreneur organizations in Central Asia. The Centre also plans to facilitate small and medium enterprise development in other regions of Turkmenistan by organizing similar seminars at the provincial level.

Kosovo/UNMIK – Employment Fair

On 5 December 2007, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo supported the efforts of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to promote co-operation between potential employers and employees, to establish a climate of confidence and trust and to reinforce the commitment of Kosovo institutions to ensuring fair labour practices and decent work for all by organizing an employment fair. The joint project of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the OSCE



OSCE/Hasan Soda

Employment fair in Kosovo is a part of the Anti-Discrimination Public Information Campaign.

Mission was just one in a series of concrete steps aimed at promoting fair hiring practices in the public and private sectors and at advocating workplace conditions based on such standards of conduct that improve the productivity of Kosovo's work force. This employment fair served as an example of the partnership developing between the private and public sectors, international agencies and the general public. This partnership is critical to strengthening the rule of law and implementing good governance practices that reduce corruption, nepotism, poverty and unemployment. Approximately 1,000 people throughout Kosovo attended the fair.

5.2 Transit transport development and border crossing facilitation

The OSCE involvement in transport matters goes back to the adoption of the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Bonn Document (1990) and the Maastricht Strategy Document for the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension (2003). Under the

OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev



Trucks, buses and cars move along Moscow's busy beltway. OSCE activities focus on the role of transport in regional economic co-operation.

2006 Belgian Chairmanship, the OSCE's economic and environmental dimension focused its work on "Transportation in the OSCE area: Secure transportation, networks and transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability". At the annual OSCE Ministerial Council in Brussels (2006), the 56 OSCE participating States adopted Decision No. 11/06 on the "Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE". Based on this document, the OCEEA has implemented various activities aimed at facilitating transit transportation and legitimate cross-border trade across the OSCE region in the course of 2007 and 2008.

Good Governance in Customs: Lessons Learnt from the South Caucasus

On 14-15 May 2007, the OCEEA together with Eurasia Foundation and the OSCE Mission in Georgia organized a regional conference on "Good Governance in Customs: Lessons to be learned from the South Caucasus". The event, which took place in Tbilisi, brought together more than 50 representatives from national customs departments, the private sector, international organizations and non-governmental organizations from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. It aimed at identifying measures that could improve customs and border procedures in the South Caucasus. Participants discussed how to promote good governance in the customs sector and agreed on several recommendations related to

human resource management, inter-agency co-operation, co-operation with the private sector and the implementation of key international conventions in the customs sector.

Promoting Public-Private Partnerships in Addressing the Transit Challenges of Landlocked Developing Countries

On 17-18 May 2007, back-to-back with the Tbilisi conference, representatives of the OCEEA attended a two-day Conference on "Public-Private Partnership in the Great Silk Road Revitalization: the role of multi-modal transportation", organized in Batumi and Poti, Georgia, by the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the CIS Co-ordinating Transport Conference and the Georgian International Road Carriers Association (GIRCA) with the support of the OSCE.



OSCE/Alexey Stukalo

Cargo trucks at Sarpi, Georgia, on the border with Turkey, 17 May 2007.

The Conference brought together more than sixty representatives of IRU national associations and business people from the Black Sea region, South Caucasus and Central Asia. On the second day, the OCEEA jointly with the IRU organized a roundtable on Public-Private Partnerships in addressing transit transport issues in landlocked countries and their neighbours. The purpose of this joint meeting was to acquire a private sector perspective on the priorities and needs related to the transit transportation situation in Central Asia and South Caucasus. Rather than identifying the problems as such it was aimed more at identifying appropriate solutions. The OCEEA invited speakers from the UNECE Transport Division, IGC TRACECA and the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey. The conclusions and recommendations of the roundtable were mainstreamed in the Agenda of the subsequent Dushanbe Conference on the prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia till the year 2015 (see below).

Several Delegations to the OSCE had repeatedly called upon the OCEEA to engage more actively into dialogue with the private sector. Through participation in this event, the OCEEA followed up on the request. The event was organized further to the MC Decision 11/06 on “Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE”, which among other things calls for “enhancing public-private co-operation in the area of transport”.

Promoting Good Governance in Customs in Central Asia

On 25-26 July 2007, the OCEEA together with the OSCE Centre in Astana and with the support of the Government of Kazakhstan organized a Regional Conference on Promoting Good Governance in Customs in Central Asia in Almaty. The conference aimed at identifying issues of mutual concern in the area of customs and developing recommendations for improving procedures that could help enhance trade and transportation in Central Asia. The event brought together 40 participants, around seven from each of the five Central Asian countries. Most participants were mid-level customs officials. Representatives from the private sector, business associations, donor agencies and regional organizations also attended.

landlocked countries in Central Asia have made good progress with regard to implementing the APA, which aims to overcome the problems related to the lack of access to sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets. At the same time they noted that the road to the full implementation of the plan is still long



OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev

A Tajik border guard officer on a bridge over the river Piandj on the Tajik-Afghan border.

and requires enhanced commitments and improved regional co-ordination efforts in the transport and customs sector. In this regard, the OSCE role as a vector for enhanced regional co-operation was welcomed.

Prospects for the Development of Trans-Asian and Eurasian Transit Transportation through Central Asia till the Year 2015

On 23-24 October 2007, in Dushanbe, the OCEEA, in co-operation with the United Nations Office of the High Rep-



OSCE/Johann Wagner

Ishkashim is the southernmost border crossing point between Tajikistan and Afghanistan

The Conference was followed on 27 July 2007 by a one-day expert meeting on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (APA), which is a UN endorsed programme aimed at addressing the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries around the globe. This event brought together selected senior officials from customs departments and ministries of transport and trade from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.



OSCE/Asitrid Eversel

A train speeds across the dry land of southern Tajikistan.

They exchanged experiences, identified specific gaps and needs and discussed ways to improve regional co-ordination and co-operation efforts. Participants concluded that land-

representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

■ The Almaty Programme of Action: Unlocking Growth and Development

At their Ministerial Council meeting in Brussels in December 2006, OSCE participating States agreed to support the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the OSCE area, the first United Nations-endorsed global document addressing the needs of developing countries with no coastlines.

In doing so, the Ministerial Council also encouraged the Secretariat to work closely with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS).

The former High Representative, Under-Secretary-General of the UN Anwarul K. Chowdhury, announced that the kind of co-operation the OSCE promotes is one of the best ways to address the unique needs of this group of countries.

“Regional integration and collaboration would allow the dismantling of barriers to trade, cut transaction costs and encourage economies of scale, all contributing to the mutual economic growth of both landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours,” he said.

The Almaty Programme was adopted at a UN conference in Kazakhstan in 2003, following the UN Millennium Declaration of 2000. Action measures aim to:

- Secure sea port access by all means of transport in accordance with international law;
- Reduce costs and improve services to increase the competitiveness of landlocked developing countries’ exports;
- Reduce imports’ delivery costs;
- Address problems of delays and uncertainties in trade routes;
- Develop adequate national networks;

- Reduce loss, damage and deterioration of goods en route;
- Open the way for expansion of exports; and
- Improve the safety of road transport and the security of people along transit corridors.

The OSCE’s Transit Conference in Dushanbe on 23 and 24 October 2007 contributed to a review of progress under the Almaty Programme of Action.

The review is a “common rallying point” for governments of landlocked countries, their transit neighbours, development partners and the private sector, Mr. Chowdhury said. “Of course, we also count on the OSCE’s active involvement and support.”

Source: OSCE Magazine, June-July 2007

Closest distance from the sea (km.)

OSCE participating States

Armenia:	693
Azerbaijan:	870
Belarus:	623
Kazakhstan:	3,750
Kyrgyzstan:	3,600
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:	77
Moldova:	170
Serbia:	78
Tajikistan:	3,100
Turkmenistan:	1,700
Uzbekistan:	2,950

OSCE Partners for Co-operation

Afghanistan:	1,960
Mongolia:	1,693

Main source: UNCTAD

(UN-OHRLLS) and with the support of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe, organized a Conference on the prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia till the year 2015.

The High-Level Conference was organized further to the MC Decision No. 11/06 on the Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE and brought together over 140 high-level rep-

resentatives from national transport ministries, customs agencies, ministries of trade and economics, business associations, international and non-governmental organizations, and international financial institutions. It contributed, among other things, to a regional mid-term review of the aforementioned Almaty Programme of Action.

At the concluding session, the delegations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Mongolia, which

participated in the Conference, adopted a joint statement. The Dushanbe statement covers the key issues related to fundamental transit transport policies; transport infrastruc-

OSCE/Lubomir Kotek



On Dushanbe's central Ozodi (Liberty) Square, the country pays tribute to Ismoil Somoni, revered as the founder of the first Tajik State.

ture development and maintenance; trade, transit and transport facilitation; public-private partnerships; and the role the OSCE can play in co-operation with partner organizations. A number of other delegations welcomed the statement or announced that they might join at a later stage. The document, which is available on the website, welcomes the OSCE's support for the implementation of the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action through capacity-building measures and refers to possible future activities in a number of areas such as exchange of best practices, intensifying regional co-operation and co-ordination, assisting in implementing international legal instruments and raising awareness of environmentally sustainable transport. It also takes note of a number of concrete proposals formulated during the conference. A consolidated summary of the Conference was prepared and circulated to Delegations in December 2007 (SEC.GAL/236/07).

Facilitating Cross-Border Trade between the CIS and the EU

On 19-20 December 2007, the OCEEA, together with the Transport Division of the UNECE and with the support of the International Road Transport Union (IRU), organized a Round Table in Kyiv on border crossing facilitation and good governance in customs. The Round Table brought together 54 participants, specifically representatives from relevant government agencies and IRU associations from a number of CIS countries as well as

experts from international organizations. Customs officials and private sector representatives from the EU countries bordering the CIS also participated in the event. Participants discussed issues related to border-crossing facilitation, while taking into account security aspects and customs best practices as well as the promotion of integrated border management measures. In this respect, and following up to a number of capacity-building seminars concerning the UNECE's International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, which the OSCE had jointly organized with the UNECE in 2006, there was a discussion on the forthcoming Annex 8 of the "Harmonization Convention". In addition, the Round Table also explored the possible development, by the OSCE in co-operation with partner organizations, of a Handbook on Promoting Best Practices at Border-Crossings.

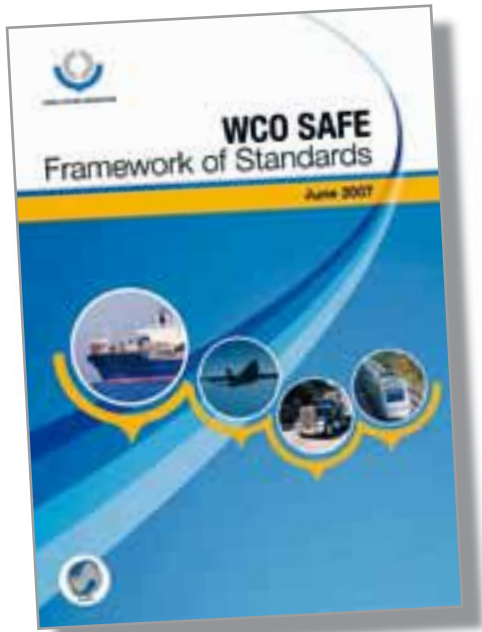


Deputy Co-ordinator of OCEEA Mr. Alexey Stukalo gives an interview to journalists, Kyiv, 19 December 2007.

Building Partnerships

The OCEEA relies on partnerships with international expert organizations to enhance its capacity to effectively address a wider range of issues. In this regard, in the course of the past year the OCEEA continued deepening some of its already existing partnerships.

On 25 May 2007, the OCEEA participated in a high level Donor Co-ordination Meeting organized by the World Bank in Paris. The meeting aimed at encouraging better donor co-ordination of international efforts in the transport sector in South Caucasus, sharing views among donors on the current state of the transport sector and related policy matters, and discussed the way ahead. The role of International Financial Institutions (IFI) in addressing the specific problems of OSCE landlocked countries in the region was highlighted. In this context, the OCEEA actively continues to consult with IFI country offices both in the South Caucasus and in Central Asia.



SAFE Framework of Standards is one of the tools the OCEEA is promoting.

On 14-15 June 2007, a representative of the OCEEA attended the 4th Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference in Warsaw organized by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) under the patronage of the Polish Ministry of Transport. The conference was held in parallel with a Ministerial Conference and focused on transcontinental road networks and corridors along the Silk Road as well as on ways to enhance security by using existing multilateral security instruments, in particular the World Customs Organization SAFE Framework and the UNECE TIR Convention. It is one of the OCEEA's key priorities to develop sustainable dialogue with the private sector and business community, in this case the road transport industry.

On 17 January 2008, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities represented the OCEEA at the Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York, which worked on preparing the High-Level Midterm Review Meeting on the Implementation of the aforementioned Almaty Programme of Action, which will take

place in New York on 23 October 2008. On this occasion, the Co-ordinator met with Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, the new UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The parties decided to further strengthen co-operation in assisting landlocked countries in the OSCE region.

On 19 February 2008 in Geneva, the Co-ordinator represented the OSCE at the Euro-Asian Transport Links Ministerial Meeting, which was held on the occasion of the 70th Session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee. The meeting brought together Ministers of Transport and other High Level Officials from across the OSCE region and resulted in the signing of a Joint Statement on future development of Euro-Asian transport links. On this occasion, the Co-ordinator held a meeting with Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary of the UNECE, to discuss the status of the OSCE-UNECE co-operation. A representative of the OCEEA met with experts of the UNECE Transport Division to discuss the possible joint development of a Handbook on Best Practices at Border-Crossings. On 20 February, the representative also attended the UNECE Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security and discussed potential OSCE-UNECE co-operation in this area.

On 27-28 March 2008, the Co-ordinator, together with an OCEEA expert, participated in the "Opinion Forum" organized by the WCO on the theme "The WCO in the 21st Century: Inventing our Future". The Co-ordinator's statement was made in the context of the session on the theme "Security: a challenge for the WCO" and provided an opportunity to highlight the OSCE-WCO co-operation initiated in the context of the 14th OSCE EEF and the subsequent Dushanbe Conference on "Trans-Asian and Eurasian Transit Transport Development through Central Asia", and which is being further developed in the context of this year's EEF. On this occasion, OSCE and WCO representatives discussed recommendations for future OSCE-WCO collaboration, including the joint development, together with the UNECE, of a Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings. The WCO expressed its interest to actively participate in this project.

Tajikistan – Cross-Border Trade

Since 2004, the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe has been promoting trade growth between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. In 2005, an international conference on developing trade among countries bordering the Pamir region was held in Khorog, the administrative centre of the Badakhshan region of Tajikistan. The conference fostered a number of cross-border business deals. In 2007, following the opening of the US-financed bridge linking Southern Tajikistan with Northern Afghanistan, the Centre sponsored a Business Forum for the entrepreneurs, Chambers of Commerce and officials from these two

regions. This was followed by the launch of four permanent transborder trade promotion centres - two in Badakhshan, one in Southern Khatlon and one in the Rasht Valley. The centres provide information on customs and markets to entrepreneurs from both sides of the border and offer business training focused on small enterprises serving the transborder transit trade. The first three centres now serve major border crossings to Afghanistan, while the fourth centre focuses on the trade with Southern Kyrgyzstan.

Uzbekistan – Working Group on Transportation

In line with the 2006 OSCE Chairmanship's priority of reinforcing transportation networks in the OSCE Region, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan supported activities related to the development of regional transportation and promotion of security and good governance in the transport sector. Within the framework of this programme, the National Working Group on Transportation is discussing key topics related to the security and efficiency of regional transportation. This activity is being carried out jointly with representatives from the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, Investment and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Association of Transport and Transport Communications and a number of private transport companies.

5.3 Energy security dialogue

In July 2006, as requested by the Chairman in Office and in accordance with the "Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension" adopted at the Ministerial Council of Maastricht in 2003, the OCEEA carried out a mission to gather technical information on energy security. On the basis of the Ministerial Council Decision on "Energy security Dialogue in the OSCE" adopted in 2006, the OCEEA further developed co-operation with competent international organizations (e.g., the International Energy Forum, International Energy Agency, Secretariat of the Energy Charter, International Atomic Energy Agency, European Commission, EBRD, Eurelectric, Eurogas).

Representatives of the OCEEA participated in and contributed to several international conferences on energy security issues:

- Meetings of the Task Force on regional electricity co-operation in Central Asia aiming to develop co-operation among Central Asian participating States in the field of electricity generation, which were held in 2007 (spring and autumn) and in 2008 (spring).
- Conference on "Energy in a Changing World" organized by UNESCO in co-operation with the Minister of Industry and Energy of the Russian Federation and held in Paris on 31 May - 1 June 2008.

- Study visit to the European Centre for Renewable Energy in Güssing, Austria, on 5 June 2007.
- Eurogas Annual Conference on "2007, the Year of critical choices of building a competitive, secure and sustainable natural gas market" held in Brussels on 21 September 2007.
- 2nd Energy Forum co-organized by the Czech Government and the Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies in Prague on 4-6 November 2007.
- Austrian-French conference on the "Energy Politics of the European Union" organized by the "Centre Franco-Autrichien Pour le Rapprochement en Europe" and "Institut Francais des Relations Internationales" in Paris on 26-27 November 2007.
- The UNECE Energy Week held in Geneva on 28-30 November 2007.
- Conference on "The Challenges of a Changing International Energy Market" co-organized by the International Energy Agency, the Energy Charter Secretariat and the Austrian Ministry for Economy in Vienna on 8 November 2007.
- Conference on "Security of Energy supplies, the Role of NATO and other International Organizations" organized by the UK and the Dutch Permanent Representation to NATO in Brussels on 17 January 2008.

The OCEEA also developed co-operation with a number of OSCE participating States in the field of renewable energy.

Belarus – Promoting Alternative Renewable Energies

Creating legal conditions for developing renewable alternative energy sources was the focus of a seminar jointly organized by the OSCE Office in Minsk and the National Law Drafting Centre in Minsk in June 2007. It brought together key players from the energy and economic sectors, environmental experts and regional policy makers. The aim of the seminar was to ensure a better understanding of the mechanisms used in Europe to promote alternative renewable sources of energy and bring them to the market. Experts from Sweden, as well as national experts from Belarus, delivered presentations on the current approaches utilized to develop these sources of energy.

A seminar entitled "Perspectives and opportunities of biomass usage for energy purposes: international and national experience" was co-organized by the OSCE Office in Minsk and the International Sakharov Environmental University in February 2008. This seminar was part of the

OSCE programme to promote the use of alternative renewable sources of energy in Belarus based on European experience. Experts from Austria, Germany, Poland and Sweden made presentations on the best modern technologies and systems being already used or developed to exploit available biomass.

Ukraine – Promoting Energy Efficiency at the Municipal Level

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine co-funded the programme “Municipal Partnerships for Better Energy Use” designed to address energy efficiency at the local level. The programme, co-ordinated by the Eurasia Foundation, aided local governments and communities by drawing attention to the need for energy efficiency and energy-saving technologies, stimulated local partnerships and innovations, and strengthened local organizations’ ability to work in the field. The programme included three projects: on installing energy-efficient heating systems, on promoting biogas technology and on raising citizen awareness.



Children in an energy-saving school in Ukraine.

• Installing energy-efficient heating systems in public schools

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine supported a project to install energy-efficient biomass boilers in public schools of the Zhytomyr oblast. The implementing partner, “Polis’ka Initiative NGO”, already installed the system in one school and is preparing to do so in another. Within the same project, the implementing partner held an essay contest on energy saving among schoolchildren. The project will result in increased awareness of energy-saving technologies in the region.

• Promoting biogas technology in the Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, and Ternopil regions

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine supported a project aiming at increasing use of renewable energy technologies

through conducting a broad information campaign on the application and benefits of the biogas technology, which targeted communal enterprises and small- and medium-business owners. The Western Ukrainian Resource Centre served as the OSCE implementing partner for this project. The second phase of the project would feature setting up two biogas generators and a training centre. Entrepreneurs and local authorities would be encouraged to learn from the model and replicate it.



An expert from the Western Ukrainian Resource Centre explains benefits of biogas to entrepreneurs in the Lviv region.

• Raising citizen awareness in Novyi Rozdil

The project actively involved the local community in improving energy efficiency in Novyi Rozdil, the Lviv region. The project, implemented by the European Integration and Regional Development Agency, provided for an audit of municipal energy effectiveness and for publicizing this audit’s result to raise citizens’ awareness of the energy efficiency issue.

5.4 Migration activities

International migration has become an increasingly important issue in many OSCE countries and, due to its diverse and complex nature, requires new forms of inter-state co-operation and more effective policy solutions. The OSCE views migration as a comprehensive security issue with cross-dimensional linkages. Under the Slovenian Chairmanship in 2005, a stronger economic and environmental perspective was added to the dialogue and the Ljubljana Ministerial Decision 02/05 gave the OSCE Secretariat a mandate to promote co-operation on labour migration issues. In 2007, the links between migration, environmental degradation and security were stressed by the Spanish Chairmanship and are reflected in the recent Madrid Ministerial Council Declaration on Environment and Security.

To assist the OSCE participating States in developing more effective labour migration policies, the OCEEA, in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) published a Labour Migration Handbook in 2006. In 2007, this work was expanded to also include the Mediterranean Partners for Co-

and partners in effective practices and innovative models in implementing effective and sound labour migration policies.

As a follow-up to the Rabat Launch Seminar, the OCEEA has developed a cross-dimensional project on “Raising awareness of the need for more gender-sensitive labour migration policies”. The project will be implemented in partnership between the OCEEA, the Gender Section and the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Furthermore, the OCEEA is working with its partner organizations, the IOM and the ILO, to develop “Training Modules based on the Labour Migration Handbook”. These modules are meant to be used to improve existing capacities of countries of origin, transit and destination in more effectively managing labour migration. The OCEEA also worked closely with the field presences, in particular by assisting them in developing proposals addressing the question of how to make more effective use of migrant remittances for rural economic development.



The Arabic version and the English version of the Mediterranean Edition of the Handbook on Effective Labour Migration Policies.

operation with the production of a “Mediterranean edition of the Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies”. The new Handbook, available in Arabic and English, was presented at a Launch Seminar held in Rabat on 12-13 December 2007. The Seminar was organized under the auspices of the OSCE Spanish Chairmanship and the Kingdom of Morocco and in co-operation with the IOM and the ILO. It was attended by representatives of governments, social partner organizations, academic institutions, civil society and international organizations from 20 countries. The aim of the Seminar was to present and promote the new Mediterranean edition of the Handbook as a policy tool for government and social partner practitioners and to encourage dialogue and co-operative networking among participating countries



The opening session of the Launch Seminar of the Mediterranean Edition of the Handbook on Effective Labour Migration Policies, Rabat, 12-13 December 2007.

The OCEEA will continue to support its field presences in their migration activities related to the economic and environmental dimension in 2008.

The OCEEA participated in the first meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, a state-led multi-lateral and multi-stakeholder process, on 10-11 July 2007. The OCEEA has since then contributed inputs towards some of the follow-up actions recommended by the Global Forum meeting and continues to follow the issues being prepared for discussion at the next Global Forum meeting on 27-30 October 2008. The OCEEA has also strengthened over the last twelve months its relationship with the Migration and Freedom of Movement Unit of the Office for

Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the European Committee on Migration of the Council of Europe.

Environmentally-Induced Migration

Based on the recommendations of the 15th Economic Forum process and on the Madrid Ministerial Council Declaration on Environment and Security, the OSCE/OCEEA supported the first-ever attempt to research the linkages between environment and migration and to try to forecast future scenarios of environmentally induced migration. The Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR) research project is organized by a consortium of European Universities and co-ordinated by the United Nations University (www.each-for.eu).

The OCEEA concentrated its support of the project on the North Africa/Mediterranean and Central Asia regions. Through its field presences and various events, the OSCE was able to generate significant government support and interest in the project. On 11-12 March 2008, the OCEEA assisted EACH-FOR by holding its first workshop at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The event was attended by government officials, NGO experts on environmental and migration issues, international organizations and institutes, as well as local researchers who will be conducting field research for EACH-FOR in Central Asia. The research in Central Asia will encompass Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and culminate in a global overview of forecast environmentally induced migration flows. The project will produce detailed subregion or country level migration scenarios based on 24 case studies. The overview will become the subject of an international conference in Bonn in October 2008 on “Environment, Forced Migration and Social Vulnerability” (www.efmsv2008.org).

Tajikistan – Assisting Labour Migrants

From 2004 through 2006, the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe and the IOM financed an information resource centre for potential migrants. To help the Government reduce the number of migrants who violate immigration and registration regulations in destination countries, the Centre established regional information centres in Khujand, Kulyab, Kurgan-Tyube and Shaartuz in 2006. The OSCE information centres for labour migrants respond to a growing demand for such information in Tajikistan. The OSCE supported these centres throughout 2007. In 2008, the IOM took over funding of two OSCE regional centres. In 2007, the Tajik Foreign Employment Service helped the OSCE regional information centres to take the contacts necessary to arrange employment beforehand, so that migrants could leave Tajikistan with a job waiting for them in their destination country.

5.5 Anti-trafficking activities

The OCEEA continued to provide programme guidance and financial support to a number of carry-over projects from its Anti-Trafficking Programme “Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings (ATP)” (EF.GAL/16/04, 2 June 2004).

Under the Subprogramme I (Self-regulation) of the ATP, the OCEEA worked with the Presence in Albania to organize, with the support of the UNICEF, a subregional event on the “Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism” aiming at sharing experiences with other countries, in which the Code had already been implemented, specifically Montenegro, Romania and Bulgaria. In support of the Albania’s official



Anti-trafficking poster.

signing of the Code of Conduct, the OCEEA raised funds from the Andorra Delegation to the OSCE for the production of TV spots to raise public awareness of the government and tourism industry’s commitment to promote sustainable

tourism and protect children. In addition, as part of the joint OCEEA-ODIHR project “Women’s Economic Empowerment and Sustainability Programme”, the OCEEA assisted the Presence in Albania in the preparation of a labour market assessment in the north of the country, which evaluated employment and business opportunities for women in that region. Subsequently, entrepreneurship training workshops were organized and followed up by the establishment of a dedicated micro-credit facility administered by “Opportunity Albania”, a national micro-finance institution, for small business loans for women at risk.

In the effort to demonstrate the importance of addressing trafficking in human beings in destination countries, the OCEEA co-operated with the International Business Leaders Forum to introduce the Youth Career Initiative (YCI) in Spain as a preventive strategy to assist the immigrants and Roma. The OCEEA funded a YCI pilot project in Madrid, working in co-operation with the Intercontinental Hotel and the Tomillo Foundation. In Romania, the OCEEA co-funded the project “Supporting Community Economic Development through Agribusiness” implemented by NGO “Reaching Out”. The aim of the project was to enhance economic opportunities by introducing agribusiness development to the rural communities of the Walachia region in order to generate higher income in these communities.

Albania – Combating Human Trafficking through Economic Empowerment and Protection Measures

To re-integrate Trafficking Victims (VOTs) into mainstream society, the on-going project activities aim at strengthening the economic environment and SME opportunities for women in remote, impoverished rural regions of Albania. The project is being implemented in close co-operation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities as well as the Ministry of Interior. Under this initiative, NGO “The Centre for Economic and Business Education” conducted an initial assessment of labour market and employment opportunities for women in the Northern regions, accompanied by a series of seminars to encourage public-private partnership, as well as more integrated government assistance programmes for women and vulnerable groups.

Albania – Implementation of the “Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism”

Tourism in Albania is projected to grow rapidly in the near future, bringing with it a host of economic benefits but also certain risks associated with the tourism industry as seen in other countries. The OSCE has therefore supported an initiative encouraging self-regulation of the private sector operating in the tourism industry through introduction of the World Tourism Organization’s (WTO) “Code of Conduct for

the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism”. The project is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Youth, and the Ministry of Interior. Activities under the project included training seminars for tour operators in six of the most popular tourist regions, a conference with participation of Albanian tour operators and representatives from neighbouring countries that had adopted the Code, as well as a visit to Montenegro, where the Code has been widely adopted in the tourism sector. These activities resulted in 21 tourism companies signing the Code at a ceremony held in November 2007. Tourists entering Albania are provided information on the objectives of the Code via large display boards at the fifteen main border crossing points.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Anti-trafficking Activities

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to support the work of state and local authorities in combating trafficking in human beings, in particular initiatives to address the growing problem of internal trafficking. The Mission worked with local authorities to create the “Rules for Protection of Victims and Witnesses of Human Trafficking, Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina”, which were endorsed by the Council of Ministers in July 2007. The Rules, besides defining general protection provisions, foresee measures aimed at the rehabilitation and re-socialisation of the victims in accordance with their needs. Those measures include further education, vocational training, assistance in employment and other social measures, which are realised through close co-operation and co-ordination with the relevant institutions in the country, such as employment bureaus, institutions of social welfare and children protection and non-governmental organizations.

Montenegro – Signing of the Revised Memorandum of Co-operation on the Fight against Human Trafficking

Following the Montenegrin Government’s adoption of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy in November 2003, in line with the general recommendations of the OSCE/CoE expert team and the OSCE Action Plan on Human Trafficking, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro facilitated the implementation of the strategy by supporting a number of activities aimed at improving the level of co-operation among various government bodies and relevant non-governmental organizations. One of the main results of these efforts was the signing of the Memorandum of Co-operation in March 2005. However, this document proved to be less effective than it was intended to and the Mission therefore initiated its revision in June 2007. The main objective of this effort was to render the Memorandum more applicable, through simplifying the text of the document and having each of the signatories develop individual annexes to the Memorandum, in which its rights and obligations in relation to other signatories would be defined. On 18 October

2007, the revised Memorandum was signed at a ceremony held in Podgorica. The signatories to the new Memorandum are the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Police Directorate and three NGOs.

Kosovo/UNMIK – Anti-Trafficking Assessment Report

In 2007, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo carried out an assessment of the anti-trafficking capacity of local governments. In particular, the Mission studied the effectiveness of identification and referral mechanisms employed in Kosovo in order to identify the remaining gaps. The assessment report was ready in October 2007 and included many recommendations for local and international institutions and organizations operating in Kosovo. The Mission organized a press conference in Prishtina to publicize the report.

Kosovo/UNMIK – Public Awareness Campaign

From 26 November until 9 December 2007, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo financially supported and co-organized

an anti-trafficking campaign entitled “Public Awareness Campaign against Trafficking in Human Beings.” The OSCE's partners were the Ministry of Justice and the Basketball Club “Prishtina.” The target groups of the campaign were young boys and girls from age ten to seventeen – the potential victims of trafficking. In 2008, the Mission continued its support for the campaign. In co-operation with the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Mission produced a documentary film on human trafficking.

Kosovo/UNMIK – Anti-Trafficking Training Sessions

From December 2007 until March 2008, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo carried out a number of one-day training sessions for labour inspectors, victim advocates and the members of the Trafficking in Human Beings Section of the Kosovo Police Service in several regions of Kosovo. The overall goal of these training sessions and roundtable discussions was to strengthen the fight against trafficking in human beings.

6. Environmental Security and Co-operation

6.1 The Environment and Security Initiative

It is widely recognized today that the destruction and over-exploitation of natural resources and ecosystems negatively affect socio-economic development and can threaten societal stability. Similarly, disputes over environmental issues such as cross-border pollution or shared assets such as rivers and lakes can cause political tension and even conflict. Countries experiencing an economic transition or political stress are particularly vulnerable to environmental damage and competition over resources. The Environmental and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) recognizes that the best path to addressing environmental and security concerns is through international dialogue and neighbourly co-operation. It therefore assists governments to identify common solutions and to develop joint projects for achieving them.

The ENVSEC Initiative, founded in 2003, has grown into a stable and encouraging partnership between six international organizations: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the associated partner – the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The ENVSEC Initiative has national focal points in the twenty participating countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Each ENVSEC partner contributes its skills, expertise and networks in support of assessment, policy development, institution-building and technical co-operation. Relying on support from the field presences of the OSCE, the UNDP, and the REC, the ENVSEC partners are rendering assistance, which ranges from mapping out and codifying environment and security risks of mining practices in the Balkans to monitoring and programming remediation of cross border industrial pollution in the Ferghana Valley, actual cleaning up of obsolete pesticide stocks in the South Caucasus, and helping to increase public access to environmental information through supporting public environmental information centres (Aarhus centres). The current ENVSEC portfolio includes over 55 projects with the entire budget of around USD 24 million.

Activities conducted under the ENVSEC Initiative show that environment can act as a bridge for cross-boundary co-op-

eration. Joint assessments and information exchanges have identified common interests, improved mutual understanding, and built foundations for agreements on transboundary environmental management. The partnership approach, on which ENVSEC is based, brings explicit benefits of improved co-ordination and comprehensive approach on regional activities as well as enhanced synergies and coherence with other donor initiatives at the country and subregion levels. The development of the activities of the ENVSEC Initiative is based on the outcomes of the environment and security risk assessments and consultations with the participating countries' governments, academia and civil society.

6.1.1 Highlights from Central Asia



Meeting of the Interstate Sustainable Development Commission, Bishkek, 21 June 2007.

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan – Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Within the framework of ENVSEC, Norway sponsored the project “Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-

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boundary Context: Pilot Implementation” in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The OCEEA and the Secretariat of the UNECE Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Convention, in co-operation with the relevant field presences, are supporting both countries in their endeavours to assess the environmental impact of new facilities and activities at an early stage of planning, including cross-border impacts. In 2007, in-depth environmental assessments were launched in the Amu-Darya river basin and on the Eastern Caspian. The UNEP is co-ordinating these processes with the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad.

Kyrgyzstan – Meeting of the Interstate Sustainable Development Commission

On 21 June 2007, the Interstate Sustainable Development Commission (ISDC) reviewed the activities of the ENVSEC Initiative in Central Asia at a meeting in Bishkek. The ISDC mechanism was established by the heads of the Central Asian states to ensure a comprehensive approach to environmental safety and to preserve natural resources in the region. The Commission is governed by the ministers of nature protection of the Central Asian countries. The ISDC approved the ENVSEC report and recommended further development of the Initiative in Central Asia under the Article 5 of the concluding resolution.



Meeting of drought experts in Tashkent in November 2007.

Uzbekistan – Meeting on a Drought Management Centre

Within the framework of the Economic and Environmental Forum process and with the support of Spain, the ENVSEC facilitated a dialogue on the establishment of a regional drought management centre in Central Asia. In November 2007, experts from all Central Asian states and Mongolia as well as representatives of the World Meteorological Or-

ganization attended a meeting co-organized by the UNCCD and Uzhydromet in Tashkent. The meeting produced a draft of the Terms of Reference for creating the regional centre. A final decision to establish the centre may take place at a follow-up meeting in Bishkek in May 2008.

6.1.2 Highlights from Eastern Europe

In Eastern Europe, 2007 was the first year of implementation of ENVSEC activities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, following the official launch of the Environment and Security Assessment in May 2007. Donors' support made it possible to begin activities in all of these three countries, as well as to specifically manage shared natural resources and combat risks from pollution and waste in such priority areas as Polesie and the Drisviaty Lake basin in Belarus, and Crimea and Donbas in Ukraine. ENVSEC project-specific meetings and workshops took place in Minsk, Kyiv, Donetsk, Simferopol, Chisinau and Lund. One area of development was the gradual incorporation of environment and security considerations into sectoral (e.g. energy), regional and national planning and policies. Public and political awareness was raised through ENVSEC's country-based and regional events (Prague, Chisinau, Minsk, Belgrade), work with mass media, and co-operation with other programmes such as CIDA-funded PROGINT. A regional ENVSEC retreat in Lausanne, Switzerland, facilitated a discussion among the recipient governments, donor agencies and ENVSEC partner organizations active in Eastern Europe. Regional information bulletins supported communication with stakeholders in between physical meetings. New activities under preparation include the clean-up of obsolete pesticides in Belarus, mapping Chernobyl pollution, further support to inter-state co-operation in the Dniester and the Pripjat basins, prevention of import of hazardous waste to Ukraine, energy-environment assessment and training on environment-security linkages for Eastern Europe's mass media.

Moldova* and Ukraine – Dniester II Project

In December 2007, the ENVSEC partners finalized the project “Action Programme to Improve Transboundary Co-operation and Sustainable Management of the Dniester River Basin (Dniester II)” in Moldova and Ukraine. The project was funded by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, implemented in co-operation with the UNECE and with considerable support from the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. The project facilitated the signing of several political agreements between Moldova and Ukraine on enhancing the co-operation in the Dniester River basin. The project also fostered the institutionalization of stakeholder participation in decision-making, improvement of co-operation on sanitary-epidemiological issues and the establishment of principles of a joint information system for the Dniester River basin. The results of the project were published in Russian and English.

**Through environmental activities, the OSCE Mission to Moldova works cross-dimensionally to support the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Programme in its effort to build confidence and security in the region.*

Environment and security priority areas in Eastern Europe



Map by UNEP/GRID-Arendal, May 2007.

	Areas under environmental stress ¹		Past / current (frozen) conflicts
	Areas contaminated by the Chernobyl explosion ²		Land and territorial disputes
	Strongly polluted coastal areas		Inter-state disputes in the process of international or bilateral resolution
	Important nature: near-border protected areas and transboundary regions of high ecological importance ³		Inter-ethnic disputes
	Nuclear power plants (operating / closed)		Environment and security priority areas

Notes: 1 - Medium to high stress according to national indices of environmental conditions. 2 - Caesium-137 activity above 555 kBq/m². 3 - Shown only outside of areas under medium to strong environmental stress.

Sources: Belarus State University. *Atlas of Belarus Geography*. Minsk 2005; State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography. *National Atlas of Belarus*. Minsk 2002; Botnaru V. and O. Kazantseva. *Republic of Moldova. Atlas*. Chisinau 2005; State Committee for Natural Resources. *Integrated Atlas of Ukraine*. Kyiv 2005. Baloga V.I. (ed.) *20 Years after Chernobyl Catastrophe. National Report of Ukraine*. Kyiv 2006; Shevchuk V.E. and V.L. Gurashevsky (eds.) *20 Years after the Chernobyl Catastrophe. National Report*. Minsk 2006; Ministry of Environment Protection of Ukraine. On-line environmental maps (www.menr.gov.ua); ENVSEC consultations 2006-7.

THE MAP DOES NOT IMPLY THE EXPRESSION OF ANY OPINION ON THE PART OF ENVSEC PARTNER ORGANISATIONS CONCERNING THE LEGAL STATUS OF ANY COUNTRY, TERRITORY, CITY OR AREA OF ITS AUTHORITY, OR DELINEATION OF ITS FRONTIERS AND BOUNDARIES.

Responding to requests from the Governments of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, and following reports by their environmental ministries, ENVSEC held extensive consultations with a diverse group of national representatives — government officials, scientists and members of environmental NGOs. Their most critical concerns were summarized and published in a comprehensive, 100-page regional report in English and Russian, including maps highlighting environmental issues that pose the greatest risk to security and stability.

6.1.3 Highlights from South Eastern Europe

The activities implemented in South-Eastern Europe built upon previous ENVSEC activities conducted in the region, namely management of transboundary natural resources, reducing transboundary risks of hazardous activities as well as projects, which focused on strengthening civil society. The activity highlights of South-Eastern Europe include the finalization of the publication "Balkan Vital Graphics: environment without borders", which analyses the challenges and opportunities in the sectors of economic co-operation and environmental sustainability. The publication was launched at the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe".

Kosovo/UNMIK – Environmental Security and Co-operation

On 19-20 October 2007, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the Assembly of Kosovo organized the South-Eastern Europe regional parliamentary conference on environment entitled "Environment as a Medium for Democracy and Economic Development in Societies in Transition". More than thirty members of parliament from Albania, Bosnia and Herze-



Water sampling of the Aras River.

govina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo attended the conference. The aim of this conference was to discuss cross-boundary environmental policy development and the role of parliaments in overseeing environmental policy-setting and its implementation. The Conference acknowledged the common challenges of the societies in the region to implement efficient environmental policies. During the two-day conference, MPs from the region discussed a wide range of issues and best practices on national and cross-boundary environmental governance. The discussion provided lawmakers in the region with an understanding of principles, institutions and participatory mechanisms which contribute to compliance with environmental laws and standards.

6.1.4 Highlights from South Caucasus

In the South Caucasus, ENVSEC partners have achieved considerable success in laying the foundation for future co-operation between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia on environmental issues in conflict zones and transboundary natural resource management.

- ENVSEC is in the final negotiation stage with the Georgian and South Ossetian authorities to establish environmental centres in South Ossetia, which will serve as a basis for future in-depth environmental assessments and community meetings and projects.
- A high-level ministerial meeting held in Lichtenstein resulted in the Vaduz Ministerial Declaration and associated Road Map, in which the South Caucasus governments pledged to launch a process to promote intergovernmental co-operation on protecting the Caucasus mountain habitat.

Monitoring and Management of the Kura-Aras River Basin

Following national consultations held in 2004, ENVSEC published a Regional Report which highlighted environmental and security issues in the South Caucasus region. Since the publication of the Report, ENVSEC has developed a work programme, which includes the NATO/OSCE South Caucasus River Monitoring as well as capacity-building through strategic environmental assessments.

ENVSEC continues to support the three countries in the implementation of international environmental conventions. The South Caucasus River Monitoring project introduced new standards for water quality monitoring, harmonized sampling and testing methodologies, offered trainings to the local staff and established a data sharing system that is accessible to all project partners via the Internet. This project was carried out in co-operation with scientific institutions of all three South Caucasus countries and sets a good precedent of a mutually beneficial co-operation on transboundary water quality issues. ENVSEC has recently provided funding to Armenia for the strengthening of the implementation of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. Accordingly, ENVSEC provided funding for a national workshop on Obligations and Rights under the Protocol on Pollutants Release and Transfer Register to the Aarhus Convention.

Georgia

The OSCE Mission to Georgia initiated an Environmental Confidence-Building Programme designed to help resolve environmental disputes in South Ossetia. The Programme aims to introduce confidence-building mechanisms in the conflict zone where Georgian and South Ossetian sides have disa-

agreements over water access. Within the framework of this Programme, the Mission is working to establish Environmental Clubs in both Georgian and Ossetian communities. The clubs promote public awareness of environmental problems and facilitate the exchange of information between the two sides of the conflict. In addition, the Mission is carrying out an assessment of environmental problems in the conflict zone. Upon request of the South Ossetian side, a small fact finding team was invited to assess solid waste management problems in the Tskhinvali region. The main objective of the activity was to deliver recommendations for improving waste management in the region. At the next stage, the programme will aim to attract donor funding to improve waste management.

6.2 Combating land degradation and soil and water contamination

Environment and Security Aspects in the Mediterranean Region

Promoting better understanding and raising awareness of the linkages between environment and security were among the priorities of the 2007 Spanish Chairmanship in the Economic and Environmental Dimension. Another Spanish priority in 2007 was to encourage the participation of the Mediterranean Partners in OSCE activities. To that end, the OSCE Chairmanship, in co-operation with NATO Public Diplomacy Division, organized a workshop on "Water Scarcity, Land Degradation and Desertification in the Mediterranean region - Environment and Security Aspects" in Valencia, Spain, on 10-11 December 2007. The main outcome of the workshop was the recommendation to undertake an assessment on water scarcity, land degradation, desertification and security in the Mediterranean Region, which could be based on the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) methodology.

The workshop was aimed at government officials from the Mediterranean Region and gathered representatives of Water management, Land degradation and Desertification Departments of Ministries of Environment as well as representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs. In addition, policy makers, scientists and experts were also invited. The aim was to discuss how the OSCE, NATO and other competent organizations such as the UNCCD, UNEP MAP and the EU could play a role in ensuring that the linkages between environment and security are addressed in the Mediterranean Region, especially with regard to water scarcity, land degradation and desertification. 70 participants from 24 countries attended the workshop.

Oil Spills Response and Remediation: Status of Regional Co-operation in the Caspian Sea

As a follow-up to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum dedicated to address the "Key challenges to

ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management" and with the support of the Spanish delegation and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad, a technical workshop on "Oil Spills Response and Remediation: Status of regional co-operation in the Caspian Sea, available technologies and exchange of best practices from the OSCE region" was organized in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, on 10-11 March 2008. The workshop was organized back to back with the second Preparatory Conference to the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum - "Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment", thus gaining from the discussions at the Conference and facilitating the participation of a wider number of international experts.



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The main sources of oil pollution include discharges of hydrogen sulphides from cracks in oil deposits, accumulation of toxic substances, and discharges of solutions from wells.

In the course of the workshop, 50 participants from such Caspian littoral states as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan presented national problems, international experiences, lessons learned and exchanged views with international experts on the best possible ways forward in developing "Oil Spills Response and Remediation" programmes in the Caspian Sea region. The workshop aimed at identifying the best oil spills remediation technologies

and at setting up a framework for co-operation in this field between the OSCE and other international organizations. In order to build on common synergies, the OSCE sought co-operation with several international organizations and private sector companies active in Oil Spills Response and Remediation and environmental protection, specifically the International Maritime Organization, the Caspian Environmental Programme and the Oil Spills Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI), all of which have a proven record of activities in the Caspian Sea.

Among the recommendations, the importance of enhancing the capacity of the countries of the region to implement regional agreements (the Teheran Convention and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation) was highlighted. Another recommendation was to develop a Regional Contingency Plan for the Caspian Sea, which would include an assessment and mapping of environmental risks originating from oil spills. A follow-up event may take place in Baku later this year in order to continue this discussion and further refine the recommendations.

Serbia – Co-operation with the Faculty of Forestry

In line with the declared OSCE Spanish Chairmanship's priorities of reducing soil contamination and land degradation and introducing better water management, the OSCE Mission to Serbia supported the publication of the abstracts of a Conference on "Erosion and Torrent Control as a Factor in Sustainable River Basin Management – marking 100 years of experience with erosion and torrent control in Serbia".

OSCE



Planting trees in the Khatlon region, Tajikistan.

Tajikistan – Preventing Land Degradation

The OSCE Centre in Dushanbe financed the planting of 50,000 trees in the Khatlon and Sughd regions and in the Rasht valley in an effort to mitigate land degradation, ero-

sion, mud and landslides, and floods in Tajikistan. The project, supported by the Government of Tajikistan, was carried out by 20,000 participants. Tajikistan needs millions of trees to be planted in order to save the scarce arable land it has. Tajikistan loses 50,000 hectares of productive land every year due to erosion, which poses a serious threat to the economy of the country and makes it more vulnerable to natural disasters.

Turkmenistan - Sustainable Land Management and Community Capacity-Building Training Programme

In the period from November 27 to December 11, 2007, the Centre in Ashgabad supported the training of farmers in the Dashoguz province on the rational use of irrigation water on farms, combating salinization of irrigated lands and on ecological principles of soil fertility. The objectives of the project were to raise environmental awareness among farmers and rural households and to strengthen the capacity of land and water users to manage resources in an efficient manner.

Uzbekistan – Follow-up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum

As a follow-up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum, the Spanish Chairmanship and the OCEEA organized, with the support of the Uzbek Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, a conference on "Main Challenges for Providing Environmental Security and Sustainable Development in the Region of Central Asia: Degradation of Land and Pollution of Soil" in Tashkent on 30-31 October 2007. The conference emphasized the contribution that technology transfer could bring to addressing the acute challenges in land and water management faced by the Central Asian region. Furthermore, the host country indicated its support for an enhanced OSCE's involvement in socio-economic problems connected with the drying-up of the Aral Sea, along with questions concerning the prevention of soil salinization and water mineralization and the preservation of biodiversity in Central Asia.

6.3 Water related activities

Kazakhstan – Building Capacity for Water Co-operation

In October 2007, the OSCE Centre in Almaty, jointly with the local UNDP office and with the US support, organized a meeting on the project "Capacity for Water Co-operation" in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The meeting focused on "River basin commissions and other institutions for transboundary water co-operation". Proceedings of the meeting are being prepared for publication.

Moldova* – Monitoring Water Quality

In August 2007, the OSCE Mission to Moldova financially supported a project to monitor the environmental situa-

**Through environmental activities, the OSCE Mission to Moldova works cross-dimensionally to support the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Programme in its effort to build confidence and security in the region.*

tion, including water quality, of the Cuciurgan Reservoir in the Southern part of Transdnestria. This project is scheduled to run for one year and is being implemented by the Moldovan NGO “Eco-TIRAS” in partnership with the Moldovan Ministry of Reintegration, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and three Transdnestrian environmental NGOs. The Cuciurgan reservoir is facing environmental pollution from a nearby power station and from the discharge of communal waste. The water from the reservoir discharges into the Black Sea in the area close to the city of Odessa.

Tajikistan – Fostering Regional Co-operation on Transboundary Water Resources

The OSCE Centre in Dushanbe has reviewed multilateral agreements for the joint development and management of transboundary rivers for their compliance with international

OSCE/Eugenia Benigni



The reservoir of the Nurek hydropower station in Tajikistan.

water laws and the main principles of integrated management and has drafted a set of recommendations for the five Central Asian states and Afghanistan on transboundary water resources management taking into account the specifics of river basins.

Turkmenistan – Training on Efficient Use of Irrigation Water

On 21-25 January 2008, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad, in co-operation with the city municipality and the agribusiness school of Turkmenabat, organized a five-day workshop aimed

at sharing international best practices on water use management in irrigation and raising awareness of the environmental consequences of salinization and inefficient irrigation methods. Around 30 participants from Turkmenabat’s municipal water utilities department, state and private farmers and the River Basin Organization attended the workshop and learned about new water saving technologies in the agricultural sector.

6.4 Managing hazardous waste

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Selective Waste Collection and Waste Disposal

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina supported the Beacon Scheme for recognizing and rewarding excellence in municipal governance. In the second round of the Scheme, ten municipalities competed for Beacon status in Selective Waste Collection and Waste Disposal. Two municipalities, Bosanska Krupa and Posušje, were awarded Beacon status for demonstrating better competence and effectiveness in waste collection and waste disposal. Bosanska Krupa adopted a strategic plan on environmental protection with the aim of being officially recognized as an “eco-municipality”. After receiving these awards, Bosanska Krupa and Posušje shared their best practices with representatives of other municipalities.

Kyrgyzstan – Min Kush and Mailuu Suu - International Threat from Uranium Waste

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek supported a technical working group under the auspices of the Ministry of Emergency Services to resolve the threat from landslides that pose an environmental threat to the residents of the former uranium-mining village Min Kush. Should a landslide occur, it is possible that a reservoir would be formed unearthing the uranium-tailing site. The Centre in Bishkek also worked to alleviate socio-economic suffering of the remaining villagers of Min Kush, by working with the community on income generation projects. The Field Office in Osh publicized the danger of the Mailuu Suu radioactive sites, which pose a threat to the wider Ferghana Valley, and trained school children and health professionals in minimizing the dangers of radiation exposure. In addition, the Field Office facilitated co-ordination meetings of the Ministry of Environment and Emergencies, civil society organizations and the local population with the aim to encourage information sharing and transparency with regard to the rehabilitation activities in Mailuu Suu.

Kyrgyzstan – Waste Management

Over recent years, citizens of Talas, Naryn, Osh and other towns have observed an increase in waste production. Municipalities undertake efforts to improve the situation. However, municipal budgets are quite tight and cities cannot commit adequate technical resources to the collection and

recycling of waste. The situation is also aggravated by the lack of public awareness with regard to the responsibilities for proper garbage disposal and payment of waste collection fees. At the request of the mayors' offices, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, in partnership with the Urban Institute, assisted the selected municipalities in developing long-term service improvement action plans aimed at raising citizen responsibility and improving services. The OSCE also worked with the International Business Council to encourage its members to be more responsible when deciding how to dispose of their corporate waste.

Moldova* – Re-packaging Pesticides

In 2007, the OSCE Mission to Moldova continued to give administrative and financial support to the joint NAMSA/OSCE project for the re-packaging and centralizing of dangerous pesticides in Moldova. The project was completed in June 2007.

Tajikistan – Addressing Uranium Waste Problems in Northern Tajikistan

The OSCE Centre in Dushanbe in co-operation with the Russian Federal Agency on Atomic Energy, the All-Russian Design and Research Institute of Production Engineering,

environmental damage by ensuring an effective management of uranium waste in Northern Tajikistan.

Ukraine – Area Rehabilitation in Novobohdanivka

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine implemented a rehabilitation project in the Novobohdanivka village in the Melitopol district, where an ammunition explosion and a massive fire had taken place in May 2004. The Government



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Training on new equipment.

of Ukraine approached the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation with a request to address the consequences of the disaster in Novobohdanivka. The main objective of the project was to build the capacity of the Ukrainian Government to seek and collect scattered unexploded ordnances for the rehabilitation of affected areas. The project provided Ukraine with modern detection equipment, radio-controlled detonation equipment, personal protection suits, and with corresponding training on how to employ these devices. The equipment was successfully used to clear a significant contaminated area.

6.5 Raising environmental awareness

Environmental Diplomacy Training

On 19-20 October 2007, the OCEEA assisted the Chairmanship with organizing a short environmental diplomacy course tailored to the requirements of the Delegates of the Economic and Environmental Committee. The course was attended by 21 participants, selected from the Permanent Missions and other parts of the international community in Vienna. The preparatory work for the course was done in close consultation between the UNEP Regional Office for Europe (UNEP-

OSCE/Surat Tolmashov



Northern Tajikistan.

the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Taboshar municipality developed the background materials for the foreign financing of re-cultivating radioactive waste deposits in the Taboshar area. The project aims at preventing health and

**Through environmental activities, the OSCE Mission to Moldova works cross-dimensionally to support the Crisis Prevention and Recovery Programme in its effort to build confidence and security in the region.*

ROE) and the OSCE, and with the support of the University of Geneva, the UNEP's partner in the Environmental Diplomacy Training Programme, within which context the course was organized and publicized.

Photo Contest

The OCEEA assisted the Spanish OSCE Chairmanship with organizing a photo contest on the theme "Land and water, protecting our fragile environment". The photo contest culminated at the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague, where the winning photographs were put on display. The contest, open to all photographers, professional and amateur, living and working in the OSCE region, was won by Shamil Zhumatov of Kazakhstan, who presented a photo series on the Aral Sea.

Albania – Boosting Citizen Participation in Public Service Provision

In 2007, the OSCE Presence in Albania provided a grant to a community-based organization "Jona Association" in the Southern tourist resort of Saranda, which gave an impetus to a project aimed at boosting transparency through active citizen participation. The MoU with the local authorities established a joint citizen/municipal committee to monitor waste management services in a pilot area. A private company was contracted to manage waste in this area. Through the establishment of a community network and regular meetings between local residents, the contractor and municipal officials, the issues of concern were effectively addressed. The project gave the residents a deeper understanding of waste management service standards and made the municipality and contractor much more accountable to the public.

Armenia – OSCE/UNESCO Summer Camp

In July 2007, the OSCE Programme Implementation Presence in the Syunik province, together with the Armenian National Commission for the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), co-organized a summer camp in Syunik for disabled and socially disadvantaged children from all regions of Armenia under the slogan – "Learning to live together". The aim of the camp was to provide recreational and educational activities, with the main focus on environmental awareness. In addition, the camp promoted health, independence, self-esteem, integration and social skills of the children. The camp assisted 120 disabled and socially disadvantaged children.

Azerbaijan – Facilitating Environmental Education in Schools

A major undertaking in the second half of 2007 was the training of 1,000 teachers and educationalists on the Green Pack environmental educational toolkit, as well as the distribution of the kit to several hundred secondary schools across Azerbaijan. The Green Pack was originally developed by the

Regional Environmental Centre (REC) based in Hungary. The Azerbaijani version of the Green Pack was produced in 2006 by the Baku-based NGO "For Sustainable Development", supported by the OSCE Office in Baku and by British Petroleum (BP). As a result of this activity, over the next few years, tens



A student employs the Green Pack to learn about the environment in Azerbaijan.

of thousands of Azerbaijani school children are expected to benefit from high-quality training on local, national and global environmental challenges and remedial action.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Partnership for Environmental Awareness

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina focused on establishing partnerships of municipalities and citizens in the development and delivery of municipal services and in carrying out municipal tasks and responsibilities. Milići, a small municipality, established such partnership in response to environmental pollution in local communities. The partners joined forces with an entrepreneur producing containers for recycling garbage to develop an action plan and share responsibility for the outcome. Supported by the Mission, thirteen municipalities improved their water supply systems, raised environmental awareness, improved waste disposal and cleaned river beds in partnership with citizens.

Serbia – "Funny Rafting"

The OSCE Mission to Serbia supported a project on cleaning the Ibar River and its riverbanks, promoting environmental activities, raising public awareness, and facilitating regional opportunities. The 18-year old tradition of "Funny raft" on the Ibar River in Central Serbia is a good and practical opportunity to promote environmental activities and sustainable eco-tourism. The groups targeted by the project included representatives of local government, tourist organizations,

local businesses, as well as local residents, famous people, media and NGOs.

Serbia – Environment for Europe, VI pan-European Ministerial Conference

The 2007 "Environment for Europe" (EfE) Ministerial in Belgrade gathered around 3,000 participants, of which 2,000 were delegates and the remaining 1,000 mostly media representatives. The declaration "Building Bridges to the Future", adopted by the Ministers of the region of the UNECE at the end of the conference, referred to the useful work of ENVSEC aiming at reducing environment-related security risks. The OSCE Mission to Serbia supported the participation of Serbian NGOs in the conference. The NGOs were split in eight separate groups, with each group tasked to address a different aspect of environmental protection and identify major environmental problems. The findings were presented in the Final Serbian Eco-NGO Platform document.

Serbia – Eco-Playground

The OSCE Mission to Serbia supported a project to construct an environmentally-friendly playground built entirely of recyclable materials. This pilot project was designed to meet the needs and interests of the children of Pančevo, one of the most polluted cities in Serbia. Wooden elements, toxic-free paints, solar lamps and surrounding greenery added value to the environmental aspect of the project and promoted renewable energy resources. Moreover, this playground offers equipment specifically designed for disabled children. The OSCE Mission, jointly with the Municipal Directorate for Construction and Development and the NGO "Happy World", initiated the project, financially supported the awareness-raising campaign and lobbied for donations. Various companies from both the public and the private sectors donated funds or equipment for the playground, making the project an example of successful public-private partnership.

Serbia - "Earth from above"

The OSCE Mission to Serbia co-sponsored the exhibition by Yann Arthus Bertrand "Earth from above" - a portrait of the planet at the turn of the 21st century. The exhibition showed 120 large format photographs presenting a bird's eye view of various landscapes of the Earth. Among them, there were also depictions of the terrible tragedy in Chernobyl and of industrial ghost towns. The aim of the project was to increase public awareness about threats to the environment and to promote environmental care at all levels, from policymakers to citizens.

Turkmenistan – Support to the Important Bird Areas Programme

Since November 2007, the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat has been supporting the Important Bird Areas Programme,

in co-operation with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan, through a financial contribution to projects of the Bird Conservation Society in Turkmenbashi. The project seeks to identify sites that are important for the conservation of birds and for biodiversity in general. The main objectives of the project are to develop and implement an educational program for schoolchildren, university students and the local population and conduct site bird monitoring activities on the Eastern Caspian coast.

Uzbekistan – Environmental Education

With a view of increasing public awareness on environmental issues, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan is supporting, in co-operation with the Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Co-ordination Water Commission for Central Asia, a working group to develop a methodological book for school teachers and to include it in school curricula as a part of environmental education for secondary schools. Several training courses for secondary level teachers have been organized in the provinces.

Uzbekistan – Raising Environmental Awareness

The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan continued supporting the NGO "Environmental Public Advocacy Centre "Armon" in its efforts to raise environmental awareness and to encourage public participation in the decision-making process on environmental issues. In particular, a series of round tables on environmental security and civil initiatives were organized in several provinces. Topics related to the hazardous industrial waste, its impact on environmental

conditions and social welfare were discussed. During the reporting period, free legal consultations to citizens on environmental matters were rendered. A bulletin called "Environmental Security and Civil Initiative" was published and widely distributed.



Bulletin "Environmental Security and Public Initiative".

6.6 Implementing the Aarhus Convention

The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters was adopted on 25 June 1998 at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the 'Environment for Europe' process. Named after the Danish town in which it was signed, the Aarhus Convention aims to guarantee the public

the right to participate in environmental decision-making. As its title suggests, the Convention contains three broad themes, namely: access to information, public participation and access to justice. Since 1999, the OSCE has been working closely with the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat in promoting ratification and implementation of this Convention by its participating States through organizing awareness-raising campaigns, national and regional seminars and supporting the establishment, functioning and growth of environmental NGOs.

It is within this overall framework that, since 2002, the OSCE has been supporting the establishment of Aarhus Centres and Public Environmental Information Centres (PEICs) in several countries, including Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Some of these Centres are supported by the ENVSEC Initiative.

■ Aarhus Centres / PEICs

Albania:	Tirana, Shkodra, Vlora (http://aic.org.al/)
Armenia:	Yerevan, Vanadzor, Ijevan, Dilijan, Goris, Kapan, Gavar, Hradzan, Gumri, Kajaran (www.aarhus.am)
Azerbaijan:	Baku, Ganja, Gazakh (www.aarhuscenter.az)
Belarus:	Minsk
Georgia:	Tbilisi (http://aarhus.dsl.ge)
Kyrgyzstan:	Osh
Tajikistan:	Dushanbe, Khujand (www.aarhus.tj)

Activities conducted by the Aarhus Centres reflect a decentralized approach, based upon co-operation and collaboration between governmental and non-governmental agencies. The Aarhus Centres / PEICs in many of these countries have enabled the development of a new understanding whereby public institutions, local/regional administrations and non-governmental organizations jointly address the environmental challenges in their localities and seek solutions. The overarching goal of this emerging model would be that well-informed citizens, represented through civil society organizations, have the necessary capacity and power to influence local and, collectively, national environmental policies and decisions. The Aarhus Centres / PEICs have proved to be highly instrumental in providing local stakeholders with tools to achieve this goal.

These Centres mostly serve towards the objectives within the first pillar, the “information pillar” of the Aarhus Convention, although there is also an increasing focus on the second pillar of the Convention that aims at enabling citizens to participate in the environmental decision-making. Initiatives in support of “access to justice” remain to be a challenge both in terms of scope and quantity. Through the Aarhus Centres, the OSCE aims at ensuring increased focus on activities that

promote the implementation of the third pillar of the Convention. “The High-Level Judicial Workshop on Access to Justice in Environmental Matters for the Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Region” organized in Kyiv in June 2007 by the UNECE in co-operation with the OSCE has been highly instrumental in this respect. The main objectives of the workshop were to increase awareness of the Convention among members of the judiciary and to enable them to exercise their discretion in a way that promotes effective implementation of the article nine of the Convention.

The OSCE has also been responding to the capacity-building needs within the framework of the Aarhus Convention’s Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs). Through the ENVSEC Initiative, the OSCE supported the organization of a workshop in Armenia to provide guidance on the national implementation of the PRTRs. Hosted by the Armenian Ministry of Environment in Yerevan in November 2007, the workshop brought together national and international experts as well as representatives of the Aarhus Convention Secretariat. It was highly instrumental in exchange of experience among Armenian National Focal Points on the regional and global Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Basel Convention.

Albania

The OSCE Presence in Albania, in compliance with the MoU signed with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, continued an initiative aimed at strengthening public access to information and public participation in decision-making processes for better environmental governance. Two regional Aarhus Information Centres (AICs) were opened in Shkodra and Vlora, and a national website on the Aarhus Convention was launched. The AIC in Vlora made particularly significant progress in promoting itself as an impartial facility for bringing together local authorities, businesses, civil society and local community representatives to debate environment-related issues. The OSCE is further facilitating this process by supporting local officials in learning the “best practice” examples elsewhere in the country and also in Austria.

Armenia

Since the establishment of the first Public Environmental Information Centre in Yerevan, the Aarhus movement gained much in prominence and in scope. At the moment, ten Aarhus Centres are operating on the basis of bilateral Memoranda of Understanding signed by the Ministry of Nature Protection, Regional Governors and the OSCE Office in Yerevan. The 10th Aarhus Centre was established by the Kajaran Municipality and included into the Aarhus network at the mayor’s request. Based on the OSCE’s Comprehen-

sive Concept of Security, the Office continues to support the Government in its efforts to strengthen and broaden the network of Public Environmental Information Centres, which play a key role in fostering co-operation and engaging in a democratic dialogue on threats and challenges to environmental security.

Azerbaijan

In close co-operation with Azerbaijan's Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the OSCE Office in Baku provides technical assistance to the Aarhus Centre in Baku and is directly responsible for operating two new regional Aarhus Centres located in Ganja and Gazakh. While the Baku Centre has been closed for several months due to building repairs, the two regional Centres have been very well received in their local communities since their opening in February 2008. The Centres contain an environmental library with books and DVDs and have Internet access. The Centres

Kazakhstan

The OSCE Centre in Astana, in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment Protection of Kazakhstan, developed new guidelines for public hearings in environmental matters. In 2007, the guidelines were used by the environmental authorities as a key tool for public hearings conducted in Southern and Western Kazakhstan. The Centre also carried out a project on enforcing the third pillar of the Convention. The project, which was implemented in collaboration with the Supreme Court and the Institute of Justice, resulted in a manual on access to justice in environmental matters for judges. Further capacity-building measures for judges from all Kazakhstan's regions on the principles of the Aarhus Convention are now being planned in co-operation with the European Commission.

Kyrgyzstan

The Aarhus Centre in Osh invested significant efforts in raising awareness of the rights and the obligations as implied by the Aarhus Convention. The Centre has become the meeting venue for local NGOs to discuss environmental problems and seek solutions together with the relevant government agencies. The Centre has offered several trainings and hosted a number of public hearings.

Tajikistan

The OSCE Centre in Dushanbe has been supporting the Tajik authorities in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention by promoting public participation in the decision making process at the national and district levels as well as continuing to work with lawyers and journalists on the issues related to public participation and access to information via activities such as awareness-raising and training seminars, publications, radio and TV programmes. The Centre hosted a number of meetings, seminars and trainings connected to the Aarhus connection, including a seminar on "Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR)" in September 2007. The seminar targeted over 50 participants from governmental organizations, Regional State Committees on Environmental Protection and NGOs. In addition, the Centre prepared four quarterly bulletins on the status of Tajikistan's environment, the leaflets on the components of the Aarhus Convention, and assisted in drafting a new Nature Protection Law to be considered by the Parliament.

OSCE



A discussion in a new Aarhus Centre.

organize courses and public events on a regular basis and involve both government officials and representatives from the civil society.

Georgia

In the period of June 2007 to May 2008, the Aarhus Centre in Georgia conducted several environmental awareness campaigns for different target groups. These campaigns provided for a number of seminars in public schools and universities, a conference titled "Protect Natural Diversity of Georgia", as well as waste management seminars for environmental NGOs in the Gardabani region of Georgia.

6.7 Environmental Security Strategy

Tajikistan – Development of the Environmental Strategy

In 2007, the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe continued to support the Government's efforts in finalizing the development of the National Environmental Sector Strategies by offering expert assistance with drafting of air, chemical and biodiversity sector strategies based on the analysis of the environmental

situation in Tajikistan. This project aims at improving the institutional, legislative and normative framework for tackling priority short-term and long-term ecological problems through support to the National Working Group on drafting the Environmental Strategy.

6.8 Promoting Environmental Governance

Tajikistan – Green Patrols

The OSCE Centre in Dushanbe has been supporting young Tajik environmental activists called the Green Patrols since 2003. In 2007, Tajikistan's Green Patrols created a unified Green Youth Organization. The Centre in Dushanbe assists the Green patrols with publishing of the "Compass" monthly, which addresses the most pressing environmental issues. In 2007, the best activists of the Green Patrols from different parts of the country were invited to participate in a national ecological summer camp funded by the OSCE. They shared their field experience and discussed the methods of co-ordinating their efforts to protect the environment.

Moldova* – Environmentalist Summer Camp

In June 2007, the OSCE Mission to Moldova funded a ten day summer camp for young environmentalists, which was

held in the Northern part of Transnistria. The camp was organized by a Transdnestrian NGO with assistance from a Moldovan environmental NGO. Forty young people and ten adult supervisors from both banks of the river attended this camp designed to promote contacts between the communities, encourage respect for the environment, and develop an understanding of the links between environment and security.

Montenegro – Signing of the Memorandum of Co-operation in the Fight against Illegal Logging

Illegal logging being identified as one of the largest threats for sustainable forestry in Montenegro, the OSCE Mission to Montenegro designed a project intended to tackle this problem. The project, financially supported by a donation from the Spanish Government, aimed at the establishment of a joint Task Force and the development of operational procedures against illegal woodcutting, including the signing of a Memorandum of Co-operation among the identified main stakeholders. Specifically, the objective was to build the capacity of the relevant institutions to more effectively fight against and prevent illegal logging and timber trade. Following the establishment of a working group, in which the highest level of judicial and executive authorities was represented, a Memorandum of Co-operation was designed and signed at a ceremony in Podgorica, on 14 December 2007.

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List of Acronyms

ACN	Anti-Corruption Network
AIC	Aarhus Information Centre
AML	Anti-money laundering
APA	Almaty Programme of Action
ATP	Anti-Trafficking Programme
BDC	Business Development Centre
CEP	Caspian Environmental Programme
COEEA	Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
CORE	Co-operation for Rehabilitation of living conditions in Chernobyl affected areas in Belarus
CPC	OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre
DACI	Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative
DoFAML	Directorate of the Fight against Money Laundering
EACH-FOR	Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios
EAG	Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism
EEC	Economic and Environmental Committee
EED	Economic and Environmental Dimension
EEO	Economic and Environmental Officer
EfE	Environment for Europe
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment Document
ENVSEC	Environment and Security Initiative
EurAsEC	Eurasian Economic Community
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FERT	French Professional Agricultural Organization of International Co-operation and Rural Development
FIU	Financial intelligence unit
GIRCA	Georgian International Road Carriers Association
GOPAC	Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption
GPML	Global Programme Against Money Laundering
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Co-operation
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission (Baltic Marine Environmental Protection Commission)
HIDAA	High Inspectorate for Disclosure of Assets and Audit
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IFI	International Financial Institution
ILO	International Labour Office
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRU	International Road Transport Union
ISDC	Interstate Sustainable Development Commission

ISPS	IMO's International Ship and Port Facility Security
LEaD	Local Economic Development Project
LGU	Local government unit
LSP	Legislative Strengthening Programme
MC	Ministerial Council
MDPC	Municipal Development Planning Committee
MLA	Mutual legal assistance
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty 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
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSPRI	Oil Spills Preparedness Regional Initiative
PC	Permanent Council
PEIC	Public Environmental Information Centre
PIP	Programme Implementation Presence
PRTRs	Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
REC	Regional Environmental Centre
SME	Small and Medium sized Enterprises
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-ROE	UNEP Regional Office for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN-OHRLLS	United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
VOT	Victim of trafficking
WCO	World Customs Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization
YCI	Youth Career Initiative

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