



2005 Annual Report on

OSCE **ACTIVITIES**

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

05

early warning
conflict prevention
crisis management
post-conflict rehabilitation
human rights
democratization
confidence-building measures
arms control
preventive diplomacy
security-building measures
election monitoring
police training
freedom of the media
anti-trafficking
protecting national minorities
economic and environmental security
action against terrorism
institution-building
border monitoring
building civil society



OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES

Albania | Andorra | Armenia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belarus | Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina | Bulgaria | Canada | Croatia | Cyprus | Czech Republic
Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Georgia | Germany | Greece | Holy See | Hungary
Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Kazakhstan | Kyrgyzstan | Latvia | Liechtenstein | Lithuania
Luxembourg | the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | Malta | Moldova | Monaco
Netherlands | Norway | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Russian Federation | San Marino
Serbia and Montenegro | Slovakia | Slovenia | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Tajikistan
Turkey | Turkmenistan | Ukraine | United Kingdom | United States of America | Uzbekistan

PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

Afghanistan | Japan | Republic of Korea | Mongolia | Thailand

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

Algeria | Egypt | Israel | Jordan | Morocco | Tunisia



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Message from the Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut

2005 was a pivotal year for the OSCE. We recalled the historic anniversary of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 15th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe. We broadened the range of our activities to better address contemporary challenges like organized crime, migration and intolerance. And decisions were taken to strengthen the OSCE's effectiveness for the future.

This is the first OSCE Annual Report that I have the pleasure to introduce as Secretary General. I regard it as an important showcase of the OSCE's work and a valuable means of reviewing and evaluating our activities. Through the Report the reader will form a good idea of the comprehensive range of the OSCE's work: politically, thematically and operationally.



The Annual Report demonstrates the diversity of the OSCE's work but also the inter-linkages between its core activities in security, human rights and development. On any given day, OSCE experts may be recycling toxic rocket fuel in, for example, Armenia, working with authorities to prevent human trafficking, training police or facilitating political dialogue in a sensitive crisis situation. As this Report illustrates, the OSCE is in action across a wide geographic area helping States to implement commitments designed to make Europe safer.

One of the OSCE's greatest strengths is its constructive engagement with participating States. When unexpected developments occur in the OSCE area, the Organization can respond quickly. This was evident in 2005 in Kyrgyzstan where the OSCE played a key role in reducing tensions and seeking co-operative solutions.

Another asset is the Organization's network of contacts. This year, partnership was strengthened with the Council of Europe and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, while dialogue was intensified with the OSCE's Partners for Co-operation.

Operational flexibility and constructive partnership are vital in a world that requires effective multi-lateralism. Steps have been proposed to make the OSCE even more effective, and that will be one of the main challenges for 2006.

The OSCE is a community of values. Evolving challenges require a constant reminder of core principles, a review of the implementation of commitments and open dialogue. Terrorism, extremism, intolerance and alienation threaten international security and social cohesion. The OSCE is well-positioned to tackle some of the major challenges of our time, such as the relationship between counter-terrorism and human rights, integration in diverse societies and promoting a dialogue among civilizations. We need to contribute to the exchange of ideas on these crucial issues in order to strengthen security and co-operation in the OSCE area.

The OSCE at a glance

From Vancouver to Vladivostok, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and its 3,500 staff in 18 field operations and three specialized institutions are committed to fostering security in the region for its 55 participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation.

The OSCE's mandate:

The OSCE, a regional, values-based organization under the United Nations' Charter, plays a leading role in promoting security and democratization across the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian States. Specifically, it helps to provide: early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

It tackles this security mandate in a co-operative and comprehensive way.

Co-operative: all 55 participating States enjoy equal status. Dialogue, negotiation and common activities, based on consensus, define their decision-taking and operational practice.

Comprehensive: the OSCE recognizes that achieving security depends on focusing on three factors: 1) politico-military, 2) economic and environmental and 3) human. Co-operation in the economic, environmental and human "dimensions" contributes to peace, prosperity and stability, while unresolved problems in these areas can increase tensions within or between States.

1) Politico-military. The OSCE engages in confidence- and security-building measures; arms control initiatives such as fighting against the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons; projects to destroy or safeguard conventional weapons and munitions; and action against terrorism.

Responsible: Forum for Security Co-operation (military); Permanent Council, Ministerial Council and Summits (political); Secretariat and field activities.

2) Economic and environmental. The OSCE promotes entrepreneurship, small- and medium-sized businesses and investment as well as the preservation of the environment, environmental awareness and security.

Responsible: Permanent Council; Secretariat, such as the office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities; and field activities.

3) Human. The OSCE promotes human rights, the rule of law, anti-trafficking, good governance and democratic processes.

Responsible: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Representation on Freedom of the Media, Secretariat and field activities.

OSCE history

The OSCE traces its origins to the *détente* phase of the early 1970s, when the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) was created to serve as a multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West. Meeting over two years in Helsinki and Geneva, the CSCE reached agreement on the Helsinki Final Act, which was signed on 1 August 1975 by 35 States. The Final Act articulated the three dimensions of security and established fundamental principles governing the behaviour of States towards their citizens, as well as towards each other. Following the end of the Cold War, the CSCE became an organization to assist post-communist states in their transition to democracy and to market economies, and later to help all participating States address new threats and challenges to security.

Today, the OSCE has 55 participating States, with 11 Partners for Co-operation in the Mediterranean and Asian regions. Although it is not based on an international treaty, all OSCE decisions are politically, though not legally, binding.

How the OSCE is run

The OSCE is chaired by one of its participating States, a role which rotates on an annual basis. In 2005, Slovenia held the Chairmanship. Together with Bulgaria (2004) and Belgium (2006), it took part in the OSCE Troika, which advises the Chairman-in-Office in his decision-making. The Chairman-in-Office may also appoint Personal or Special Representatives to deal with specific issues or situations.

Summits of OSCE Heads of State or Government are held periodically. Between summits, the Ministerial Council of foreign ministers meets annually to review the OSCE's activities and to provide guidance and orientation. Once a year, the Economic Forum meets in Prague to focus on selected economic and environmental issues. The Annual Security Review Conference and the

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting focus, respectively, on key issues in the politico-military and human dimensions.

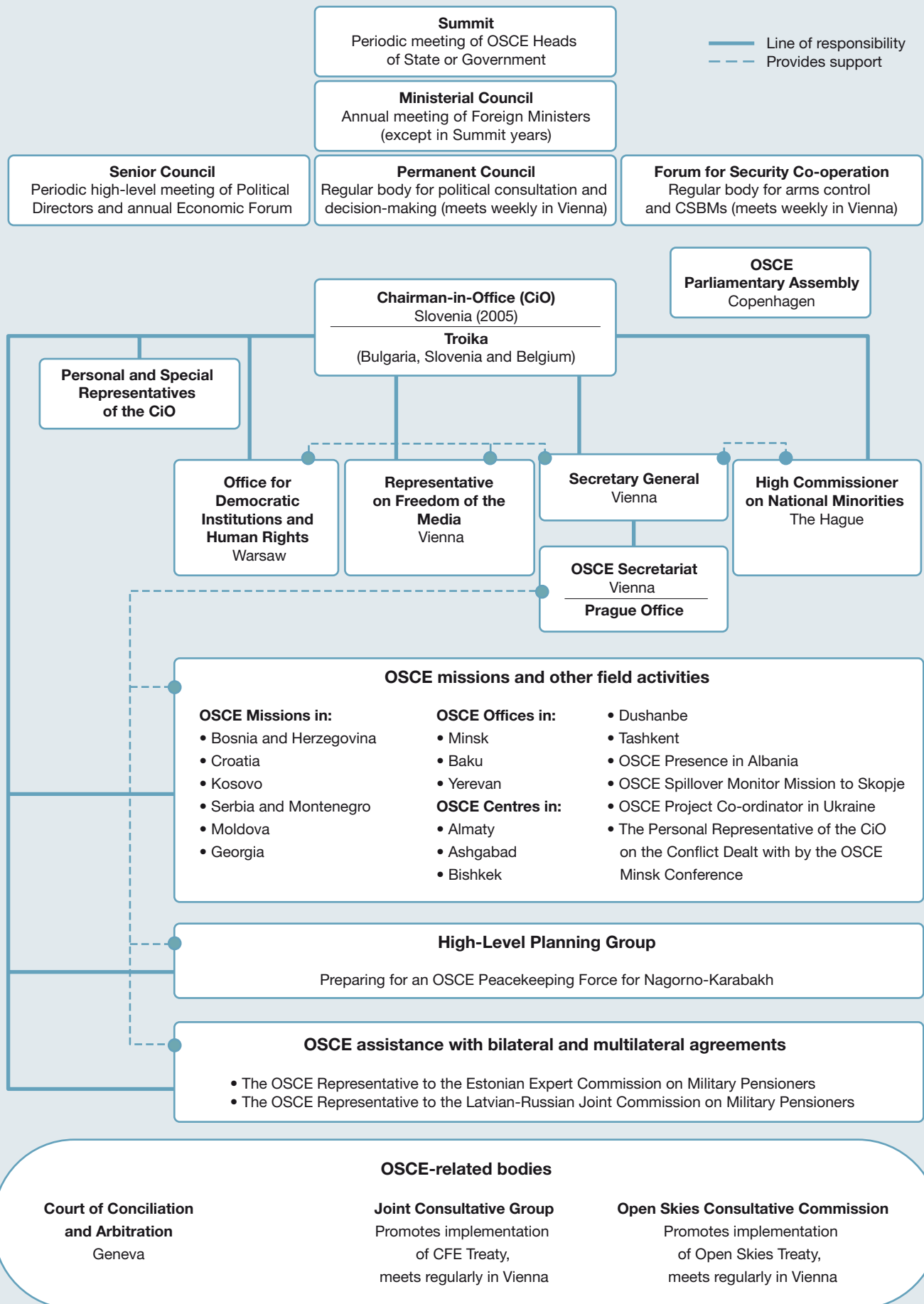
The Permanent Council is the main regular body for political consultation and decision-making. Composed of the Heads of Delegation of the participating States to the OSCE, it meets weekly in Vienna to discuss all pertinent issues and to take appropriate decisions. The Forum for Security Co-operation – overseeing the OSCE's politico-military dimension – also convenes weekly in Vienna's Hofburg.

The Copenhagen-based OSCE Parliamentary Assembly consists of more than 300 parliamentarians from all the participating States. Founded in 1991, its primary task is to support inter-parliamentary dialogue, an important aspect of the overall effort of meeting the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE region. Its main annual session takes place in summer. OSCE parliamentarians also play an important role in election monitoring.

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

To assist States in complying with OSCE principles and commitments, the OSCE founded the following specialized Institutions: the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (established as the Office for Free Elections in 1990); the High Commissioner on National Minorities (1992); and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (1997). Currently, the OSCE has 18 field missions in 16 States. Seventy per cent of the OSCE's revised 2005 Unified Budget of €159.4 million was allocated to field operations, 20 per cent to the Secretariat and 10 per cent to Institutions.

OSCE STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS



Chairmanship



BOBO/Srdjan Zivulovic

Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel (left) meets late Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova on 25 March 2005.

Chairman-in-Office | Permanent Council

Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office

Chairpersons of the Contact Group with

Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation

Chairman-in-Office

Introduction

Slovenia took over the OSCE Chairmanship during a difficult period. A high-level debate about the relevance and fairness of the OSCE's work created a sense of deep political crisis. Lack of consensus on the participating States' scales of contribution to the Organization, the inability to reach agreement on the Unified Budget for 2005 and a protracted process to find a successor to the outgoing Secretary General further complicated the situation.

Slovenia's main challenge was, therefore, to get the Organization back on an even keel, to try to recapture a sense of common purpose, and to take steps to strengthen the effectiveness of the OSCE. All of this needed to be done in addition to ensuring implementation of decisions taken at the Sofia Ministerial Council and running the daily political business of the Organization.

On the positive side, 2005 was a year of anniversaries: the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 15th anniversary of the Charter of Paris. This helped to put the historical significance of the OSCE into perspective and prompted States to think about the future of the OSCE.

As usual, the Chairmanship always has to expect the unexpected. In 2005, the OSCE had to react quickly to events in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Slovenia also sought to move ahead on the resolution of frozen conflicts. The Chairmanship welcomed the joint declaration of Georgia and the Russian Federation on the closing of Russian military bases and facilities in Georgia by 2008.

In 2005, much has also been done concerning the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference: the so-called Prague meetings of the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan have had a positive effect, enabling the presidents of both countries to meet in Warsaw and Kazan, thus bringing new momentum to the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

By the end of the year, agreement had been reached on scales of contribution to the Unified Budget, a new Secretary General had been appointed and steps taken to strengthen the effectiveness of the OSCE, thanks to a report by a Panel of Eminent Persons, high-level consultations and agreement on a roadmap for reform at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council.

Despite no agreement on a Ministerial Declaration, the Council helped to restore a constructive spirit, and took a number of decisions to strengthen the OSCE's ability to tackle new threats and challenges to security, including transnational organized crime, anti-trafficking, illicit drugs, and counter-terrorism as well as broadening the Organization's work in human rights education, migration, tolerance and non-discrimination and a decision on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE.

To cap a successful year, the budget was adopted on time for the first time in five years.

Slovenia is proud to be able to hand over the Chairmanship of the OSCE to Belgium with the Organization in good shape – proud of its past, well-equipped to deal with contemporary challenges, and looking constructively and innovatively to the future.

Reform of the OSCE



First meeting of the OSCE Panel of Eminent Persons at Brdo pri Kranju on 17 February. (left to right: Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, who chaired the panel meetings, and Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel)

Reform was a high priority for the OSCE in 2005. The Organization's participating States have been sensing the need for reform over recent years, and several Chairmanships have given reform a high priority. At the Sofia Ministerial Council, the Foreign Ministers passed a decision on the establishment of a Panel of Eminent Persons on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE, opening the way for a thorough debate on the role and reform of the Organization. The Panel was mandated to give new impetus to political dialogue and provide a strategic vision for the OSCE of the 21st century.

MC Decision no. 16/04 tasked the Chairman-in-Office (CiO) to appoint the members of the panel after consultations with all participating States. In February, seven eminent persons with knowledge of the OSCE were thus appointed, taking into account the diversity of the OSCE community, including participating States that host field presences. The members of the panel were: Ambassador Nikolay Afanasievsky (replaced at the last meeting by Ambassador Vladimir Shustov, both Russian Federation), Ambassador Hans van den Broek (the Netherlands), Ambassador Wilhelm Hoyneck (Germany), Ambassador Kuanysh Sultanov (Kazakhstan), Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, who chaired the panel meetings (Norway), Ambassador Richard Williamson (United States) and Ambassador Miomir Zuzul (Croatia). The Secretariat of the OSCE provided active support, while the CiO acted as focal point for the panel. Ambassador Afanasievsky sadly passed away before the report was submitted.

Between February and June, the panel convened five times during which it met more than 30 experts from international organizations including the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the Council of Europe (CoE), as well as think-tanks and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It presented its report with recommendations to the participating States through the CiO at the end of June.

Simultaneously, other individuals and institutions produced publications on reform, including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (in co-operation with the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs), the Centre for OSCE Research and the *Helsinki Monitor* publication.

The Sofia Decision had called for convening high-level consultations as a follow-up to the Panel report in order to make recommendations for appropriate action to the Ministerial Council meeting in December. These were held in September and the outcome was followed up by a *Working Group on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE*, chaired by Slovenia.

At the Ljubljana Ministerial Council, an important decision was taken on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE. It set out a roadmap for reform and tasks the Permanent Council to work on a number of specific reform-related issues (rules of procedure, improving the consultative process, OSCE conferences, activities, budgetary and extra-budgetary financing, role of the Secretary General, modernizing of the Secretariat, programme planning, professionalism of OSCE personnel, thematic missions) and to report to the 2006 Ministerial Council. It also tasked the ODIHR to submit, for discussion at the next Ministerial Council, a report on the implementation of existing commitments, possible supplementary commitments, ways of strengthening and furthering its election-related activities, and improving the effectiveness of its assistance to participating States.

An anniversary year

In 1975, the first Conference on Security and Co-operation ended with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. The CSCE process and the “spirit of Helsinki” helped to reduce tensions in Europe and contributed to the end of the Cold War. This was acknowledged at the Paris Summit of 1990, which resulted in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

These milestones of modern European history were marked by the OSCE community in 2005 through a number of events and publications.

The CiO took part in commemorative events in Vienna on 20 July, in Helsinki on 1 August, and in the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly in Washington on 1 July. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly event had as its theme *30 Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead*.

Politically, the anniversaries helped remind States of the CSCE’s historical significance and the OSCE’s valuable work. Recalling

LEHTIKUVA OY / Hans Paul



The signing of the CSCE Helsinki Final Act on 1 August 1975. From left to right: The Head of the Government of Spain, Carlos Arias Navarro; President of the Republic of Finland, Urho Kekkonen; President of France, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing



APA-IMAGES / LEHTIKUVA / Pentti Koskinen



Photographers and cameramen capture the signing.

the sense of common history and common commitments reduced the sense of crisis and criticism and inspired States to seize this opportunity to plot a course for the OSCE’s future. These sentiments were reflected in the beginning of the Chairman’s Statement from the Ljubljana Ministerial Council, in the opening section of the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, and in the ministerial decision on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE.

A cross-dimensional approach

The OSCE has traditionally looked at issues in terms of “dimensions”: politico-military, economic and environmental and human. At the same time, it has always stressed its comprehensive approach to security.

In 2005, a recent trend towards a more cross-dimensional approach was strengthened by recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons and by taking a more holistic approach to issues like migration, combating trans-national organized crime, anti-trafficking and counter-terrorism. The Ljubljana Ministerial Council took important decisions on these issues.

Tackling stocks of toxic rocket fuel component

The OSCE field missions, the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities are devoting ever more attention to the growing problem posed by old stocks of liquid rocket fuel once used in rockets and guided missiles in the OSCE region. The inherent hazards of the issue – encompassing political, human and socio-economic concerns – epitomize the OSCE’s “comprehensive security” approach.

Five participating States from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus requested help in 2004 and 2005 from the OSCE in disposing of these stocks – composed of *Melange* and *Samine*. They lack the necessary technical, material and financial resources to tackle this problem alone.

Melange is usually stored in steel or aluminium tanks, but these are prone to corrosion over time. Once leaked, this highly toxic, volatile and explosive chemical substance can undermine the health of whole communities and pollute the environment. Land contamination may linger for almost a century.

The problem is large. Armenia has stocks of 872 tons, Uzbekistan more than 1,000 tons, Ukraine up to 17,000 tons, Azerbaijan 1,000 tons and Kazakhstan 1,500 tons.

Given the magnitude and geographic spread of the problem, the OSCE held a workshop in Kyiv in July to discuss the most effective way to dispose of or recycle these stocks. It reconfirmed the risk posed by *Melange* as well as the urgent need for a safe disposal that prevents serious environmental catastrophes and human casualties.

By the end of 2005, the OSCE had assessed the situation of rocket fuel component in all the countries that requested assistance, with the exception of Uzbekistan, providing a solid base for developing and implementing projects starting from 2006.



The OSCE conducted an assessment visit to Ukraine in July. Here, Ukrainian specialists check the condition of rocket fuel component containers.

In Armenia, the OSCE made considerable headway during the year. The chosen method of neutralizing the rocket fuel component results in a positive by-product – a liquid mineral dressing for use in farming. The additive will reduce the high acidity content of the region’s soil. This follows the lead of a pilot project in 2002, which successfully converted 450 tons of *Melange* into fertilizer for western Georgia’s soil.

The final and decisive phase of the Armenia project began in September, when the office signed an agreement with the Ministry of Defence to begin recycling. The conversion plant will be launched in March 2006. The initiative was funded by Finland, Germany, the United States and Canada.

Ukraine faces a daunting amount of *Melange*. The project will be the largest ever implemented

by the OSCE in Ukraine, in terms of cost and of time. To fund the project, the Secretariat and the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine must raise more than €10 million over the next four years.

In 2005, an international expert team accompanied by Ukrainian authorities carried out two fact-finding missions, visiting eight military *Melange* storage sites. The team also examined Ukraine’s industrial capacity for processing the toxic material. The team identified suitable ways of disposing of and recycling *Melange* and technical and financial needs. The next phase, which is already underway, focuses on fundraising, budgeting and contracting an implementing company.

Similarly, OSCE experts visited Kazakhstan in November to determine the quantity and characteristics of liquid rocket fuel stocks, the processing technology available in the region and internationally, and to offer a cost and timeframe for recycling or disposal of the fuel component. As in Ukraine, the Secretariat and the Mission are now focused on the next phase of fundraising, budgeting and contracting an implementing company. Estimated funding of €1 million is needed for the disposal operation, which is planned for 2006-2007.

In Uzbekistan, stocks are located at Oqtosh, in the Samarkand region. The project here is scheduled to begin in 2006, following an OSCE Mission on-site visit and Uzbekistan participation in the Kyiv workshop.

In Azerbaijan, the OSCE supported the launch of a project aimed at providing technical and financial assistance for upgrading two outdated rocket fuel storage sites. The international expert group visited Azerbaijan to identify a suitable way to carry out the renovation of the sites and the technical and financial needs required. Additional information and in-depth analysis is needed to identify the exact volume of remediation activities to follow the disposal project led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Ljubljana Ministerial Council

Foreign Ministers from OSCE participating States met in Ljubljana on 5 and 6 December for the 13th Ministerial Council of the OSCE. The Ministers adopted 19 decisions on a range of issues, including fighting organized crime, human rights education, combat against human trafficking and the role of women in conflict prevention. The Ljubljana Ministerial Council documents include:

BOBO/Srdjan Zivkovic



**Chairman-in-Office
Dimitrij Rupel (left)
and incoming
Chairman-in-Office
(right) Karel de Gucht at
the Ljubljana Ministerial
Council on 5 December.**

- Ministerial Declaration on the 20th anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant
- Ministerial Statement on the International Convention for the Suppression of acts of Nuclear Terrorism
- Ministerial Statement on Georgia
- Ministerial Statement on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Group
- Decision No. 1 on the appointment of the OSCE Secretary General
- Decision No. 2 on migration
- Decision No. 3 on combating transnational organized crime
- Decision No. 4 on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters to counter terrorism
- Decision No. 5 on combating the threat of illicit drugs
- Decision No. 6 on further measures to enhance container security
- Decision No. 7 on supporting the effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)
- Decision No. 8 on further efforts to implement the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition
- Decision No. 9 on the OSCE seminar on military doctrine
- Decision No. 10 on tolerance and non-discrimination: promoting mutual respect and understanding
- Decision No. 11 on the promotion of human rights education and training in the OSCE area
- Decision No. 12 on upholding human rights and the rule of law in criminal justice systems
- Decision No. 13 on combating trafficking in human beings
- Decision No. 14 on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation
- Decision No. 15 on preventing and combating violence against women
- Decision No. 16 on ensuring the highest standards of conduct and accountability of persons serving on international forces and missions
- Decision No. 17 on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE
- Decision No. 18 on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2008
- Decision No. 19 on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council

Politico-military dimension activities

Implementation of the OSCE *Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century* represented the chapeau for the work on the politico-military dimension and its further strengthening. The *Annual Security Review Conference* that took place in June reaffirmed the continuing importance of the “first dimension” and put forward a number of proposals and recommendations aimed at further enhancing the OSCE’s capacities to effectively respond to evolving threats and challenges. The Ljubljana Ministerial Council endorsed some of these initiatives.

Preventing and combating terrorism remained high on the OSCE’s agenda as terrorist attacks in the Organization’s area further demonstrated the need to work together to tackle this menace. In 2005, the OSCE looked at the relationship between terrorism and human rights. The Ljubljana Ministerial Council took a decision to enhance co-operation in criminal matters to counter terrorism and the threat of illicit drugs. Attention was also paid to the issue of container security. The Ministerial Council took a decision to further strengthen the existing measures.

A special focus was given to countering the threat emanating from chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear sources. At the Ministerial Council, a decision was taken to support the effective implementation of UN Security Resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation. This is more evidence of the OSCE’s role as a regional implementer of global instruments.

Participating States were also encouraged, through a Ministerial Council decision, to make further efforts to implement OSCE documents on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition.

Following up a Maastricht Ministerial Council 2003 decision and in an effort to achieve the goal of open and secure borders as well as addressing cross-border issues, participating States worked on a *Border Security and Management Concept*, which was finalized at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council.

OSCE police-related activities have been important in improving the capacity of the participating States to address new security threats. These activities focus on capacity-building, including community policing, police training and human resources management and enhancing the rule of law, as well as specialized activities such as combating human trafficking, improving the capacities of law enforcement officials to prosecute offenders and preventing and combating hate-crime. The activities focused on Central Asia, the southern Caucasus and south-eastern Europe.

The Chairmanship further strengthened co-operation between the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation and actively promoted the Forum’s agenda. It supported the full implementation of the existing arms control agreements, non-proliferation and confidence- and security-building measures, their timely adaptation and, when required, their further development. This included increased activity on the implementation of commitments on small arms and light weapons, stockpiles

of conventional ammunition and the disposal of liquid rocket fuel. The OSCE took an important step forward in 2005 in the implementation of related commitments (implementation of small arms and stockpiles project in Tajikistan and a rocket fuel project in Armenia). Information exchange on related activities and co-operation with the UN, EU and NATO has been an important part of this endeavour.

Slovenia actively promoted the idea of holding an OSCE Seminar on Military Doctrine. Pursuant to decisions by the Forum and the Ministerial Council, such a meeting was held in Vienna on 14 and 15 February 2006 to examine changes in military doctrine derived from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict and the emergence of new technologies.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Slovenia supports raising the profile of the economic and environmental dimension and ensuring its proper place in the cross-dimensional scope of the OSCE’s work. As its starting point, Slovenia’s Chairmanship pushed for full implementation of the *OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension*, in order to enhance co-operation, good governance, sustainable development and protection of the environment.

According to the Maastricht Ministerial Council Strategy Document on enhancing the economic and environmental dimension, attention was given to the preparations of the report of the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee of the Permanent Council focusing on the further improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic Forum. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee presented a report to the Permanent Council on 16 June, prepared by the Informal Group of Friends of the Chair on Enhancement of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension, which was set up by the Chairmanship in January.

The priority of the Slovenian Chairmanship in the economic and environmental dimension was the issue of migration and integration. The Chairmanship worked closely on this issue with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and outside partners, including the International Organization on Migration (IOM) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The preparatory cycle of the 13th Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum started with an examination of the economic and security challenges posed by demographic developments at the First Preparatory Seminar on 8 and 9 November 2004 in Trieste, Italy. The seminar put forward useful suggestions in this respect.

The second preparatory seminar, held on 24 and 25 January in Almaty, Kazakhstan, yielded meaningful suggestions in the areas of management of economic migration and its security implications. In the third and final preparatory seminar, participants considered the economic and social aspects of the integration of persons

Combating human trafficking in Ukraine

Ukraine has been seen for a number of years as a major country of origin and transit for trafficking in human beings. A 2005 assessment by international organizations including the United Nations Children’s Fund and the OSCE found that orphans are one of the groups that run the greatest risk of victimization.

To help address this problem, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator’s Office in Ukraine in co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities launched a pilot project aimed at providing internships, employment assistance and life skills to Ukrainian orphans. The Project reaches out to orphans in the capital Kyiv and in the region of Kharkiv, both industrial centres with numerous employment opportunities.

Since its launch in 2005, this Project has helped 60 youth in both regions. Twenty-one of them have found positions and independent housing and are well on the road to successful adulthood. Here are two of their stories:

When the Project offered 18-year-old orphan Eugene Diduk a probationary position as a plasterer at a well-known private construction company in his hometown of Kharkiv, he jumped at the chance.

At the time, he was working as an unskilled part-time worker. Although he graduated from trade school as a plasterer and floor-tiler in 2005, his first factory position, found through the offices of a government agency, failed to provide him with the skills and training he

After joining the OSCE programme, Eugene passed his probation at the *Delta Group* construction company in December. He is now employed full-time with them at a good salary. Eugene also has a mentor who is teaching him various additional construction skills.

“Now at *Delta* I’m getting more construction skills and a good salary after my three probation months and I know my Grandma and I will be fine,” he said.

To improve his life skills, Eugene meets twice a week with a social worker who represents his interests, works with him on a budget and teaches him how to use community resources efficiently.

For orphan Olga Kanistratenko, the Project came along just in the nick of time. A 2005 graduate of the Kharkiv Food Technology Trade School, the young pastry chef was living at a hostel in one room together with her aunt’s family. The living space was cramped and she was unhappy.

The Trade School found her a position at a canteen, but when she arrived she discovered that there was no real opening. She was told she would have to wait until one arose. She was advised to resign in writing, which would free her to look for a position herself.

Unfortunately, it also meant that she lost valuable housing rights available to orphans taking their first positions through the trade school administration. Had she stayed with this job, she would have been put in a separate, privileged queue for housing.

“I didn’t know all my orphan’s rights so I found myself in a difficult situation. I didn’t know how to protect myself,” Olga said.

The project found her a new workplace at a large store called *Big Pocket*. Her social worker helped her regain her privileged slot in the housing queue. While she is on probation, she earns a minimal salary from the supermarket and a stipend from the Project.

“Now I have people to address my questions and I get real help. I’m very grateful to them,” Olga said.

(For more information on this issue, please visit the OSCE website at www.osce.org/eea.)

OSCE



Orphan Eugene Diduk at work as a plasterer at the construction site of the new Kharkiv entertainment centre.

OSCE



Orphan Olga Kanistratenko places goods at the supermarket, Big Pocket, where she now works.

Most orphans enrol in vocational schools to learn a trade. Upon graduation, they are in theory guaranteed employment; however, in practice, the choice of jobs is usually limited. Orphans often graduate with unrealistic expectations about their future jobs and salaries, with no special programmes being offered to prepare them for their first employment or for an independent life. As a result, many quit soon after they start working and thus become easy prey for traffickers.

needed to advance. He resigned and turned to unskilled work, but his pay was unofficial, delivered in envelopes and it wasn’t enough to make ends meet.

“I’m living together with my Grandma. She’s seriously ill and I want to work hard and get well paid in order to be able to buy all the necessary medicines for her,” Eugene said.

belonging to national minorities, the promotion of integration and prevention of discrimination, education policies for integration and the importance of good governance for the management of integration. This final preparatory seminar was held in Kyiv, Ukraine on 10 and 11 March.

The 13th Economic Forum, held in Prague from 23 to 27 May, focused on *Demographic Trends, Migration and Integrating Persons belonging to National Minorities: Ensuring Security and Sustainable Development in the OSCE Area*. It brought together over 450 participants, representatives of the OSCE participating States, Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, the OSCE Secretariat and field operations, international organizations and NGOs, as well as academics and representatives of the business community. The topics of demography, migration and integration continue to be among the most important challenges confronting the OSCE participating States and one of their central areas of concern.

The Chairmanship attached great importance to the follow-up of the Economic Forum. In co-operation with the OCEEA, IOM and ICMPD, the Chairmanship prepared a food-for-thought paper in September on managing migration and, together with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, drafted a *Statement of Principles of Integration Respecting Diversity*. The Ljubljana Ministerial Council decision on migration opened the way for increased OSCE activity in this field. The paper *Co-operation towards better economic migration policies – Proposal for an OSCE contribution* provides food for thought to continue the work in the area of migration in 2006. The Chairmanship supported the organization of the workshop on migration in Central Asia, as this was one of the concrete recommendations of the Forum, and will participate in the joint OSCE-ICMPD workshop on labour migration in Central Asia, which was due to be held in Almaty on 31 January and 1 February 2006. The Chairmanship supported the preparation of the *OSCE-IOM Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in the Countries of Origin and Destination* that is to be presented at the 14th OSCE Economic Forum at the end of May 2006 in Prague.

Human dimension activities

The activities of the CiO in the human dimension are manifold. A number of activities followed the regular pattern of annual events organized in co-operation with the ODIHR: the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* (the yearly ODIHR seminar), and the three *Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings*. Other important activities were the organization of the *Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance*, the elaboration of the *Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance*, as well as the work done in the field of democratic elections. The Slovenian Chairmanship launched a human rights education pilot project for youth in the OSCE area, in order to implement the human dimension requirements in the *Strategy to Address Threats to Security*

and Stability in the Twenty-First Century. The human dimension continues to play an important role in the activities of the CiO in regional issues.

The first Supplementary Meeting was held in Vienna on 21 and 22 April. The theme *Challenges of Election Technologies and Procedures* was chosen to enable all interested parties, including international organizations and NGOs, to provide input for work in three fields of interest: new election technologies (challenges for the electoral process); OSCE election commitments (on-going challenges to implementation – “Copenhagen Plus” as a possible means to enhance compliance); and election observation (challenges to enhancing electoral integrity).

The second Supplementary Meeting was devoted to *Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism*. This meeting, which took place in Vienna on 14 and 15 July, demonstrated progress in this field. However, in the fight against terrorism there are areas and situations where the respect for freedom of religion or belief could be enhanced, the fight against torture strengthened and the role of civil society further promoted. Following a very dynamic discussion during the meeting, governments, international and non-governmental organizations made several recommendations on the issue. Participating States re-emphasized their determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime without justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and to conduct this fight with respect for the rule of law and in accordance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

The third Supplementary Meeting looked at the *Role of Defence Lawyers in Guaranteeing a Fair Trial*. It took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 3 and 4 November. This Supplementary Meeting was the first ever held outside Vienna as well as the first devoted to the topic of defence lawyers. It examined issues such as access to legal counsel, admission to and regulation of the bar and equality of parties in criminal procedures. Participants of the meeting made many recommendations to participating States and to the OSCE and suggested further follow-up.

The 2005 *Human Dimension Seminar* was devoted to *Migration and Integration* and took place in Warsaw from 11 to 13 May. The meeting offered a good opportunity to highlight the work done in the field of migration and integration by the OSCE and the ODIHR. The recommendations included the need for a cross-dimensional approach to drafting a strategy for managing migration issues and a statement of principles on integration.

As urged by the Sofia Ministerial Council, the Chairmanship organized a special Conference on issues addressed in a decision on tolerance and non-discrimination. The *OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and On Other Forms of Intolerance*, which took place on 8 and 9 June in Cordoba, Spain, defined and summarized the work done in 2004. Its main message was reflected in the CiO's *Cordoba Declaration*. On the one hand, the conference addressed various aspects of fighting anti-Semitism; on the other, it tackled fighting other forms of intolerance and discrimina-

tion, including racism and xenophobia. For the first time in the OSCE framework, the topic of intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions was discussed during two formal working sessions. These discussions highlighted the role of the media, education, law enforcement and legislation. They emphasized the growing need to address tolerance and non-discrimination issues through the promotion of mutual respect and understanding, as well as the need for full implementation of OSCE commitments in this field.

The *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* took place from 19 to 30 September in Warsaw. In a break from past practice, the Implementation Meeting focused on making thematic links on three specially selected subjects: tolerance and non-discrimination, the situation of the media in the OSCE region and the role of state and non-state actors in promoting media freedom and methods to prevent and combat torture.

The Permanent Council, through the *Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and anti-Trafficking*, with support provided by the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and other relevant OSCE structures, elaborated an *Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, on Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance*, as required by the Sofia Ministerial Council. The addendum was adopted by the Permanent Council on 7 July and endorsed by the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana.

The Chairmanship, in co-operation with the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, has consolidated the existing partnership with other international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations into the *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons*. This Alliance was set up with a view to further develop meaningful and effective joint strategies and to provide participating States and the Partners for Co-operation with harmonized responses and decision-making aids. Three main meetings in Vienna were organized in this framework: a meeting of national experts on assistance and protection of victims of trafficking on 28 February; the OSCE Annual Anti-Trafficking Conference – with the focus on the trafficking of children – on 18 March; and the OSCE Conference focusing on forced labour on 7 and 8 November.

Following the Supplementary Meeting on the challenges of new election technologies and procedures in April, the Chairmanship issued a non-paper on elections, in which it proposed a three-pronged approach. In this context, the Chairmanship proposed to the ODIHR to convene three technical-expert meetings addressing the following issues: possible supplementary commitments on democratic elections; election observation; and new voting technologies. A first meeting on possible supplementary commitments on democratic elections was held in September in Warsaw. Experts participating in this meeting proposed elaborating “Copenhagen Plus” commitments, as illustrated in the *OSCE/ODIHR Explanatory Note on Possible Additional Commitments for Democratic Elections*. This issue was also discussed at the main Warsaw

BOBO/ Kristina Kosec



OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel attends the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance in Cordoba on 8 June. To his left in the picture is Spain's Foreign Minister, Miguel Angel Moratinos.

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, and general support for the idea was expressed during a briefing for delegations on “Copenhagen Plus” in October in Vienna. In late November, the ODIHR organized in Moscow a second meeting addressing the issues of election observation. The Chairmanship proposed a draft *Ministerial Council Decision on Enhancing Democratic Elections Through Supplementary Commitments (Copenhagen Plus Document)*, which focused on three supplementary commitments: transparency, accountability and public confidence.

Following the adoption of the *2004 OSCE Action Plan for Promotion of Gender Equality*, the Chairmanship co-organized an expert workshop on violence against women, held on 28 and 29 April in Paris. Leading experts from the UN, CoE, the EU, the OSCE and other international organizations active in the field of combating violence against women attended the workshop. The event focused on three aspects of violence against women: violence in the family and at home; violence on the basis of social and economic circumstances; and sexual violence in armed conflicts.

The Chairmanship, together with the ODIHR, the CoE, Poland and the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), organized an international conference to push forward the agenda of the OSCE's *2003 OSCE Action Plan on Improving*

the Situation of Roma and Sinti. The conference, which took place in Warsaw in October, focused on concrete measures to implement policies and action plans for Roma, Sinti and travellers, and on measures against the anti-Gypsyism phenomenon in Europe. Participants of this conference proposed follow-up in 2006 to the recommendations.

In line with the OSCE's efforts to promote tolerance and fight discrimination, the CiO re-appointed Anastasia Crickley as his Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions; Gert Weisskirchen as Personal Representative on Combating anti-Semitism; and Omur Orhun as Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims.

The Chairmanship proposed a pilot study on human rights education to help strengthen the implementation of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century and other relevant OSCE commitments. The pilot project was offered to all participating States. The teaching texts were translated into 16 languages spoken in the OSCE participating States, including Roma. At the beginning of the school year, the pilot project was launched for pupils in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Ireland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine. The teaching material, entitled *Our Rights*, is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and was developed in co-operation with the CoE and relevant NGOs. It can either supplement existing methods and tools or serve as an innovative approach outside the formal school curricula.

At all human dimension activities and events, the Chairmanship paid special attention to the important role of civil society and NGOs. At the beginning of his mandate, on 13 January, the CiO met in Vienna with representatives of NGOs and civil society who are active in the OSCE region. A day before the Cordoba Conference, the CiO addressed the NGO Forum in Seville.

The CiO informed the UN Secretary-General in December of the OSCE's interest in supporting the *Alliance of Civilizations* initiative, as requested by the Ljubljana Ministerial Council.

Management issues

One of the first priorities of the Slovenian Chairmanship was to ensure adoption of the OSCE's Unified Budget for 2005. The absence of an approved budget for several months added to the overall sense of instability and threatened the effective management of OSCE operations. Consensus was reached on 12 May on the adoption of a budget of €168.8 million.

Another major challenge for the Chairmanship was finding a successor to Secretary General Jan Kubis, whose mandate expired

in June. Under Slovenia's stewardship consensus was reached on the appointment of Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, who became the OSCE's fourth Secretary General on 21 June.

The continuing lack of agreement on participating States' scales of contribution to the OSCE budget threatened to severely handicap the Organization's work. Fortunately, after considerable negotiations, agreement was reached on 25 November. Following this, the 2006 Unified Budget was adopted on 20 December, for the first time in five years within the deadline stipulated in Financial Regulations and relevant PC decisions.

Regional issues

South-eastern Europe

The chance of joining the EU and NATO was the most important incentive for the countries of south-eastern Europe to continue with their reform processes. To support and complement them in their efforts, the OSCE focused on capacity- and institution-building in various areas. The Chairmanship asked OSCE missions to make projections on how these extra demands would fit with their mandates, affect their current programmes and enable them to fulfil their tasks without changing the mandates or programmes.

Promoting regional co-operation in the field of refugee return and of interstate co-operation on war crime trials and reconciliation stood high on the agenda. The Chairmanship organized a ministerial meeting in Brijuni, Croatia, on war crime proceedings to highlight the need to continue co-operation on all levels. An expert-level meeting continued in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Chairmanship also supported the reconciliation process ("Igman initiative") that brought together the Heads of State of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro.

The Chairmanship supported the important role the OSCE plays in Kosovo through its largest mission and took an active part in the work of the Steering Group (together with the UN and the EU) under the direction of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Soren Jessen-Petersen. In the current situation, there is still no need for substantial changes in the mission's mandate. During the year, the Mission continued its activities in the field of pro-active monitoring and capacity-building, while leaving enough flexibility for the continuity of work in a new structure after the finalization of status talks. The role of the Mission's field offices will soon be reinforced following the UN Mission in Kosovo's draw-down, placing it in an ideal position to deal with capacity-building and monitor the performance of local institutions and the police. In his frequent visits to the region, the CiO repeatedly emphasized the need for both Pristina and Belgrade to understand that, in the future status negotiations, compromise would be essential and both sides would have to make important concessions.

With respect to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the CiO took part in the Srebrenica commemoration ceremony, a highly significant event for the reconciliation process in both the country and in

south-eastern Europe as a whole. During his visit in September, he reiterated the OSCE's continued support for political stabilization and ongoing reform. He discussed the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially given the stalemate in police reform and its implications for the European integration process, as well as the future structure of the international community in the country. He also talked about education and defence reform efforts, co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and domestic prosecution of war crimes, democratization and good governance, as well as other OSCE initiatives. An international conference commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement was organized under the auspices of the Chairmanship in Sarajevo. The aim of the event was to assess the historical background and to discuss possible future opportunities for co-operation within a broader European and global context.

During a visit to Tirana, the CiO said the parliamentary elections in July represented a major test case for Albania's goal of Euro-Atlantic integration and as an indicator of the country's political stability and democratic development. Throughout the process, the OSCE has supported the political and technical electoral processes. It also deployed an ODIHR Election Observation Mission tasked with assessing the compliance of the election process with commitments and standards for democratic elections in conformity with OSCE commitments. The OSCE's role was purely technical and politically neutral, and focused on ensuring fair and correct elections.

The CiO visited Skopje in September, where he met leaders of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He expressed Slovenia's firm support for the OSCE Mission's commendable efforts in the fields of rule of law and judicial reform. He said that the structure of the field mission should remain intact at least through the parliamentary elections in 2006.

Eastern Europe

In 2005, the OSCE remained committed to finding a peaceful political settlement to the Transdniestrian question that fully respects the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, while providing a special status for Moldova's Transdniestrian region. The CiO paid a visit to the Republic of Moldova in March and October where he met representatives from Chisinau and Tiraspol. The talks there focused on all issues related to the settlement of the Transdniestrian issue.

Besides supporting the efforts aimed at reinvigorating the search for a political settlement to the Transdniestrian question and welcoming the inclusion of the EU and the US as observers in the process, the Chairmanship also encouraged contacts and dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol and worked to re-establish a stable ongoing framework acceptable to both sides.

The settlement of the Transdniestrian issue has received new momentum in the form of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's

plan, *Towards settlement – through democratization*, and by a "roadmap/plan", which was also the basis for deploying an EU border monitoring mission on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border.

The package of confidence- and security-building measures that was presented to the Moldovan and Transdniestrian sides in July by the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE aims at strengthening security and confidence and stable demilitarization.

There was no withdrawal of Russian Federation arms and equipment from the Republic of Moldova during 2005.

The first two regional visits of the CiO were made to Ukraine, following the events at the end of 2004, when more than 1,000 election monitors made up the largest election-monitoring operation in the Organization's history. The Chairman-in-Office visited Ukraine for the third time in October to discuss, among other issues, the continuous role of the OSCE and its co-operation with Ukraine.

Ukraine co-operates with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, and other international organizations, in activities to secure and cement the democratic progress made. The Project Co-ordinator worked to strengthen electoral law and practices, including inserting early-warning systems for the upcoming 2006 parliamentary elections; promote economic and social developments; protect and promote freedom of the media; establish laws protecting national minorities; and strengthen internal and border security.

Concerning Belarus, the OSCE has expressed concerns about the situation of civil society, the rule of law and human rights. The OSCE continues to monitor the situation of civil society and to work with the Belarusian authorities, in accordance with the mandate of the Office in Minsk, to ensure respect for OSCE commitments.

Caucasus

In the southern Caucasus, the OSCE played a lead role in working with the parties in resolving the conflict in South Ossetia, Georgia, and the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference in Nagorno-Karabakh. Throughout the region, its focus is on the reform of constitutions, local governance and electoral systems. It is working to strengthen freedom of assembly principles and freedom of the media.

The CiO visited the countries in the southern Caucasus between 30 March and 2 April, and paid a second visit to Armenia and Azerbaijan between 4 and 6 September. He appointed Mircea Geoana, former Foreign Minister of Romania and OSCE CiO in 2001, as his Personal Representative for Georgia. Geoana visited Tbilisi and Tskhinvali on 6 and 7 October.

During their visits to Georgia, the CiO and his Personal Representative welcomed the work done on amendments to the country's constitution and assessed the reforms undertaken by Georgia in the past year as encouraging.

Moldovan schools in Transdniestria remain under pressure

Most pupils in the OSCE area consider starting a new school year on schedule in their own school building a matter of course. For the 4,200 pupils in the six Moldovan Latin script schools in the country's breakaway Transdniestrian region this is not the case.

The contentious issue of Moldovan schools in Transdniestria is a lingering remnant of the armed conflict between Transdniestrian and Moldovan forces in 1992.

The breakaway Transdniestrian authorities reintroduced the use of the Cyrillic alphabet, in keeping with past Soviet policy. The Soviets considered Moldovan, essentially the romance language Romanian, in Cyrillic as a different language from Romanian, which is written in Latin script. However, six schools in the region continued to offer instruction in Moldovan/Romanian in the Latin script, following the curriculum of the Moldovan Ministry of Education. Undeterred by local authorities' constant intimidation, teachers have been educating more than 4,000 children in their native script, using the Latin alphabet to which Moldova returned in 1989.

"I would like to keep my Romanian language, the Romanian traditions, even if it's difficult," says Natalia, from the Evrica Lyceum in Ribnita.

And difficult it is. If parents enrol their children in one of the schools that offer a Moldovan curriculum based on the Latin script, they may lose their jobs.

The 33 Transdniestrian schools that teach Moldovan in Cyrillic are an unappealing alternative: the schools follow an outdated curriculum with textbooks from the Soviet period.

Furthermore, there are no institutes of higher learning anywhere in the world – including in Transdniestria – that teach Romanian in Cyrillic. The authorities' insistence on the Cyrillic script deprives Moldovan children in Transdniestria of their right to pursue advanced education in their mother tongue.

Caught in this no-win situation, many parents choose to enrol their children in a Russian-language school, where educational standards are relatively up to date. Some take even more drastic measures; they uproot

themselves and move to the right bank in Moldova.

Disputes have arisen every summer since 1994 over whether Transdniestrian authorities would allow the schools to re-open for the following school year. Each year, the OSCE Mission, supported by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, stepped up year-round mediation efforts.

In 2003, the High Commissioner's office and the OSCE Mission to Moldova brokered a comprehensive agreement, but the euphoria proved short-lived.

On 15 July 2004, the Transdniestrian militia stormed the Moldovan school in Tiraspol, destroying parts of the building, and confiscating the facilities and other school property. Transdniestrian authorities also threatened the Latin-script schools in Bender and Ribnita, disconnecting their power, water and gas supplies. Students, parents and teachers took it upon themselves to guard their schools day and night. To defuse the potentially explosive climate, members of the OSCE Mission and colleagues in the Secretariat monitored the schools in Bender and Ribnita from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.

The Mission also pursued talks with local authorities, who unfortunately showed no readiness for compromise. On 29 July, Transdniestrian militia stormed the school in Ribnita.

As tension mounted, the international community stood firm and insisted that Transdniestrian authorities agree to compromise. Finally, in late August, they agreed to register the schools under a private status, valid for one year, enabling them to use a Moldovan curriculum and Latin script. Four of the six schools began the 2004 academic year as planned.

In Ribnita, the Evrica Lyceum, however, still lacked a building, as local authorities refused to return the confiscated premises. Teaching resumed in exile at the kindergarten of a local factory in October.

In Tiraspol, the school was under repair. Until it reopened on 7 February 2005, its 500 children travelled long distances to attend schools in neighbouring villages.



The OSCE Mission to Moldova, based in the capital, Chisinau, was officially established in February 1993.

In summer 2005, pupils, parents and teachers feared a repetition of the nightmare of 2004. But thanks to the mediation efforts of the OSCE Mission together with the co-mediators from the Ukrainian and Russian Embassies, the school year began on schedule.

From 28 February 2005, the OSCE Mission hosted nine negotiation meetings of education experts from Tiraspol and Chisinau. On 1 July, these negotiations led to an agreement on a set of school statutes and to the permanent registration of the four Moldovan schools temporarily registered in 2004.

"This hopefully brings a long-awaited solution to the conflict over the existence of the Moldovan schools in Transdniestria," says Kristin Franklin, the OSCE Mission's Human Dimension Officer.

"The permanent registration means that the local Transdniestrian authorities now regard them as legal entities."

Despite the agreement, some issues remain unsolved. One of the most visible outstanding problems is the confiscated school building of the Evrica Lyceum in Ribnita.

The Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Ambassador William Hill, said: "The local authorities in Ribnita have de facto stolen this building. They must give the building back to the school without any further delay and without any conditions."

In the conflict in South Ossetia, Georgia, the OSCE facilitated the political process and supported de-militarization as agreed by the parties. The Slovenian Chairmanship welcomed the support rendered by the Venice Commission in elaborating concrete status proposals for South Ossetia from the Georgian authorities. Confidence-building and economic rehabilitation should be part of a concerted approach to bring sustainable peace to this long-troubled region of Georgia.

The first expert meeting of the *Georgian-Ossetian Dialogue* project, under the auspices of the Slovenian Chairmanship and the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies, took place in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, from 15 to 18 March. The aim of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for an informal exchange of views on a wide range of issues related to the resolution of the conflict. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Georgian and South Ossetian parliaments, the government and NGOs, as well as by a representative from North Ossetia. The format of the meeting stipulated that the participants take part in a personal capacity, rather than expressing their organizations' official positions.

The Slovenian Chairmanship also hosted the meeting of the Joint Control Commission on the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, which took place between 15 and 17 November in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia. At the meeting, the CiO called on the participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation, North and South Ossetia to move along the path towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict and urged them to pave the way for an early dialogue at the highest level. Unfortunately, the meeting did not bridge the differences between the sides; however, there was an expression of joint support for a European Commission-funded economic rehabilitation programme in the zone of conflict and the recently launched needs assessment study.

With regard to Abkhazia, the OSCE under the Slovenian Chairmanship continued to support the UN-led settlement process and to promote the establishment of a joint UN-OSCE human rights office in the Gali region, which could also contribute to a return of the displaced population.

Georgia requested the OSCE's assistance in border management and security after the mandate of the Border Monitoring Operation was terminated in 2004. The OSCE launched a Training Assistance Programme in June, which was extended on 21 December for another six-month period, to complete the original training programme as outlined in the proposal.

The Chairmanship welcomed the joint declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Georgia and the Russian Federation on closing Russian bases at Batumi and Akhalkalaki and other military facilities in Georgia by 2008. The OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana adopted a Statement on Georgia, the first after the Ministerial Council in Porto in 2002.

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, the CiO further strengthened the OSCE's efforts to reach a lasting solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh

conflict. During visits to the two countries, the CiO called for the stabilization of the situation along the frontlines. He reiterated that every existing avenue to accelerate the peace process should be explored to the full, and said that the personal engagement of the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, in the wake of meetings between the foreign ministers, was an important milestone that gave added momentum to the peace process.

In February, a fact-finding mission under the auspices of the Minsk Group visited the occupied territories of Azerbaijan around Nagorno-Karabakh to examine first-hand the settlement situation in the occupied territories. The Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group met the CiO twice during the year in March and September. In December, the OSCE High-Level Planning Group conducted its first reconnaissance mission to Armenia and Azerbaijan since 1997. The CiO also supported the work done by his Personal Representative, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk.

Much has been done in the past year: the so-called Prague meetings of the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan have had a positive effect, resulting in meetings of the Presidents of both countries in Warsaw and Kazan, thus bringing new momentum to the process resolving the conflict. The Ministerial Council in Ljubljana adopted a statement saying that the time had come for making the transition from negotiation to decision.

In Armenia, the CiO encouraged the authorities to undertake important reforms, including amendments to the electoral code to strengthen the impartiality, professionalism and transparency of electoral administration. He offered OSCE assistance in areas such as constitutional and electoral reform, freedom of the media and the fight against corruption.

In Azerbaijan, the CiO reiterated the OSCE's readiness to continue assisting in implementing various reforms, particularly in the fields of elections, anti-corruption and money-laundering, diversification of the economy, human rights promotion and protection programmes.

Under the auspices of the Slovenian Chairmanship, the Third Plenary Assembly of the Southern Caucasus Parliamentary Initiative met in Ljubljana from 18 to 20 January. The Initiative is a framework for dialogue, contacts, an exchange of views and joint analysis among the Parliaments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the three on 13 May 2003.

Central Asia

The CiO visited Central Asia three times. Concerned by the state of human rights and fundamental freedoms, his visits emphasized the need to preserve stability and to nurture democratic reforms in the region. The pressure from the population is mounting, as witnessed by the change of leadership in Kyrgyzstan or the violent events in Uzbekistan.

The CiO visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in February, presenting Alojz Peterle as his Personal Representative for Central Asia. He flew to Kyrgyzstan immediately following the events in March. He toured the region in April, meeting representatives of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

In Kyrgyzstan, the OSCE was immediately on the spot to help reduce tensions and it remained at the forefront of international efforts to ensure stability in that country. The Chairmanship, participating States, OSCE Institutions and the Centre in Bishkek were actively involved in developing a work plan to assist the

Kyrgyz Government in dealing with the aftermath of the March events. (For more on this topic, please see page 21.)

The ODIHR, with support from the Parliamentary Assembly, monitored Kyrgyzstan's presidential election on 10 July. In its preliminary report, the ODIHR said that these polls marked tangible progress towards meeting OSCE and other international commitments for democratic elections, although the vote count proved to be problematic. Furthermore, the ODIHR concluded that fundamental civil and political rights were generally respected and there was an improved media environment.

The OSCE responds to March events in Kyrgyzstan

Long-simmering grievances boiled over in Kyrgyzstan after the parliamentary elections in February and March 2005. Scattered post-election protests in the south of the country snowballed into larger demonstrations.

The OSCE stepped up immediately to help contain the crisis. It worked urgently to ensure the authorities did not attempt to control the demonstrators with force of arms. Simultaneously, it channelled its efforts into encouraging a political dialogue between then President Askar Akaev and his opponents.

As soon as the Government and opposition leaders agreed to the OSCE's assuming the role of mediator, Alojz Peterle flew to Bishkek on 24 March in his capacity as Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to help ease the country's political tensions. It was to be the first of many visits in the next weeks.

"I was in the middle of a meeting with then Foreign Minister Askar Aitmatov when we were suddenly interrupted by news that Bishkek's 'White House' – the seat of government – had been stormed by demonstrators. Later, we learned that the President had left the country," Personal Representative Peterle said.

"This unexpected turn of events changed the course of my mission profoundly, since one of the negotiating parties had disappeared. Furthermore, the security situation had spun out of control. With police and security forces backing off, public order broke down and widespread looting of business establishments in the capital took place unham-



Acting President Kurmanbek Bakiev and Alojz Peterle meet on 28 March in Bishkek.

pered during the night of 24 March and most of the next day.

"It was an unusual situation, to say the least: at that moment, the country had de facto two parliaments and diverse groups of demonstrators."

After the country's one-day political and security vacuum, the OSCE quickly initiated a working relationship with the interim government, serving at the same time as a neutral platform for dialogue with the new leadership. It assumed the role of focal point for co-ordinated action.

As a matter of urgency, the OSCE appealed for law and order.

In co-operation with the European Union, the UN, and bilateral embassies in Bishkek, which recognized the OSCE's leading role in this process, the OSCE drew up a working plan of urgent as well as long-term tasks, shifting its priorities in light of the dramatic political change in the country. The work plan was developed at the request of the

Kyrgyz Government and in close co-operation with it.

Heading the urgent to-do list was the need to give practical assistance in re-establishing law and order. The decision was made to bolster the Bishkek Office's well-developed Police Assistance Programme, whose overall aim is to assist in the creation of a national police service by 2010. The Office added a series of quick impact initiatives, which aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the police in coping with such issues as preventing crime escalation and restoring public order.

The work plan also focused on the OSCE's crucial immediate role as a platform for political dialogue among stakeholders, with a focus on enhanced dialogue between the authorities and civil society and on election-related issues.

Other immediate work included encouraging the Government to re-confirm guarantees to local and international business, given that the March events were likely to hurt economic growth. It also focused on environmental issues and media development. Freedom of speech and of expression as well as access to information were recognized as necessary conditions to building an open society, particularly in the interim period.

While short-term initiatives were necessary, the OSCE knows that only a long-term, comprehensive approach will create sustainable stability. In the long term, the OSCE will focus on election assistance; the rule of law as well as police reform and legislative and judicial support; free media development; and support to the work of civil society.

Security in Central Asia, particularly in Uzbekistan, remains of concern and therefore requires co-operative solutions. The Government of Uzbekistan, as a member of international organizations, is expected to co-operate with the international community to undertake an independent investigation on the Andijan events of May.

In response to an invitation by Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry, the ODIHR observed the 4 December presidential election in the country.

At the request of the Slovenian Chairmanship, the Secretary General visited Uzbekistan in July and met representatives of the Government and of civil society. One result of the visit was Uzbek acceptance of the presence of expert ODIHR monitors at the Andijan trials, which, however, did not continue as promised at the second round of trials in November. The visit re-established a genuine dialogue and maintained working relations between the OSCE and Uzbekistan. It should also help to strengthen the role of the Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent and his position on the ground in increasingly difficult circumstances.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and representatives of other organizations welcomed the resettlement of 440 asylum seekers/refugees from Uzbekistan to Romania by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Chairmanship underlined on several occasions that the safety and welfare of asylum seekers, who escaped the turmoil in Andijan, must be assured by the Kyrgyz authorities, with assistance from the UNHCR.

Co-operation with other international organizations

The CiO actively strove to further improve relations between the OSCE and other international organizations.

On 4 March, he addressed the UN Security Council and met UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The Chairmanship also took part in the sixth high-level meeting between the UN and Regional and other International Organizations that took place in New York on 25 and 26 July. On 21 September, the CiO addressed the UN General Assembly and again met the Secretary-General. On that occasion, he expressed support for the UN *Alliance of Civilizations* initiative and called for strengthened co-operation between the UN and the OSCE in this field. Further, the Ljubljana Ministerial Council outlined a role for the OSCE in promoting dialogue among civilizations, and decided to make an appropriate contribution to the UN's *Alliance of Civilizations* initiative through the promotion of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and the advancement of mutual understanding and respect as well as human rights throughout the OSCE area.

Another major development was an agreement on co-operation between the OSCE and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Under the terms of a Permanent Council decision adopted in May, the OSCE Missions to Bosnia and Herzegovi-

BOBO/Kristina Kosec



Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel (right) at the Council of Europe Summit in Warsaw on 17 May.

na, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro will monitor war crimes trials on behalf of the Prosecutor's Office of the Tribunal.

In February, the Chairmanship was represented at the yearly tripartite and target-oriented meetings in Strasbourg between the UN Office at Geneva, the OSCE and the Council of Europe, with the participation of the EU, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Organization on Migration.

The Chairmanship renewed its efforts to further improve relations between the OSCE and the European Union. The CiO took part in two EU-OSCE Troika meetings and used Slovenia's position as an EU member to encourage the Union to make effective use of the Organization. The ministerial-level meetings were complemented by two meetings at ambassadorial level between the respective Troikas of the OSCE and the EU Political Security Committee.

In 2005, co-operation between the OSCE and the CoE was considerably deepened. The CiO participated in the CoE Summit in Warsaw on 16 and 17 May, where the declaration on co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE was brought to the attention of Heads of State and Government.

The CiO met the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE and the Secretary General of both organizations in February. At that time, he also addressed the Council's Committee of Ministers' Deputies on the OSCE's 2005 priorities. Furthermore, a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Committee of Ministers' Deputies was held on 18 April, to discuss the Declaration on Co-operation between the OSCE and the CoE. The OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group started its work, and two meetings were held in 2005. Further, the Chairmanship continued to participate in the regular high- and working-level meetings between the OSCE and the CoE in the course of the year.

One of the CiO's first visits was to NATO headquarters on 26 January where he addressed the North Atlantic Council and met Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. He also addressed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council in November in Brussels and

its Forum in May in Aare, Sweden. The Chairmanship participated in the regular staff level meetings between the OSCE Secretariat and NATO that took place during the year.

The Chairmanship also maintained relations with regional and sub-regional organizations. The CiO took part, for example, in the Summit meeting of the Central European Initiative in Piestany, Slovakia on 25 November and visited the Organization of American States.

The CiO also took every available opportunity to promote intercultural dialogue through the OSCE, meeting, for example, with leaders of the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Partner regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives were regularly invited to all the major OSCE events in 2005, including the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana, and were given the floor where appropriate. Representatives of relevant organizations were also invited to address the Permanent Council in the course of the year.

Supporting elections in Afghanistan

“The 2005 elections were considered an important step forward in fostering democracy, stability and human rights in Afghanistan.”

The OSCE Election Support Team Report

In September, the OSCE sent its second Election Support Team to Afghanistan, one of its Partners for Co-operation. It dispatched a 32-member team to help the country conduct its first National Assembly and Provincial Council elections in over three decades, held on 18 September. As in the 2004 presidential election, the Team’s mandate was to analyse the electoral process rather than to exercise its more typical role of election monitor.

Before polling day, the Team met regularly with election administration bodies, candidates and political parties, civil society organizations and international community representatives. On election day, the team visited some 250 of 26,500

polling stations. The team also went to eight of 32 provincial count centres to analyse the count and vote tabulation process.

“Afghan and international security forces provided a relatively stable environment for the elections, despite ongoing security threats. Unlike in 2004, polling took place in all districts. Although it appears that somewhat fewer voters cast ballots than in 2004, the Afghan people again showed commendable commitment and often, especially in the case of women, considerable resolve and courage.”

The OSCE Election Support Team Report

To improve future elections, the team offered a number of suggestions, including five overarching recommendations:

- 1) Future elections must be run at a more sustainable cost while maintaining confidence in the process. The direct cost of the last two electoral cycles, including voter registration, was close to \$300 million, roughly €250 million, which was paid for by the international community.
- 2) For technical reasons, the fewer elections that can be conducted before the next scheduled state-level elections in 2009 the better. The team recommends using the interim to consolidate and support Parliament and provincial councils; strengthen the Afghan electoral administration; conduct a sustainable voter registration, districting, civil registration and census; build political parties; and conduct extensive civic education programmes, especially amongst women, youth, rural populations and in the south and south-west.
- 3) Afghanistan must make progress on issues of justice. Thirty-three candidates were disqualified under an electoral law forbidding those candidates who were convicted of crimes, including crimes against humanity or links to illegal armed groups, from standing. But many Afghans and human rights advocates expressed disappointment that the ballot contained significant numbers of “war-lords” or “ex-commanders” linked to Afghanistan’s violent past. While candidate vetting was important, the expectations on it were unrealistic. The electoral system cannot replace functioning courts or truth commissions.
- 4) Increase civic education and democratic understanding, especially in rural areas including the south and south-east.
- 5) Women must continue to be strongly supported in their aspirations to participate fully in the political processes of Afghanistan.

OSCE/Alexander Nitrasche



Voters register at the polling station.



Afghan men queue up to vote.

Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Slovenia made major efforts to further engage the OSCE's Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in ongoing dialogue and activities. The Chairman of the Permanent Council frequently addressed the meetings of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups with a view to keeping Partner States updated on pertinent issues, including those that had a direct bearing on relations with the Partners. Partner States were also regularly invited to the Permanent Council, including – for the first time – to a joint side meeting on the margins of the Annual Security Review Conference and to the closing session of the high-level consultations on strengthening the OSCE.

The themes of migration and integration, which were priorities for Slovenia's Chairmanship, were the focus of the OSCE Mediterranean Seminar which took place in Rabat, Morocco, on 8 and 9 September. On that occasion, the CiO stated that the OSCE partnership process played the role of a bridge linking Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, and welcomed the fact that the partnership was becoming more pragmatic. He stated that migration presented challenges for the countries of origin and the countries of destination, affecting security, social cohesion, human rights and economic development. He noted that the OSCE had a great deal to offer, whether it was expertise in policing, anti-trafficking, counter-terrorism, confidence and security-building measures, peace-building, democratization or preventing ethnic conflict. He said that this expertise should be put at the service of the OSCE's partners, and others who subscribe to the OSCE's values. Effective follow-up to the Seminar was encouraged.

The CiO participated in the annual meeting of the OSCE with the Asian partners, namely the OSCE-Korea Conference on new security threats and a new security paradigm, which was held in Seoul on 25 and 26 April. During the event, he said, „The OSCE offers a model of multilateral security co-operation that could also be taken up by north-east Asia.“

The meeting discussed the challenges of the non-traditional and multi-dimensional threats to security and stability in the world, which by their very nature require ever-more enhanced multi-lateral co-operation, including between Europe and north-east Asia. Participants discussed new threats to security and measures to combat them, the need for a new security paradigm, and focused on the question of a new security paradigm in north-east Asia.

A representative of the Chairmanship also took part in an OSCE seminar on combating trafficking in human beings in Bangkok in June.

China expressed considerable interest in the OSCE in 2005. Some participating States were supportive of entering into a formal OSCE-China partnership but in 2005 conditions were not yet ripe.

For the second year in a row, the OSCE deployed an Election Support Team to Afghanistan, this time to assist with National Assembly and provincial elections held on 18 September. The team was tasked with analysing the electoral process and preparing a set of recommendations to the Afghan Government, with a view to enhancing the conduct of future elections and improving Afghanistan's legal framework and procedures. The decision by the Permanent Council on the Election Support Team underscores the importance of democratic elections for fostering democracy and human rights and furthering stability in Afghanistan, while at the same time assisting the democratic Government of Afghanistan to accomplish this important step, which marked the completion of the tasks set by the Bonn Conference. (For more on this topic, please see page 23.)

At the invitation of the Palestinian Authority and after consultations with the participating States, in January the Chairmanship requested that an expert training needs assessment team be sent by the OSCE Secretariat and the ODIHR to the Palestinian Territories. In a report to the Permanent Council, the team identified areas where the OSCE and its Institutions might offer expertise to the Palestinian Authority and to Palestinian civil society in relation to its elections to the Palestine Legislative Council. This was the second time the OSCE provided support, in co-operation with other international actors, at the request of a country outside the OSCE area. Following the team's deployment, an application by the Palestinian Authority to become an OSCE Partner for Co-operation was presented to the CiO. However, the request failed to meet with consensus among the participating States.

On the eve of the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana, the CiO chaired two Ministerial Troika meetings with counterparts from the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, respectively. They assessed the current dialogue with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners and focused on perspectives and proposals for future co-operation. Participants welcomed the positive developments undertaken throughout the year, in particular their deeper involvement and more regular consultation on issues of mutual interest.

Permanent Council

The Permanent Council engaged actively in a range of issues that stood high on the OSCE's agenda in 2005.

In Council meetings and behind the scenes, consensus was hammered out on appointing a new Secretary General, adopting a Unified Budget for 2005 (several months late) and for 2006 (on time) as well as agreeing on participating States' scales of contribution to the OSCE for 2005 to 2007. Amendments were made to the Staff Regulations and Rules and a Common Regulatory Management System was agreed upon.

At the end of June, the Panel of Eminent Persons, charged with proposing reform steps for the Organization, presented its report, *Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE*, to the Permanent Council. This was followed by high-level consultations on reform in September.

The Council took two important decisions on strengthening co-operation with strategic partners, the Council of Europe and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The Permanent Council also mandated the deployment of two important operations: a Training Assistance Programme for Georgian Border Guards and an Election Support Team to Afghanistan.

Ambassador Janez Lenarčič of Slovenia, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council in 2005.



OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev

A number of decisions were taken to strengthen the OSCE's ability to combat new threats and challenges to security, for example on counter-terrorism and anti-trafficking.

Discussion was particularly lively on "Current Issues", demonstrating the Permanent Council's usefulness as a forum for dialogue on fast-breaking developments and for peer review of the implementation of commitments.

As every year, decisions were taken on the structures of OSCE meetings and extending mission mandates. Heads of Institution and Heads of Mission regularly reported to the Permanent Council.

The Permanent Council played host to a number of distinguished guests including Acting President Kurmanbek Bakiev of Kyrgyzstan, Prime Minister Zurab Nougaideli of Georgia, nine Foreign Ministers and the Secretary Generals of NATO and the Council of Europe.

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Guest speakers at the PC in 2005

- 13 January: Chairman-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, **Dimitrij Rupel**
- 27 January: Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, on the priorities of the EU presidency, **Jean Asselborn**
- 3 February: Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, **Giorgi Gomiashvili**
- 10 February: Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Kosovo, **Soren Jessen-Petersen**
- 3 March: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, **Solomon Passy**
- 10 March: Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, **Giorgi Gomiashvili**
- 7 April: President of the Co-ordination Centre of Serbia and Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohija, **Nebojsa Covic**
- 21 April: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Mladen Ivanic**
- 19 May: Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, **Carla Del Ponte**
- 30 May (special PC): Acting President of Kyrgyzstan, **Kurmanbek Bakiev**
- 16 June: Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, **Erhard Busek**
- 14 July: Secretary General of the Council of Europe, **Terry Davis**
- 21 July: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, **Ursula Plassnik**
- 1 September: EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, **Heikki Talvitie**
- 6 September (special PC): Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro, **Vuk Draskovic**
- 6 September (special PC): Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, **Elmar Mammadyarov**
- 13 October: Chairman of the UN Security Council Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, Ambassador **Cesar Mayoral**
- 13 October: Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Georgia and Chief of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia, Ambassador **Heidi Tagliavini**
- 27 October: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, **Antanas Valionis**
- 27 October (special PC): Prime Minister of Georgia, **Zurab Nougaideli**
- 3 November: NATO Secretary General, **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**
- 14 November (special PC): Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, **Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu**
- 15 November (special PC): Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia, **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic**
- 15 December: High Representative and EU Special Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Lord Paddy Ashdown**
- 22 December: UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, **Manfred Nowak**

The Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office

High-Level Planning Group

The High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) was established in 1994 at the Budapest Summit of the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE (then CSCE) participating States, to make recommendations for planning options of a multinational OSCE peacekeeping force for the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference. This includes plans for the establishment, force structure requirements, operations as well as the size and characteristics of this force. The HLPG liaises with the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group, as well as with the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference and contributing States.

In June, the Chairman-in-Office issued a directive requiring the HLPG, with the consent of the parties to the conflict, to plan, prepare and execute a reconnaissance mission to the area during the second half of 2005, in order to obtain information on the operational, logistical and financial aspects of the existing contingency planning.

The HLPG conducted reconnaissance missions to Armenia between 11 and 15 December and to Azerbaijan (with the exception of Nagorno-Karabakh) between 15 and 22 December. A reconnaissance mission to the Nagorno-Karabakh region is planned for early 2006.

Furthermore, the HLPG is also tasked with: revising and updating the planning documents; completing the revision of the most recently devised peacekeeping operations option; co-operating with the respective units of the OSCE Secretariat; aligning the current plans with the requirements of the new Integrated Resource Management Agenda management system; and liaising as appropriate with international organizations involved in peace-keeping activities.



Representatives of the High-Level Planning Group conducted reconnaissance missions to Armenia and Azerbaijan in December.

The HLPG also revised the post descriptions of staff members to improve the efficiency of the group. It reconsidered the composition of the HLPG planning team.

The HLPG participated in a number of monitoring missions on the Line of Contact, as it has done since September 1998.

Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

Negotiations towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict increased in momentum in 2005, resulting in two meetings between the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia and in meetings between the respective Foreign Ministers in the framework of the so-called 'Prague Process'. This increase in activity resulted in intensified work by the Personal Representative, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, in keeping the Chairmanship and the Minsk Group, including its Co-chairs, informed of developments. Following agreement reached by the Co-chairs, the Personal Representative was instrumental in organizing the meeting between the Presidents in Warsaw in May on the margins of the Council of Europe summit.

The Personal Representative and his office continued the mandated task of monitoring the front line to assess the military situation and to assist in reducing tension. This was particularly important in the spring, when an increased number of cease-fire violations were reported and the situation threatened to deteriorate. Reports from the Personal Representative gave early warning of this rise in tension and steps were taken to normalize the situation. The military situation on the front line appeared to have stabilized thereafter.

The Personal Representative also assisted the High-Level Planning Group in fulfilling its mandated tasks. Contact was maintained with the European Union and organizations such as the Council of Europe, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and various international non-governmental organizations, with relation to the major problems of internally displaced persons and refugees, prisoners of war, missing persons and detainees, as well as mine clearance.

Confidence-building measures promoted by the office between the sides were largely confined to what was needed to carry out monitoring activities and assist in the return of prisoners of war detained by the sides. Efforts continued to encourage contact between the sides at local level.

Following an agreement between the sides in 2004, an OSCE Minsk Group Fact-Finding Mission to the occupied territories around Nagorno-Karabakh took place from 31 January to 5 February, with the support and assistance of the office of the Personal Representative.

Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office promotes the fulfilment of key aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords, which ended more than three years of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995. The Accords left BiH in a unique military situation. The State had no military forces of its own, nor any control over the armed forces established during the war by two relatively strong entities – the (Bosniac-Croat) Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the (Serbian) Republika Srpska.

In 2004, Bosnia and Herzegovina and its two entities achieved a major milestone in the region's normalization. They agreed that Article II, Annex 1 B, of the Accord on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures among the parties had successfully served its purpose and was no longer necessary.

Under Annex 1 B, the OSCE is charged with assisting the Parties in the implementation and verification of the agreed measures. Broadly speaking, the Personal Representative's role is to broker political consensus, ensure the process flows, and surmount obstacles to the Agreement's implementation.

This past year, the Personal Representative continued work on arms control in the region as per Article IV, Annex 1 B. Signed in 1996, its aim is to balance arms limits for Bosnia and Herzegovina and its two entities, as well as for the Republic of Croatia and the then Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, now Serbia and Montenegro.

Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Article IV, Annex 1 B, Dayton Peace Accords)

In 2005, the five signatories to Article IV took several key legislative steps in defence reform that can serve as a basis to conclude the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords. In addition, they destroyed some 500 pieces of heavy weapons as per the Armaments Limited to the Agreement, and they concluded work on improving this Agreement with the destruction of some 100 pieces of exempted heavy armaments.

The Personal Representative reported that the signatories achieved greater stability and security in the region in 2005. As scheduled, the Parties conducted 18 inspections involving experts from 26 OSCE countries.

In consultation with the Parties, the Personal Representative assisted in implementation and verification by:

- co-ordinating the schedule of inspections;
- requesting OSCE States to provide assistants and;
- co-ordinating offers for training.



Experts met to review Bosnia and Herzegovina's defence reform and changing security situation from 8 to 10 November.

The Personal Representative reported that the inspection regime functioned well in an environment of trust, openness and transparency. The Parties provided accurate information exchanges and notifications reflecting the continuous restructuring process of the armed forces in the region. Reduction of heavy weapons proceeded as planned during the year with the destruction of about 500 Armaments Limited to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

Since Article IV entered into force, the Parties, assisted by the Personal Representative, have improved it by closing certain loopholes, such as exempted equipment that allowed Parties to maintain large quantities of equipment above agreed ceilings. This long process of improvement concluded this year with the destruction of about 100 pieces of exempted heavy armaments. The Parties also reduced armaments held by the internal security forces (police).

In 2005, the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission, which administers Article IV, met five times and resolved two pending issues. The Parties clarified the status of all existing types, versions and models of the armoured personnel carrier BTR-50 and included the category of lookalikes into the Protocol on Existing Types of Armaments.

To ensure statistical relevance with the number of objects of inspection steadily decreasing, the Consultative Commission decided to maintain a minimum number of passive inspection quotas for each of the Parties.

The Personal Representative reported that the overall strategic environment around the region covered by post-Dayton arms control has improved significantly and cannot be compared to the situation ten years ago when the mandates for the various Agreements were shaped by Annex 1 B to the Accords. The Personal Representative therefore continued consultations with OSCE

Defence reform

The legislative bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina passed key defence reform legislation packages that will at last unify the country's defence architecture into a single state-level framework. The consequences of the passage of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Law on Defence and the Law on Service in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina are far-reaching. They open the road for the country to join NATO's Partnership for Peace programme, which focuses on defence-related co-operation with the aim to enhance stability and security throughout Europe, and eventually to full membership in NATO. Ten years after Dayton, the final adoption of the defence reforms also means that BiH has set the foundation needed for the conclusion of the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords.

The defence laws entered into force on 1 January 2006 and will affect the Article IV Agreement. All Article IV Parties signed an amendment to the Agreement, which stipulates that Bosnia and Herzegovina will assume responsibility for the representation of the entities in the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission and will exercise their former rights pursuant to the Article IV Agreement. The OSCE Personal Representative prepared this amendment, which was signed in March 2006.

delegations and specifically with Contact Group States to develop a long-term strategy consistent with the overall policy within the region. To that end, the OSCE conducted a workshop with all Parties on Sub-Regional Arms Control and the changed security situation in the region in November 2005 in Zagreb.

Within the confines of the Article IV Agreement, the policy on ownership has been achieved and could be further extended. The Personal Representative will continue to provide the Parties with guidance and technical support for implementing an inspection regime with three Parties only and provide analysis and expertise for managing the annual information data exchanges and necessary amendments to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control in consultation with the Parties.

Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The Special Representative, Helga Konrad, gave priority in 2005 to tackling trafficking in children, for labour exploitation and for forced or bonded labour.

The Special Representative dealt with these issues at two high-level conferences organized within the framework of the *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* in March and November. The conferences stimulated deeper reflection and established a dialogue with and among the OSCE participating States on how to address two issues: first, the special assistance and protection needs of children; second, the dismantling of the structures underlying trafficking for forced and bonded labour. They also aimed to provide high-quality practice-oriented background information

to governments as decision-making aids in the formulation of anti-trafficking strategies. The Conference on Child Trafficking helped prepare the ground for the formulation of the *Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance* adopted at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council on 5 and 6 December.

Despite increased attention at the political level, and some on-the-ground improvement, victims of trafficking are still frequently seen as perpetrators and are being criminalized. Instead of being taken to appropriate shelters, they are often put into custody in the receiving countries and/or immediately returned to their home countries. The protection and assistance measures offered are insensitive to human rights.

Workshops and meetings of national and international experts addressed these issues, aiming at fine-tuning existing approaches, measures and activities to step up their impact and make them more sustainable. A case in point was the expert meeting held in February on victim assistance. All the relevant OSCE structures and institutions (ODIHR, SPMU, OCEEA, Senior Gender Adviser, and field missions) contributed their expertise and know-how to the conferences and meetings.

The Special Representative chose the motto *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* for joint efforts to combat human trafficking undertaken together with major international, inter-governmental and non-governmental actors. The Alliance takes account of the complexity of the problem and complements existing co-ordination efforts among the OSCE and other international partners. The *Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team*, which is a forum for discussing and streamlining appropriate responses to the individual links in the human trafficking chain and to the problem as a whole, met three times in 2005, presided over by the Special Representative. Thanks to the findings of these meetings, the OSCE played a major role in framing the EU *Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking*, which points to the OSCE Action Plan as a reference document.

In line with her mandate, the Special Representative paid official visits to 24 OSCE participating States (15 EU countries, four of these new EU member States, four to south-eastern European States, five to States of the Commonwealth of Independent States), assessing the situation on the ground and discussing strategies and concrete future steps with decision-makers and stakeholders. These fact-finding missions facilitate the interaction between theory and practice. They have proved to be a highly effective tool in gauging whether human trafficking is perceived to be what it really is: a serious crime and horrendous violation of human rights.

In addition to the OSCE conferences and meetings under the aegis of the *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons*, the Special Representative responded to invitations to act as keynote speaker in more than 50 national, regional and international conferences, meetings, workshops, roundtables and panel discussions.

This further strengthened co-operation in all aspects of the work against human trafficking and enhanced the visibility of the OSCE's overall commitment to fight this scourge vigorously and to strengthen its lead role in this field.

To provide a comprehensive overview of the overall trafficking situation in the OSCE region and to give an account of the struggle against it, the Special Representative has given guidance for the preparation of a report which will inform about both good practice examples and about factors impeding the effective fight against human trafficking. The report is due to be published in early 2006.

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Central Asia

The Chairman-in-Office appointed Alojz Peterle, a member of the European Parliament, as the OSCE's Personal Representative for Central Asia for 2005.

During the year, the Special Representative for Central Asia played an active role in the region, visiting countries on a regular basis to consult on significant issues of regional interest at a high political level.

His work focused particularly on the situation in Kyrgyzstan after the March events and subsequent developments. Following parliamentary elections in the country in February and March, the Personal Representative visited Bishkek for the first time on 24 March to encourage a political dialogue between the President and the opposition. That day demonstrators stormed the seat of Government and the President fled, altering the nature of the Personal Representative's mission. The OSCE served as a neutral platform for dialogue with the new leadership and as a focal point for co-ordinated action between the representatives of embassies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The Personal Representative played a key role in the elaboration of an OSCE work plan for Kyrgyzstan, aimed at bringing about stability and security in the region. (For more on this topic, please see page 21.)

Elections were high on Mr. Peterle's agenda in his discussions with the authorities. The Personal Representative visited Bishkek in June to propose to the presidential candidates a politically binding code of conduct on fairness in campaigning. The majority of the candidates agreed to and signed this code of conduct.

During his visit to Kazakhstan at the beginning of November and his meetings with political leaders, including the chairs of the Central Election Commission and representatives of civil society, the Personal Representative recalled the importance of the presidential elections of December 2005 and the implementation of the ODIHR's recommendations on election procedures.



**Alojz Peterle, Personal Representative of the OSCE
Chairman-in-Office for Central Asia, at a news conference
in Vienna on 14 April.**

During his visit to Kyrgyzstan in late November, the Personal Representative addressed the *Conference on Constitutional reform in the Kyrgyz Republic: International review*. He met the President as well as key members of the Kyrgyz Government to discuss political developments and to raise other important issues such as the fight against corruption. He underlined the need to continue the constructive debate on constitutional reform, a prerequisite for political stability and the economic development of the country. He also stressed the excellent co-operation between the Kyrgyz authorities and the OSCE, highlighting specifically the police assistance programme.

In fulfilling his mandate, the Personal Representative demonstrated the Organization's continued relevance for, and its firm commitment to, the security of Central Asia and the wider OSCE region.

From 1990 to 1992, Alojz Peterle served as Prime Minister of the first democratically elected Slovenian government. He is also a former Foreign Minister.

Reports of the Chairpersons of the Contact Groups with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation

The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation are: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2005: Belgium

The Asian Partners for Co-operation are: Afghanistan, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Thailand.

Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group in 2005: Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group and the Belgian Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group, with the support of the Secretariat's External Co-operation Section, further improved dialogue between the OSCE and its Partner States. The year was marked by joint efforts to provide adequate follow-up to the recommendations contained in the Report on the Implementation of PC.DEC/571/Corr.1 on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation.

Continuing a trend, the OSCE provided the Partners more regular access to the meetings of the Permanent Council. The Partners' contributions to Permanent Council debates were valuable and interesting, as were their interventions at the first joint meeting with the Forum for Security Co-operation. The regular work of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups complemented their participation in these debates. The Partners participated actively in the major OSCE events of the year, such as the *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting*, the *Annual Security Review Conference*, the *Economic Forum* and the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*. They also took part in the *OSCE Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and other forms of Intolerance*, held in Spain on 8 and 9 June, and sent delegations of parliamentarians to the relevant sessions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

In addition, 2005 witnessed further interaction among Asian and Mediterranean Partners. For the first time, on 23 November, at the initiative of the Belgian and Bulgarian Chairmanships, a joint meeting on small arms and light weapons took place between the Mediterranean and Asian Partners and the Forum for Security Co-operation. Apart from serving as an important landmark, the meeting provided a valuable contribution to the preparations for the 2006 UN review conference on small arms and light weapons. The *OSCE Small Arms and Light Weapons Handbook* was translated into Arabic, a project sponsored by Germany, Switzerland and Belgium.

Also for the first time, at the initiative of the Contact Group Chairmanships and in co-ordination with the OSCE Slovenian Chairmanship, a special side event for all Partners was held on the margins of the *Annual Security Review Conference*. The event promoted dialogue and co-operation between OSCE Partners and

participating States in the politico-military dimension, specifically on the assessment and possibilities for increased interaction and implementation. The relevance of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and the fight against terrorism was a main issue of concern for the OSCE and its Partners. The need to implement international norms was highlighted, as was the need to enhance co-operation with other regional organizations, in particular the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Support was expressed for a proposal to hold a joint event of the OSCE and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in the Mediterranean region. The event became another important element in the process of successful realization in 2005 of some of the recommendations contained in the report on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation. Furthermore, the Partners for Co-operation participated in the closing session of the high-level consultations on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE on 13 September in Vienna.

Mediterranean Contact Group. Nine Mediterranean Contact Group meetings covering the three OSCE security dimensions were key to maintaining an open channel of dialogue and consultations between the participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

To ensure early input by the Mediterranean Partners, their comments and suggestions were welcomed in discussions at the Contact Group that took place prior to OSCE events such as the *Economic Forum*, the *Conference on anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance*, and the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*. Following their request, the Mediterranean Partners, within the framework of the Contact Group, met the three Special Representatives on tolerance and non-discrimination informally in June and November.

In the spirit of synergy and possible co-operation with other international organizations and institutions that conduct a Euro-Mediterranean dialogue, the Chairman invited high-level speakers from the External Relations Directorate-General of the European Commission and the NATO's Political Affairs Division for an exchange of views. The Group focused on debates taking place in various OSCE working groups on reform-related issues:

improving the functioning and effectiveness of field operations; borders; combating terrorism; and gender equality and anti-trafficking. A discussion on the politico-military dimension and the Forum for Security Co-operation work was also held following a briefing by a representative of Belarus holding the rotating Chairmanship of the Forum. The Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly informed the Contact Group about activities carried out by the Assembly with regard to the OSCE Mediterranean dimension, such as the annual Mediterranean Forum with parliamentary representatives from the Mediterranean Partners that took place in October in Sveti Stefan, Serbia and Montenegro.

Open Skies Treaty – a demonstration of openness and transparency in military matters. Experts from the Mediterranean Partners were invited to an event on 4 and 5 July in Brussels demonstrating the Open Skies Treaty regime's role in contributing to enhancing openness and transparency among states. The Treaty, whose basic philosophy of openness and transparency coincides with that behind Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, outlines provisions for the conduct of unarmed observation flights over the territories of State Parties. Experts from the Verification Agency of the Belgian Armed Forces welcomed representatives from the Mediterranean Partners at the Melsbroek Air Base where they discussed the Treaty; the C-130 H Open Skies Pod System, the technology used in aircraft for observation flights; as well as co-operation among Benelux countries in the Pod Group, which comprises Benelux, Canada, France, Greece, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain. The participants gained first-hand experience of the technology as well as a practical demonstration of the kind of information obtained through observation flights.

This visit built on a simulation exercise organized last year by Slovenia and contributed to raising further awareness on confidence-building measures. The Mediterranean Partners, represented by experts, including from capitals, were accompanied by representatives from Belgium, the OSCE Chairmanship and the Secretariat. Military representatives from Luxembourg and the Netherlands also attended.

High-level consultations on OSCE reform. The Mediterranean Partners also contributed to the dialogue on strengthening the OSCE. In July, the Chairman of the Contact Group forwarded a common position by the Mediterranean Partners to the members of the Panel of Eminent Persons on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE. Following the presentation of the Panel's report, the Partner States were invited to the closing session of the high-level consultations on OSCE reform. The Mediterranean Partners provided a joint statement, sending a strong political signal to the OSCE participating States. The Ambassador of Algeria delivered the statement, putting forward a number of proposals to strengthen the Mediterranean dimension of the OSCE.

Side-event with the Mediterranean Partners – Economic Forum. For the second consecutive year, a side-event with the Mediterranean Partners was held on the margins of the Economic Forum. The event was also part of the preparations for the OSCE

Mediterranean Seminar. Participants, including representatives from participating and Partner States, were invited to address relevant questions related to migration, conditions to guarantee a contribution by migrants to the development of the economies of their countries of origin and destination; reinforcement of the link between migration and development; challenges posed by migration in countries of origin and destination; management of migration in a win-win situation for the migrants themselves as well as for their societies of origin and destination. The points raised contributed to establishing a basis for the seminar's agenda and an opportunity to expand the debate with a view to submitting key proposals for follow-up.

OSCE Mediterranean Seminar on migration and integration policies. On 8 and 9 September, Morocco hosted the annual Mediterranean Seminar for the first time. The event, which took place in Rabat, was attended by delegations from 33 participating States, all six Mediterranean Partners, three Asian Partners, various international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Current migration and integration challenges faced by both shores of the Mediterranean were at the centre of the debate among high-level representatives and experts.

"A concerted effort is needed to end the flow of illegal trafficking, but also to develop a common approach to addressing the causes of migration. On the other hand, well-managed migration is a source of economic, social and cultural progress," said Karel De Gucht, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium at the event.

Participants agreed that the fight against illegal migration and trafficking in human beings merited deeper interaction among countries of origin, transit and destination. They put forward various proposals and new concepts to counter the common concerns in this field. These included the organization of pre-migration training, the creation of reception facilities to make it easier for migrants to adapt and the introduction of "integration contracts" between migrants and the authorities of the host country. They suggested holding follow-up meetings to the work of Rabat, bringing together experts and officials. To further develop the OSCE Mediterranean dialogue, participants supported establishing a Partnership Fund sustained by voluntary contributions from participating and Partner States.

Asian Contact Group. Under the Bulgarian Chairmanship, the Asian Partners intensified their work, increasing the number of meetings from four to five. Furthermore, the regular practice was established of preceding the meetings of the Asian Contact Group with preparatory meetings at the level of the respective contact points. The Bulgarian Chairmanship also reviewed the Group's meeting agendas and launched the inclusion of an item on current issues. Under this item, the Chairman of the Permanent Council briefed the Asian Partners on recent developments in the OSCE, while, at the same time, Partners were given the opportunity to brief participating States on topical developments in their region, as well as raising issues of mutual concern. Further items discussed by the group included the *OSCE-Korea Conference on New Security Threats and a New Security Paradigm*, a Workshop

on Human Trafficking hosted by Thailand in June, anti-terrorism issues, the OSCE Cordoba Conference on anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance and OSCE reform-related issues.

OSCE-Korea Conference. In April, some 140 representatives of OSCE participating States as well as Asian and Mediterranean Partner States, international organizations, academic institutions and NGOs from Asia and Europe with member States of ASEAN's Regional Forum as observers, gathered in the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea in Seoul. In the framework of the *OSCE-Korea Conference on New Security Threats and a New Security Paradigm*, they discussed issues related to new threats to security and stability, as well as a new security paradigm in north-east Asia.

Conference participants analysed in detail the security situation in north-east Asia, with reference to the European security arrangements and their relevance for the region. The participants made several interesting proposals, which the OSCE Secretariat reflected in the consolidated summary. These included proposals to increase and enhance relations between the OSCE and the ASEAN's Regional Forum on security issues, such as holding a joint conference, and suggestions to create a more effective security framework for the region and a culture of dialogue among north-east Asian countries. Participants also expressed support for the recommendations included in the report of the Chairman of the Informal Group of Friends on Implementation of PC Decision 571, such as participation by the Asian Partners in ODIHR election observation missions, the secondment of experts to OSCE field operations and participation in the OSCE's internship programme. Some of the proposals made at the conference were realized in 2005.

Thailand Conference on combating trafficking in human beings. Thailand hosted a conference on *Sharing of Experiences in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings* on 16 and 17 June in Bangkok. More than 75 participants from OSCE participating and Partner States, as well as representatives of Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Regional Forum and international organizations participated in the event. The discussions concentrated on human trafficking in Asia and Europe; the critical role of legal and law enforcement measures in combating human trafficking; and regional solutions and models for co-operation. Participants proposed taking into consideration the conclusions from the forum in Bangkok in the preparation of the 2006 OSCE Thailand conference.

OSCE Election Support Team to Afghanistan. Following the first ever successful deployment of an Election Support Team to the presidential elections in Afghanistan in 2004, the Permanent Council decided on 7 July to deploy a similar team in support of Afghanistan's National Assembly and Provincial elections on 18 September. The decision was taken in response to separate invitations to the OSCE from Abdullah Abdullah, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, and Bismillah Bissmil, Chair of the Joint Election Management Body. The Team was led by Craig Jenness of Canada. (For more on this topic, please see page 23.)

The OSCE's continued support to Afghanistan was a tribute, and an important contribution, to the importance of democratic elections and stability in the country, especially considering that the legislative elections closed the cycle started by the Bonn recommendations.

Ministerial Troika meetings with Partner State representatives. As has become customary, on the eve of the 13th Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana, the OSCE Troika Ministers held meetings with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners. The discussions at both meetings were lively and concentrated on a review of the work done by the respective Contact Groups as well as an exchange of ideas on further improving mutual dialogue in light of the Seoul and Bangkok conferences and the Rabat Seminar. Significantly, for the first time the Asian Partners agreed on a joint statement containing a common set of proposals on strengthening dialogue in 2006 between the OSCE and its Asian Partners. The statement highlighted the Asian Partners' satisfaction with the important developments in the Contact Group's work in 2005 and expressed the hope that this trend would continue in 2006.

The statement suggested measures such as strengthening OSCE assistance to Asian Partners in election monitoring, border control and police capacity-building, and proposed that the Asian Contact Group focuses on thematic issues such as human security. With regard to the ASEAN Regional Forum, the Asian Partners proposed a review of possible mechanisms to achieve this goal, including possible exchanges of visits with the OSCE and a regular dialogue. At the meeting with the Mediterranean Partners, the Belgian Foreign Minister welcomed the Partners' proposals on themes and venues for future Mediterranean Seminars, conferences, and a workshop for young diplomats from Partner countries, as well as expert meetings on the issues of border security, civil emergency planning and counter-terrorism. Emphasis was put on the need to properly follow-up the Mediterranean Seminar in Rabat, amongst others by creating a task force for further reviewing the recommendations and suggestions regarding migration, and by creating a voluntary fund for the financing of partnership activities.



*Forum for Security
Co-operation*

Forum for Security Co-operation

Established at the Helsinki Summit in 1992, the Forum for Security Co-operation is responsible for the military dimension of the OSCE.

The Forum's main objectives are:

- negotiation and adoption of politically binding decisions on arms control as well as disarmament and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs);
- regular consultations and intensive co-operation on matters relating to security issues;
- further reduction of the risks of threats and conflicts;
- implementation and verification of the implementation of agreed CSBMs and commitments.

The Forum's chairmanship rotates every four months according to the alphabetical order of the OSCE participating States. In 2005, the Forum was chaired by Azerbaijan, Belarus and Belgium.

The three chairmanships decided a key focus of the year would be on the implementation of OSCE Documents on Stockpiles of Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. They also focused on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and organized a Seminar on Military Doctrine, held in February 2006. Finally, they considered a possible follow-up conference on the Code of Conduct on the politico-military aspect of security.

Tackling dangerous stockpiles of ammunition and small arms and light weapons. Surplus stockpiles of small arms and conventional ammunition left over from the Cold War pose a significant threat to the population, infrastructure and environment of many OSCE countries. Often poorly guarded, they can also become a general security threat should they fall into the hands of terrorists.

The OSCE *Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition* provide participating States with a framework for requesting or giving assistance to secure or destroy such stockpiles.

The Forum's work in this field has gradually evolved into concrete action from the initial exchange of information following the Documents' adoption in 2000 and 2003. The OSCE responds to requests for assistance from participating States in the area of small arms and light weapons destruction, stockpile security and management. A number of participating States have expressed their interest and readiness to assist the requesting States.

In 2005, the Forum responded to requests for assistance on small arms and light weapons from Belarus, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

The Forum launched the practical phase of the Tajikistan programme in June. The UK, Switzerland, Spain and the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre put forward a proposal to improve stockpile security of small arms and light weapons in Belarus for the consideration of potential donors. It also started its assessment process in Kazakhstan.

The Forum took a leading role in preparing the OSCE contribution to the *United Nations' Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* in July in New York. It also prepared elements of the Forum's agenda in 2006 regarding small arms and light weapons and taking into account and focusing on international developments, in particular in the UN.

Another aspect of this work is that of preparing an inventory of existing decisions and a review of the implementation of the OSCE *Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons*. This work may eventually lead to a review of the Document itself and serve as a basis for the OSCE contribution to the UN's efforts to tackle the problem at a global level.

With regard to conventional ammunition, the Forum is preparing a report, in accordance with a decision taken at the OSCE Ministerial meeting in Sofia, on further efforts to implement the OSCE Document on the issue.

Destruction of toxic rocket fuel. In 2005, the Forum and the office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities started to address the challenge represented by the stockpiles of rocket fuel component. Armenia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan submitted requests for assistance with disposal either through the Forum or through OSCE field operations. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Forum reinvigorated discussion on the role the OSCE might play in addressing the challenges of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In June, it held a special meeting on non-proliferation designed to consider possible OSCE tasks in this domain. Delegations suggested updating the 1994 OSCE Principles governing non-proliferation and considered the possibility of issuing a comprehensive political declaration on non-proliferation.

OSCE





The discussion demonstrated that the OSCE could complement the role of other international organizations at the regional level through the exchange of information; the support of implementation of non-proliferation regimes; and through mechanisms, namely UN Security Council Resolution 1540, which tackle the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Forum reached a decision to encourage dialogue on how to support implementation of the Resolution.

Assessing the OSCE's work on security issues. The third Annual Security Review Conference, held in June, focused on preventing and combating terrorism, comprehensive security and enhancing co-operation and synergy with other international organizations and institutions. The Forum contributed significantly to the preparation of this event, which produced more than 100 proposals, 25 of which related directly to the politico-military dimension. These included proposals related to small arms and conventional ammunition, the adaptation of arms control to changes in the politico-military situation in Europe and the OSCE's role in the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

An essential task of the Forum is to assess the participating States' degree of implementation of their numerous commitments concerning CSBMs contained in the Vienna Document 1999 and in other relevant Forum decisions. The *15th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM)*, held on 8 and 9 March, reviewed implementation measures. Subsequent meetings of Working Group "A" worked on further implementation of the OSCE Documents on small arms and conventional ammunition. The Forum issued a *Statement on Prior Notification of Major Military Activities*. The statement was a modest but important step aimed at enhancing openness and transparency in the context of CSBMs. Implementation of this voluntary measure will be assessed during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meetings.

Seminar on Military Doctrine. The Forum agreed to hold a high-level *Seminar on Military Doctrine* on 14 and 15 February 2006. A wide spectrum of issues related to changes in military doctrines of the participating States with regard to new security threats and challenges was discussed at this seminar.

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Maintaining a dialogue on security questions. The Security Dialogue is an essential and dynamic tool of the Forum. A regular feature on meeting agendas, it represents an opportunity for all participants to bring up security-related issues of a more general nature. It is especially important given changes in the security environment, which may eventually lead to the reformation of the armed forces and the transformation of military doctrines in the participating States. OSCE States and international experts addressed a number of important issues in this context, including the national defence planning of Belarus, Canada, Ukraine and the United States, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, export controls, and small arms and conventional ammunition.

Strengthening co-operation with other international bodies. In 2005, the Forum invited a number of experts from other international, regional and sub-regional organizations to address specific security-related questions. Experts from the UN, EU, the NATO and the Collective Security Treaty Organization spoke on security issues. The Forum also devoted considerable time to studying the prospects for co-operation with NATO on small arms, conventional ammunition and rocket fuel component.

Strengthening internal co-operation. In 2005, the Forum worked more closely with the Permanent Council troika, with regular contacts at the working level to facilitate preparations for the *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting* and the contribution to the *Annual Security Review Conference*. It presented to the *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting* the Forum's work on the implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 since the previous meeting.

The Forum also contributed to the *Border Security and Management Concept*, received briefings of representatives of two field operations on politico-military activities and held the customary joint meeting with the Permanent Council ahead of the December Ministerial Meeting. The Forum presented its activities at the Winter Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on 28 January.

The Forum participated in the Workshop on the 10th anniversary of the *OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* organized by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

The Forum met for the first time all the Partners for Co-operation in the format of 66 countries united around one table, focusing on one theme, in this case, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

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Parliamentary Assembly



Parliamentary Assembly

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly represents the Organization's parliamentary dimension. Comprising 317 parliamentarians, the Assembly's primary task is to support inter-parliamentary dialogue, an important aspect of the overall effort of meeting the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE region. The declarations passed by the Assembly each year, which are forwarded to governments and OSCE Institutions, represent the collective voice of the parliaments of the OSCE's participating States.

Originally established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater involvement in the OSCE by national parliaments, the Assembly has become an active and prominent member of the OSCE family. The Assembly brings together domestic members of parliaments from the participating States several times a year to discuss OSCE-related affairs and to produce recommendations. Also, through regular issue-specific conferences, parliamentarians are provided with the opportunity to exchange views, debate best practices and to engage with international experts on OSCE issues. Through an active election observation programme, the parliamentarians use their unique expertise as directly elected officials, and play a lead role in OSCE observation activities.

Each year the Assembly elects a President by majority vote to act as its high representative and to chair its primary meetings. The President regularly participates in the work of the OSCE at the ministerial level, including Troika meetings and the Ministerial Council.

The Assembly's International Secretariat is located in Copenhagen, hosted by the Danish Parliament. The Secretariat is headed by Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver, who was reappointed to another five-year term in July. With a permanent staff of 14 people, the Assembly also maintains a small liaison office in Vienna.

Inter-parliamentary dialogue

14th Annual Session in Washington, D.C., July. The largest meeting of the Assembly takes place in July each year, at the invitation of the Parliament of a participating State. In 2005, parliamentarians from 51 OSCE States, plus members from Partner countries, gathered in Washington, D.C., to discuss current international security, economic, environmental and human rights issues, and subsequently passed the *Washington Declaration* with recommendations in these fields. In honour of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, the session focused on the theme *Thirty Years since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead*.

The *Washington Declaration* raised issues of concern to people throughout the region. Amongst other things, the Declaration included recommendations regarding outreach programmes by the OSCE to neighbouring countries, called for assistance in the development of small entrepreneurship and urged full respect by all participating States for the Geneva Conventions for all prisoners of war. The Assembly also adopted a number of issue-specific resolutions proposed by the parliamentarians. These resolutions

focused on issues such as improving gender equality, reform of the OSCE, combating anti-Semitism, and combating trafficking in human beings, as well as on regional issues such as Abkhazia (Georgia), Moldova and the Mediterranean.

In accordance with traditional practice, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, and the OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, both addressed the Session and answered questions from the parliamentarians on a wide range of OSCE issues.

The Assembly also unanimously re-elected U.S. Congressman Alcee L. Hastings as President, to serve until July 2006. Three new Vice-Presidents were elected to join the Assembly Bureau which now consists of President Alcee L. Hastings, Vice-Presidents Nino Burjanadze (Georgia), Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden), Nevzat Yalcintas (Turkey), Panayiotis Kammenos (Greece), Giovanni Kessler (Italy), Nebahat Albayrak (Netherlands), Pia Christmas-Moeller (Denmark), Barbara Haering (Switzerland), Oleh Bilorus (Ukraine), Treasurer Jerry Grafstein (Canada) and President Emeritus Bruce George (United Kingdom).



Parliamentary Assembly summer meeting

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



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Parliamentary Assembly President Alcee Hastings at the summer conference.

Parliamentary impetus for reform

The Assembly considers 'The Future of the OSCE'. At its Annual Session in Washington in July, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted a resolution calling for effective implementation of recommendations on reforming the OSCE.

Ministers address OSCE reform at the Assembly's Annual Session

"Your input can stimulate participating States to think 'outside the box' and to raise issues that consensus-based bodies may shy away from."

OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Dimitrij Rupel

"As the Chairman-in-Office and the Parliamentary Assembly take a fresh look at the OSCE agenda and consider these and other items, preserving the integrity of Helsinki principles and ensuring that the OSCE continues to be an agent of peaceful, democratic transformation should be paramount objectives. Any new procedures must not come at the expense of principle, and any institutional reforms should be geared to strengthening the OSCE's ability to produce results on the ground, particularly through its field missions."

U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice

Prior to the Annual Session, the Assembly undertook a project to support the work of the OSCE Eminent Persons Group, which Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel appointed to give new impetus to political dialogue and to provide strategic vision for the Organization in the years to come. At the invitation of the President of the OSCE Assembly and the Head of the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs, 17 experts on OSCE affairs, including Ministers, Ambassadors and members of the OSCE Assembly, submitted written contributions which were subsequently discussed at a June colloquium on *The Future of the OSCE*. The report on this colloquium was conveyed by Assembly President Hastings to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Permanent Council.

Participants and contributors to the colloquium unanimously agreed that the OSCE is still a valuable and relevant interna-

tional organization that should continue to play a critical role in promoting stability and security in Europe. The political commitments made in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other CSCE/OSCE documents are of great value and should be preserved and upheld. It was also agreed that the problems facing the OSCE are first and foremost political – structural reform in and of itself will not solve the political challenges that only participating States can address. The governments of the 55 OSCE states were urged to reconfirm their commitment to a useful, credible and professional OSCE that serves the interests of all. Participants stressed that they should also commit themselves at the highest political levels to full implementation of all of their OSCE commitments and to future improvements in the structures and procedures of the Organization.

The Assembly has long aimed for reform of certain mechanisms of the OSCE to ensure a well-functioning and effective Organization. In particular, the Assembly has criticized the strict use of consensus in the OSCE decision-making process. To this end, it established an *ad hoc* Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE in 2001 to spearhead Assembly efforts. Headed by U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer, the *ad hoc* Committee has improved interaction between the leadership of the OSCE and the Assembly, and continues to push for other key goals.

Election observation

Throughout the year, the Assembly continued its active election observation programme, sending 186 parliamentarians to observe elections in Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Albania, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. As directly elected officials, parliamentarians use their unique knowledge of electoral processes to assess the conduct of elections in relation to participating States' OSCE commitments. After briefings from senior OSCE and ODIHR election experts and local leaders, parliamentarians deploy to polling stations to observe the sealing of ballot boxes in the morning, voting during the day, and the counting of ballots in the evening.

Whenever the Assembly plays a lead role in observing elections, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office appoints a senior member of the Assembly to act as his Special Co-ordinator to lead the short-term observers and to present the conclusions of the observation mission in conjunction with other appropriate officials.

Tenth OSCE Prize for Journalism

On 1 July, Ukrainian Television Channel Five was awarded the OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy for its crucial role in the events of October-December 2004 in which Ukraine peacefully transitioned to a more democratically oriented and legitimately elected system of government.

In a special ceremony held in conjunction with the Assembly's Annual Session, President Hastings presented the Prize to Roman Skrypin, editor-in-chief of Channel Five.

The OSCE Assembly decided to award the 10th annual Prize to Ukraine Channel Five to honour the great courage they displayed by reporting independently at a time when the Government was placing strict controls on media coverage, ignoring widespread popular discontent, and working to manipulate electoral processes.

Presenting the Prize to Mr. Skrypin, President Hastings said: "These historic events captured the attention of the entire world. Had it not been for the work of Channel 5, many Ukrainians would not have initially been aware that a peaceful revolution was taking place on the central square of their capital."

The OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy was established by the Assembly in 1996 and became an important instrument for raising awareness on media freedom issues worldwide. The US\$ 20,000 Prize, roughly €17,000, has been awarded annually to journalists and organizations whose work promotes OSCE principles of human rights and democracy.



Roman Skrypin (standing centre left) receives the prize from Parliamentary Assembly President Hastings (standing centre right).

In 2005, Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel appointed the following OSCE Assembly members as his Special Co-ordinators:

- Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) for the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan in February and the presidential election in July, as well as the parliamentary elections in Moldova in March;
- President Hastings (USA) for the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan in November; and

- Bruce George, former President of the Assembly (UK), for the presidential election in Kazakhstan in December.

In observing elections, the OSCE Assembly works in close co-operation with the ODIHR and other parliamentary assemblies in the OSCE area. Since the inception of the Assembly's election observation programme, more than 2,000 OSCE parliamentarians have observed elections in the OSCE and beyond.



Assembly President Hastings delivers the preliminary conclusions on the elections in Azerbaijan, in Baku, on 7 November.

Issues in focus

The Assembly has established small *ad hoc* Committees and Working Groups to deal with certain issues of particular concern in a more focused manner. The President of the Assembly may also appoint Special Representatives on areas of interest to act on his or her behalf. In 2005, these members have been active in pursuing the following issues:

ad hoc Committee on Abkhazia (Georgia). The *ad hoc* Committee has continued its work aimed at promoting the creation of a political framework that could facilitate reconciliation and resolution of the conflict in Abkhazia (Georgia), including through direct contact between the *ad hoc* Committee and Abkhaz representatives. The Committee renewed its efforts and activities following the adoption by the Assembly of a resolution on *The Situation in Abkhazia, Georgia* at the Annual Session in Washington, including through a visit to Georgia by the head of the Committee, Vice-President Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden).

ad hoc Working Group on Belarus. Throughout 2005, the Working Group headed by Uta Zapf (Germany) continued working for an open dialogue with the Belarusian Parliament and Government, as well as with opposition representatives and other interested parties. The Group also moved forward with efforts to organize a series of seminars in co-operation with the Belarusian Delegation to the OSCE Assembly and to include a wide range of political forces in Belarus.

Special Representative on Gender Issues. At the Annual Session in July, the Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on *Improving Gender Equality in the OSCE*, presented by Vice-President Tone Tingsgaard, Special Representative on Gender Issues. In conjunction with this resolution, the Special Representative presented the Assembly's annual Gender Report, which reached the discouraging conclusion that a "glass ceiling" still prevents women from advancing into the leadership level of the OSCE. The Special Representative continued to promote dialogue on the issue of equality between men and women and established an informal network of parliamentarians in the OSCE who take an interest in the promotion of this issue.

Special Representative on Guantanamo. In February, Anne-Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate, was appointed as Special Representative to follow up and report to the Assembly on the situation of detainees from OSCE participating States in the U.S. facility in Guantanamo, Cuba. The Special Representative's main recommendations, outlined in her report presented in July, included calls for the U.S. Government to implement a calendar for closure of the facility, as well as to institute more extensive exchanges of intelligence with other countries to ensure maximum usage of anti-terrorist information. Finally, she recommended continued pressure by the international community on the U.S. Government to close the detention centre.

ad hoc Parliamentary Team on Moldova. Following meetings by the Parliamentary Team on Moldova with officials in Moscow and Chisinau, the Assembly adopted a resolution on Moldova in Washington in July. The resolution underlined that any settlement of the conflict in Transdniestria must be acceptable to the entire people of Moldova, and further stressed the importance of improved democratization to this end. The Team, headed by Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland), recommended consideration of mandating the OSCE to conduct elections in Transdniestria. Since 2000, the Parliamentary Team on Moldova has continued efforts aimed at resolving the status of Transdniestria, through the promotion of dialogue between parties and organizations representing different sections of the Moldovan population.

Special Representative on the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Presenting his report *A Golden Opportunity* at the Assembly's Annual Session in July, Special Representative Goran Lennmarker (Sweden) stressed that the potential existed for a win-win solution from which both Armenia and Azerbaijan would benefit. The Special Representative suggested basing a solution on experiences from Europe, where democracy and integration are fundamental components in securing a lasting peace. After visiting Armenia and Azerbaijan and the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, Mr. Lennmarker organized a joint visit to Brussels for representatives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegations of Azerbaijan and Armenia to discuss the future of the two countries within the framework of European and Transatlantic institutions. Since his appointment in July 2002, he has worked to encourage reconciliation and rehabilitation in the area through parliamentary dialogue.

Thematic conferences

The High North – Environment, Security and Co-operation, Tromsø, Norway. For the Assembly's first-ever conference focusing specifically on Northern issues, parliamentarians from across the OSCE gathered in Tromsø, Norway on 12 and 13 May. This conference on *The High North – Environment, Security and Co-operation* was organized to highlight the links between environmental concerns and security challenges in the Arctic region. Presentations and discussions throughout the conference examined the potential dangers to local and international stability of environmental stress, as well as the improved relations that can develop from co-operation on environmental affairs.

Democracy and Good Governance in Multi-Ethnic Societies as a basis for Stability and Security, Sveti Stefan, Serbia and Montenegro. Gathering in Montenegro in October, more than three hundred participants considered and debated questions of good governance in multi-ethnic societies in the annual OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Autumn Conference. In four focused sessions, the participants heard interventions by experts in the fields, including several Heads of OSCE field operations, and senior political leaders from Serbia and Montenegro. The parliamentarians took advantage of this opportunity to exchange experiences and debate practices in governing multi-ethnic societies.

Presidential activities

As the highest representative of the Assembly, President Hastings, a Congressman from Florida, has maintained a very busy schedule on behalf of the Assembly. In addition to chairing all of the Assembly's major meetings, in 2005 he led the OSCE election observation mission to Azerbaijan, paid official visits to numerous participating States, and represented the Assembly at the meetings of other organizations and OSCE Institutions.

During his presidency, Congressman Hastings has placed particular emphasis on parliamentary dialogue, working to ensure the Assembly is a reliable partner contributing to the ongoing success of the OSCE. To this end, the President promoted discussion on reform of the OSCE within the Assembly, and pursued election observation as a key activity in the Assembly's efforts at strengthening democracy within the OSCE region.

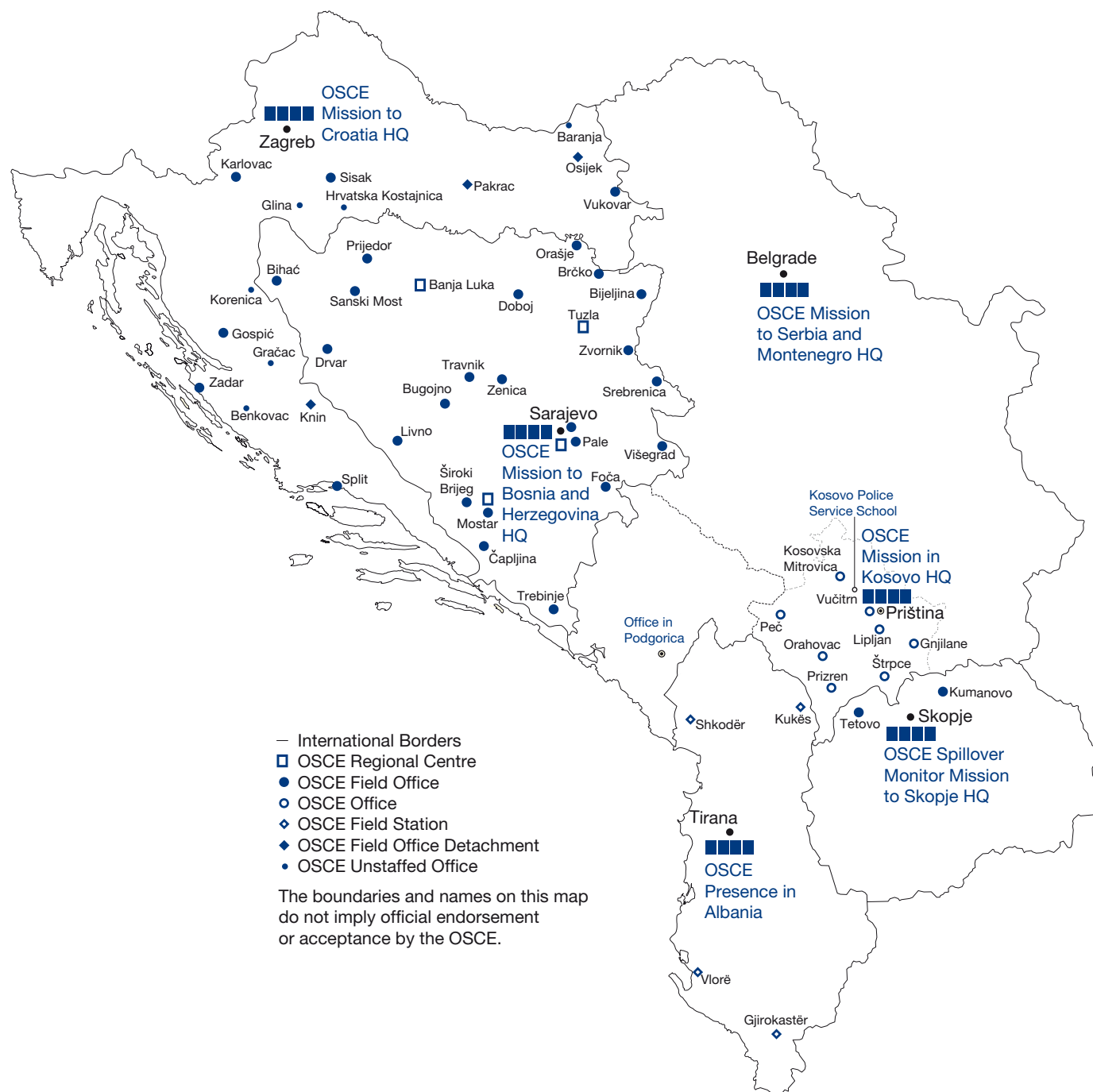
www.oscepa.org

Field operations

OSCE/Steven Weinburg



South-eastern Europe



Presence in Albania

The OSCE Presence assists Albania in consolidating its democratic institutions by working to promote the rule of law and human rights. Its mandated activities include legislative and judicial reform, including property, regional administration and electoral reform; parliamentary capacity-building; anti-trafficking and anti-corruption activities; support for independent media; good

governance and civil society strengthening projects; and police assistance. Since its establishment in 1997, it has made a considerable contribution to the stabilization and democratization of the country.

The Presence also has a field network to promote OSCE goals nationwide. The four field stations and a liaison office in Tirana covering the capital region are involved

in local project development and management in the context of the Presence's mandated activities.

Assisting the preparation and monitoring of the 3 July parliamentary elections was an important part of the Presence's work during the year, in particular facilitating the political agreement on new electoral zones and supporting the improvement of the voter lists. Other

main areas of work included launching a property registration project, supporting new areas of reform under the newly elected Assembly, continued work towards higher standards in the judiciary, beginning the process of making the Civil Society Development Centres independent, carrying out court observation and assisting on media legislation.

Politico-military dimension activities

Strengthening cross-border co-operation.

In pursuing the tasks assigned to it in *The Way Forward Document* agreed to at the Ohrid Conference on Border Security and Management in May 2003, the Presence continued to support the cross-border co-operation process between Albania's border authorities and those of its neighbours. Joint border co-operation meetings brought together Albanian border police and customs officials with their counterparts from the Kosovo Police Service, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR). The meetings helped to exchange information on cross-border trends to improve border management and combat the threat posed by cross-border organized crime. The Presence facilitates these meetings at local, regional and national level.

Assisting the border police. To help the border police improve the management of Albania's borders, the Presence provided several forms of assistance. After transferring radio communications infrastructure to the border police in 2004, the Presence progressed with the handover through the donation of hand-held radios, base stations and mobile radios. This will have a substantial impact in extending and enhancing the communications network nationwide. Because the regular and constant supply of electricity is problematic throughout Albania, particularly in the outlying regions of the country, the Presence donated eight solar power generators

as a backup system for key border crossing points so that computers, faxes, communications equipment and passport scanners can be operated at all times. In addition, together with the British Council, the Presence launched a Second Language (English) Training Project to improve the foreign language proficiency of the border police.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Supporting the integration of marginalized groups in economic life.

Lindita Dashi starts a business

Lindita Dashi, a 20-year-old from the village of Shtoj in the Shkodra region, simply did not have the money to buy the equipment needed for her planned stationery and computer services business. Then she learned from local television of a competition offering financial support of up to €800 for the best business ideas. Lindita Dashi was one of 44 winners, 32 of whom were women, in the OSCE-supported project to boost economic development by creating more jobs in the rural north, the country's poorest region. "More than anything else, what made me decide to start a business was my desire to escape the walls of my house," she said. "Thanks to the training I have received from the GTZ and the OSCE on how to run a business, I believe my shop will be successful."

The Economic Development Programme of the GTZ and the Diber Vision Programme supported the project.

the successful conclusion of the 3rd Youth Entrepreneurship Seminar in January 2005, the Presence, in co-operation with the German development agency, GTZ, launched a grant programme to fund business start-ups for unemployed youth in the impoverished area of northern Albania. Forty-four business plans were approved in the fields of electromechanical services, computer training, hairdressing, handicrafts, agricultural production and veterinary services.

Strengthening local businesses. In co-operation with Albanian consultants and the Albanian Chamber of Commerce and



Twenty-year-old Lindita Dashi serves clients in her shop where she offers stationery and computer services.

OSCE/Nathalie Tagwerker



Children in the city of Kruja collect garbage as part of activities sponsored by the Presence to mark Clean Cities and Car-Free Day on 22 September.

OSCE/Edmond Democillari



Children on bicycles in the city of Durres underline the importance of a healthy environment.

Industry, the Presence organized seminars throughout all 12 regions to inform businesses engaged in importing and exporting about the effects and obligations of Albania's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Promoting self-regulation of the tourism industry. The Presence worked with the Albanian tourism industry, the Albanian travel, tourism and hotels associations, and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports towards the adoption of a Code of Ethics in line with the WTO Global Code of Ethics. As part of an international effort from the OSCE, UNICEF and the GTZ, the Code of Ethics includes the Code of Conduct against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism.

Implementing environmental legislation. Together with the Regional Environmental Centre, the Presence supported the Ministry of Environment in its efforts to raise public awareness of local government units on environmental issues and the existing environmental legal framework. Workshops were held in 10 municipalities with more than 300 participants.

Promoting environmental awareness. To promote a more responsible attitude towards the environment among the public, the Presence and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration organized a European Car-Free Day in six major Albanian cities. Activities on this day included banning vehicle traffic from city

centres, cleaning public spaces, campaigning on the health risks of improperly disposed of hospital waste, organizing bicycle tours and TV debates. More than 20 environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and a large number of pupils from secondary and high schools participated in the events.

Promoting transparency at the local level. The Presence developed a multi-year municipal support programme focused on good governance and access to information for citizens. The first of a series of projects was launched with the Municipality of Tirana to help it gauge public information and the perception of the work of the municipal authorities in the public eye.

Human dimension activities

ELECTORAL REFORM AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Improving elections. With support from the Presence, the Albanian Assembly approved amendments to the Electoral Code in January in preparation for the parliamentary elections on 3 July. This marked the end of an electoral reform process begun in July 2004, which saw important improvements to the provisions on the establishment and functioning of the electoral administration, campaign financing and compilation of voter lists. A new system of centralized ballot counting was instituted. The Presence also facilitated political agreement on the division of electoral constituencies.

One of the most contentious issues in Albanian elections has been the accuracy of the voter lists. With financial backing from the European Union, the Presence provided extensive technical assistance, training and equipment to the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization and the Central Election Commission to improve the voter lists in line with ODIHR recommendations. As a result, the voter lists were significantly better than in previous elections and consequently became much less politically controversial. Through another project, the Presence assisted the participation of 8,000 blind voters in the elections for the first time.

Strengthening the Albanian Assembly. Through its ongoing parliamentary capacity-building project begun in 2001, the Presence supported the Albanian Assembly in implementing its new Rules of Procedure. It also helped the Assembly develop programmes for further reforms designed to improve the effectiveness of its committees, support staff and services. With the Presence's assistance, the Assembly was able to reduce the time it took to prepare and publish the transcripts of its plenary sittings from several years to only one day. Important initiatives were launched under the new legislature to open the Assembly to the general public and increase the amount of information made publicly available.

Strengthening civil society. In 2005, the network of Civil Society Development Centres established by the Presence in 2001 continued to stimulate civil society and



A voter casts her ballot during parliamentary elections on 3 July.

citizens' participation in the local decision-making process. More than 4,150 individuals received training and consultancy services through the Centres, representing an increase of 30 per cent compared to 2004. As part of an outsourcing strategy funded by the European Commission, the Presence began switching from a supervisory role of the network to an advisory role. Full Albanian ownership and management is expected at the end of 2006.

Fostering civil society participation in decision-making. Working closely with the Government and Albanian NGOs focusing on disability issues, the Presence assisted with the development of a *National Strategy on People with Disabilities* and a National Action Plan. For the first time, a donor conference gave governmental and non-governmental institutions an opportunity to present a joint project portfolio reflecting the priorities of the Strategy.

Working for gender equality and women's rights. The Presence and UNDP

continued to promote gender equality in Albania by empowering and assisting the National Committee for Gender Equality. The Presence provided expertise in the review process of the existing Gender Equality Law and continued to support the Women's Counselling Centre for victims of domestic violence opened in 2004 in the north-eastern city of Kukes. In 2005, the centre provided consultancy and services to more than 350 women in this poor and underdeveloped area of the country. In addition, the Presence supported the efforts of the Citizens' Advocacy Office, an Albanian NGO, to get a law approved on preventing domestic violence.

RULE OF LAW AND LEGAL REFORM

Advancing solutions on property. Disputes over land ownership and property rights in Albania continue to impede economic development, constitute 50 per cent of court cases and sometimes even lead to violence. After assisting the drafting

of a property restitution law in 2004, the Presence supported the day-to-day work of the State Committee on Restitution and Compensation of Property and its local-level commissions through training of staff, helping to draft the secondary legislation, and raising public awareness by publishing and distributing information materials across the country. The Presence also began implementing the first registration of immovable property in the municipalities of Vlora and Burrel as a necessary step in creating a system to secure property rights.

Increasing transparency in the courts and raising trial standards. The Presence published its Interim Report for the Fair Trial Development Project in February, primarily focusing on the Tirana District Court and the First Instance Court for Serious Crimes. The High Council of Justice asked Albanian courts to take the report into consideration. The Presence continued its analysis of the trial process throughout the rest of the year, expanding the observations outside Tirana. In addition to following criminal cases, the Presence also focused on procedural rights during pre-trial investigations, in particular concerning detention of suspects. The Presence has continued to assist the Serious Crimes Courts through donations and capacity-building initiatives.

Supporting legal reform. The Presence supported a number of legal reform initiatives. After the adoption of the Law on the Protection of Witnesses and Justice Collaborators in 2004, the Presence continued supporting the Albanian authorities on witness protection by providing technical assistance on drafting the secondary legislation and amending the Criminal Procedure Code. The Presence also launched a project on transparency in legislative drafting designed to bring more public scrutiny and input into the drafting process.

Strengthening civil service protections. The first comprehensive publication of the Civil Service Commission, an independent state institution, was funded by the Presence. The publication includes the Civil Service Commission's 2004 decisions and serves as a useful source of information for civil servants working in central- and local-level state institutions. It also is a

guide for state employees who seek protection against violations of their rights by higher officials.

Documenting constitutional history.

The Presence has funded the transcription and publishing of the debates held by the *ad hoc* parliamentary committee responsible for drafting the 1998 Constitution. This publication is an important piece of legislative history and will improve the understanding and proper implementation of the Constitution.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Fighting human trafficking and illegal migration.

Together with the UNHCR, IOM and the Ministry of Interior, the Presence continued a pre-screening project launched in 2004 with funding from the European Union. The initiative is designed to ensure that asylum-seekers, victims of human trafficking and irregular migrants are treated according to international standards and that Albania maintains a suitable referral system. A total of 940 border guards were trained through this project. The Presence appointed six pre-screening officers to work with the police directorates covering all border areas and organized an important study visit for senior border and migration police officers to border crossing points in EU and non-EU member states to learn about different methods and the latest techniques of cross-border co-operation.

Teaching human rights. The Presence helped 26 teachers from all over Albania, including remote areas, make human rights education part of their everyday work. The project teaches 10- to 12-year-old students nationwide about human rights. It was launched through an initiative of the Slovenian Chairmanship-in-Office in co-operation with the Ministry of Education.

Supporting the People's Advocate.

Building on a long-established relationship, the Presence continued providing support to the office of the People's Advocate. It organized a study visit to the Polish Ombudsman's Office and funded a book on workers' rights, following the successful National Conference on Worker's Rights organized by the Presence and the People's Advocate in 2004.

Improving the juvenile justice system.

In close co-operation with the Magistrates School of Albania, the Presence organized a series of training courses for judges, prosecutors, defence lawyers, social workers, psychologists and judicial police officers dealing with juvenile justice cases. More than 150 professionals participated in the seminars.

Advocating Roma rights.

The Presence led an international donor co-ordination group on Roma issues to support and monitor the implementation of the *National Strategy for the Improvement of Roma Living Conditions*. In addition, it participated in the ODIHR initiative, *Roma, use your ballot wisely*, which aims at improving voter registration among Roma.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Improving media legislation. Following a request by the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Media, the Presence provided technical assistance on various pieces of legislation, including bills on print media and defamation. As part of a legislative working group, the Presence contributed to drafting a law on introducing experimental digital broadcasting in co-operation with the Council of Europe and the Albanian National Council of Radio and Television, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the European Commission and the European Radio Communications Office.

Strengthening national media institutions.

The Presence continued to support the National Council of Radio and Television as it prepares the draft allotment plan for terrestrial digital video broadcasting. The plan is to be submitted to the European Radio Communications Office.

Promoting self-regulation mechanisms.

Together with local media organizations and in co-operation with USAID, the Presence continued to work towards the creation of a Council on Media Ethics. The Presence promoted updating the existing media code of ethics through roundtables and meetings with the main media stakeholders in the country.



Reuters journalist Benet Koleka during a training session with a reporter of the local TV station, Teuta TV, in Durres.

Raising professional standards. As part of a project on *Training Local Media on Professional Standards and Promoting Transparency by Using the Access to Information Law*, the Presence organized training for 12 local television stations around the country. The initiative was funded by the Dutch organization, *Press Now*. The Presence also assisted the Tirana School of Journalism in developing its curriculum and long-term strategy.

Head of Presence:
Ambassador Pavel Vacek
Revised budget: €3,658,300
www.osce.org/albania

Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The pace of reform accelerated in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2005, and the Mission continued to work toward consolidating peace, democracy and stability in the country. Bosnia and Herzegovina made particularly significant steps in

defence reform, unifying into a single state-level framework the Armed Forces and the Defence Ministry.

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina lent active support and expertise in the politico-military dimension activities to the

implementation of the first regional moratorium on the export of small arms and light weapons. In the economic and environmental sphere, it assisted municipalities to reform their administrations, enhancing their efficiency, transparency

and responsiveness. Finally, in the human dimension, it focused on ensuring refugee rights to a viable return throughout the region, social housing and promoting social protection.

Politico-military dimension activities

Supporting defence reform. As the year 2005 came to a close, Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities took their most significant step forward in defence reform by adopting legislation that is key to successful completion of the reform of the country's defence structures.

The Mission, together with NATO, actively participated in working groups and consultations with national experts to support these reforms, which should lead to the creation of a single professional military force controlled by the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina, abolish the entity ministries of defence and entity armies, and end obligatory military service – all remarkable changes ten years after the end of armed conflict within the country. In consultations with parliamentarians and defence sector leaders, the Mission ensured that relevant legislation and standard operating procedures took account of proper democratic civilian control of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Democratic control of the Armed Forces. Together with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the NATO Tailored Co-operation Programme, the Mission prepared a programme of bilateral visits between parliamentarians from Bosnia and Herzegovina and from countries that share similar-sized armed forces and comparable reform and stabilization challenges. The purpose of these visits was to learn from the experiences of peer countries on how best to create an effective parliamentary oversight mechanism that protects both the civilians and the soldiers of the country.



By destroying excess heavy weapons by the deadline stipulated, Republika Srpska has met its obligations towards the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

Continued support to fulfilling OSCE politico-military commitments.

With technical and functional support from the Mission, Bosnia and Herzegovina was able to improve its fulfilment of OSCE politico-military commitments, including drafting and signing its annual Information Exchange Document, and continuing co-operation with the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV to implement Article IV provisions of the Dayton Peace Accords. Bosnia and Herzegovina also established an Arms Control Branch within the Ministry of Defence, and created a co-ordination body to bring together military and state intelligence agencies.

A particular achievement to which the Mission lent active support and expertise was the first regional *Moratorium*

on Exportation of Small Arms and Light Weapons signed in July 2004. The implementation of the Moratorium was successfully completed in July 2005 and has contributed to the end of legal export of military weapons from the country.

In co-operation with the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the UN Development Programme, the Mission continued to support the destruction of small arms and light weapons. More than 30,000 small arms and light weapons from the country were destroyed in 2005. The destroyed materials belonged to a surplus of weapons from the armies of the country's two entities, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Federation and Republika Srpska, generated after the reduction of personnel and equipment modernization measures. By the end of 2005, the small arms and

light weapons surplus from the Republika Srpska Army – which was estimated at the beginning of the year to be 26,690 pieces – was completely destroyed. The surplus belonging to the Federation Armed Forces – around 45,000 arms – is pending destruction.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Promoting the economy and good environmental practices. Within its broader civil society work, the Mission supported partnerships between youth groups, municipal administrations, development agencies, business associations and employment institutions dealing with the promotion of entrepreneurship. More than 500 young citizens participated in entrepreneurship training events, exchange visits, and job fairs promoting better employment opportunities for youth. Additionally, in 20 rural and underdeveloped municipalities, the Mission, through its Community Development Project, helped citizen groups to improve their dialogue with the authorities and start joint work on employment and infrastructure projects.

To promote better environmental practices, the Mission has supported a number of projects whose goal is to improve the environment. In Banovici, near Tuzla, citizens planted 200 trees as a part of the project, *Lungs of the Town*. This activity was the result of a partnership among local citizens' groups, including a youth group, schools, police, a forestry company and the municipal administration.

Public administration reform. As part of its efforts to foster democratic governance and increase the involvement of citizens in the democratic life of the country, the Mission devoted considerable attention to assisting municipalities to reform their administrations, to make them more efficient, more transparent and more responsive to the people they serve.

Improving human resource management. To meet the need for advanced human resource management systems and to address the problems of oversized administrations and poorly qualified staff,

the Mission advised municipalities on how to conduct a basic organizational review to identify optimum structure and staffing. The development of merit-based recruitment procedures also enabled municipalities to improve the quality of their staff. As a result of these initiatives, several municipalities were able to reduce their administrative costs in 2005 by up to 35 per cent of their total budget, while at the same time increasing efficiency. The Mission developed a Human Resource Management Manual to support this process and to assist municipalities in introducing new human resource management practices. Together with a number of partner municipalities, the Mission designed a basic software package to replace paper-based personnel registry systems. In 2005, 20 pilot municipalities received this software.

Improving financial management. The Mission assisted municipal authorities in implementing timely and realistic budget planning and transparent reporting frameworks based on a multi-year approach. Although the municipal elections of October 2004 led to a delay in the adoption of the 2005 budget, 60 per cent of the municipalities where the Mission works adopted their budget plans for 2005 within the legal deadline. In order to further support budgetary management, the Mission partnered with USAID and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). The two organizations funded a Government Accountability Project to develop a budget and finance guide, which will be a reference document for municipal officials, councillors and citizens. It will be made available to all the country's municipalities. The Mission also assisted more than 30 municipalities to decrease their debts, with outstanding liabilities being reduced by more than €4.5 million.

In an effort to strengthen internal control, the Mission worked together with 20 municipalities to develop a Guide to Internal Control. This reference document explains how to conduct a risk assessment and develop controls to mitigate risks. Throughout 2005, several municipalities adopted rulebooks to improve control and oversight in areas such as cash management and control over municipal assets.

Human dimension activities

HUMAN RIGHTS

Supporting the regional return process.

In close collaboration with the European Commission, the UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) and the OSCE Missions to Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro, the Mission continued to support effective state action to ensure refugees' rights to a viable return to the region. To this end, the Mission engaged closely with the relevant BiH authorities in completing their National Roadmap on Return. The Roadmap emphasizes the sustainability of the process and includes meaningful access to property rights, health insurance, social assistance, information and utilities.

From property restitution to securing social housing. With 93 per cent of claimed habitable properties repossessed by their pre-war tenants, the property law implementation process in Bosnia and Herzegovina is nearing closure. Reflecting this transition, the Mission focused on the examination of the right to adequate housing, particularly for the most vulnerable persons in society. As a part of this effort, the Mission has advocated that the responsible governmental authorities throughout the country establish a harmonized, rights-based social housing policy.

Promoting social protection. The Mission has focused increasingly on the rights to social protection and adequate housing to ensure that economic and social reforms conducted as part of the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper are human rights-compliant. In December, the Mission finalized a report to government officials assessing the realization of the right to social assistance. The Mission also developed a plan to work with governmental authorities at all levels, and with members of civil society, to implement the report's recommendations.

One of the recommendations states, for example, that social protection laws should be amended to guarantee that the decision-making process for granting social assistance ensures *de facto* equality in terms of access to and enjoyment of this right and prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination.



Mr. Sejdic speaks to the media at a Roma Day event on 8 April.

Regularization of Roma informal settlements

The Roma community is struggling to overcome prejudice and integrate into society. One of its greatest hurdles is to regularize the ownership of land traditionally settled by the community.

“Our biggest problem and challenge today is housing,” said Dervo Sejdic, the President of the Roma Association from Gorica. “We are happy to say that now we have a permanent settlement with adequate housing for our community in Gorica.”

The 30-household Gorica Roma settlement, which had resided on the same lands for decades, is the only regularized Roma settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina to date. In 2000, the Roma community applied to the municipality of Sarajevo to recognize their tenure to the land, owned in part by the municipality and in part by a state-owned enterprise. With the OSCE’s assistance in overcoming a number of legal, political and financial challenges, ownership was transferred to Roma residents in 2002.

In 2005, the OSCE identified the problems within the civil registration system that prevent Roma from formalizing their legal status in two reports aimed at supporting local governmental authorities and Roma community advocates in resolving these problems in their own communities.

ings as well as provide further guidance for practitioners.

Monitoring domestic war crimes

prosecutions. After nearly a decade of monitoring war crimes trials in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Mission issued a report on domestic war crimes prosecutions in February. The report drew attention to the numbers, nature and importance of war crimes cases handled in the domestic courts. It noted procedural gaps and other obstacles that hindered the fair and efficient adjudication of these cases. In accordance with the agreement of the OSCE Permanent Council, the Mission expanded its trial-monitoring programme to cover all cases transferred from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to domestic courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, the assistance with and encouragement of regional dialogue among practitioners and at the political level has addressed obstacles to the effective prosecution of war criminals and adherence to fair trial standards.

Combating trafficking in human beings.

The Mission continued to support the country’s Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings through the secondment of a staff member and expert advice. Such technical assistance included assistance in the creation of the country’s National Referral Mechanism providing uniform procedures for the treatment and handling of trafficking victims. Further support to efforts to combat trafficking included involving the Mission’s trial monitors in identifying procedural gaps that effectively prevent the enforcement of international standards during trials of traffickers across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

DEMOCRATIZATION

Promoting transparent and accountable government.

In March, the Mission launched its *UGOVOR* Project, which is based on the principle that efficient and effective local government requires a commitment by both citizens and municipalities to work together. This commitment represents a “contract”, or “ugovor” in each of the three official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in which municipalities are obliged to work with and for citizens to

Another recommendation provides that laws regulating social assistance should explicitly state that such assistance shall be allocated based upon a demonstration of need and that among those who qualify, the most deprived groups should receive priority.

Additionally, local authorities have benefited from the Mission’s technical advice and support in preparing policy and in legislative and budget reforms designed to improve access to social services. Such efforts are focused on the promotion of reform that is human rights-compliant, thus ensuring its sustainability.

Ensuring the necessary restructuring of Ombudsman institutions.

Throughout 2005, the Mission focused on consolidating and reforming the existing Ombudsman structures into a single new state-level institution. Based on the standards set out by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, governmental authorities have undergone legislative reforms creating a unified and effective leadership structure appointed through open and transparent procedures. Such efforts are part of the Mission’s goals of ensuring that domestic institutions to redress human rights violations are available to the general public. The Mission also monitors the extent to which Bosnia and Herzegovina’s authorities comply with the decisions of such bodies.

Human rights of Roma. In co-operation with international partner agencies and Roma non-governmental organizations, the Mission promoted equality and integration for Roma communities by supporting the Government’s preparation of a Bosnia and Herzegovina *Strategy for Roma*. Using its field presence, the Mission’s advocacy efforts focused on securing the land tenure of informal Roma settlements.

RULE OF LAW

Monitoring criminal law reform. The Mission identified several practical issues and problems facing the courts through its state-wide trial monitoring activities and its organization, together with the Conflict Prevention Centre and the Missions to Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro, of regional meetings of judges, prosecutors and lawyers. To clarify these issues, a team of legal advisers proposed forty amendments to the existing Criminal Procedure Code to the relevant State institutions. These included amendments regulating detention provisions and measures to ensure the presence of the accused during the criminal procedure. Additionally, public reports on specific human rights concerns related to plea agreements and instructions on the rights of defendants will serve as an advocacy tool for greater respect for human rights within criminal proceed-



In March, the Mission launched its UGOVOR project, which promotes transparent and accountable government.



The UGOVOR project is based on the principle that efficient and effective local government requires a commitment by both citizens and municipalities to work together.



Raising public awareness is the biggest challenge in implementing the Freedom of Information Act in Zenica.

achieve common goals. More than 80 of Bosnia and Herzegovina's 140 municipalities currently participate in UGOVOR. Municipalities work on issues such as the implementation of the Freedom of Access to Information Act, reform of regulatory frameworks and the development of partnerships with citizens.

Zenica rises to the challenge: the UGOVOR commitment. Raising public awareness is the biggest challenge in implementing the Freedom of Information Act in Zenica as part of the UGOVOR Project module. A joint municipal-civil society survey in July revealed that 65 per cent of people in Zenica did not know

about the Act, which guarantees citizens free access to information held by public institutions. Zenica has risen to this challenge by establishing mechanisms to implement the Act, organizing training for key individuals and informing the public about the law through public forums and radio shows. The municipality also created the position of information officer, a well-functioning information centre open to the public, an office where taxpayers can make enquiries and obtain documents, a published guide explaining information access to the public, and an indexed register containing facts, figures and data about public institutions. These steps are complemented by an ongoing effort to raise awareness among civil society to use this right. As a result, Zenica is now one of the most advanced municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in terms of the Act's implementation, and is a good example of municipal officials taking the initiative to establish partnerships, provide training, raise awareness and generally improve relationships with citizens.

Complementing UGOVOR, the Mission launched a *Beacon Scheme*, an initiative designed to raise standards in municipal government by recognizing and rewarding excellence. Launched in September, the year's key themes are effective strategic planning, getting closer to citizens and promoting local economic development. Municipalities are required to demonstrate a willingness to share best practices with others in order to achieve *Beacon* status, receive small monetary incentives and participate in an exchange visit to a *Beacon* Municipality in the United Kingdom.

Within the framework of its parliamentary support programme, the Mission has assisted the State Parliament to restructure its secretariat, establish a legal service, more fully appreciate the implications of media reporting of its work and create a set of common rules for drafting legislation. Additionally, with the support of USAID, the Mission will implement a two-year comprehensive legislative strengthening programme aimed at enhancing the institutional capacity of the State Parliament.

Improving legislation and regulatory frameworks. The Mission continued

The Mission held four conferences on *Raising Debate – An Education System that Works for All*, to facilitate citizen involvement in education policy development



Mirela Miskovic-Treit

close co-operation with international partners including the Council of Europe and the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and both entity governments by providing legal and technical assistance for the development of new laws on local self-government. In Republika Srpska, after the adoption of such a law, the Mission advised the majority of municipalities on how to harmonize their municipal acts with the provisions of the new legislation. In the Federation, the adoption process was still ongoing at the end of 2005 and the Mission participated actively in finalizing the bill which was put into the initial stages of parliamentary procedure at the end of 2005. In addition, over 40 municipalities and all ten cantons in the Bosnia and Herzegovina Federation received assistance in revising their Rules of Procedure, harmonizing them with the overall legislative and constitutional framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Promoting better communication and partnership. The Mission has been working with municipalities to improve internal communication, as well as communication and co-operation between municipalities and citizens. Through its Media Governance Programme, the Mission focused on

The Mission organized a three-day workshop for the Croat and Bosniac curricula student councils of the Stolac secondary school as part of ongoing confidence-building efforts in the area of “two schools under one roof”. The students, who confirmed that they had never talked to each other before, agreed to work together in trying to resolve some of their common problems and promote reconciliation.

improving this relationship by capitalizing on the role of media support. With a public outreach initiative, which targeted 13 municipalities, the Mission helped develop the ability of municipalities to use the media for public information purposes.

Strengthening civil society. Widespread public apathy reinforced by the perceived unwillingness of authorities to listen and respond to citizen requests remained a major challenge for the development of civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Mission worked to develop an informed and active citizenry capable of engaging in dialogue with authorities on issues of public concern. Through the Mission’s Citizen Outreach and Participation Initiative, funded by the UK Government, 60 joint citizen-municipal initiatives were designed and implemented. In order to increase the level of consultation between citizens and government, the Mission trained 100 representatives of civil society organizations and municipal administrations in the use of public opinion research techniques in policy development, and supported 30 municipal level surveys on the quality of existing services and proposals for better policies.

EDUCATION

Providing political support for sustainable reform. The Mission’s Education Programme focused on assisting the authorities at all levels to comply with domestic and international obligations and commitments as well as on encouraging citizens to become active in education reform. During the spring, the Mission organized a series of regional education forums, *Raising Debate*, attended by more than 1,000 participants across the country.

Participants highlighted the need for stronger state-level standards and structures and called upon ministries to remove politics from classrooms and to approach reform in a pro-active manner.

The Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, concerned by the lack of progress in this vital area, highlighted the need for genuine education reform and issued a strong statement opposing segregation and discrimination in schools at a meeting in Sarajevo on 6 and 7 October. It also called upon the authorities to establish a strong mechanism at the State level to co-ordinate reform priorities and to ensure that Bosnia and Herzegovina honours international education commitments.

Encouraging civic involvement in the education reform process. The Mission supported the establishment of school civic groups, such as parent, teacher and student councils as well as student unions, in order to build their capacities to lobby for reform and accountable management at the school and university level. In many instances, these activities promoted support for greater access to schools for all students and increased co-operation in difficult areas such as the Central Bosnia and Herzegovina-Neretva cantons. The Mission also encouraged citizens to take more responsibility in an effort to overcome the most difficult barriers to true educational reform, which include such sensitive issues as “two schools under one roof” – that is, schools sharing the same facilities in which the students and pupils are separated by ethnicity – and the national group of subjects – that is, differing versions of history, geography, and literature taught separately according to ethnicity within the same country.

Monitoring legislative reform. The Mission continued to monitor the implementation of laws and by-laws. Education field staff focused on monitoring the implementation of primary and secondary education laws and by-laws, with particular attention to the election of school board members and the functioning of school boards. The Mission also set up referral mechanisms and Regional Education Working Groups in an effort to contribute to local ownership and domestic mechanisms capable

of dealing with violations of education legislation and the right to education.

ELECTORAL REFORM

Withdrawal from the Election Commission. In 2005, Bosnia and Herzegovina completed a very important transition in its administration of elections. It constituted an all-national Election Commission. As a logical conclusion to years of substantial involvement by the Mission and the Office of the High Representative (OHR) in shaping the country’s post-war electoral structures and procedures, the Head and Deputy Head of the Mission, together with the Senior Deputy High Representative, withdrew from membership on the Election Commission on 30 June. At the request of the members of the Commission, however, representatives from the Mission and OHR will retain an advisory presence until the 2006 general elections, in line with the Mission’s mandate.

The Mission continued its support for the work of the Election Commission, primarily focusing on the implementation of the Law on Political Party Financing, electoral legislation changes and improvements to the voter registration system. The Mission will monitor the Election Commission’s audits of the major political parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina and provide technical support and expertise to the Election Commission as it prepares for the elections in 2006.

Head of Mission:
Ambassador Douglas Davidson
Revised budget: €17,583,300
www.oscebih.org

Mission to Croatia

In 2005, the Mission developed and deepened a dialogue with the Government initiated in previous years. Prime Minister Ivo Sanader's visit to Mission headquarters in June gave new impetus to this partnership which was also strengthened by the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Minister of Culture and

the Justice Minister in the Mission's morning meetings, where the Mission's daily work is discussed.

The enhanced contact with authorities increased both the understanding of the Mission's work and raised its profile among the Government and Croatian citizens. It contributed to the Government's acceptance of the Mission as a useful aid in

the necessary transformation of the country.

The European Union Council of Ministers' decision on 3 October to open accession talks with Croatia marked a major milestone for the country. Earlier that same day, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) reported that Croatia had co-oper-

ated fully with the Tribunal during recent weeks. As a result, the first Tribunal case was passed to an entirely domestic judiciary, a major step on the country's road to normalization. Commenting on the decisions, Prime Minister Sanader said, "It has been fully acknowledged that Croatia is a mature democracy."

Human dimension activities

REFUGEE RETURN

The return of refugees to Croatia remained a major challenge for the Government in 2005 and continued to lie at the heart of the Mission's activities. The Mission worked with the Government to enable those refugees who wished to return to Croatia to do so under adequate conditions. By the end of the year, Croatian authorities had registered as returned some 118,000 of the 300,000 Croatian Serbs displaced by the 1991-1995 armed conflict.

To facilitate these returns, the European Commission, the UNHCR and the Mission organized a Trilateral Ministerial Conference, gathering authorities from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro. The conference, held in Sarajevo in January, set the stage for a co-ordinated regional approach to resolve remaining refugee issues by the end of 2006. The process assumes that only political will and the agreement of the three Governments will resolve the refugee issue. During the conference, the three Governments signed a declaration that foresees the adoption of road maps with concrete benchmarks and financial commitments to be fulfilled at the national level. The Mission and its international partners assisted the Government in drafting a list of tasks for Croatia's road map.

The Government continued and almost completed its efforts to repossess properties that once belonged to Croatian Serbs but were occupied during and after the



OSCE/Krunoslav Rac

Ethnic Serb Mile Stekovic and his wife and two children successfully returned to their pre-war home in the village of Grabova near Petrinja in 1998. The Stekovic's stayed with neighbours while they reconstructed their war-destroyed house. Mile earned money by producing alcohol and selling fire-wood. With the money he bought two cows, took out a loan for four more cows and steadily enlarged his herd. He now owns 30 cows.



OSCE/Krunoslav Rac

Elderly ethnic Serb discusses the daily problem she encounters as a returnee with Magdalena Spalinska, Return and Integration Officer with OSCE Field Office Sisak, on 22 November.

war. At the end of 2005, only some 300 out of a total of 19,500 private residential properties remained occupied, down from 1,500 cases at the end of 2004. Two-thirds of the remaining occupied properties are located in Dalmatia, with the majority concentrated in the Knin, Benkovac and Obrovac municipalities.

The Government also moved ahead with the reconstruction of housing. It has committed to processing the more than 6,500 remaining reconstruction claims in the first half of 2006. By the end of 2006, it aims to resolve the more than 12,000 appeals pending after claims were initially

rejected. Croatian Serb applicants have been the main beneficiaries of the State reconstruction programme for residential property, accounting for approximately 70 per cent of the 8,200 houses and flats reconstructed in 2005.

Despite the Mission's efforts, one category of refugees and displaced persons remains largely without adequate access to housing – those who once lived in socially owned housing in urban areas but have lost their former occupancy/tenancy rights. The Croatian Parliament and the Government adopted two housing schemes in 2000/2002 and 2003, but the implementa-

Public awareness campaign on return and reconciliation

"...where there is a place for everybody ... Croatia is home to all its citizens"



In December, the Mission and the Croatian government, the UNHCR and the EC Delegation, launched a Public Awareness Campaign on return and reconciliation. The campaign targets Serb refugees and displaced persons in neighbouring countries and Serb returnees in Croatia. The campaign encourages refugees and displaced persons to consider whether to come back to their home country. It also promotes tolerance and reconciliation among the majority population and aims to foster a welcoming atmosphere by strengthening government and local community commitment to facilitate return and integration.

Between 1 and 15 December, major public and private media broadcast a television spot and radio jingle promoting the campaign in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro. More than 450 billboards displayed the above slogan in the three countries. (For more information on this campaign, visit www.povratak.hr.)

Ruzica Bjedov gets her flat back

In August 1995, during Operation Storm, Ruzica Bjedov lived in an Occupancy/Tenancy Right flat in Knin. Soon after, members of the militia threw her out of the apartment. In September, she fled the country; her flat was illegally occupied.

When she returned to Knin in 2001, she could not move back into her flat. She was forced to live in poor and inappropriate housing conditions. In January 2004, Ms. Bjedov applied for help under a Croatian Law on Areas of Special State Concern in order to recuperate her flat.

The Head of the OSCE Mission, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, visited Ms. Bjedov in July 2005 to learn about her case. To speed up its resolution, he wrote a letter to the Mayor of Knin and contacted the Government office for refugee issues.

In November, under the Law on Areas of Special State Concern, Ms. Bjedov received an apartment in the same building where she had lost her flat.

"I am very happy with my new apartment which is even more beautiful than the one I used to live in," she said.

tion of these schemes has been extremely slow. By the end of 2005, only a few dozens apartments had been provided to this group.

RULE OF LAW

The Mission and the Ministry of Justice worked to improve the efficiency of the judiciary, viewed by Croatian citizens as one of the least responsive of Croatia's state institutions. The judiciary's main problem was a sizeable case backlog at all court levels. Several legislative proposals to reform the judiciary were drafted in 2005 and are expected to be adopted in 2006.

In September, the Ministry of Justice issued a judicial reform strategy that specified measures to reduce delays in court proceedings. Underscoring the importance and urgency of the reform effort, the European Court of Human Rights issued a number of judgments in autumn that found that Croatians' right to a fair trial in a reasonable time and to access to court had been violated.

The Mission continued to monitor war crimes trials in 2005. Domestic war crime prosecution gathered pace in the second half of the year. Some *in absentia* trials took place during the year, illustrating the need to step up inter-state co-operation between judicial authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro. To reflect this need, the Mission organized a ministerial conference in Brijuni in June to give impetus to judicial co-operation in the region. The Ministries of Justice of the three countries, together with judges and prosecutors, identified legal obstacles to the transfer of defend-

Transfer of the first ICTY trial to Croatia

In mid-September, the Tribunal's Referral Bench transferred the indictment against Mirko Norac and Rahim Ademi to Croatia as part of the Tribunal's completion strategy and prospective closure. Norac and Ademi were indicted for war crimes against Serb civilians and soldiers outside of combat during a 1993 Croatian military operation in south-western Croatia. They are accused of individual responsibility and of responsibility for the acts of their subordinates.

The transfer to the Croatian Chief State Attorney from the Tribunal formally concluded in November. The Referral Bench allowed the transfer after finding that the Croatian judiciary was capable of holding a fair trial. Factors contributing to this decision included an adequate legal framework; witness protection; inter-state co-operation; no application of the death penalty; and an OSCE monitoring mechanism. As noted by the Ministry of Justice, the Norac/Ademi case is the first such transfer to an entirely domestic judiciary. The case has been assigned to the Zagreb County Court, one of the four "special war crimes courts" in Croatia.

Early in 2005, the ICTY Chief Prosecutor and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office signed an agreement to monitor the conduct of transferred war crimes trials to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro, considering the OSCE Missions' extensive experience in monitoring domestic war crimes trials. The Mission to Croatia has monitored within its mandate virtually all war crimes trials, giving it a unique expertise about how such trials are handled in Croatia.

ants of the three nationalities and their criminal cases among the three countries.

Conference participants agreed that, given current legislation in the three countries, the only avenue for co-operation was the sharing of criminal files and evidence through mutual legal assistance. At the practical level, inter-state judicial co-operation between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro continued to show improvements in specific cases. A notable example in this regard is the in-court testimony by multiple witnesses from Serbia and Montenegro at the re-trial in the Split county court in Croatia of the Lora case, in which the Croatia Army is accused of committing war crimes against Serb prisoners in Lora military prison. Upon returning to their country, these witnesses commented positively to the media on their experience testifying in the Croatian court and encouraged other witnesses to come forward.

Promoting minority rights. The Mission continued work with the Government to implement some of the mechanisms of the Constitutional Law on National Minorities that entered into force in 2002. Minorities have yet to reach adequate representation in the state administration, the judiciary,

the executive bodies and the administration of self-government units. As a step forward, Parliament adopted a new Law on Civil Service and amendments to the Law on Local and Regional Self-Government in the second half of the year.

The Mission also focused on strengthening the capacities of the Councils of National Minorities. Together with the Government office on National Minorities, the Office organized a series of conferences on the functioning of these councils in Rijeka, Osijek and Split. It plans to organize a concluding conference at national level in spring 2006. The Mission also organized training on minorities and media in Knin, Split and Zadar, aiming to strengthen the Councils' public relations capacities to better explain their functions and roles to the public.

Electoral legislation reform. The Mission continued to advocate comprehensive reform of electoral legislation. In the past, the Mission and the ODIHR recommended creating a permanent body to prepare and conduct elections, improve transparency in campaign financing and voters' lists, and to streamline the conduct of out-of-country voting. Local elections in May brought to light problems with the

functioning of local governmental bodies, political deal-making and manipulation. One key difficulty was whether to calculate the percentage of minority representation in the assemblies of local and regional self-government units on the basis of the updated voters' lists or on the 2001 census. The problems raised awareness among the authorities and the public of the need for electoral reform.

The first concrete moves on such reform included the submission to Parliament of two draft laws – one on the direct election of mayors and prefects and the other establishing a permanent State Election Commission. Once in place, the Commission will relieve the judiciary of its present burden of supervising the elections in addition to its regular duties and will also look into the legality of keeping, and the regularity of updating, voters' lists.

Media freedom. The development of Croatia's media continued to be a central activity of the Mission. It repeatedly stressed the importance of finding adequate solutions to shield public media from political interference. Punitive sanctions issued in 2005 against journalists working for the public broadcaster could be interpreted as a sign of such pressure. The Government did not meet its year-end deadline to amend the Law on Croatian Radio and Television (HRT). The Mission will continue to work with the Government for a revision in the Law in line with proposals made by the Council of Europe, the EC Delegation and the Mission, which call for improved mechanisms to avoid political interference in the work of the public broadcaster.

The ICTY indictment for contempt of court of journalists who had published the identity and testimony of a protected witness triggered a public media debate on the need to strike a balance between media freedom, responsibility and the observance of the rule of law.

There was positive development in libel legislation in 2005. In November, the Ministry of Justice drafted amendments to the criminal code to fully decriminalize libel, which the Mission and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media had



Momcilo Rusic (right), President of Split-based Prosvjeta Serb Cultural Association and of the County Level Serb Council of National Minorities, speaks to Marija Ibrisimovic, Senior Programme and Administration Assistant at the Mission's Field Office in Split, about the repeated vandal attacks against the Association's offices in Split.

been advocating. The amendments will be submitted to Parliament for approval.

DEMOCRATIZATION

In this field, the Mission focused in 2005 on helping consolidate the legislative framework for the civil society sector. A key activity in this context was the support and advice given to Croatia's main national institutions dealing with NGOs and civil society, the *National Foundation for Civil Society Development* and the *Government Office for Associations*. The Mission helped these institutions set up their own strategies and assisted them with programme development and the building of internal capacity to fulfil their mandates. Together with other international partners, the Mission also acted as a bridge between central government institutions and local NGOs.

Covering good governance and civil society issues, the Mission developed several projects in the area of return and reintegration, rule of law, media and police. In total, a total of 87 projects costing some €1.15 million were developed and initiated.

Police development. In line with the Interior Ministry's 2004 road map, the Mission continued to work with the Ministry on police reform. One of the most important elements of the reform is the development of a fully transparent human resource management system for police and civilian staff. The Mission and German police experts facilitated a human resource management workshop in June.

Another focus area was assistance to the Croatian Police in the area of community policing. The Mission provided expert training and advice for the training programme of so-called community policing "contact officers", a major part of the police reform. More than 400 officers were deployed in 2005 and it is envisaged that the number of trained officers will reach 700 by March 2006. It also implemented a project to educate school children about the work of the police in the Zadar area in September, aiming to increase acceptance of the new concept of community policing.



OSCE/Krumoslav Rac

Contact police officers Ivan Cvijetovic and Marin Buble help a citizen in the town of Zadar on 1 December.

Gender issues. In October, the Mission held a conference on trafficking in human beings in support of the work done by the Croatian Government office dealing with human rights. The conference, which aimed at presenting mechanisms for combating trafficking in persons and to define a road map for future action, was also attended by the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

The Mission developed several projects with a focus on gender. One such project, financed through extra-budgetary contributions by the Italian Foreign Ministry, featured the slogan "women can do it". It focused on encouraging women to participate in the political and civic life of Croatia.

Head of Mission:
Until 30.04.2005,
Ambassador Peter Semneby,
since then:
Ambassador Jorge Fuentes
Monzonis Villalonga
Revised budget: €9,218,800
www.osce.org/croatia

Mission in Kosovo

2005 marked the acceleration of the pace of transfer of administrative responsibilities to Kosovo's Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) and the start of future status talks.

As a distinct component of the UN Mission in Kosovo

(UNMIK), the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, in co-operation with its partners, strives to assist the consolidation of democratic developments and politically mature institutions. The Mission aims to address these needs, as set out in the *Standards*

for Kosovo, as well as respond to new opportunities.

The Mission focused on promoting the rule of law and democratic reforms, in particular within local government, and on advocating for basic human rights and freedoms. Its international

collaborators and Kosovo's PISG are essential partners in realizing this agenda, to help Kosovo progress to a stable future, based on peace and tolerance between the different communities.

Politico-military dimension activities

POLICE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Kosovo Police Service (KPS) took on responsibilities for operational policing at an accelerated pace in 2005. The majority of police stations and regional command functions were turned over to newly promoted KPS officers. In view of these positive steps to greater local ownership, the Mission shifted its focus to the process of transition within the Mission-run Kosovo Police Service School and to the design of a legal framework for the KPS.

Over the year, the School trained a further 673 new KPS Officers, bringing the total number of basic recruits who have successfully completed the training to 7,600. Of these, 15 per cent are women and 16 per cent represent minority communities.

Creating a legal framework for Kosovo's police service. A democratic police service must be founded on a sound legal framework, which fully embraces the principles of accountability and transparency and is community-based. As it prepares for executive authority for policing in Kosovo, the KPS still requires such a framework. In 2005, the Mission, together with experts from UNMIK, the PISG and other organizations, helped develop a bill on Kosovo's police.

Support in public safety education and development. An important feature of the Regulation on the KPS, adopted on 20 December and designed as the legal and ethical framework for the police service, is the planned creation of the Kosovo Academy of Public Safety, Education and

Development in 2006. This institution will be established as an independent entity within the PISG, overseen by a Board to ensure minimum education and development standards. More than 14,000 students from various public safety groups (police officers, correctional officers, customs officers and emergency services management personnel) benefited from educational and training services at the School in 2005.

In direct response to the March 2004 riots in Kosovo, the School hosted courses on handling civil disturbances. The programme is based on the Danish "Force Mobile" tactics, which help police build capacity to deal with such situations, including through extracting violent protestors, preventing aggression against others and destruction of property. In 2005, more than 1,200 officers took part in this course.

Creating a police inspectorate. The Mission has prepared the groundwork for a police inspectorate, an independent oversight mechanism that will scrutinize the efficiency and effectiveness of police stations and departments and will have the authority to investigate all allegations of serious misconduct by KPS officers of all ranks. This institution, based on the principles of accountability and transparency that anchors democratic policing, will be unique in the Balkans. In 2005, the Mission designed the first phase of the project, a comprehensive capacity-building programme on inspection and investigation procedures.

Organized crime initiatives. In support of the Organized Crime Training Network of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the Mission hosted the first of three organized-crime and drug-enforcement

Community-based policing

An important Police School initiative seeks to empower community involvement in policing. The Mission, together with international and local partners, founded the Kosovo Community-Based Policing Steering Group, an overseeing, co-ordinating and supporting body for community-based policing, crime prevention and community safety activities. This Group drafted the Kosovo Community Safety Strategy to facilitate the full participation of all members of society in making Kosovo a safer place for all.

On a more local level, the Mission continues to create forums of vivid interaction and involvement through its Community Safety Action Teams Programme. Community safety initiatives are currently supported in 16 Kosovo municipalities. These Teams address community concerns to help reduce crime, while increasing safety and security. The Mission worked with KPS Officers, local government representatives, community members and Community Policing Trainers to widen and deepen partnership in communities.

OSCE/Ljubomir Korek



A core principle of community policing is creating a partnership between the police and local communities, especially with young people.

training programmes in south-eastern Europe, together with experts from Interpol and Europol. The Network's establishment will provide organized crime operational managers with improved skills and techniques based on European and international standards and norms. It will also facilitate relationships among police investigators of the region and link them to other international partners involved in combating organized crime.

Specialized training courses for KPS officers

While basic police training has been the key priority of the School, it has increasingly focused on management and leadership as well as specialized and expert training courses, such as on criminal investigation skills, surveillance, forensics and combating organized crime. KPS officers were also trained in modern techniques to deal with domestic violence, awareness of human trafficking and community policing.

Human dimension activities

HUMAN RIGHTS

Capacity-building. OSCE human rights advisers were assigned to support the office of the PISG Prime Minister to develop institutional mechanisms for ensuring gender equality, minority and general human rights protection. These efforts culminated in a decision by the Prime Minister to establish human rights units in each ministry.

The Mission also continued its human rights experts programme in 17 municipalities throughout Kosovo/Serbia and Montenegro. The programme's main aim is to build long-term and self-sustaining human rights capacity within municipal administrations, through continuous advice and training provided to municipal officials. Responsibilities of this programme are being handed over to municipal authorities. The Mission provided a consultant to the Kosovo Institute for Public Administration to help mainstream human rights issues in civil servant training activities, ensuring the self-sustainability of human rights capacity building within Kosovo's civil service.

OSCE/Labomir Korček



Kosovo's young people are the best promoters of inter-ethnic tolerance. The OSCE Mission implements a number of projects such as Human Rights Clubs and Youth Assemblies.

The Mission's capacity-building programme used workshops and seminars to train public officials on human rights and to help them incorporate a human rights-compliant methodology in their daily work. The Mission worked with human rights youth clubs for secondary school students, enabling them to develop a critical understanding of human rights through an informed debate. It introduced a human rights education project in all sixth grade civic education classes in Kosovo, in consultation with the PISG Ministry of Science, Education and Technology.

Monitoring the justice system. The Mission continued to monitor the Kosovo justice system. On the criminal law side, a comprehensive report on the response of the judiciary to the March 2004 riots was published in December 2005. The report identified a number of concerns, such as difficulties in gathering evidence due to the displacement of injured parties or witness intimidation, delays in proceedings, inadequate charging and tendency towards lenient sentences.

On the civil law side, the Mission monitored a wide range of proceedings involving family law, labour law, and contract law issues, paying particular attention to property disputes. It highlighted a specific issue regarding the appointment of temporary representatives in property disputes involving minorities as respondent parties. Soon after this, some judges began to correct these practices in accordance with the rule of law.

Property rights protection. Property issues are frequently at the core of the underlying tensions in post-conflict societies such as Kosovo. Taking this into account, the Mission worked in partnership with local and international authorities towards the establishment of a functioning property rights system. The Mission's activities in this regard were three-fold. First, the Mission co-ordinated with the PISG on property rights activities of the Standards Implementation Process. Second, the Mission monitored administrative and judicial authorities regarding the right to property, with particular focus on establishing effective mechanisms to resolve outstanding conflict-related disputes. Finally, the Mission provided expert advice to the Government in the field of property-related legal reform and helped with the development of a comprehensive strategy on property rights and returns.

Illegal occupation – it's not a solution

The Mission and the PISG Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning ran a multi-media public awareness campaign tackling illegal occupation of residential property. Calling for respect of property rights, the campaign emphasized that illegal occupation, a widespread problem throughout Kosovo, is not a viable or legitimate solution to housing needs. The campaign focused on the impact of illegal occupation on principles of human rights and rule of law, including the need to strengthen legislation and that all property disputes will be resolved and judicial decisions implemented.



These stickers supporting the notion that illegal occupation is not acceptable were placed across Kosovo to help discourage potential future illegal occupation from occurring.

Combating trafficking in human beings.

The Kosovo Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking, drafted with the Mission's support, was launched by the PISG in August. With local non-governmental organizations as implementing partners, the Mission focused

OSCE/Shpend Kada

its work on internal victims of trafficking in human beings.

The Mission ran awareness-raising programmes on trafficking-related issues and gender-based violence throughout Kosovo. Technical assistance through advice and consultancy was provided to the PISG and NGOs to facilitate co-ordination between the different partners and strengthen co-operation in trafficking prevention, victims' assistance and implementation of a referral mechanism.

The Mission supported training of relevant NGO partners on the existing framework and mechanisms to assist and support victims of domestic violence, on how to handle the specific circumstances of victims of gender-based violence or trafficking, and on appropriate psychological and/or medical techniques to treat victims. The Mission also continued to support shelters for victims, including children, in need of short-term safe housing. It helped design dating- and domestic-violence training intended to prevent domestic violence, especially by youth.

Advising the office of the PISG Prime Minister on gender issues

A key activity under the Mission's good governance programme is its support for the Advisory Office on Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunity and Gender and the Office on Gender Equality in the Office of the PISG Prime Minister. Representing an important entry point for the Mission's institution-building work within the central institutions, the Offices assist the Prime Minister in carrying out the transfer of powers from UNMIK on human rights as well as on ethnic minority and gender issues. Support was also provided on a wide range of other human rights topics to the Prime Minister's Office, such as implementation of laws; government strategy and policy; public participation; standards implementation; and anti-discrimination.

DEMOCRATIZATION

Supporting central governance institutions. Building on previous achievements, the Assembly Support Initiative, the primary avenue of support to central

governmental institutions set up in 2001 by the Mission and international partners, stepped up its efforts to help integrate the PISG Assembly of Kosovo into regional mechanisms of parliamentary co-operation. In June, the Mission co-organized a meeting of parliaments from south-eastern Europe in Prishtine/Pristina to discuss parliamentary oversight of government, which was the first of its kind.

The Mission also provided a tailor-made assistance package for the PISG Prime Minister and senior cabinet members. This "Executive Menu" incorporated technical briefings on budget and strategy develop-

Helping improve officials' negotiation skills

To encourage constructive dialogue, the Mission facilitated a comprehensive support programme to develop the negotiating skills of decision-makers and government officials through training in the fields of communication, leadership and teamwork. One session targeted members of the technical working groups of the Prishtine/Pristina-Belgrade dialogue. Further sessions were held for Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb political leaders in preparation for future status talks. They explored negotiation theory, undertook practical skills-building exercises, and produced a handbook on drafting components of a status settlement.



OSCE/Labomir Kotek

Quick and effective provision of services should be the goal of every administration. Malisheve/Malisevo municipality created a "one-stop-shop" where citizens can obtain full information on services.

ment issues and included working visits to Vienna and Brussels.

Supporting citizen participation and dialogue. To support the development and consolidation of a proactive and vigi-

lant civil society, the Mission worked to strengthen civic networks and to build the capacity of communities to lobby for their concerns and constructively participate in decision- and policy-making processes. Through active participation, civic groups learned how to influence policy development and effectively represent citizens' interests.

A group of particular concern to the Mission is youth, and efforts were made to increase their understanding of principles of a modern democratic society, emphasizing tolerance and respect for diversity. In co-operation with the PISG Ministry of

Promoting interaction between civil society and local governments

In the Peje/Pec region, a *Civic Bridge* was supported by the Mission to help develop working relations between municipal government and its population. *Civic Bridge* Steering Groups were established to identify and address issues of concern at the municipal level, such as quality of health care, primary and secondary education or collection of property taxes. Their work was aided by young activists who examined these issues for their adherence to municipal legislation, quality of services provided and transparency in decision-making and execution.

"The goal of the *Civic Bridge* is to establish a mechanism that would ensure effective practice of democratic principles and allow the citizens to influence municipal decision-making processes," said Adem Lushaj of the Association of Independent Intellectuals from Decan/Decani, a local NGO involved in *Civic Bridge*.

As a result, municipal officials learned about the benefits of participatory policy-making while citizens developed their capacity to monitor and advise governments.

Culture, Youth and Sports and the Kosovo Youth Network, the Mission sponsored discussion and policy forums to develop recommendations and contributions for the Kosovo Youth Action Plan.

Strengthening local governance. The Mission increased its support to the reform processes at both central and local levels. It provided expertise to the Steering Board for Local Governance Reform and

the Working Group on Legislation, and co-chaired the Working Group on Capacity-Building.

In June, the Mission and the PISG Ministry for Local Government Administration organized an international conference on local governance reform, drawing on experiences of local governance practitioners and experts from south-eastern Europe. The forum discussed the democratic functioning of municipal institutions, multi-ethnic communities and experiences both within and outside of Kosovo, as well as economic sustainability.

As part of the reform agenda, three pilot municipal units were formed in September. Working closely with the appointed Provisional Assembly members, the Mission conducted capacity-building sessions designed to acquaint the members with the applicable law and democratic principles. These efforts aimed at ensuring a smooth transition to a decentralized model of local governance and encouraging a more effective and representative body.

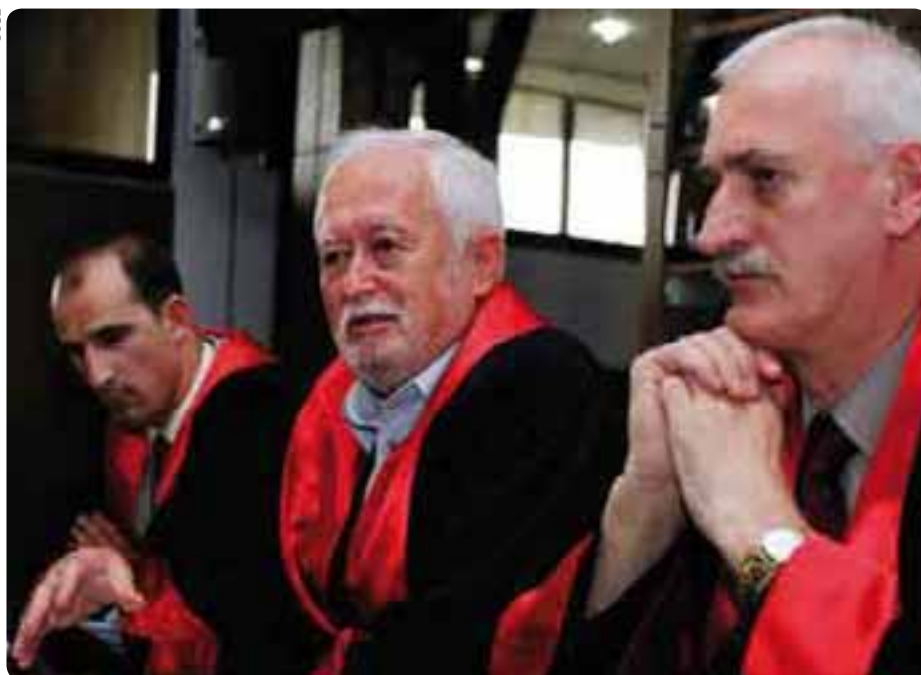
RULE OF LAW

Supporting Kosovo's legal community.

The Mission successfully ran several capacity-building projects, including judicial/bar examination training; training courses for legal aid NGOs; continuing legal education courses for members of the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates; and specific training sessions for legal practitioners. Almost all Kosovo judges and prosecutors have participated in at least one of the more than 50 training sessions of the Mission's *Continuous Legal Education Programme*. The Mission also supported the Kosovo Judicial Institute in conducting a three-month *Pilot Initial Legal Education Programme* for approximately 60 candidates for judicial positions throughout Kosovo.

Supporting the development of human rights-compliant legislation. The Mission reviewed more than 40 draft regulations and bills for compliance with human rights and rule of law principles in 2005. This included the draft regulation on legal aid, the bill on Kosovo's civil service, the bill on courts, the bill establishing the Ko-

OSCE



Judges from the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates speak to newly licensed lawyers after they successfully completed OSCE-supported practical training in legal skills such as advocacy and legal writing.

sovo Judicial Institute, the bill on languages, the draft regulation on the Ombuds-person institution, the bill on emergency preparedness and the bill on parliamentary investigation committees. The Mission also issued a report on alternative dispute resolution in civil disputes and criminal law, and works with the Office of the Prime Minister on drafting a bill on mediation.

With the greater transfer of authority and accountability to local institutions, the Mission looked at how the PISG executes legislation passed by the Kosovo Assembly. Analysis showed that the subsidiary legislation that would give force to the laws was not being drafted. Recommendations from the Mission to ensure that rights were not violated included additional parliamentary oversight over the executive branch.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Building sustainable media. The Mission's efforts in this field resulted in significant improvements in institutional and legislative frameworks governing media operations. It facilitated the establishment of the Kosovo Press Council, a self-regulatory body for the print media. The Kosovo Media Institute, a mid-career training facility for media professionals, is expected to open its doors in January 2006. The Mission also assisted the Kosovo PISG in the drafting of defamation legislation.

Two institutions established by the Mission have taken further steps towards long-term stability and sustainability: Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK) is expected to soon gain legal character from the Assembly of Kosovo, and the institution of the Temporary Media Commissioner has begun its transition to become the Independent Media Commission.

To promote a better understanding of the rights and responsibilities of police and journalists and to enhance their profes-

Radio programmes for the Roma community

The Mission provided financial support for a series of Roma language programmes on Radio Prizren to address issues relevant to this community. They encouraged Roma participation in civic life and promoted the community's integration into society.

"Through the guests coming to the Roma programme, this show has touched the main issues of concern relevant to the Roma community such as lack of education, social barriers, public use of the Roma language and promotion of equity. The Roma community and local institutions have developed a better understanding of these issues and how to address them for the benefit of our community and society as a whole," said Nexhip Menkshe, editor and journalist of the Radio Prizren Roma programme.

Sign language news for the hearing-impaired in Kosovo

There are an estimated 15,000 hearing-impaired persons living in Kosovo, half of whom are of school age. In 2005, RTK began broadcasting news in sign language, an important development, supported by the Mission and the Kosovo Association of the Deaf. The initiative aimed at allowing an often-neglected group to participate more fully in public life. The programming also raised awareness among the general public about this vulnerable group and, as an unexpected benefit, fostered the standardization



In order to help deaf and hearing-impaired people in Kosovo, the OSCE Mission sponsored a programme that is broadcast on both the Albanian- and Serbian-language shows of Radio Television Kosovo.

sional relationship, the Mission developed guidelines for each side to deal with the other. The quick reference tool informs police about the rights and proper treatment of journalists and outlines for journalists their responsibilities in dealing with the police.

ELECTIONS

Throughout the year, the Mission focused on two major challenges: building electoral capacities and increasing local ownership of and confidence in the electoral framework.

To allow for a seamless transition to the local elections authority, the Central Election Commission (CEC) and its operational arm, the CEC Secretariat, the Mission continued to pass on its electoral know-how and operational responsibilities to these institutions. Local owner-

ship is decisive as the CEC is meant to become the body responsible for managing all operational and technical aspects for future elections in Kosovo. To ensure efficient operations and credible election results, the Mission provided support and expertise in all election operation areas, including tasks run by the Mission in the last elections. In addition, the Mission has worked on building the capacities of the CEC Secretariat on responsibilities such as compiling the voters' list, Out-of-Kosovo voting and running the count and results centre.

The CEC and the Mission also established an Election Forum to deal with possible changes to the electoral framework for municipal elections, planned for late 2006. The Forum, comprised of political party, minority community and civil society representatives, discussed key issues such as the introduction of an open list electoral system and securing equitable gender representation on ballots and in municipal assemblies. They also looked at districting, considering dividing electoral zones into smaller areas.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

During 2005, activities of the Mission's Youth Support Initiative got underway concentrating on assisting reform efforts at the University of Prishtine/Pristina and institutional support for improving Kosovo's education and training systems as well as on increasing youth participation in decision-making.

The Mission leads the international community's efforts to modernize the governing structure of the University of Prishtine/Pristina and to streamline its management system. It sits on the panel of experts responsible for monitoring and advising the "officer-in-charge" of the university until a new rector is elected. Support at this level involves fostering depoliticization of the University's executive bodies and introducing political pluralism in student union groups, by helping organize transparent and democratic elections of these bodies. The Mission also strengthened the University's management capabilities and conducted a needs assessment to identify potential areas for improve-

ment in the budget process to ensure the University's financial autonomy.

The Mission supported the PISG in strengthening its institutional response to the needs of young people. The PISG Kosovo Assembly's Education Committee benefited from an expert who helped develop an education and training strategy looking at future sustainable economic development. The PISG Ministry of Education, Science and Technology endorsed this "Vision and Roadmap" as a key source for a pre-University education strategy.

The Mission supported Kosovo's first festival on lifelong learning, a concept encompassing formal, non-formal and informal education. The event, organized by an inter-ministerial working group, brought together private and public education and training providers to present a broad range of opportunities in Kosovo. Through this activity, the Mission aimed to encourage the PISG and the Assembly of Kosovo to develop effective public-private strategies and policies for lifelong learning that help bridge the gap between formal education and the labour market.

Head of Mission:
Ambassador Werner Wnendt
Revised budget: €34,147,300
www.osce.org/kosovo

Mission to Serbia and Montenegro

The Mission achieved a number of successes in 2005 in areas that represented important challenges for the country and its two constituent republics. Throughout the year, the staff of the Mission's headquarters in Belgrade, Serbia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Office in Podgorica, Montenegro (Serbia and

Montenegro), its presence in southern Serbia and the law enforcement training centres in both republics continued to support democratic reform.

Much of the day-to-day effort of the Mission centred on supporting ongoing reforms, including the advancement of human

and minority rights, the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the fight against corruption and organized crime as well as strengthening the capacity of Serbia's legal staff to conduct domestic war crimes trials in accordance with international standards.

The EU and the State Union opened negotiations on a Stabilization and Association Agreement, providing a positive impetus for further reforms in 2006 that will help Serbia and Montenegro join Euro-Atlantic institutions in the future.

Politico-military dimension activities

Conflict prevention in southern Serbia.

The Mission's conflict prevention activities focused on the ethnic Serbian and Albanian communities in southern Serbia. They aimed at giving the ethnic Albanian community a stake in the work of their local authorities, building trust between the various ethnic communities, and creating local judicial and security structures that work for everyone in the municipalities.

The Mission continued assisting the authorities in implementing the 2001 peace agreement aimed at re-integrating the ethnic Albanian community. To improve the work of the Government-appointed South Serbia Co-ordination Body, the Mission supported the establishment of eight working groups. Each of these working groups addresses specific issues, such as security, education, health and economic development. Each brings together representatives of the relevant central government ministries, local community and political leaders, and representatives of the local administration. President Boris Tadic and Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica attended the re-launching of the Co-ordination Body, reaffirming their commitment to reducing tension and promoting socio-economic development in the region.

To better inform the public about these issues, the Mission provided training and technical assistance to local broadcasters that developed multi-lingual programmes. Students from minority communities were offered specialized training courses that allowed them to work for the local authorities, the judiciary and municipal assemblies.



Expert Roger Mansson from Sweden delivers advanced ballistic training to seven specialists from the Criminal Technical Centre in Serbia and three from the Centre in Montenegro in Davnilovgrad in June, a course organized by the OSCE.

Reforming the police services.

In Montenegro, a new Law on Police was adopted in April, initiating a process of modernization. The Serbian Law on Police was adopted in November after the Mission and the Council of Europe each provided expert comments on the bill. Police education and development programmes introduced modern curricula and targeted different levels of serving officers. Courses in trainer development were handed over to national trainers, who assumed increased responsibility for police training and professional development in both republics. The Mission supported the transformation of the Sremska Kamenica Police High School into a basic, entry-level police training facility. Professional police

training is seen as critical for the sustainable reform of the police in both republics. Compliance with recognized international standards, especially with regard to more effective safeguards of citizens' rights, is the focus of this work.

The Mission continued to co-ordinate international support to 10 community policing pilot sites in Serbia, providing direct assistance to three sites in the south of Serbia. In co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior and other international organizations, the Mission also co-ordinated the preparation of national community policing plans in both republics. The Mission helped organize roundtables throughout Serbia, which resulted in the

development of guidelines to enhance co-operation and communication between police and the media.

To enhance the capacity of the border police services to combat human trafficking and trans-national organized crime, the Mission organized specialized training seminars, provided technical equipment and assisted in the development of the integrated border management strategy.

Continuing the fight against corruption.

As part of Serbia and Montenegro's efforts to make the country more attractive to private entrepreneurs and foreign investors, reforms aimed at fighting corruption are crucial. The Mission supported the drafting process and the implementation of the anti-corruption legislation in the fields of public procurement, prevention of conflict of interest, financing political parties, establishing a supreme audit institution and an independent and specialized anti-corruption body. The Mission also continued to support the work of the Serbian Government's Anti-Corruption Council as an institution. The Mission has urged the Serbian and Montenegrin governments to incorporate international standards of the UN's Convention against Corruption into their legislation.

Combating organized crime. The Mission monitored a number of high-profile trials in Serbia and Montenegro. The assassination of the Assistant Head of the Criminal Investigation Directorate, Slavoljub Scekic, in Podgorica, was a tragic reminder of the need to reinforce efforts to combat organized crime.

The Serbian Prosecution Service and the Italian anti-Mafia Directorate have established an example of effective international co-operation in the combat against organized crime. Their work includes the organization of training seminars conducted in Italy for organized crime prosecutors and investigators.

Co-operation was enhanced regionally by support to the South Eastern European Prosecutors network and internationally through work with the International Association of Prosecutors. The Mission took a lead role in supporting legislative



The OSCE handed over its project designed to strengthen laboratory examinations and crime scene investigations in the Serbian Ministry of the Interior's Criminal Technical Centre in Nis to local authorities in September.

development and the use of current laws in the field of asset seizure and forfeiture and promoted the fight against cyber crime.

The Mission provided expert assistance with the drafting and implementation of witness protection laws in Serbia and Montenegro. In Serbia, the legal framework was improved with the adoption of a Criminal Code introducing new types of crime such as financing of terrorism and smuggling of human beings.

War crimes. The Mission worked to build the capacity of the judiciary to prosecute and try war crimes, through providing expertise in drafting legislation and assisting in a national outreach campaign. The Mission monitored several trials in Serbia to assess their compliance with international standards. It furthered and facilitated inter-state judicial co-operation in war crimes proceedings together with the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Mission to Croatia and the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre.

Serbia and Montenegro's international obligation to co-operate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia was a recurrent theme of the Mission's information strategy in the

country. Without full co-operation, the State Union cannot advance on its path towards integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions. A number of indicted police and military officers voluntarily surrendered to the court in The Hague, marking a step forward.

The future of Serbia will depend on how it deals with the horrors committed in the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s. To stimulate frank discussions amongst students, the Mission has teamed up with the NGO, *European Movement*, in Serbia and the Students Union to stage six panel discussions in major centres in Serbia in late 2005 and early 2006.



The Mission's war crimes trial monitors attended the transfer of bodies of Kosovo Albanians exhumed from the Batajnica mass graves outside Belgrade to their families in Kosovo on 26 May.

Civilian control of the Armed Forces.

Democratic control and a clear legal framework for army, police and security agencies are preconditions for strengthening democracy and the rule of law in Serbia and Montenegro. The Mission organized activities that aimed at strengthening the democratic principles pertinent to the functioning of the security sector. These included promoting legislative changes by supporting Parliament and the Armed Forces in drafting relevant pieces of legislation.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Improving the business climate. The Mission promoted a stronger partnership between local authorities, the business community and various local representatives of the international community in order to promote economic and business development.



Worker produces office supplies in the OSCE-created Business Incubator Centre in Knjazevac, Serbia, which opened in May.

To foster small- and medium-sized enterprises, the Mission supported a number of entrepreneurship training seminars for socially vulnerable groups such as the Roma community. Together with other international organizations, the Mission also helped in the creation of a Business Incubator Centre in Knjazevac. Six more of these Centres are under development, including one for the Roma community in Valjevo. These centres, which are located in municipalities with a comparably high rate of unemployment, provide workspace, coaching, and support services to early-stage businesses.

To contribute to energy security, the Mission launched its *3E Programme* – Energy, Economy, Environment. The Programme aims at fostering the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency and helps create a regional energy market.

In Montenegro, the Mission participated in a number of initiatives to raise environmental awareness among youth and promote eco-tourism as a job-generating economic activity.

Human dimension activities

Assisting refugee return. High officials from Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia as well as representatives of the UNHCR, the European Commission delegations and the OSCE Missions to these countries held a regional ministerial conference on refugees in Sarajevo in January. The meeting stimulated a regional inter-governmental dialogue on

outstanding refugee issues. At the event, the three countries adopted a Declaration of Principles to be adhered to while developing a list of tasks. Together with a set of measurable indicators of success they should form “road maps” to resolve remaining issues by the end of 2006. The Mission is also working on a project with local NGOs to provide legal advice and support to refugees currently living in Serbia.

Supporting independence of the judiciary. To foster an independent judiciary that meets international standards, the Mission supports a greater functional autonomy of prosecutors. In Serbia and Montenegro, structural reform remains essential. The Laws on Judges and on the Public Prosecutors’ Office must be brought into conformity with international law.

In Serbia, the Mission provided support to the Judges’ Association, the Public Prosecutors’ Association and the Judicial Training Centre. Assistance included the

training of judges in issues relating to war crimes, organized crime and exchange programmes with other European associations.

Assisting prison reform. The Mission helps the authorities of both republics reform the prison system to enforce the State Union’s commitment to international conventions on the treatment of prisoners and to reach conformity with international human rights standards.

In Serbia, the Mission helped draft legislation on penal sanctions. A major step in the reform of prison administration, the new law introduced alternative sanctions and formalized the creation of Serbia’s first prison warden training centre.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Based on expertise provided by the Mission, Serbia adopted the law on the *Protector of the Citizens* (Ombudsman). The new institution, similar to the Office of the

“If I were the Prime Minister of Serbia...”

For the second year running, the Mission organized an essay competition for high school students on the topic “If I were the Prime Minister of Serbia...” The competition, which forms part of the Mission’s efforts to foster political awareness among young people, was held in May. The jury, which comprised prominent journalists and human rights defenders of Serbia and Montenegro, awarded the three students whose essays represented best their original thoughts and ideas on political leadership and democracy.

Winner Nikola Jovanovic from Nis wrote:

“The war on the territory of former Yugoslavia, in which Serbia took an active part, led to material destruction, killing and crime for which individuals, who were often at the very top of our country’s political and public life, are responsible. The time has now come for this to change, and for the present generation to face the heavy heritage and try its utmost to bring the country into the European family.”

Another winner, Ljubisa Bojanic from Kraljevo, wrote: “As a nation, we frittered away the 20th century with unnecessary political experiments and difficult wars, and this century is a chance for us to do something positive ... When I get this position to be the head of the Serbian Government, I will show that it is possible to realize the dream of a European Serbia.”

More than 1,000 students from 100 high schools participated in the competition. The awards included publication of the winners’ essays in the national daily newspaper, *Danas*, a study visit to the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna and a generous contribution to the schools’ libraries.



Winner Nikola Jovanovic from Nis reads his essay to the Serbian Parliament on 24 June.

Ombudsman in the Republic of Montenegro, can investigate complaints lodged by citizens against the public administration for mal-administration, discrimination or other violations of human rights.

In Montenegro, the Ombudsman received assistance in launching an extensive public information drive.

Through its human rights monitoring and information management activities, the Mission also responded to regular requests from the authorities, organizations and individuals to assess and comment on the human rights policies and practices of government and other public bodies or operators.

Supporting parliamentary and local self-government.

The Mission continued organizing training seminars for local municipal staff on the provisions of the Serbian Law on Local Self-Government. The programme also included training on effective management strategies and negotiation skills and on the promotion of gender equality at all levels of government. The Office in Podgorica supported the implementation of the new Laws on Local Self-Government in Montenegro, focusing on promoting citizens' participation through the Citizen Information and Education Centres' activities and training workshops.

Protecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

The Mission focused on providing training for members of the National Minority Councils on subjects such as public advocacy, consultation processes, team management and leadership skills.

A specific beneficiary was the Roma community, which faces particularly grave socio-economic problems, including high levels of illiteracy, unemployment and poverty. The Serbian Government signed up to the *Decade for Roma Inclusion*, committing itself to improve the socio-economic situation of Roma in Serbia. The National Strategy for the Integration of Roma, supported by the Mission and adopted by the Roma National Council in April, remains to be adopted by the Government. The assistance included a comprehensive train-

ing programme for members of working groups on the issue, aimed at transforming the strategy into concrete action plans and project proposals.

In Montenegro, the Mission assisted the creation of the Roma Scholarship Foundation to provide scholarships for Roma university and secondary school students.

The fight against human trafficking. The Mission introduced and implemented the concept of National Referral Mechanisms in Serbia and Montenegro. These have enabled the state to fulfil its international commitments and to protect victims' human rights as a key element in the successful fight against trafficking in human beings.

The Mission also devoted special attention to workshops at the local level in both republics for police officers, prosecutors, investigative and other judges, bringing together participants from all the institutions relevant to a successful prosecution.

To maintain an adequate overview of the field situation and to be able to fine-tune its programmes, the Mission also monitored approximately a dozen human trafficking court cases.

Supporting media development. The Mission's engagement helped strengthen the operation of broadcasting regulatory authorities in both republics. Developments in Serbia included the appointment of the members of the Broadcasting Agency Council by Parliament, the adoption of the Broadcasting Development Strategy, the deletion of prison sentences for the offences of libel and insult in the recently adopted Criminal Code and a commitment to address the issue of media ownership transparency and media concentration.

The Mission closely monitored developments in the privatization of municipal print and broadcast media outlets. It will assist the Broadcasting Council of Serbia in the upcoming tendering and licensing procedure for broadcast media. The Mission continued to play an active role in the further transformation of Radio TV Serbia and Radio TV Crne Gore (Montenegro) into genuine public service broadcasters,

Reaching out to local communities

Throughout the year, the Mission continued its successful "outreach programme", which consists of regular visits by the Head of Mission and his staff to different communities in Serbia and Montenegro. The visits serve as opportunities to meet local government officials and representatives of the media, civil society, religious groups and police. They also help the Mission staff to familiarize themselves with the situation on the ground and outline the projects under implementation.

In 2005, such visits took place to Kladovo, Novi Pazar and Knjazevac.



Kladovo power station, photographed during an outreach visit to eastern Serbia by the Head of Mission and his staff.

advising on their internal systematization and organizational transformation.

In an effort to ensure its full implementation, the Mission assisted in a public information campaign and prepared seminars to explain the provisions and mechanisms of the Law on Free Access to Information. This experience was used in the Mission's assistance in the drafting of Montenegro's Law on Freedom of Information.

In addition, the Mission supported the training of journalists in critical fields, such as reporting on corruption, organized crime, the judiciary, the police, the parliament and the environment.

Head of Mission:
Ambassador Maurizio Massari
Revised budget: €9,324,000
Website: www.osce.org/sam

Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

The Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje witnessed two major achievements of its host country in 2005, each of which brought with it a complete agenda for future action. The first accomplishment was the fulfilment of all legislative requirements set forth by the Ohrid Framework Agreement, the accord that ended the violent conflict of 2001. This included a law aimed at regulating the use of community flags and symbols and the final law on territorial organization that fixed new municipal

boundaries and launched the decentralization process. The Mission provided support in the implementation of these legislative reforms.

Perhaps the most significant step in the implementation agenda was the transfer of power and competencies to municipal governments on 1 July. The Mission worked with the municipalities and the central Government to ease this process through the facilitation of capacity-building initiatives and public awareness campaigns. The first phase of decentrali-

zation started shortly after the 27 March local elections. The elections were held based on new boundaries, and with the knowledge that the local officials elected would have enhanced competencies. The polls, although critically assessed by the ODIHR, have *de facto* kick-started the transfer of competencies to the Local Self Government Units. The Mission lent its support to the Government in order to devise a unified electoral code that would include recommendations from the ODIHR.

The second major achievement of 2005 was the positive opinion from the European Commission regarding the country's application for EU membership. This, too, brought with it obligations for further reforms, particularly in the judiciary, the police service, the public administration and election systems.

The recommendations for reforms in these areas coincided with the priorities of the Mission and its overall focus on enhancing the rule of law in all aspects of society.

Equitable representation

One of the key obligations of the OSCE resulting from the Ohrid Framework Agreement was to assist the country in its efforts to achieve equitable representation in the police service.

When the Mission began its support to the Police Academy and the training of new recruits in 2001, the police service included only 3.8 per cent ethnic Albanians and a negligible amount of other minorities. In September 2005, figures stood at just over 15 per cent ethnic Albanians and nearly 4.5 per cent other minorities.

In co-operation with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Mission also provided assistance with legislative reforms designed to improve the level of equitable representation in other public institutions.

OSCE/Maria Dotsenko



Police officers focus on instruction provided by OSCE police trainers during one of many thematic courses held in Skopje.

border police underwent training that included extensive work on management and communication. Their expanded mandate allows them to contact and communicate with residents in border areas, making for greater co-operation with those citizens and more effective control of the border.

Increasing co-operation between police and citizens has always been part of the Mission's work with the Ministry of Interior. This year, these efforts had a special focus on young citizens. The Mission implemented two large-scale activities that brought police officers into classrooms to work with primary schoolchildren on public safety issues and understanding the role of the police. As with all of the Mission's work with police, the emphasis was on building capacity within the police services to maintain the programmes or implement similar activities in the future.

Capacity-building activities essential to the implementation of police reform also continued in other areas, such as management, decision-making, human rights and ethics. Much of the specialized training concentrated on skills related to combating organized crime. Courses covered topics such as surveillance techniques, witness protection and techniques to identify and prevent trafficking in human beings. Most of the training took place at the Police Academy at Idrizovo, where local trainers assumed the lead on all basic training. The Mission continued to provide assistance with curriculum development and delivery of specialized and advanced training.

OSCE/Mirvete Mustafa



Children in the ethnically mixed town of Struga celebrate their victory in an football tournament organized for them by their local policemen with support from the OSCE.

Politico-military dimension activities

Bringing police services closer to citizens. Thanks to the provision of specific training by the Police Academy assisted by the Mission, the newly formed Border Police completed its transfer from the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Interior. This critical step means that the entire territory is under the administration of the police, as in other European countries. The military no longer has security obligations within the country. For the first time,

Confidence-building and community policing come together

Citizen Advisory Groups started out as a mechanism to encourage communities to engage with their local police and as a method for community police trainers to demonstrate techniques of community policing. However, it soon became clear that these Groups also had potential as confidence-building mechanisms in the communities that participated.

The Mission has now initiated more than 70 Advisory Groups in a variety of communities, from mountain villages to neighbourhoods in the capital city. All function as forums for discussing local issues, sharing information and developing communication with local authorities and police. Some have taken it even further, by implementing projects such as installing street signs, launching a campaign against the theft of metal road signs and guard-rails and implementing projects to deal with waste disposal or problems with feral dogs.

“The Citizen Advisory Groups are not just about developing trust and better communication between citizens and police, but also about encouraging co-operation among the citizens themselves,” said the Head of Mission, Ambassador Carlos Pais.

The Mission was pleased to see the increased engagement of local government officials with the Advisory Groups, either through frequent consultation with the groups or direct participation. Members of the Groups are able to see the impact they can have in their communities through this kind of civic participation.

Engaging communities to build confidence. One of the key strengths of this Mission is its presence in the field and its grassroots contacts with communities. Such outreach capacity has allowed for effective early-warning and confidence-building initiatives. It proved particularly useful in managing a security incident in Kondovo, on the outskirts of the capital, as well as a number of isolated incidents involving police forces in remote areas. The Mission’s confidence-building monitors and community police trainers maintained regular visits, communicated with the concerned citizens, and liaised with local authorities throughout the periods of in-

Ismailaki Asani helps stop unregulated woodcutting in his village

Ismailaki Asani stands in a field littered with stumps near his village, Merovo. It was not too long ago when this whole countryside was covered in forest. “The people in our village have always cut the wood, but just enough to heat our homes throughout the winter ... but then groups started to come from other areas, they didn’t have licenses, and they would cut down everything, the young trees, the old ones ... and then haul it away to sell,” he explains.

There are many villages that suffer from such unregulated woodcutting. However, Merovo residents have succeeded in stopping the destruction of their forest by working as a community with their local police.

OSCE/Kimberly Bezek



Ismailaki Asani crouches next to a stump near his village, Merovo.

“We tried to talk to the men coming in, but they continued to clear everything they could. We tried to dig trenches to stop their tractors and trucks, but the ground here is too rocky. Then we organized a Citizen Advisory Group, and together with our local police and the OSCE, we organized a new system of patrolling. That stopped it,” Ismailaki Asani said.

Now Ismailaki Asani and his neighbours are looking at ways to co-operate with the Public Forestry Company to replant trees in spring 2006 to repair some of the damage. He says the entire village will help.

creased tension. This contact eased public fears and contributed to calm reactions at all levels. Once the situation returned to normal, the Mission resumed its work with the local government and local police to engage residents in Citizen Advisory Groups as a way to improve relationships within the community.

The Mission complemented its monitoring activities with a number of projects aimed at improving community co-operation with government institutions and relations between ethnic communities. Several incidents in and around schools highlighted the need for specific work to reduce inter-ethnic tension among young people and engage them in constructive activities. A variety of activities conducted in co-operation with local authorities and civil society partners in the education sector reduced inter-ethnic mistrust in mixed schools. Seventy-four different seminars, camps and courses were organized for young people. These were aimed at encouraging contact and confidence among the participants as well as at developing skills such as leadership, communication and entrepreneurship.

OSCE/Graziella Pavone



Young people from different backgrounds experience scouting together during a camp sponsored by the OSCE Mission.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Helping local government take on new responsibilities. Given that decentralization is a recent process in the country, there is a need for information, communication and transparency at all levels. Timed to coincide with the official handover of competencies to local government, the Mission launched a handbook for municipal officials which was designed to assist them with every aspect of their new roles. The handbook, produced in

co-operation with the *Association of Units of Local Self Government*, was distributed to all 85 municipalities. Reinforcing the content in the handbook, the Mission supported several information campaigns targeting citizens as well as municipal officials. The most challenging part of the decentralization for municipalities was the assumption of additional financial responsibilities. These included the collection of taxes and other revenue, expenditures for communal services and economic development. The Mission organized intensive training for municipal officials in financial management. Over 250 local finance officers or administrators took part in these courses. In addition to providing technical training on financing, the Mission supported efforts to improve municipalities' general financial practices and potential.

One good practice the Mission continued to sponsor was the Municipal Gender Equity Commissions. These had originally been launched in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the *Union of Women's Organizations*. The decentralization process solidified the place of the Commissions within the municipalities. They ensure that women are given a voice in all major issues such as economic development, financial priorities and infrastructure development. Ten Commissions are now functioning throughout the country, implementing initiatives. In Veles, for example, the Commission identified a need for shelters for battered women. The municipality sponsored the establishment of four such shelters.

Preserving the environment and securing a future. For a number of communities in the north-western part of the country, environmental protection has become a matter of survival. Illegal woodcutting, which has been increasing steadily since 2001, became a critical problem this year, particularly in the Shar mountains that border both Albania and Kosovo/Serbia and Montenegro and the Crna Gora mountains north of Skopje. As the Mission's confidence-building monitors observed, the problem had grown beyond an issue of respect for rule of law and for the environment. The long-term effects of deforestation pose a serious

threat to mountain villages. The problem is also a source of tension between those communities affected and those cutting the forests. The Mission encouraged co-operation among central and local authorities, forest police, local uniformed officers and citizens. The Tetovo field station hosted a series of meetings on the topic to facilitate communication among all those responsible and to set up systems for sharing information in the field. Local judges and public prosecutors were also included in the meetings.

To prevent environmental issues from becoming divisive in the future, the Mission worked with the First Children's Embassy to encourage young people to be active in promoting economic development while preserving the environment. This activity was supported by the office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. Sixty high school students participated in a week-long training workshop in the summer, learning skills related to entrepreneurship, business development and environmental protection. This was the first activity of this kind. More are planned for 2006, as a way to prepare young people to contribute to the country's economic growth while not damaging its ecological heritage.

Human dimension activities

Increasing transparency and efficiency in the judiciary. Judicial reform was a top priority for the Mission, which supported the Government's legal and structural changes. The most significant of these reforms was a set of Constitutional amendments proposed by the Ministry of Justice as the first major step in the Government's *National Reform Strategy to Reform the Judiciary*. At the request of the Ministry, the Mission provided expert comments on the proposed amendments and, in co-operation with the Judges' Association, organized a series of public discussion forums. Professionals from all areas of the legal profession were encouraged to give feedback on the proposals.

While the legislative changes were underway, the Mission began supporting an activity initiated by a local advocacy

group, the *Council for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency*, to promote transparency and access to information in the courts. The project was conducted in several locations, with the most advanced in the Kavadarci Basic Court. This project launched an online database containing case lists, trial schedules, profiles of judges and information for the public on practical procedures. Courts in Tetovo, Skopje, Stip and Strumica produced annual reports of their work and held public presentations to inform citizens of their activities.

The Mission also conducted a variety of targeted training programmes for judges, prosecutors and lawyers on issues such as international human rights law, organized crime and witness protection procedures.

Institutionalizing anti-trafficking mechanisms. In accordance with the recommendations in the OSCE's *Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*, the Mission helped the Government to establish a National Referral Mechanism under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The Mechanism is implemented through a National Co-ordination Office that will co-ordinate assistance to victims, improve identification mechanisms for potential victims and lobby for legal reforms that will increase the protection available to victims of trafficking. Assistance from the Mission came in the form of an initial assessment and adaptation of the National Referral Mechanism manual for local needs as well as other forms of technical assistance to the Ministry during the set-up phase. Now, the Mechanism will assist the country in fulfilling its obligations regarding human rights protection of victims of trafficking.

Promoting the protection of human rights. The Ombudsman institution was established in 1997 to protect the rights of citizens. To meet requirements set out in the Ohrid Framework Agreement, the Law on the Ombudsman was changed to include regional offices for Deputy Ombudsmen, thereby expanding the institution's capacity to accept cases from across the country. The Deputy Ombudsmen for the regional offices were appointed this year. With additional support from the Canadian International Development Agency

and the Italian Government, the Mission played a crucial role in helping to establish the regional offices and publicize their role to the general population. The new offices have already begun receiving human rights cases and investigating citizen complaints.

Kaldmaa/Jasminka Dimitrovska



The Ombudsman Regional Office in Bitola opens with support from the OSCE Mission.

While the Ombudsman institutions give citizens a mechanism through which they can defend their civil liberties, there is still a need to further inform especially the young population about their rights and what they can expect from state institutions. As part of the Chairmanship-initiated project for instituting human rights education for primary school children in all OSCE member states, the Mission launched a pilot project with the Ministry of Education entitled *Our Rights*. Twelve schools chosen from towns across the country participate in this programme. Teachers were trained in the programme's interactive human rights curriculum for fifth- and sixth-grade children and began implementing it in their classrooms this autumn.

Supporting viability, diversity and responsibility in the media market. The passage of a new Law on Broadcasting Activity this year was an important step towards securing both a viable private media market and an independent public broadcaster. The Mission played a key role in the development of this law, working closely with the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the Stability

Pact to provide expertise and interpretation of relevant European directives. The Mission facilitated discussion between lawmakers and representatives of local organizations in the field of media. Relying on the experience of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Mission also assisted with comments and suggestions on proposed amendments. The new law granted more independence and power to the regulatory authority, allowing it to enforce rule of law in the broadcast market. It also liberalized the licensing regime allowing private broadcasters to more easily use new technology and reach more diverse audiences. Finally, the law established a truly independent governance system for the public broadcaster, which already provides programming in all six constitutional languages.

E-society crosses all pillars

E-society, otherwise known as the information society, refers to the integration of information technology such as the Internet, wireless communication and others into all aspects of social and political life.

Because it covers such a broad area, the Mission's E-society project touched on nearly all aspects of the Mission's work. It was implemented with the local organization, *Metamorphosis*, and supported by the office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

At the international conference that launched the project in Skopje, a senior advisor to the Representative on Freedom of the Media pointed out that new information technology opens up vast opportunities for free, transparent communication and collaboration among various stakeholders in society, including government, business and citizens.

A series of four smaller conferences were held in towns throughout the country. The first on cyber crime brought together police, prosecutors and others for discussions on ways of dealing with crime on the Internet. The ones on E-education and E-media covered topics such as encouraging multi-culturalism and breaking down boundaries through online communication. An E-government event addressed mayors and other municipal officials on ways to use the Internet to improve transparency and engage citizens in decision-making.

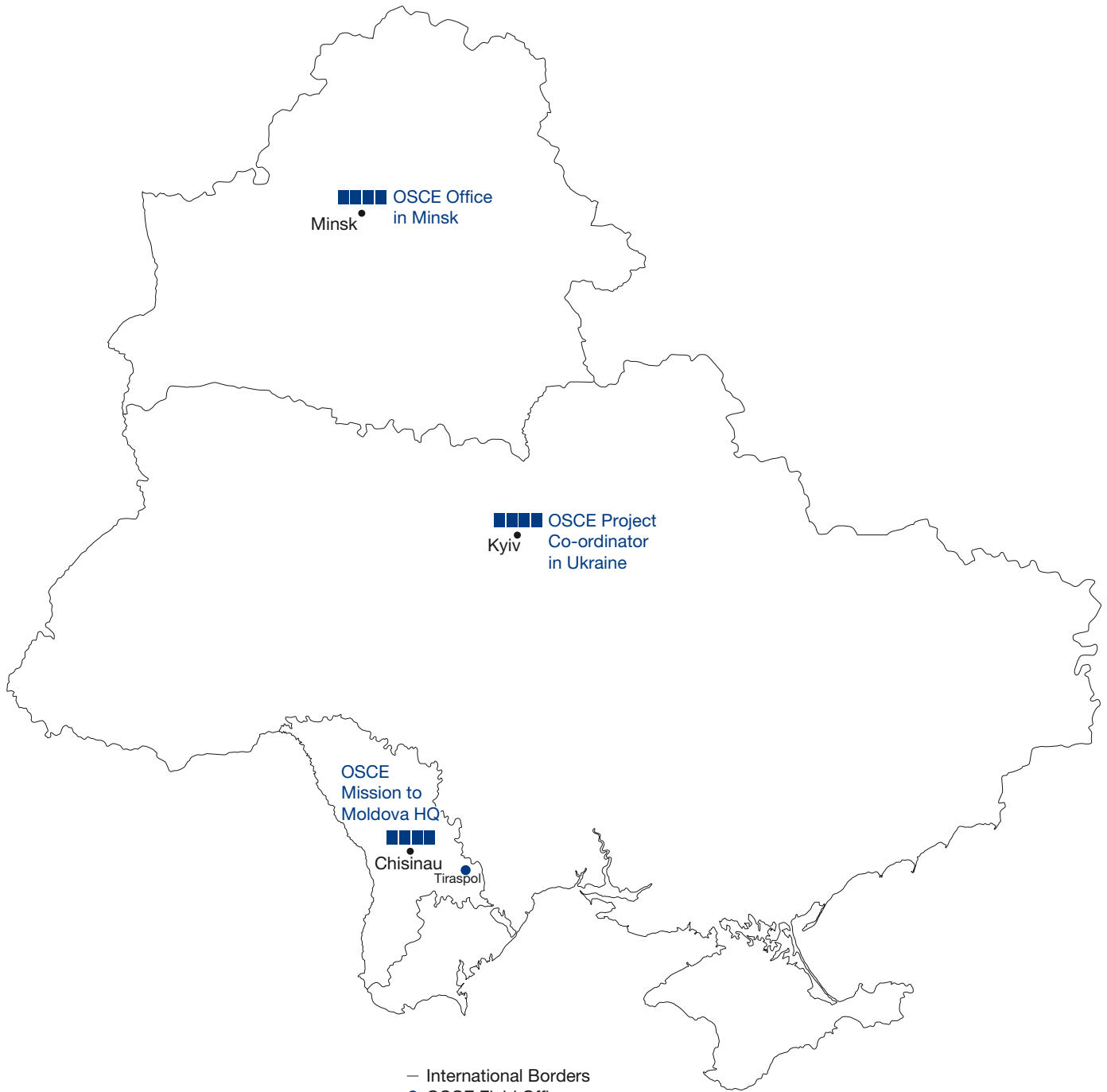
Because of its multi-lingual and multi-ethnic character, the public broadcaster has a key role to play in promoting diversity and identity. Therefore, the Mission continued support for its modernization and professional improvement through training activities and some technical support. This year's training focused on production management both for radio and for television to ensure that such capacity is in place before the restructuring promised in the new Law on Broadcast Activity.

The Mission also supported training for future media professionals by contributing to the *Macedonian Institute for the Media's* one-year journalism diploma course. This intensive diploma programme is internationally recognized and sets new standards for journalism and for training in the field. Particular attention was paid to including a diverse group of students that will be capable of reporting in minority languages in the future.

Since professional journalism requires reliable official sources, the Mission also continued its push for the passage of a Law on Free Access to Information, a draft of which has already been prepared by the Ministry of Justice. Teaming up with the Delegation of the European Commission, the Mission supported an initiative by the local organization, *ProMedia*, both to initiate public debate on the urgent need for the law and to prepare public institutions through training on the new responsibilities they will have once the law is passed.

Head of Mission:
Ambassador Carlos Pais
Revised budget: €11,061,500
www.osce.org/skopje

Eastern Europe



- International Borders
- OSCE Field Office

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

Office in Minsk

The Office in Minsk assisted the Belarusian Government in further promoting institution-building, consolidating the rule of law, fostering relations

with civil society and supporting the country in addressing economic and environmental issues. Following its mandate,

the Office focused on two major fields of involvement: monitoring of and reporting on the observance by the host country of its commitments

vis-à-vis the Organization, and implementing field projects in the economic and environmental and human dimensions.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Legislation improvement. To improve the general investment climate in Belarus, the Office worked with the National Law Drafting Centre to promote reform of legislation on small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In November, it helped organize a working session on handicraft activities, a new type of SME in Belarus. The Office invited European Union experts on SMEs and handicraft experts from Poland and Belgium to share their experiences. The discussion resulted in recommendations on organization, taxation and state support to craftsmanship.

Rural tourism development. To promote and develop rural tourism in Belarus, the Office supported a project of the non-governmental organization, *Agro&Eco Tourism*, which works to enhance the existing network of rural farmsteads. These "Green Ways" are routes that promote a healthy lifestyle and environmentally friendly non-motorized tourism. After special training in Poland, rural farmers developed new routes near their farmsteads, engaging the local population and employing local resources. The project published a guidebook of the completed routes entitled *Green Trails of Belarus* and distributed it in Belarus and abroad.

Access to environmental information. In 2005, the Belarus Government approved and registered a project establishing an Aarhus Centre in Minsk, which is designed to raise people's awareness of environmental issues and encourage their participation in decision-making, following Office consultations with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

In December, the Aarhus Centre opened to its first visitors. All Centres promote the Aarhus Convention, which aims at improving public access to environmental

information, fostering public participation in environmental decision-making and ensuring that the public can challenge public environmental decisions.

Environmental education for sustainable development. The Office sponsored a study on introducing "Green Pack" environmental materials to the education system. Two Regional Environmental Committee experts assessed the feasibility of introducing the materials and the parties then agreed to put together a project proposal. The multimedia educational materials, developed by the UN-led Regional Environmental Centre in Budapest, aim to set a new model of behaviour, rather than simply impart knowledge about particular environmental subject areas. In this context, students partner with teachers to accomplish various activities, such as roleplays, decision-making and discussions.

Rehabilitation of Chernobyl-affected areas. The Office implemented five small projects focusing on this issue. These had been selected for grants under the CORE programme in 2004, a rehabilitation project designed to improve living conditions in the areas of Belarus affected by the Chernobyl disaster. In Stolín, one project assists disabled children, with a small shop selling the crafts the children produce. A second project in Stolín helps provide the local school with health and medical equipment. A project in Bragin helped a local museum in Bragin launch its website (<http://bragin-museum.org>). In the Chechersk region, the fourth project helped a local school establish a fruit and vegetable garden to raise produce for sale in coming years. The final project, located in Slavgorod, offered sewing workshops to assist teenagers from 'troubled' families to receive professional skills.

Under the CORE programme, the Office also submitted three smaller-scale projects for registration.



As one of a number of small projects designed to help rehabilitate Chernobyl-affected areas, the Office helped a local museum in Bragin launch its website.

Environment and security. Together with the UNEP and the UNDP, the Office participated in meetings to promote the Regional Initiative on Environment and Security in Eastern Europe, a project aimed at identifying and tackling environmental threats to security. In October, the Office contributed to consultations between the relevant governmental structures and Minsk-based international organizations during the visit of a UNEP expert, who presented the concept and the methodology of project assessment to be held next year.

Human dimension activities

Strengthening the rule of law and freedom of movement. The Office assisted the ODIHR in the implementation of a project on *Alternatives to Criminal Prosecution* designed to introduce Belarusian legal policy-makers to non-custodial approaches to criminal cases. The project, carried out with the National Law Drafting Centre (NLDC) and the Institute for Continuing Training of Judges, Prosecutors and Justice System Employees, focused on mediation and restorative justice initiatives. These initiatives emphasize the restoration of community ties rather than punitive measures. The project, funded by the European Commission, followed up on the *Alternative*

Sentencing project implemented in 2003 and 2004 that assisted the Belarusian government to expand the use of alternatives to imprisonment and ultimately reduce the country's high prison population.

The ODIHR's Migration/Freedom of Movement Unit and the National Law Drafting Centre also supported the process of creating a unified state register of the population. Several activities were organized in the framework of this project, including roundtables, study trips and a regional conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan. These efforts aimed at assisting the Belarusian authorities in developing a conceptual and legal basis for the creation of a population registration system that would comply with international standards.

Legislative support and good governance. In an attempt to strengthen the legal protection for victims of crime, the Office implemented a project with the NLDC. Under the project, five Belarusian experts traveled to the United Kingdom in August to acquaint themselves with the experience of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel in London and Glasgow. CICA briefed the experts on the role of civil society in assisting victims of crime as well as on its compensation scheme, which provides material compensation to the victims of crime for any physical or psychological harm they suffered.

The Chief Executive of the CICA joined a follow-up seminar in October to discuss solutions to existing challenges in the Belarusian context and to support the authorities' drafting of legislative acts aimed at increased protection for victims of crime.

The Office also supported a project with the NLDC aimed at improving the law-making process by introducing criminological assessments. The two seminars and a study trip to Italy helped create a set of guidelines on examining draft legislative acts. The guidelines focus on detecting any undesirable side effects of legislation, such as increased corruption or other criminal actions.

Human rights monitoring. The Office promoted the implementation of the

Promoting tolerance and non-discrimination

During 2005, the Office together with the Committee on Religions and Nationalities under the Council of Ministers finalized two publications aimed at strengthening contacts between national minorities and religious communities and their relationship to Belarusian authorities.

In their joint welcoming address to the readers of *Multinational Belarus*, the Head of the Committee on Religions and Nationalities, Stanislav Buko, and the Head of the OSCE Office, Ambassador Eberhard Heyken, said the following: "We are confident that everybody will benefit from this 'travel' around multinational Belarus, and that the brochure will stimulate a fruitful dialogue between the authorities and different nationalities of Belarus and between minority communities themselves."

The second publication, *On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations in Belarus*, compiles articles on the current situation and the prospects of development of the multi-confessional community in Belarus.

The Deputy Chairman of the Union of Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities, Yakov Basin, an expert in the field, said of the publication: "This compilation ... will undoubtedly promote deeper knowledge about different religious communities in Belarus and inter-confessional dialogue, and as such will serve further consolidation of the Belarusian society."



The publication, *Multinational Belarus*, is designed to stimulate dialogue among the different nationalities of Belarus and with the authorities.

OSCE's human dimension commitments through various monitoring activities. Regular field trips allowed the office staff to maintain an updated picture of the challenges and working conditions for local civil society parties as well as officials. The Office attended court hearings that related to key OSCE commitments and fundamental freedoms. One such example – touching upon the right to freedom of association – was the legal proceeding against a well-known polling agency, the Independent Institute of Social, Economic and Political Studies, which was closed after a decision in April by the Supreme Court of Belarus.

The Office also followed the situation of several prominent persons in detention, such as the former Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Mikhail Marinich; the Chairman of a market vendors strike committee Valery Levonevsky, as well as his deputy Alexander Vasilyev; former MP Sergey Skrebets; Social Democratic leader Nikolai Statkevich; and Professor Yuri Bandazhevsky. The Office visited several of the persons named in prison and expressed its concern publicly about the cases. In July and August, respectively, Messrs. Vasilyev and Bandazhevsky were released in accordance with a recent amnesty law.

Media monitoring. In the beginning of February, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti, visited Minsk. He collected first-hand

information about the media situation in Belarus. In a final report, the Representative came up with a number of recommendations, in particular, regarding the decriminalization of libel.

Office activities in the field concentrated on close monitoring of the media situation in Belarus. Office representatives visited and observed court trials against newspapers and journalists. Libel cases against newspapers *Narodnaya Volya*, *BDG*, *Delovaya Gazeta* and *Z'hoda* prompted special concern.

Dealing with individual complaints
The Office received approximately 150 individual complaints of alleged human rights violations, mainly regarding the actions of law enforcement agencies. Complaints included both civil and criminal cases. Many related to alleged violations of the right to a fair trial and the treatment of prisoners. The Office's findings and concerns were regularly brought to the attention of the Belarusian authorities, who generally responded promptly. On several occasions the relevant body took remedial action in response to the Office's intervention.

Head of Office:
Until 31 July
Ambassador Eberhard Heyken
Since 29 August
Ambassador Ake Peterson
Revised budget: €858,500
www.osce.org/belarus

Mission to Moldova

The Mission to Moldova focused its efforts in 2005 on restarting the negotiations on a political settlement of the Transdnestrian problem and addressed a range of destabilizing crises. The Ukrainian initiative, *Towards a Settlement through Democratization*, gave new impetus to the political settlement process. However,

formal negotiations remained blocked until October, when negotiations resumed with the addition of the United States and European Union as observers.

The Mission's crisis prevention efforts achieved their greatest success in mediating the issue of Moldovan Latin script schools on the left bank of the Dniestr/Nistru

river. (For more on this topic, please see page 19). An enhanced presence of Mission staff, including regular patrols, helped contain tensions and avert incidents between the former combatants in the Security Zone.

The March parliamentary elections and the April re-election of President Vladimir Voronin produced

a new consensus and commitment in Moldova to democratic reforms. The Mission devoted much time and attention in support of these efforts, in particular concerning the support of the rule of law, freedom of the media and electoral reform.

Politico-military dimension activities

Political settlement negotiations. The Mission concentrated its efforts on restarting the political settlement negotiations, stalled since summer 2004. The mediators from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the OSCE held consultations with representatives from Chisinau and Tiraspol in January, May and September. At the May meeting, Ukraine introduced President Victor Yushchenko's settlement plan, *Toward a Settlement through Democratization*. This initiative envisages democratization of the Transdnestrian region through internationally conducted elections to the regional legislative body, along with steps to promote demilitarization, transparency and increased confidence.

In July, the Moldovan Parliament, citing the Ukrainian Plan, adopted a law *On the Basic Principles of a Special Legal Status of Transdnestria*. During consultations in September in Odessa, Chisinau and Tiraspol agreed to invite the EU and US to participate as observers in the negotiations. Formal negotiations resumed in an enlarged format in October after a 15-month break and continued in December following the OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana. On 15 December, the Presidents of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, Victor Yushchenko and Vladimir Putin, issued a Joint Statement welcoming the resumption of negotiations on the settlement of the Transdnestrian conflict.

In September, Presidents Voronin and Yushchenko jointly requested the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to consider send-



The Mission monitors the destruction of expired bombs and rockets.

ing an International Assessment Mission (IAM) to analyse democratic conditions in Transdnestria and necessary steps for conducting democratic elections in the region. In parallel, the OSCE Mission conducted technical consultations and analyses on basic requirements for democratic elections in the Transdnestrian region, as proposed in the Yushchenko Plan. At the October negotiating round, the OSCE Chairmanship was asked to continue consultations on the possibility of organizing an IAM to the Transdnestrian region.

Together with military experts from the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the OSCE Mission completed development of a pack-

age of proposed confidence- and security-building measures, which were presented by the three mediators in July. The Mission subsequently began consultations on the package with representatives of Chisinau and Tiraspol. The October negotiating round welcomed possible progress on enhancing transparency through a mutual exchange of military data, as envisaged in elements of this package.

The Joint Control Commission. The Joint Control Commission (JCC), the body responsible for implementing the July 1992 Ceasefire Agreement and supervising the Joint Peacekeeping Forces in the Security Zone, remained blocked during 2005 over an unresolved dispute concern-

ing a Transnistrian checkpoint and the access to nearby farmland. Moldovan farmers who cultivate areas under the *de facto* control of Transnistrian authorities continued to suffer harassment and intimidation from Transnistrian militia and customs officials. Most of their land in Transnistrian-controlled territory was not worked in 2005, resulting in almost no harvest and increased tension. The Mission monitored developments carefully and sought to reach a solution through the JCC and diplomatic channels. However, the situation remains unresolved.

Removal of Russian Federation arms and equipment. There were no withdrawals of Russian arms and equipment from the Transnistrian region during 2005. Roughly 20,000 metric tons of ammunition remain to be removed. The commander of the Operative Group of Russian Forces reported in May that surplus stocks of 40,000 small arms and light weapons stored by Russian forces in the Transnistrian region have been destroyed. The OSCE has not been allowed to verify these claims.

Building confidence and security and reducing threats. In addition to the CSBM package, the Mission explored ways to assist the Moldovan Ministry of Defence in reducing stocks of surplus and outdated ammunition, destroying military equipment and upgrading ammunition storage facilities. Mission staff made assessment visits to Moldovan military installations and submitted recommendations for supporting de-militarization projects and other initiatives.

Human dimension activities

ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL REFORM

The Mission supported the International Election Observation Mission to the March 2005 parliamentary elections and assessed the elections for mayor of Chisinau in July and November. In co-operation with the ODIHR, the Mission also closely followed the process of electoral reform.

Protecting language rights. The Mission successfully prevented a recurrence of



Donation of winter shoes to an orphanage in Bender

the 2004 school crisis, when Transnistrian authorities forcefully closed several Moldovan schools teaching Moldovan/Romanian in the Latin script. Negotiations hosted by the Mission resulted in an agreement between Moldovan and Transnistrian education authorities on a set of statutes for Moldovan schools in the Transnistrian region. Based on these statutes, the schools received permanent registration from Transnistrian authorities and started the new academic year on schedule. However, the premises of one Moldovan school remain confiscated by Transnistrian authorities and 550 children must study in temporary premises. The Mission continues to press Transnistrian authorities to return the building. (For more on this topic, please see page 19.)

Monitoring human rights. The Mission received and responded to a large number of individual human rights complaints from both sides of the Dniestr/Nistru River. Complaints from detained or sentenced persons predominated. Detainees mostly refer to violations of procedural rights during pre-trial detention. Many detainees also refer to poor conditions and lack of adequate medical assistance.

The Mission closely monitored several individual court cases, including high-profile cases with possible political motivations, involving the right to a fair trial, torture, mass media, and religious freedom. Special attention continues to be devoted to the remaining two members of the Ilascu group, convicted by Transnistrian authorities of alleged crimes during the 1992 conflict.

Capacity-building through promoting human rights. Through use of the human dimension fund, the Mission responded to several funding requests from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support small-scale projects aimed at promoting human rights and tolerance across the Dniestr/Nistru River, and among national minorities. Participation in OSCE and other international seminars for civil servants and NGO representatives from both sides of the river has also been ensured through this fund.

Combating human trafficking and promoting gender balance

The Mission continued its leading role in co-ordinating actors involved in combating trafficking in human beings. The Mission hosted monthly technical co-ordination meetings in Chisinau and six in the regions. The Mission also published a twice-yearly consolidated Matrix of Anti-Trafficking Activities, which was expanded to include information on NGO and government activity in the regions. The launch of a new website about anti-trafficking actors, activities, and resources available in Moldova is under preparation.

The Mission continued to support activities of both the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and the numerous District Committees. The Mission co-chaired the National Committee's sub-working group on legislation, and provided technical support for drafting of the newly revised National Plan of Action (effective in September 2005). In co-ordination with the ODIHR, the Mission also provided technical support and advocacy for the draft Law on Prevention and to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, adopted by Parliament on 20 October.

To strengthen the capacity of national authorities, the Mission and the ODIHR supported a series of training programmes for judges and prosecutors. In co-operation with the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Mission conducted an intensive training programme for law enforcement officers on pro-active investigation techniques to combat trafficking in human beings.

OSCE/Trygve Kalland



The Mission organized anti-trafficking training for police

The Mission continued to support the NGO, *La Strada*, in formalizing a National Referral Mechanism, including maintaining a database of social assistance for trafficking victims and vulnerable persons. To support re-integration of trafficking victims, the Mission funded university and vocational scholarships for trafficked persons. Together with other international partners, the Mission co-funds the project, *Fight against Child Trafficking*, implemented by *Terre des Hommes*. The Mission also contributes to a social campaign implemented by *La Strada* to cultivate a more tolerant attitude toward victims of trafficking.

Promoting freedom of the media.

Promoting media freedom on both sides of the Dniestr/Nistru river was a key Mission activity. The Mission closely monitored the performance of the national public broadcaster *Teleradio Moldova*. In co-operation with the ODIHR, the Mission also monitored coverage of the 2005 parliamentary and local election campaigns in the broadcast media. The Mission supported efforts for fundamental reform of Moldova's broadcasting legislation.

Other areas drawing Mission attention were transparency in allocation of broadcasting frequencies, transformation of state print press into private institutions and implementation of Moldovan legisla-

tion with regard to libel and access to information.

In February, the Mission supported an assessment visit to the Transdniestrian region by the Senior Advisor of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. The subsequent report described the media climate in the region as restrictive and recommended continued dialogue with local authorities and support for the few independent media outlets in the region.

Head of Mission:
Ambassador William H. Hill
Revised budget: €1,485,700
www.osce.org/moldova

Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

The mandate of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine is to plan, implement, and monitor projects in all three OSCE dimensions in co-operation with the relevant Ukrainian authorities and the OSCE and its Institutions.

The Project Co-ordinator substantially increased its activities in 2005, particularly

in the areas of good governance, focusing on co-operative programmes in preparation for the 2006 Ukrainian parliamentary elections. The project includes training for journalists and election officials, media-related activities and voter education.

Other important activities included efforts to assist

Ukraine in the fight against human trafficking and in disposing of toxic rocket fuel components. These projects dovetailed with those designed to help recently demobilized military personnel in their transition to civilian life.

The office has also implemented comprehensive

programmes in the field of rule of law and in the economic and environmental dimensions, concentrating on stimulating economic growth by supporting local development initiatives and assisting Ukrainian regions in attracting investment.

Politico-military dimension activities

Helping demobilized soldiers. To assist former military personnel affected by the downsizing of the country's armed forces in their transition to civilian life, the OSCE worked in co-operation with the Ministry of Defence and the former National Co-ordination Centre for the Resettlement of Military Servicemen and Conversion of Former Military Facilities. Special training courses on topics such as business management, economics, and marketing and sales were combined with employment assistance and information seminars to help ease the transition for discharged or soon to be discharged military personnel. In 2005, more than 500 discharged military officers took part. Eighty per cent of them found employment within three months of completing training.

Also in co-operation with the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, the Project Co-ordinator has offered assistance in helping to establish a Resource and Career Centre within the Ministry. Once established, the Centre will assist discharged soldiers with issues such as pensions, housing and employment, as well as house a library on social adaptation issues.

Disposing of dangerous rocket fuel. The Project Co-ordinator's office has recently launched a new initiative, jointly with the Forum for Security Co-operation, which has as its goal the disposal of more than 16,000 tons of a highly unstable and toxic rocket fuel component. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

OSCE/Timothy Tappe



Ukrainian worker at a bottle production facility in Rivne, western Ukraine taken during an investment promotion trip organized by InvestInRivne.



Economic and environmental dimension activities

Supporting local business development. The Project Co-ordinator's office concentrated on improving conditions for entrepreneurs and assisting small business development at the regional level. Since its launch in 2004, the Office's main project, implemented with the Eurasia Foundation and state-run employment agencies in nine Ukrainian regions, has helped create more than 800 new businesses and 1,100 new jobs. The project will be extended into three more regions in 2006.

Stimulating the economy through progressive development models. Industrial clusters, where numerous companies set up business in the same area, and ecotourism, a booming branch of the tourism industry, can stimulate local economic growth by increasing employment opportunities and improving competitiveness in the market place. Recognizing the importance of such progressive development models, the OSCE and the Ukrainian International Market Support Foundation commissioned and financed a study on the

OSCE/Timothy Tappe



An assembly worker at the SAMGAS plant.



Delegation of commercial attaches inspecting a stone production facility in Rivne during the promotion trip.

economic potential of 10 Ukrainian regions, which highlighted potential high-growth sectors and identified comparative advantages.

Based on those findings and the success of a pilot programme funded by the Eurasia Foundation to establish a wood-processing cluster in Ukraine's Rivne region, the OSCE created a strategic development plan for the cluster, helping it diversify and widen its distribution channels.

The study also identified eco-tourism as a potential growth area for the lower Danube region of Ukraine. Situated in the Odessa region, this lush delta is one of Europe's most famous nature reserves. In co-operation with the Vylkovo-based Information Tourism Center, more than 50 households will be trained as bed and breakfast operators.

Regional economic development. In May, the Project Co-ordinator, the City of Rivne, the Rivne State Regional Administration and the Rivne Chamber of Commerce and Industry together established the Rivne Agency for Investment Attraction and Investor Assistance. The Agency, which officially opened in May, provides expert advice and actively promotes the region. It has advised more than a dozen potential investors from Western and Central European countries on investment



The promotion trip also visited the SAMGAS Ltd Liability Co in Rivne.

opportunities, regional economic conditions and legislative issues.

The Rivne Chamber of Commerce and Industry provided the Agency with free premises, while the Rivne City Administration gave financial support. The Project Co-ordinator is currently considering how to extend this project to other regions.

Human dimension activities

Good governance and strengthening of democratic institutions. In response to requests from many Ukrainian governmental bodies, the Project Co-ordinator's office substantially increased its activities in these fields, focusing on co-operative projects to assist Ukrainian authorities in preparing for the 2006 parliamentary elections.

Based on the ODIHR's recommendations, the Project Co-ordinator's office assisted an expert working group in drafting the new law on parliamentary elections in

Ukraine. After the law was passed, the office participated in an inter-departmental working group under the Cabinet of Ministers which formulated the first steps for creating a central voter registry and provided the Ukrainian Central Election Commission with computers, servers, printers and operating systems for use in compiling updated voter lists from all over the country.

Preventing and fighting trafficking in human beings. The Project Co-ordinator launched several anti-trafficking projects, increased its policy-level focus and continued assisting the Ukrainian Government in implementing a comprehensive national programme to combat human trafficking. The programme includes assistance to the country's law enforcement personnel and judicial authorities to help the prosecution of criminals. It supports prevention through the spread of information. The office has also continued assistance to anti-trafficking non-governmental organizations, which provide hotline services across Ukraine and conduct information campaigns. Some 14,000 persons used these hotline services in 2005.

At the request of the Ukrainian Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports and in conjunction with the OSCE's Anti-trafficking Assistance Unit and the Chairman-in-Office's Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Project Co-ordinator is assisting Ukraine in creating the ministerial-level post of the

National Anti-trafficking Co-ordinator. The office also worked closely with ODIHR's Legislative Support Unit on an expert legal review of new anti-trafficking draft legislation and completed an assessment of Ukraine's adoption system. Commissioned by the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, the assessment analysed the current system, identified gaps, and provided recommendations for the planned reform.

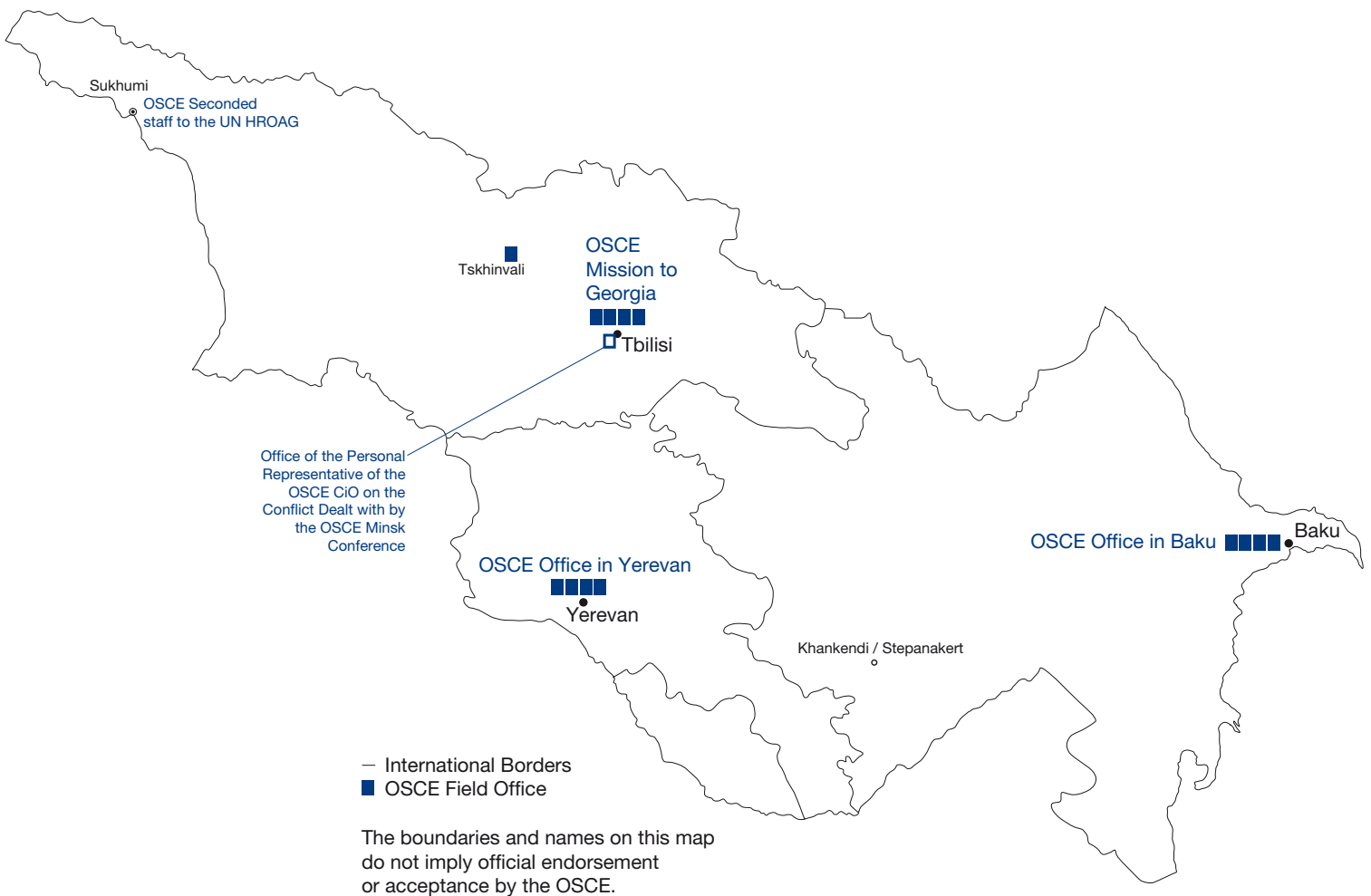
The OSCE initiated several projects to empower groups at risk for trafficking economically. First, it assessed labour markets in the ten regions of Ukraine most affected by trafficking. The assessment, conducted with the IOM, resulted in recommendations supporting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises. The Project Co-ordinator's office has also partnered with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities for a pilot project providing internships, employment assistance and independent living skills to Ukrainian orphans. (For more on this topic, please see page 14.)

Supporting the establishment of Ukraine's new administrative justice system. The Project Co-ordinator's agenda in this field focused particularly on rule of law projects that supported the establishment of the country's new administrative justice system. At the request of the Judicial Academy of the State Judicial Administration, the Co-ordinator helped develop new criteria to test the qualifications, knowledge and skills of judges applying for positions in Ukraine's newly created administrative court system. The Co-ordinator's office, together with the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, also developed and published a manual for training and retraining administrative court judges based on the new criteria and a textbook on international standards of administrative justice. It held training sessions for over 200 judges of the Higher Administrative Court and regional courts and prepared a commentary to the Code of Administrative Court Procedure, which judges and prosecutors will use in applying the Code. Finally, it also assisted authorities in developing and introducing the first rule of law courses to law faculties.

Legislative activities. At the request of the Ukrainian Supreme Court, the Project Co-ordinator's office helped to reconcile gaps and overlaps between the country's civil and commercial codes, which entered into force in January 2004. The office issued a guidebook that highlights the contradicting legal provisions and included practical guidelines, and also assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a court restatement aiming at assisting judges in the coherent application of the new codes. Training courses for judges of appellate courts on applying the codes were held in seven regions of Ukraine, and the Project Co-ordinator also provided training courses on legislative drafting techniques for representatives of the Ukrainian Parliament and bodies of local self-government. At the request of Ukrainian legislators, the Co-ordinator provided the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee on European Integration with 68 independent expert opinions on proposed legislation. The team of legal experts considered each draft law's conformity with international human rights, standards of the Council of Europe, the case law of the European Court of Human rights, OSCE principles, legal requirements of the European Union's Second and Third Pillars and the Copenhagen criteria on EU accession.

Head of Mission:
Ambassador James F. Schumaker
Revised budget: €1,650,100
www.osce.org/ukraine

Caucasus



Office in Baku

The Office in Baku focused in 2005 on strengthening the development of civil society, the rule of law and human rights; fighting human traf-

ficking; providing assistance to police; combating corruption; and raising public awareness of environmental issues. Support for elec-

toral reform and promoting freedom of assembly in Azerbaijan remained at the top of the Office's agenda. The Office also took the first

steps to recycle and dispose of stocks of toxic rocket fuel component.

Politico-military dimension activities

Police assistance programme. The Office made considerable progress in 2005 on improvements to the police school building and the training programme. The school now has furniture in all classrooms and some teaching can now be undertaken in an atmosphere more conducive to learning. Dormitory accommodation and specialist equipment, however, are still lacking.

The school's teachers attended the first formal teacher-training course, run by the national police academies of the Czech Republic, aligning Azerbaijan's police training with international standards. Lesson plans for the new induction training course were prepared from the programme of contents which had previously been agreed between the Government and the Office.

Training on freedom of assembly. The Office initiated two training projects for

the Interior Ministry's internal troops and police, including a five-day practical training in public event control. This culminated in a demonstration of containment skills that are in line with international standards.

Destruction of toxic missile fuel component. The Office supported a project that provided technical and financial assistance to Azerbaijan for the destruction or conversion of obsolete, toxic chemical missile fuel components in two storage sites. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

Human rights training and the fight against terrorism. As part of the Office's assistance to Azerbaijan in the fight against terrorism, it provided human rights training to the army's Oil Pipeline Protection Department, detailing their rights and responsibilities under international law.

OSCE/Ulvi Akhundlu



Top: Ministry of Defence experts provide detailed information to the combined OSCE/NATO-NAMSA team at the Mingechevir Melange storage facility.

Left: An Academy of Science expert, assisted by Ministry of Defence staff and observed by the OSCE, takes samples from a melange storage site to determine the level of contamination in Mingechevir.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Development of small- and medium-sized enterprises. The key challenges hindering the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the regions of Azerbaijan are the lack of access to business training and micro-finance loans. Women, in particular, face significant obstacles in obtaining business training, capital and micro-credits, hindering their ability to launch and increase business activity. For this reason, the Office focused on entrepreneurial training for women in the rural regions. Beginning in January, the Office trained more than 200 women in five districts of Azerbaijan, culminating in a business plan competition with start-up support for winners.

Good governance and anti-corruption. Corruption is considered a key obstacle to the liberalization of market economies and regional economic development, particularly when there exist large-scale revenues from the oil and gas sector. Together with the Young Lawyers Union, the Office launched public roundtables to promote the new anti-corruption laws. The Office also published and distributed the OSCE Handbook for Best Practices in Combating Corruption in the Azerbaijani language.

Raising public environmental awareness. With an average of 75 visitors a week to its library, the Aarhus Centre was a hub of activity for environmental NGOs. In addition, it served as a venue for more than 50 public meetings.

The Office launched a one-year programme to develop an environmental education programme for schoolchildren. The programme will train teachers and community leaders on integrating so-called “Green Packs” with environmental educational material into the school curriculum.

The Office also continued to support the OSCE-NATO *South Caucasus River Monitoring Project*, which is now in its fourth year of monitoring and data collection. It also gave further assistance to the OSCE-UNDP-UNEP Environment and Security Initiative.

The Office and its implementing partners supported the Energy Bus initiative that provides public awareness of energy conservation and practical alternative energy solutions to rural communities. Despite significant oil and gas reserves currently under development, Azerbaijan still experiences chronic energy deficits in rural regions, hampering sustained economic development and contributing to deforestation in these areas. The Energy Bus – a mobile truck and trailer containing exhibition models and information on energy conservation and low-cost alternative and renewable energy solutions for rural communities – was instrumental in supporting the Government’s goals of promoting the use of renewable energy to address energy security needs. The Bus carried its message to some 150 villages in 2005.



The energy bus visited over 250 villages in Azerbaijan, helping communities to gain access to low-cost diversified energy resources.

OSCE/Ulvi Akhundova

Human dimension activities

Trial monitoring. Together with the ODIHR, the Office presented Azerbaijan’s Government in February with a joint report on the *Trial Monitoring Project in Azerbaijan 2003-2004*. Following talks with the ODIHR in Warsaw, the Government committed to a dialogue on implementing the report’s recommendations. Expert group discussions on pre-trial detention were held in November. Before the 6 November parliamentary elections, the courts

released seven prominent opposition leaders as a result of presidential pardons and expunged the criminal records of those convicted of criminal offences linked to public disturbances in the aftermath of the 2003 presidential election. With their records cleared, the seven leaders, whose trials had been monitored by the OSCE, became eligible to run in the parliamentary elections.

Public education programme for appeals to the Constitutional Court. The Office, the Constitutional Court and a domestic NGO launched a programme to empower members of the public to file individual complaints. Lessons and lectures were conducted in all areas of the country. The Office also commissioned local lawyers to produce a booklet outlining requirements for constitutional complaints.

Monitoring the newly established Bar Association. The Office monitored the activity of the new Bar Association and lobbied for the admission of lawyers denied membership. It disseminated a report on the *Situation of Lawyers in Azerbaijan*, which highlights the critical situation of the legal profession, stresses the importance of the matter and requests the Government address the issues.

NGO advocacy training programme. To help NGOs build advocacy and negotiation skills, the Office developed a new training programme and supported NGO-run training courses. These are designed to build a sustainable dialogue among representatives of political parties, municipalities and community-based organizations and to improve their skills in consensus-building and conflict management.

Survey on juvenile justice. The Office commissioned the NGO, *Alliance for Children’s Rights*, to prepare a report on juvenile justice in Azerbaijan. The recommendations of this report, the first of its kind, provide a basis for the authorities to address the shortcomings of the justice system in its treatment of juveniles. The Government said that it would consider the report’s findings to identify ways to improve the situation of detained children.



Police and demonstrators at a pre-election rally in Baku in September.

Supporting the creation of a civil registry. An international expert commissioned by the Office assessed the work needed to set up a nationwide civil registry, identifying the financial and technical implications for the 2006 budget. The Office outlined the system's basic requirements and the main tasks state agencies needed to undertake to establish it. The registry will maintain demographic records for purposes such as personal identification or electoral rolls.

Anti-trafficking efforts. The Office designed and funded a training scheme for women at risk of becoming trafficking victims in the northern regional town of Guba, where opportunities for advancement are slim. With the support of the municipal government, the programme trains young women in secretarial skills and helps them find productive work, thus countering the threat of them falling victim to traffickers.

The implementation of the national action plan on the fight against human trafficking, which was adopted in 2004, gained momentum with the adoption of a new Law on Trafficking in Human Beings and amendments to the Criminal Code. The Office and the Interior Ministry refurbished a building designated as the country's first secure accommodation for victims and those at risk of trafficking.

Supporting political dialogue. One of the Office's key priorities was to support talks between the authorities and the opposition. It brought the two sides together in May to discuss the basic values of democracy, beginning the first of a series of "dialogue" meetings on democracy. All the participants agreed on a nine-point framework for the conduct of political parties.

In September, a second "dialogue" meeting brought together chairs of political parties, heads of regional Executive Committees and high-level representatives of the police and internal troops to discuss issues such as locations for demonstrations and pickets. During the meeting, participants were urged to seek dialogue among all actors involved and to draft an agreement before every meeting or picket. The agreement should describe who would participate, where it would take place and how it would be managed.

Parliamentary elections. The Office supported the implementation of the revisions and recommendations to the Electoral Code and further reform of the legal framework for parliamentary elections. It funded and advised on principles to take into account with regard to the content of television and radio spots produced by the NGO, *Election Monitoring Centre*. This project was part of the Office's efforts to educate voters on voter registration and to encourage election participation.

Members of the Office followed the voting process during the parliamentary elections on 6 November, which were monitored by the ODIHR. The Office closely monitored political rallies and public events and followed the process in the event of arrests.

Gender issues. The Office's focus in this field was on increasing the participation of women in the parliamentary election as voters, activists, observers and candidates. In co-operation with the local media NGO, *Internews*, the Office produced a series of feature stories and debates under the title *Women and Elections* broadcast countrywide until the day of the polls. During the year, the Office hosted several gender roundtables, which were attended by international organizations, donors and representatives of embassies.

Head of Office:
Ambassador Maurizio Pavese
Revised budget: €1,593,500
www.osce.org/baku

Mission to Georgia

The Georgian Government's democratic reform programme and the considerable challenges in the process of peaceful resolution of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict required an intensive and cross-dimensional approach by the Mission in 2005.

The situation in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict remained as volatile and tense as it was at the

conclusion of the cease-fire of August 2004. Violent incidents in 2005 involved shooting, kidnappings, killings, beatings and a mortar attack on a built-up area. Violations of agreements, including a military parade on 20 September, compounded the tension.

The Mission contributed to stabilization through close monitoring and active participation in the Joint

Control Commission and focused its activities on areas that would create a more favourable context for political dialogue.

Other significant challenges included the closing down of the Border Monitoring Operation at the beginning of the year and the rapid establishment and implementation of the Training Assistance Programme to pass on the Monitoring

Operation's lessons and experiences to the Georgian Border Guard Service.

The Mission also assisted the new Georgian Government in various aspects of its democratic reform programme, involving the Mission's economic-environmental and human dimension staff in further substantial work with their governmental and civil society counterparts.

Politico-military dimension activities

PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Georgian-Ossetian conflict. As the main priority, the Mission engaged in all dimensions to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. It participated actively in meetings of the Joint Control Commission (JCC), which met six times, including at a special session in Ljubljana in November by invitation of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. The JCC is co-chaired by the Georgian, South Ossetian, North Ossetian and Russian sides, and aims at injecting impetus to the political process for peaceful resolution.

The Mission has urged the sides to take practical steps to improve the security situation. In particular, it submitted proposals to move forward the demilitarization of the zone of conflict and to promote co-operation between the police forces of the sides.

The Mission intensified consultations with the JCC participants, Georgian high officials and Embassies with a view to ensure that the sides maintain a dialogue and search for solutions towards stability. Monitoring the military situation in the zone of conflict and timely reporting to the OSCE participating States continue to be important tasks.

To help stabilize the security situation and create a more favourable context for



One of the core tasks of the Mission is to monitor the activities of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

political dialogue, the Mission has carried forward several initiatives to build confidence between the sides. These include programmes on: economic and infrastructure rehabilitation, civic society and human rights development, conflict journalists' training for unbiased media coverage of events and facilitating the production of the JCC newsletter.

Human rights and civil society activities in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. The Mission supported projects involving Ossetian and Georgian communities to promote human rights and to strengthen confidence in the civil society's ability to help settle conflicts.

Through the Human Rights Centre in Tskhinvali, the Mission arranged training for prison staff, weekly sessions on human rights and the English language for teachers as well as Georgian and Ossetian children. The Mission also engaged in activities to strengthen civil society and to raise awareness of human rights in villages administered by the different sides. The Mission supported training for Ossetian and Georgian students on international human rights and the history of the Caucasus. The Mission also funded 14 community projects and two language training centres to broaden career opportunities throughout the zone of conflict.

Ongoing rehabilitation projects

The Mission continued to co-ordinate the implementation of projects for infrastructure rehabilitation in the zone of conflict financed by a €2.5 million grant from the European Commission. These included projects to improve electricity, gas and water supplies to the communities. Under a Steering Committee, the Mission led regular consultations between the two sides, the European Commission, and implementing partners the UNDP and the UNHCR.



Fruit farmers in the Georgian villages north of Tskhinvali now benefit from a refurbished irrigation pump system. It was repaired in 2005 as part of the Mission's rehabilitation programme.



Georgian and Ossetian engineers working in partnership on the gas distribution refurbishment project in Tskhinvali.

Monitoring the situation on the ground.

Mission Monitoring Officers continued to patrol the zone of conflict and visit checkpoints and observation posts. The monitoring officers also accompanied Joint Peacekeeping Forces' (JPKF) monitoring teams and exchanged information with the commander of the visited observation posts. Weapons inspections took place to confirm the JPKF positions are equipped in accordance with its own inventory and regulations.



Twenty Georgian and Ossetian journalists trained on conflict reporting.

For the first time since tensions rose in 2004, journalists from Georgia and South Ossetia participated in a specialized programme on professional conflict reporting skills. The initiative included several training sessions in Tskhinvali and a study trip to the United Kingdom. Co-organized by the Mission and the British Embassy in Tbilisi, the course examined the challenges of balanced reporting on conflict issues in Northern Ireland and helped forge dialogue and working contacts between media professionals.

Needs Assessment Study on the rehabilitation and economic development in the zone of conflict

In November, the Mission launched a Needs Assessment Study in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, carried out by 18 international and local experts. The aim is to develop a number of project proposals in the fields of infrastructure rehabilitation and of economic development for submission to potential donors.

The Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. The peace process resumed this spring within the UN-led Geneva framework and the 'Sochi working groups format' established by the Russian and Georgian presidents in 2003. The Mission participated in two meetings between the sides on the issue of security guarantees.

Still lacking agreement from the Abkhaz side, there was no progress in 2005 regarding the opening, in Gali, of a branch office of the joint UN-OSCE Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia.

As part of the activities of the Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, the Mission promoted human rights education for 3,000 children in schools of the district of Ochamchira, using Council of Europe materials for teaching human rights. It engaged a local commercial TV station in Sukhumi to produce local human rights awareness programmes on different themes. It provided training and grants to civil society organizations in the Gali district to improve their management skills and professionalism.

OTHER POLITICO-MILITARY DIMENSION ACTIVITIES

Destruction of surplus military stockpiles. In October, Georgia's Foreign Minister signed an agreement to continue with the third stage of an OSCE project to dismantle and recycle obsolete ammunition on Georgian territory. In November, maintenance, fencing and other preparatory work were under way at the dismantling base at Dedoplistskaro.

Action against terrorism. To prepare the ground for the adoption of the remaining three of the 12 Universal Conventions and Protocols on Anti-terrorism, the Mission and the Ministry of Internal Affairs launched a project to bring Georgian legislation in this field in line with international standards.

Through a range of targeted projects including study visits, the Mission helped Georgia's anti-terrorism structures strengthen co-operation with their counterparts in Europe and arranged a series of workshops on combating terrorism and

organized crime to significantly increase their professionalism.

The Mission also worked closely with the Ministry to develop a crisis management centre, set up a common information system on convicted and suspected terrorists and criminals, adopt a document of best practice, and send officials to anti-terrorism conferences in Georgia and abroad.

Police reform. In line with the Ministry of Internal Affairs' reform agenda, the Mission completed an in-depth needs assessment with the participation of international experts on policing in February. The recommendations provided the foundations for the current OSCE short-term assistance project, which was tailored to help the Ministry develop a comprehensive personnel management system, establish a Community Policing Development Unit and introduce a newly developed basic training course in the Police Academy curriculum. It also helped finance repairs and new equipment in the Academy library.

OSCE/Steven Weinburg



The first group of Georgian border guards receive their certificates from Head of Mission Ambassador Roy Reeve. By year's end, 375 trainees were formally evaluated as having acquired the core programme skills of the training assistance programme.

Training assistance programme. In response to a request by the Georgian Government in early 2005 to support the capacity of the Georgian border guards in border management, the Mission set up a training assistance programme. The initiative aims to transfer the skills it has gained from five years of border monitoring experience.

The trainees were mid-ranking and non-commissioned officers, some of whom were identified as potential future instructors.

Practical and theoretical sessions covered skills for:

- rescue operations and security rules in hazardous mountainous areas;
- planning and managing border units during day and night;
- patrolling, observing and reporting;
- maintaining special equipment;
- map reading;
- communications; and
- first aid.

A team of 50 personnel, including 30 international experts, implements the programme from the OSCE Mission Headquarters in Tbilisi and from four other regional training centres (Lilo, Kazbegi, Lagodekhi and Omalo).

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Economic security. The Mission continued to focus on developing small- and medium-sized enterprises, supporting the fight against corruption and providing economic policy guidance to the government. Additionally, the Mission actively supported good governance initiatives in regions outside Tbilisi. Activities included:

- assessing wheelchair production facilities in Georgia, including Abkhazia; these facilities, once established, will provide jobs for people with disabilities.
- organizing a youth summer camp on entrepreneurship; during the camp, young people from all over Georgia were trained on the basics of entrepreneurship.
- setting up an anti-money laundering workshop for Government officials; the Mission supported NGO efforts to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network.
- analysing the country's privatization plan; this extensive review, conducted by the Mission in co-operation with the National Security Council, focused on economic growth and sound economic policy planning.

OSCE/David Khizantsev



Graduates of the train-the-trainers course in advanced criminal investigations in the newly refurbished library of the Georgian police academy.

OSCE/David Khizantsev



The Mission's police advisor with the future trainers of the Georgian Police Academy

- creating good governance resource centres in Gardabani and Marneuli; these centres aim at assisting local governments to develop and implement their budgets and to disseminate information to villages in regions with large national minorities.

Environmental security. The Mission established an Aarhus Centre together with the Georgian Ministry of Environment, in Tbilisi on 19 December. The aim of the Centre is to promote the principles of the Aarhus Convention signed by Georgia in 2003 and help build trust between the Government and civil society sectors working on environmental matters.

The Mission worked on identifying environmental problems that can result in instability and potentially in conflict. Assisted by the office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the Mission supported the OSCE-UN Environment and Security initiative in developing projects that tackle issues of environmental concern.

The Mission also funded an environmental youth summer camp to provide environmental education for young Georgians.

Human dimension activities

Strengthening democratic institutions. The Mission worked to strengthen the capacity of Georgian society and its institutions on their path to democratization. This included a functioning local democracy and the ability to conduct free and fair elections. The Mission also promoted the independence and professionalism of Georgian media.

The electoral process. The new Central Election Commission received assistance in its efforts to increase the transparency and accountability of the recruitment of election officials. The Mission continues to foster the capacity of local NGOs to observe elections and participates in the process of developing Georgia's legislation to ensure well-organized and fair elections.

Local self-government. In this field, the Mission's activities included supporting the training of local government officials, promoting citizen participation in local government and monitoring of the local budget process in towns throughout Georgia. The Mission supported public discussion on legislative changes in the area of local self-government ahead of the 2006 local elections.

Freedom of the media. To increase the media's capacity to inform citizens in a balanced and objective way, the Mission supported the development of professional skills of regional independent broadcast media. This comprised training sessions for journalists from South Ossetia, Ajara and other regions in west Georgia. The Mission also supported monitoring of the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act in the regions as well as in the capital.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

The Mission continued to work with state bodies and NGOs to promote international human rights standards, focusing on rural areas. It used a two-fold approach: implementing projects that promote human rights and working on human rights cases. The casework involved monitoring trials, providing legal advice and raising concerns about alleged human rights violations.

The Government was given assistance to implement the *National Action Plan against Torture 2003-2005* through strengthening co-operation between the National Security Council, the Public Defenders' Office, the General Prosecutors' Office and the Ministry of Interior. This included:

- paying unannounced visits to places of detention;
- reacting to violations; and
- developing strategies to improve detention conditions.

The Mission helped strengthen human rights protection mechanisms in rural areas mainly by advising the Public Defend-

ers' Office, making free legal advice available and holding seminars for officials, lawyers and human rights defenders.

It initiated and funded human rights education in schools in four districts of Georgia: Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Samegrelo and Ajara.

In addition, the Mission supported the integration of ethnic minorities by establishing community centres in Kvemo Kartli. The centres run regular training sessions on the Georgian and English languages, computer studies and human rights. They also arrange discussion groups on topics relevant to a multi-ethnic society.

Strengthening the fight against trafficking in human beings. A major focus was the implementation of the *2005-2006 National Action Plan against Human Trafficking*, developed by the Government and NGO representatives in 2004 with the support of the Mission. A national referral mechanism assessment supported by the Mission was published in September. It also assisted a pilot project in the region of Ajara to enhance co-operation between the local authorities and NGOs to identify and refer victims of trafficking.

Gender Equality. The Mission helped the Government and women's organizations to develop a national action plan to promote gender equality. By year's end, the draft was submitted for governmental approval.

PROMOTING LEGAL REFORMS IN GEORGIA

The Mission promoted the ongoing reforms of the legal system in Georgia. In 2005, this included:

- assisting the Ministry of Justice to implement civil registry reform;
- facilitating the development of an independent, professional, and equitable judiciary in Georgia; the Mission provided financial assistance to the Association of Judges of Georgia in order to develop guidelines on adopting court decisions in criminal, administrative and certain types of civil law. The Mission also supported the Association in



OSCE/David Khizantshvili

The OSCE Mission to Georgia and the U.S. Agency for International Development assisted Georgia in establishing a modernized civil registry system. The Mission organized a series of training sessions for the newly recruited Ministry of Justice staff working on the civil registry throughout the country.

conducting a series of training sessions for judges across the country from June to September.

- promoting the establishment of a safe and secure prison system; assistance included providing new penitentiary institution staff with basic professional skills training.
- facilitating dialogue among Georgian legal professionals; the Mission facilitated dialogue among Georgian legal professionals, which focused on fostering an opinion exchange on the ongoing legal reforms in Georgia.

Head of Mission:

Ambassador Roy Reeve

Revised budget: €12,324,800

www.osce.org/georgia

Office in Yerevan

The Office engaged in several initiatives to assist the Armenian authorities in improving human rights legislation and the functioning of the legislative branch in 2005. These efforts proved particularly timely in light of constitutional changes, adopted during a November referendum, which enhanced the authority of the National Assembly. The Office contributed to new legisla-

tion related to elections and freedom of assembly, and continued to work to improve laws on religious freedom and the fight against trafficking. It also conducted two large projects: the recycling of environmentally hazardous rocket fuel component (*Melange*) and assistance in police training and promoting community-based policing.

Increasing its focus on areas

outside of Yerevan, the Office established two local public environmental information centres in Syunik province and organized roundtables on economic, environmental, human rights and democratization issues in several regions. Other areas of activity included human rights protection, freedom of the media, small- and medium-sized enterprise development, labour migra-

tion and efforts to combat corruption, trafficking and money laundering.

Marking its fifth anniversary, the Office used the celebrations to promote OSCE values, commitments and principles and to increase its outreach activities.

Legislative reform. The Office made considerable headway in the promotion of legislative reform. The legislature approved amendments to the electoral code and to the *Law on conducting Meetings, Rallies, Marches and Demonstrations* that resulted in improvements in this legislation from the perspective of international standards. The Office had long promoted legislative reform in these areas and in both cases the laws were adopted based on recommendations provided by the ODIHR and the Venice Commission.

The Office lent support to the process of constitutional reform. ODIHR provided the authorities with comments on the human rights provisions of the package of amendments. Prior to the constitutional referendum of 27 November, the Office organized a media campaign to promote voter participation.

Working with civil society and governmental bodies, the Office continued to assist with work on draft legislation dealing with religious freedom and labour migration.

Support to the National Assembly. To strengthen the professional capacities of parliamentary staff, the Office, with the assistance of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, implemented a three-week advanced training course for staff experts from three Standing Committees and two Departments, followed by a one-week working visit to the Austrian and Slovenian National Assemblies. Following this successful experience, the Office, at the

request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized a similar one-week course to enhance research and analytical tools and methods of the Ministry's staff.

Combating corruption. The Prime Minister's Anti-Corruption Council established to implement Armenia's 2003 National Anti-Corruption Strategy provided the

context for the Office's continuing work in this field. Jointly with the Anti-Corruption Monitoring Commission, it organized an international conference at which international experts discussed best practices in the fight against corruption. The Office also continued to chair a working-group of international and bilateral missions interested in assisting these efforts.

Elimination of rocket fuel component stocks

The Office continued its rocket fuel component disposal project launched in 2004 at the request of the Armenian Government. *Melange* is a hazardous material that, due to the deterioration of storage containers, represents a risk to the population and the environment. With the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Defence on 30 September, the final and decisive phase of project implementation was initiated. The result will be the environmentally sound recycling of 872 tons of stockpiled *Melange* into a mineral dressing, which will be used for the improvement of pH-poor soil in the region. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

Recycling hazardous rocket fuel is key to address Armenia's environmental and military safety.



OSCE





Activities in the Syunik province included an environmental impact assessment visit.

The Office supported members of an anti-corruption coalition of NGOs to raise public awareness on corruption in important sectors such as traffic police, healthcare delivery, higher education and the civil service. The Office, jointly with the General Prosecutor's Office, translated and published an Armenian version of the publication *Best Practices on Combating Corruption*, produced by the office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

Politico-military dimension activities

Police assistance. In the framework of the OSCE's Police Assistance Programme, the Office promoted community-oriented policing in a district in Yerevan with the aim to improve the exchange of information between the police and the public, as well as to increase the public's confidence in the police.

The Office also supported the refurbishment of the national training centre for non-commissioned officers and is looking at additions to the Centre's curriculum in 2006 to bring it in line with international standards.

Addressing cyber security. The Office assumed a leading role in addressing this increasingly important issue. Armenia's rapidly developing IT-services sector is

vulnerable to cyber attack. In co-operation with the authorities, the Office played a key role in setting up a National Task Force to draft a National Action Plan on cyber security. The draft outlines methods to strengthen the legislative and technical aspects of cyber security and bolster the Government's capabilities to combat cyber crime.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

The Office supported the establishment of four new Aarhus Centres in three regions, whose aim is to raise public awareness of environmental issues and encourage public participation in environmental decision-making.

The Office continued its support for the implementation of the Armenian component of the South Caucasus River Monitoring Project, which focused in 2005 on re-establishing a regional water monitoring system, increasing local technical capabilities and creating a model sharing system accessible by Internet. This OSCE-NATO Project, now in its fourth year, monitors the quality and quantity of the waters of the Kura and Araks river basin.

The Office assisted the administration of the province of Syunik in the economic and social development of this remote and unique region. Activities included develop-

ment of a Syunik guidebook designed to attract both tourists and potential investors, as well as an environmental impact assessment of the mining industry in the town of Kajaran, a task undertaken at the local community's request. The Office, together with UNDP, commissioned a feasibility study on the establishment of a business incubator in the city of Goris focused on fostering SMEs.

To help combat money laundering and suppress the financing of terrorism, the Office, at the request of the Armenian authorities, supported the adoption of a legislative framework and the establishment of a Financial Intelligence Unit under the Central Bank of Armenia. The Office organized conferences and facilitated training programmes to support Armenia's integration into international organizations involved in combating crime.

To facilitate commerce and trade, the Office, together with the Eurasia foundation, launched a multi-year project to initiate a dialogue in the southern Caucasus region aimed at discussing possibilities to harmonize customs regulations and policies. The Office helped organize a workshop focusing on problems with legal and structural reforms related to trade and commerce and promoting dialogue between the business community and the relevant state officials across the region.

To enhance economic legislation reform, the Office, at the request of the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development, conducted a series of roundtables focused on the reduction of administrative barriers and improving the business environment for SMEs. The reform recommendations developed during these discussions were incorporated into the 2006 *State Programme for SME Development*.

Human dimension activities

The Office chaired the international working group on Ombudsman issues. Jointly with the ODIHR, the Office contributed to strengthening the Armenian Ombudsman Office's capacities through exchange visits with Polish and Lithuanian Ombudsman institutions.

Through culture to tolerance

Prompted by the Declaration adopted at the OSCE meeting in Cordoba in June, the Office and the Foreign Ministry organized a concert on 29 September to promote the culture of tolerance in Armenia. Leading Armenian soloists and the Sympho-Jazz Orchestra of Public TV and Radio performed works by the outstanding Armenian composer, Willi Weiner, whose music draws on the cultural traditions of several nations. A special tri-lingual brochure of OSCE commitments based on the Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Copenhagen Document, the 1990 Paris Charter for New Europe, and the Cordoba Declaration-- was published and distributed to guests at the event.

“The significance of such events is enormous,” said Armen Arnautov-Sargysan, Vice-President of the Menora Cultural Centre, co-organizer of the event. “(We are) building bridges of mutual understanding and convergence through history, culture, traditions and art, respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of cultures of the whole world.”

Zaven Khachikyan



Outstanding Armenian composer Willi Weiner’s music draws on the cultural traditions of several nations.



Willi Weiner’s works are performed at a concert on 29 September to promote the culture of tolerance.

Around 300 employees of the penitentiary system will receive training annually at the training centre, newly refurbished by the Office and the Ministry of Justice.

Based on its project of monitoring human rights in the Armenian military, the Office developed and presented to the Ministry of Defence and armed forces a series of recommendations, including the creation of an independent channel for receipt of complaints from servicemen and more systematic instruction in human rights.

The Office also consulted with the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues and the Ministry of Health on improving alternatives to military service in Armenia. The Office organized a roundtable involving major stakeholders in order to discuss different views of the practice of alternative service and to find a common denominator.

Some 150 children with disabilities benefited from the Community Centre in Noyemberyan region, which was established with the Office’s support. The Centre promotes socialization and inclusion of children with disabilities and provides

support to their families. It raises awareness of their problems with local authorities and community leaders.

The Office continued to work closely with the relevant Armenian authorities, the Human Rights Defender and civil society with regard to individual human rights complaints. The treatment of complaints by those authorities allows for better assessment of the human rights situation in the country and enhances the promotion of human rights. The Office also promoted its human rights public awareness campaign, addressing the issues of religious minorities and alternatives to military service.

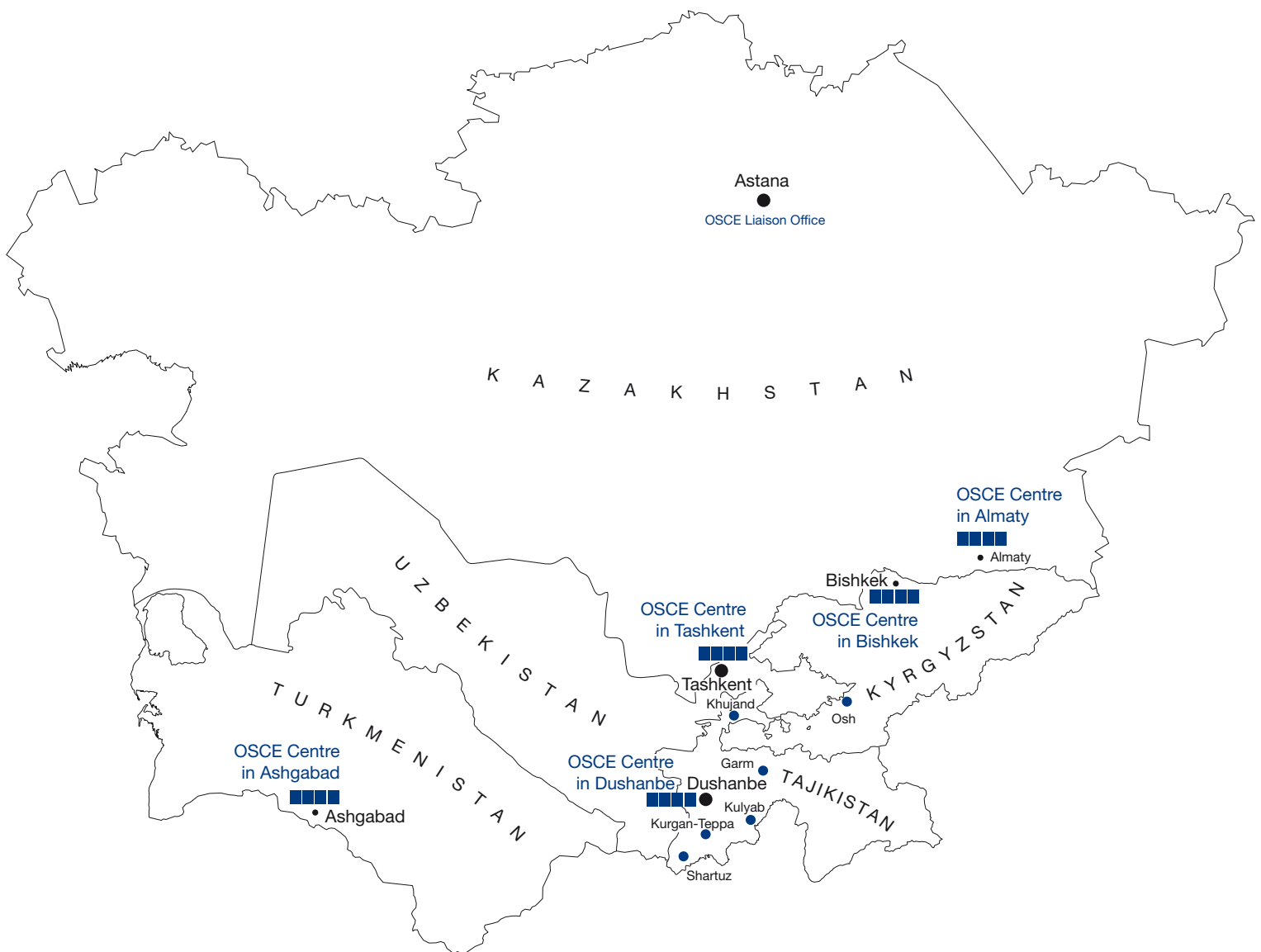
The Office assisted the Government in developing anti-trafficking legislation and effective human rights-based mechanisms to protect and assist the victims of trafficking (National Referral Mechanism). The Office conducted a series of roundtables and seminars for the Armenian authorities and NGOs active in this field. In mid-2005 the Office strengthened its co-operation with the General Prosecutor’s Office in the enforcement of existing legislation.

The Office co-operated with the Government and other international partners in implementing the *National Plan of Action on Women’s Advancement*, adopted in 2004. The Office implemented a project aimed at increasing awareness of the role of women in the society among teenage students and, together with the UNDP, supported women’s participation in the local elections held in autumn.

The Office also continued to closely follow developments in the area of freedom of the media. The Media Legislation Working Group, chaired by the Office, continued to serve as an open forum for exchanging information, discussing problems and joint measures to improve the situation.

Head of Office:
Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin
Revised budget: €1,460,900
www.osce.org/yerevan

Central Asia



- International Borders
- OSCE Field Office

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

Centre in Almaty

Kazakhstan faced new challenges in 2005 in the fields of security, legislative reform and elections. With an attentive ear to the concerns of the host country, the OSCE Centre in Almaty offered its support in balancing security and human rights, stability and reform, rights and re-

sponsibilities. Kazakhstani lawmakers and the Centre actively facilitated the participation of international experts in discussions and analyses of draft laws, strategies and plans in the fields of security, extremism, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trafficking, judiciary, anti-

corruption and media.

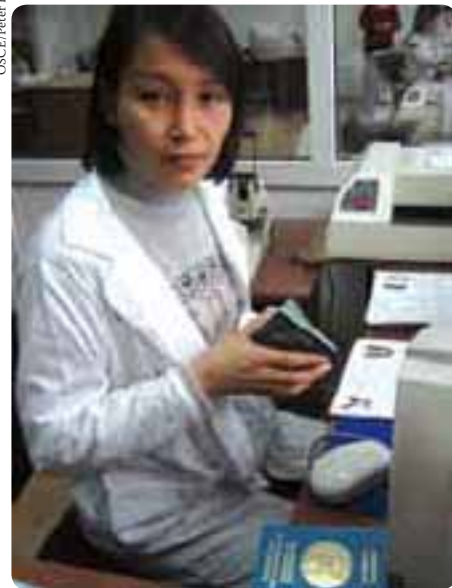
The Centre in Almaty continued to address the specific needs of the regions and shifted some of its activities to the new capital of Astana. It paid special attention to the development of co-operation and mutual confidence between governmental and demo-

cratic institutions on the one hand, and civil society and the broad public on the other. In view of the crucial role of youth in supporting democratic processes in the country, the Centre targeted youth and young professionals in all fields of activity.

Politico-military dimension activities

Alternative ways to maintain security.

Together with the OSCE Secretariat's Action against Terrorism Unit and the ODIHR, the Centre facilitated research, visits, roundtables and workshops dedicated to the analysis of risks and the search for adequate alternative, non-legislative means to prevent and combat new security risks such as terrorism and violent extremism. As part of this continued focus on preventative measures, it promoted inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue and provided training to journalists who report on issues of terrorism and extrem-



OSCE/Peter Felch

The Centre held a workshop on the security and issuance of travel documents in Almaty on 8 and 9 December. It was the first regional workshop of its kind and aimed to improve existing practices and exchange experience on document security.

"I vote for the first time!"

Teacher Evgeni Miasnikov asked students in his 10th grade class at School number one in the city of Karaganda in central Kazakhstan what they expected from the upcoming lesson, part of the programme "I vote for the first time!" which was implemented by Elections-2000, financed by the OSCE Centre and supported by the Central Election Commission and the Ministry of Education.

"To find out how important it is to come to the election," said one.

"To be able to fully understand my responsibility for the choice I make," another said.

In his 10th grade class in Gymnasium 38, teacher Oleg Balanetskiy asked his students whether participation in an election was voluntary. "It is voluntary. But you need to go and vote because the future of your country depends on this," one student said.

These students are a few of the 7,000 from high schools in 10 regions of Kazakhstan that took part in the programme, which targets pupils, who will soon be able to vote. University-age voters make up at least 35 per cent of the electorate.

OSCE/Peter Felch



In connection with the presidential election, the Centre supported projects to support first-time voters in schools.

ism. It also monitored developments in the field of security legislation and facilitated the analysis and discussion of new and amended laws. By supporting mediation training, the Centre promoted capacity-building in conflict prevention and resolution among NGO experts from all regions of Kazakhstan.

The Centre provided international expertise on modern policing and assistance to the Kazakhstani police, especially in the fields of police training and community policing.

Civic education and voters' participation. In the run-up to the December 2005 presidential election, the Centre supported two nationwide voter education and mobilization campaigns targeting young and future voters.

Destruction of weapons and ammunition. Responding to the Kazakhstani authorities' security and environmental concerns, the Centre facilitated needs assessment missions, information exchanges and concept development for secure storage and

destruction of surplus and hazardous weapons and ammunition. Special significance has been given to the security risks posed by toxic rocket fuel components. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

Economic and environmental dimension activities

In line with OSCE commitments, the Centre is increasingly focusing on combating corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism. It also continued its work in 2005 in support of small- and medium-sized enterprises, tourism, and awareness-raising and access to information on environmental issues.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Combating money laundering and financing of terrorism. The Centre actively promoted international co-operation in combating money laundering, and assisted in the creation of a legal framework and the establishment of a central, national agency responsible for receiving, analysing and disseminating disclosers of information to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. It organized workshops and study tours to assist Kazakhstan in acquiring international expertise for the adoption of the related legislation and administrative tools. Regular experts' meetings focused on a legal and institutional concept in line with international standards. The Centre followed up on the experts' meetings with awareness-raising activities among parliamentarians and ministerial staff.

Anti-corruption activities. Kazakhstani authorities invited the Centre to assist in their efforts to join the relevant international agreements and to adopt a national anti-corruption strategy and an action plan. Thus, the Centre facilitated the participation of Kazakhstani officials in the Istanbul Action Plan of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, organized training for district prosecutors and information-sharing events with anti-corruption agencies of other OSCE participating States.

OSCE/Madina Bakieva



The Centre on Radiation Safety and Ecology, directed by Inessa Khvoshnyanskaya, produced the radiology mapping for residents of the Semipalatinsk region with OSCE financial support.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Aarhus Convention. The Centre focused its environmental activities on the promotion of the Aarhus Convention targeting access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. Through a series of public hearings in seven cities across the country, civil society activists and officials assessed and commented on the National Report on the implementation of the Aarhus convention. To follow up, it organized consultative meetings between NGOs and key ministries as well as Public Ecological Council meetings aiming at the elaboration of an Environmental Code and a framework for the establishment of Aarhus Centres in Kazakhstan. The Centre also supported the Kazakhstani environmental authorities in assessing the country's technical and legislative readiness to accede to the *Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers* adopted in Kyiv in 1993.

OSCE/Liza Zhumakmetova



Ambassador Ivar Vikki visited the Aral Sea in December. The world's fourth-largest lake in the 1960s, the Aral Sea has since lost 75 per cent of its water, leaving rusty ships and miles of dried salt land behind.

Human dimension activities

Rule of law, capacity-building and civil society support, anti-trafficking activities and gender issues were the main priorities of the Centre in 2005. In light of several draft laws that were proposed and passed during the winter and early summer, the Centre facilitated several events to encourage public discussion, and continued to promote freedom of the media and foster journalistic skills through master classes, especially for young journalists in the regions.

Anti-trafficking activities. The Centre supported Kazakhstan in combating trafficking in human beings. To assist Kazakhstan's efforts in developing a new National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Centre has, in close co-ordination with the ODIHR, commissioned research on trafficking in human beings, with a focus on forced labour in Kazakhstan and on national referral mechanisms. Together with the Ministry of Justice, it organized a seminar on the research findings and recommendations for the improvement of the protection of victims of trafficking. These findings were also used for the training of NGOs on National Referral Mechanisms, as a way to strengthen co-operation between NGOs and authorities in protection of trafficked victims' rights.

Human rights. The Centre supported the Presidential Human Rights Commission, which is tasked with co-ordinating the process of developing a *National Human Rights Action Plan*. It provided international expertise and participated in its meetings.

The Centre also encouraged and supported the swift ratification in 2005 of two United Nations covenants: the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) without reservations, and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, which were signed by Kazakhstan in 2003. To facilitate this process, the Centre organized a conference on the implementation of international agreements and several other awareness-raising and discussion events.

OSCE/Peter Felch



A woman in Almaty celebrates the inauguration of President Nursultan Nazarbaev on 11 December.

Centre followed up on the 2004 master class programme with a series of specific trainings for more than 150 journalists on economic, election, security, human rights and civil society issues. It also focused on the development of investigative reporting, its ethical background and legal framework. To provide greater access to information, the Centre helped to establish two more Internet cafes and provide Internet training for local journalists in Kostanay and Astana. It paid special attention to journalists' legal knowledge, especially with regard to libel defence, as well as relations and co-operation between journalists and governmental press services. In Almaty, the Centre hosted the 7th Central Asian Media Conference, which focused on media pluralism and the Internet, and added regional significance to the Centre's media-related work.

Rule of law. The Centre co-operated closely with ODIHR experts in offering assistance to Kazakhstan by providing comments on several draft laws, such as the Law on Extremism, amendments to legislation related to national security, and on non-commercial organizations. Rule of law activities covered a wide area of issues, such as the judicial authorization of arrest, additional investigation issues, trial monitoring and freedom of assembly.

Human rights education activities. The Centre organized a series of educational activities, such as human rights training for secondary schools teachers and educators in the Kazakh language, and training sessions on human rights for law students and staff working at penitentiary institutions. It also facilitated co-ordination between NGOs and government institutions working on these issues.

Gender issues. Gender issues are one of the Centre's priorities, with particular focus on enhancing the participation of women in public life. The Centre worked closely with the Kazakhstani authorities and the relevant UN agencies and encouraged the development of a Strategy for Gender Equality for Kazakhstan between 2006 and 2016, which was adopted on 29 November. These activities were closely co-ordinated with partner NGOs, promoting equal opportunities for women and

OSCE/Peter Felch



Women in national costumes at the National Women's Fair Inspired Woman in Almaty on 24 August.

men in politics, and with international organizations, in particular the UN Development Fund for Women.

In its related activities, the Centre seeks to reach out to the most vulnerable groups, such as victims of domestic violence. It organized training for 28 lawyers from partner NGOs, who work as legal counsels for such victims and represent them in the courts, and co-organized consultations between NGOs and the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, together with the Canadian NGO, *Equitas*.

Professionalism and freedom of the media. The Centre actively promoted the professional development of local journalists and improved access to information for both the media and the public. The

Head of Centre:
Ambassador Ivar Vikki
Revised budget: €1,683,900
www.osce.org/almaty

Centre in Ashgabad

Turkmenistan took some positive steps toward further development of the country in 2005. A law prohibiting child labour was put in force. The country submitted its first report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and began to ease the process of registration for some religious groups.

Turkmenistan granted citizenship to more than 13,000 former citizens of Tajikistan, mostly ethnic Turkmen, who were uprooted during the civil war in Tajikistan and found shelter and residence in Turkmenistan.

The Centre's priorities in 2005 included strengthen-

ing border security and combating drug trafficking, facilitating the development of a market-based economy, supporting the country's environmental protection programmes and assisting the country in the process of democratization and legal reform.

The Centre continued its efforts to intensify co-operation with the country's authorities and civil society, expand its work with international organizations and put special emphasis on promoting Turkmenistan's involvement in OSCE activities.

The participation of Turkmenistan officials and indi-

viduals in OSCE activities increased in 2005. Officials participated in the meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Washington in July, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in September and OSCE events that addressed security issues, the work of law-enforcement agencies and legal and humanitarian issues.

The Centre strengthened its co-operation with the international community. In collaboration with the European Union's Technical Aid for CIS Programme (TACIS), the Centre continued to implement a number

of long-term projects, such as a micro-credit project for Voluntary Farmers Associations and computer and English-language training for employees of state agencies. New joint initiatives included projects undertaken in co-operation with Embassies of the United Kingdom and the United States, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.S. Peace Corps and U.S. Agency for International Development.

Politico-military dimension activities

Capacity-building for border and customs officials. One of the Centre's key activities within this dimension is aimed at strengthening the professionalism and operational capacities of Turkmenistan's border and customs services.

In April, six members of the country's border and customs services took part in

a week-long training course in southern Germany, organized by the Centre in Ashgabad with the support of Turkmenistan's Government and Germany's Ministry of Finance. The training took place at border crossing points between Germany, France and Switzerland and included visits to a regional customs centre and a customs criminal investigation office. The participants witnessed how other countries handle large amounts of border traffic and learned about the latest techniques to pre-

vent and investigate trafficking of drugs, arms and human beings and the illegal transfer of money.

Roundtable on cross-boundary co-operation. In September, the Centre organized a two-day roundtable on cross-boundary co-operation focused on the proper balance between legitimate border security requirements and the principles of free flow of goods and people across the borders. The roundtable brought together representatives of the State Border and Customs services; the Service for the Registration of Foreign Citizens; the General Prosecutor's Office; the ministries of Defence, Justice and National Security; and experts from Germany, Russia and Turkmenistan, as well as from NATO, the Marshall Center and the European Commission.

"A border is more than a geopolitical line of division. It is the point where countries must co-operate most effectively for the security and prosperity of all."

Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic, Head of the Centre in Ashgabad



German Customs Service experts, specializing in drug recognition and testing, conduct practical training courses for Turkmenistan customs and border officials.

Practical arms control training. A two-week training course for Turkmenistan arms control officers focused on implementing OSCE confidence- and security-building measures. The course, held in November and December at the Verification Centre of the German Armed Forces in Geilenkirchen, also included participation in a live verification inspection in Switzerland.

UN-OSCE project on advance drug recognition and testing. In co-operation with the UNODC's sub-office in Turkmenistan, the Centre organized two one-week practical training courses on enhancing the investigative and interdiction capabilities of Turkmenistan's law-enforcement personnel in combating drug trafficking. The training courses, which were held in October and November, covered methods of recognition and testing of drugs, and enabled the trainees to conduct training courses for law enforcement officers dealing with combating drug trafficking at border checkpoints.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Supporting economic development. The Centre completed a project with the State Tax Service of Turkmenistan to improve the taxation mechanism by introducing modern information technology and accounting procedures. This will ensure effective and reliable tax collection and tracking, and help reduce corruption in the system.

As part of a co-operative initiative with the EU's TACIS programme, the Centre continued its support of a small revolving micro-credit fund to four Voluntary Farmers' Associations in two regions of Turkmenistan. The Centre, in co-operation with the British Embassy, supported the Youth Employment Generation project, which was implemented on the Caspian Sea coast and covered several rural districts. The aim of the project was to provide youth with knowledge about self-employment and improve access to vocational training through seminars and resource centres. In collaboration with the British Embassy and the Winrock International

Farmers learn business skills

In October, the OSCE Centre, in co-operation with TACIS, expanded its successful micro-credit project for Voluntary Farmers' Associations (VFAs), after all four participating VFAs repaid the credit issued to them in 2004, which they had invested in livestock and seeds and essential equipment to expand their businesses. Under the expanded programme, the partners organized computer and business planning training for representatives of each VFA.

"This training course gave the VFAs the skills they need to take their work to the next level, get the most of the micro-credit programme, and begin more complex co-operative projects of their own," said Farhat Orunov, the project's local co-ordinator. "All of them are now starting to understand that they are not just farmers, but business people, too."



Farhat Orunov is a local co-ordinator for the micro-credit project for the Voluntary Farmers' Associations.

Institute for Agricultural Development, the Centre launched a project supporting a resource centre and training programme for an agricultural co-operative in the Dashoguz region of northern Turkmenistan. The project will support the development of local agricultural techniques, as well as facilitate capacity-building in business and marketing practices.

Promoting environmental awareness. The Centre continued its co-operation with Turkmenistan's Ministry of Nature

Protection, specifically in the implementation of the National Environmental Action Plan. In addition to supporting the publication of 2,500 copies of the first Turkmen-language textbook on ecology, the Centre also supported a conference organized by the Ministry of Nature Protection to discuss the implementation of the Action Plan. More than 80 representatives of various ministries, research institutes, public associations and international organizations from across the country participated.



Summer camp on health and safety in the Kopet-Dag mountains.

In co-operation with the US Embassy, the Centre financed the establishment of resource centres in several regions in order to increase the capacity of the Society of Nature Conservation of Turkmenistan, a registered public environmental organization with several thousand members.

Combating terrorism financing. A two-day workshop held in December focused on legal and administrative tools to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Eighteen officials representing Turkmenistan's Central Bank, Supreme Court, Foreign and Defence Ministries and law enforcement bodies participated in the event, which was organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the UNODC, Turkmenistan's Government and the OSCE Centre. International experts presented key international instruments and institutions dealing with the fight against money laundering and financing of terrorism and helped participants identify needs for the further development of Turkmenistan's legislation.

OSCE



Participants and international experts at a workshop on combating the financing of terrorism in Ashgabad in December.

Human dimension activities

Supporting legislative reform. The Centre continued to offer OSCE legal expertise and advice on best practices for the country's legislative reform.

Democratization and civil society. In this field, the Centre supported the participation of civil society representatives in seminars abroad, offered educational opportunities for students, and funded activities of various NGOs. It also gave support to a youth summer camp focusing

Promoting education

The Centre supported the publication of a Tri-lingual Health Dictionary (Turkmen, Russian and English), developed and edited by U.S. Peace Corps volunteers in co-operation with local health care workers and education professionals. The Centre promoted the Master's Programme in Political Sciences of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and delivered a module on Turkmenistan to the Academy's students.

The Centre selected students from Turkmenistan and funded their participation in the OSCE Central Asian Youth Network, a project launched in 2004 and focused on building regional tolerance and understanding.

In close co-operation with the EU's TACIS Programme, the Centre continued its support for computer and English language training for customs officers and employees of health care and educational institutions throughout the country.

Four journalists from Turkmenistan won prizes at the Fifth Central Asian Festival of Environmental Journalism, held in Almaty in November. The contest aimed to identify the best newspaper articles, documentaries, and TV and radio programmes on environmental issues presented by journalists from throughout Central Asia. The OSCE Centre in Ashgabad facilitated the participation of eight journalists from Turkmenistan in the event.

from lack of due process of law, disregard for property rights to restrictions on freedom of movement. The Centre provided legal counseling to individuals and regularly brought certain cases to the attention of the authorities.

on health and safety issues and, along with UNICEF, co-sponsored an art competition for children on the occasion of the International Day of Child Protection. The Centre provided local NGOs with advice on how to navigate legislation on public organizations. It also continued to fund a legal clinic that delivered more than 200 free legal consultations to citizens of Turkmenistan on issues ranging from citizenship to property rights.

Promoting human rights. In June, the Centre, in co-operation with Turkmenistan's National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, organized two seminars on international human rights legislation. The courses, held in Mary and Turkmenbashi, brought together representatives of Parliament, the General Prosecutor's office, the police, the Bar Association and the State Border Service. They addressed issues ranging from the historical development of human rights and the rule of law to the implementation of norms of international law and international reporting procedures.

Monitoring. Throughout the year, the Centre continued to receive a significant number of individual complaints ranging

Head of Centre:
Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic
Revised budget: € 1,050,600
www.osce.org/ashgabad

Centre in Bishkek

2005 was a busy year for the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. Swift changes in the political and social environment put Kyrgyzstan in the headlines for much of the year and required rapid OSCE responses. Citizens took to the country's streets following parliamentary elections in February and March 2005,

forcing the President to flee the country and eventually resign. An early presidential election followed. In response to these changes, the Centre developed a work plan to help the country address its immediate and longer-term needs. (For more on this topic, please see page 21.)

Despite the upheaval, the

Centre also managed to implement those activities planned in advance for the year. It focused on enhancing political stability and legal reform, the improvement of the human rights situation and assistance to media development, ecological security, development of the economy and good govern-

ance. The OSCE maintains a long-term commitment in the country to police reform and to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. In 2005, it set up a network of project co-ordinators in Kyrgyzstan's regions to increase its outreach capacity.

Politico-military dimension activities

Elections. The pace for reform accelerated after the events in March. The Centre initiated and supported various activities during both the first parliamentary elections of 27 February and the presidential election of 10 July. It focused on legal and technical assistance to the Central Election Commission, voter education, training of domestic observers and the development of early warning mechanisms for potential election-related violence. The Centre's election co-ordination mecha-

nism, launched in 2004, channeled international assistance effectively. After the elections, the Centre worked with several groups to promote electoral reform.

Education: the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The OSCE invests in future decision-makers of Central Asia through the OSCE Academy. Founded in 2002, the Academy is a study and research institute that provides training programmes for experts and scientific research on regional security issues with a focus on Central Asia. It offers a Master of Arts degree in Political Science (Central Asia) for selected

students. The first class of 36 students graduated from the MA 2004/2005 programme on 1 July 2005. From a competitive field, the Academy selected a new class of 27 MA candidates from all five Central Asian countries in 2005. The Academy provides the students with experience in a professional working environment.

Multi-ethnic policing. The introduction of multi-ethnic policing can help strengthen inter-ethnic stability and social integrity. The OSCE and the Kyrgyz State Academy for Management organized a series of projects for senior police

Eric Gourlian



Policing

The OSCE Police Assistance Programme and the Kyrgyz Interior Ministry are working jointly in a long-term effort to turn the Kyrgyzstan militia into a modern police service.

The political events in March led to an almost complete breakdown of law and order in the country. To address the situation, the OSCE developed a focused one-year interim support programme.





Community policing in action

officers and for the teachers and cadets of police schools. These projects also aim to facilitate the access of national minorities' representatives to police structures.

Media. The OSCE's current efforts are focused on providing legal support to journalists; assisting in transforming the state media; journalism training for the state press services; promoting regional media support centres; and Internet accessibility throughout Kyrgyzstan. The Institute of the Media Commissioner, which is partially supported by the OSCE, provides legal support. The Centre's Media Support Programme focused on monitoring the media during the parliamentary and presidential elections.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Economic development. In 2005, the Centre worked on stimulating the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and business associations, attracting foreign direct investment and achieving more employment opportunities for youth. The Centre also supported initiatives aimed at tourism promotion, the improvement of SMEs' legal and regulatory environment, strengthening the institution of third-party arbitration and building the capacity of rural women to improve entrepreneurship skills. In co-operation with a non-governmental organization, the Centre organized train-the-trainer programmes to build the capacity of local communities and the government sector to implement a special

employment programme for socially vulnerable groups.

Given the high rate of unemployment among young people, the Centre and the public foundation, *Career and Employment Centre*, carried out a project on youth empowerment. University students undertook extra-curricular applied business courses and received pre-job training with local employers. The Centre also co-operated with the Secretariat of the National Council on Women, Family and Gender Development of the Kyrgyz Republic on the vital issue of eliminating latent discrimination in employment opportunities for women and improved access to economic resources for rural women.

Environmental security. The Centre supported institutional development and capacity-building on environmental security at the national and regional levels. It welcomed a number of initiatives aimed at implementing international environmental conventions. It also fostered environmental journalism, raising awareness on laws and regulations on environmental protection and water usage for communities along the Kyrgyz-Tajik border. In co-operation with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Ecology and Emergencies and a local NGO, the Centre organized discussions of the National Report on Implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

Good governance, fight against corruption and money laundering. The Government recognizes widespread corruption as a major constraint to growth and a threat to welfare. Therefore, the Centre paid special attention to anti-corruption issues. It supported authorities who are identifying priorities in a National Anti-Corruption Strategy and its Action Plan, including the creation of an independent Anti-Corruption Agency.

Human dimension activities

Constitutional and legal reform. In 2005, the Centre supported constitutional reform. It assisted the ODIHR and the Venice Commission in providing an expert review of a draft amendment, which will help bring the country's legal framework

into conformity with its international obligations. Together with the ODIHR, it also provided an expert review of several other draft laws, for example on the Bar and the Bar Association. It encouraged the authorities to abolish the death penalty and to further humanize criminal legislation.

Promoting gender balance and fighting against human trafficking. The OSCE worked to support women's leadership and gender balance in the decision-making sphere. To establish a dialogue with women, who played a crucial role in the country's political and public life this year, the Centre supported a series of meetings to help raise women's awareness of peaceful and constructive means to express and lobby for their interests. The Centre and the Kyrgyz National Council on Anti-trafficking started drafting a new National Action Plan on anti-trafficking for 2006 to 2008.

Osh Field Office

In 2005, the Osh Field Office focused on electoral processes, monitoring the developments of the March events in the southern provinces of Jalalabat and Osh. The Field Office helped organize and facilitate confidence-building activities for law enforcement bodies and community leaders to ease tensions that had grown during the March events. These sessions allowed both parties to identify the main sources of tensions and jointly plan future interactions to prevent conflict situations. Following the spring violence in Andijan in neighbouring Uzbekistan, refugees arrived in Osh and Jalalabat Provinces. The Field Office monitored the Osh refugee camp together with other international partners and organized several confidence-building events to decrease tensions caused by the presence of more than 400 refugees. The Field Office also monitored the asylum-seeking procedures managed by the Migration Department of the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry and the Court System to ensure a transparent and fair process. The majority of asylum-seekers were granted refugee status and taken to third countries. Four were transferred to pre-detention facilities where they await trial.

Politico-military dimension activities

The Field Office worked closely with local media organizations to establish a Media Resource Centre for journalists in the southern province of Batken. The Centre hosted numerous activities aimed at building the capacity of journalists to report, draft and edit news stories and at fostering interactions between government press and independent journalists. Media Development activities also included technical support to a Radio Station in Kyzyl Kia, enabling it to broadcast further and to cover remote areas. The Media Centre assisted the Osh TV in making and broadcasting documentaries on the situation in remote areas.

Economic development. The Field Office focused on improving the business environment in the south of Kyrgyzstan by empowering local businesses to lobby both local and central authorities in their economic interest. These initiatives aimed at increasing the involvement of southern Kyrgyzstan business society in decision-making on economic policy and legislation. Another priority was the issue of unemployment and its consequences for the development of the local economy. The Office supported local education structures and the organization of specific job-oriented training for the youth and unemployed. The Field Office worked in close co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to address the needs of the most vulnerable groups through a number of participatory social planning events.

Human rights and anti-trafficking activities. The Field Office established a Human Rights and Advocacy Centre which is used by most of the Human Rights NGOs in the south of Kyrgyzstan to meet and conduct advocacy and lobbying campaigns on pressing issues. Trafficking in human beings was also a priority in 2005. Together with local NGOs, the Field Office conducted several awareness-raising initiatives that explained trafficking in human beings among potential victims such as commercial sex workers and labour migrants.

OSCE



Osh Field Office and NGO partner, *Podrug*, conducting training to prevent cases of human trafficking among sex workers in Osh.

Nuripa recovers from trafficking victimization

We at the OSCE met a victim of human trafficking through a woman named Gulbara from Uzgen District in Osh Province:

The young woman and her husband accepted a job in Kazakhstan at a good salary. When they arrived she discovered this long-promised work was not available. Instead, she was instructed to work on a tobacco plantation. She worked hard but never received any pay.

“We didn’t have money for a long time. They promised every time. They didn’t even provide medical care,” said Nuripa, a 22-year-old woman from Uzgen.

She and her husband decided to leave, but they did not have enough money to return to Kyrgyzstan. At this point, the OSCE stepped in.

“We assessed her needs and offered her computer courses within our project to combat trafficking in human beings in the south of Kyrgyzstan. After successfully completing the course, she got a job at the local school as a system administrator,” said Jerome Bouyjou, Head of the Osh Field Office.

“Strong-willed and driven, Nuripa decided this was not yet all she wanted. She asked the OSCE and its partners to allow her to attend other available courses like sewing. She is currently attending these courses.”

Head of Mission:
Ambassador Markus Mueller
Revised budget: €2,454,800
www.osce.org/bishkek

Centre in Dushanbe

The Centre in Dushanbe launched a security and military project to destroy small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition and continued its work clearing landmines in 2005. Its political activities focused on improving electoral legisla-

tion and on raising awareness among youth of their civic and political rights.

The Centre assisted the Tajik Government in implementing its poverty reduction strategy and in developing a national environmental strategy. It worked

to reduce the degradation of ecosystems and to address the dangers of radioactive waste.

The Centre helped the Government make progress on judicial reform and fulfil other human rights obligations. It assisted the

development of regional media and helped train young journalists. It raised awareness and built capacity, including on gender issues and anti-trafficking, among non-governmental organizations and the authorities.

Politico-military dimension activities

Small arms, conventional ammunition and de-mining. The Centre launched a Programme to destroy 21 tonnes of surplus ammunition and 26,000 pieces of small arms and light weapons. In June, the Norwegian Government sent a technical adviser to support implementation of this initiative. Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and the United States pledged funds. The Programme aims first to build national capacity to destroy conventional arms. To achieve this, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Centre and Demolition Ground opened in November in Lohur, 30 kilometres from Dushanbe. A French team trained 13 trainees from the Ministries of Defence

and Interior there, destroying 8.5 tonnes of ammunition. Other aims are to build capacity to destroy small arms and light weapons; to enhance the security of stockpiles of these weapons; and to build an ammunition storage facility for the Tajik State Border Protection Committee.

The Centre assisted the Ministry of Defence to reconnect its Verification Centre to the OSCE Communication Network, created as an aid to implementation of the 1999 Vienna Document, which sets out procedures for exchange of information, co-operation, visits and observation of activities in the military field between participating States. Tajik inspectors were trained on implementation of the Vienna Document as the Centre plans a number of Document inspections in 2006.

The Centre allocated €360,000 to its Mine Action Programme. The implementing partner NGO, *Fondation Suisse de Deminage*, cleared 125,000 square metres of land. It also destroyed 4,546 tonnes of unexploded ordnance, 1,032 anti-personnel mines and one anti-tank mine. To build national capacity, it conducted training in such fields as medical trauma, basic de-mining and surveying.

Elections and political dialogue.

Through meetings of the Tajik Public Council, the Centre promoted open dialogue between the Government and civil society. The Council gathers 70 representatives from state bodies, political parties and civil society to discuss and find consensus on pressing social issues. A series of seminars raised public awareness on the relation between law and religion and promoted tolerance in southern Tajikistan. Summer camps provided civic education for youth.

Seminars involving electoral commissions and some 1,600 state representatives helped improve presentation skills for political parties ahead of the 27 February parliamentary election.

Anti-terrorism. Conferences, awareness-raising campaigns and the publication of brochures helped prevent the spread of extremist ideas and terrorism, addressing the causes and objectives of international terrorism. They also taught participants how to protect themselves individually from terrorism.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Capacity-building for small businesses.

To support the Government's poverty reduction programme, the Centre financed numerous small business development projects in the regions, enabling beneficiaries to start their own businesses. Many projects focused on the needy east and south of the country and provided skills training, such as sewing and baking, to enable women whose men have gone abroad in search of work to support themselves and their families.

Summer camps, two of which included Kyrgyz and Afghan students, trained young people who want to start their own businesses in basic entrepreneurial skills.

Labour migrants' rights. Hundreds of thousands of Tajik citizens, mostly men, go abroad each year to find work, mainly to Russia. Many are unaware of immigration and registration requirements and become irregular migrants. Since 2004, the Centre and the International Organization for Migration have financed an information



OSCE/Morten Kjellvang

Tajik trainees prepare for their first demolition under the supervision of French explosive ordnance disposal instructor, Staff Sergeant Fabrice Laplagne (right), at an engineer battalion near Lohur.



OSCE/Surat Toimastov

A trainer advises a local farmer on starting an agricultural business at the office of the NGO, *Steady Development*, in Kurgon-Teppa.

resource centre in Dushanbe for potential migrants.

Support to land reform. Since 1996, Tajikistan has reorganized large state and collective farms into co-operatives. In 2004, the Centre launched a project to facilitate the land reform, aiming to provide training to farmers to ensure that they understand their rights and land tenure options. In 2005, the partner NGO, *Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et le Développement*, conducted educational sessions on farms in the process of reorganization.

Cross-border trade. The Centre has promoted trade development between Tajikistan and Afghanistan since 2004. In October, an international conference was held in Khorog, the administrative centre of the Badakhshon region, on developing trade among countries bordering the Pamir region. The conference fostered a number of cross-border business deals.

Environmental strategy and environmental education. The Centre assisted Tajikistan in drafting a national environmental strategy for 2005 to 2020. The strategy aims at improving legislation, institutional capacity and establishing priorities for solving ecological problems. After training and awareness-raising campaigns in 2004, the inhabitants of the Rasht Valley of south-eastern Tajikistan planted 500,000 saplings on their own ini-



OSCE/Surat Toimastov

An abandoned radioactive waste processing facility in the Khujand area. The OSCE monitors radioactivity and posts warning signs where necessary. Some areas have radioactive levels that are 60 times the maximum limit.

Public-awareness seminars on radioactive waste pollution promoted the proper use of water resources and increased the natural disaster management skills of local communities.

tiative, far more than the 12,500 envisaged by the project. The trees will help stop land degradation and erosion.

Aarhus Convention. The Aarhus Centre in Dushanbe, which the OSCE established in 2003, helped draft a law on

Green Patrols and Ecological Summer Camps trained 1,000 students across Tajikistan on environmental issues. In the southern region of Kurgon-Teppa, 2,100 persons received training on the consequences for human security of the degradation of ecosystems.

environmental protection, published information materials, and created a website (www.aarhus.land.ru) on the Aarhus Convention, which enumerates public environmental rights. It organized seminars and public hearings involving local communities and authorities to raise awareness on the Convention. The OSCE opened a second Centre in Khujand in northern Tajikistan under the joint UN Environmental Programme, UN Development Programme, UN, OSCE and NATO Environment and Security Initiative.

Human dimension activities

Raising human rights awareness. Low human rights awareness in Tajikistan prompted the Centre to train and inform the public on human rights and the rule of law. The *OSCE Human Rights Summer School* prepared future leaders on human rights standards and commitments.

Together with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre helped turn a small-scale human rights education project for secondary schools into Tajikistan's first comprehensive, nation-wide programme. A majority of schools may soon participate in the programme.

Legal, judicial and prison reform. The Centre assisted the Government in identifying gaps in the judicial system and trained NGO observers to monitor and analyse court proceedings according to international fair trial standards. The very presence of domestic monitors, a novelty in Tajikistan, proved instrumental in sensitizing many courts on fair trial standards.

A rule of law culture also means that ordinary citizens have access to justice. In the individual human rights complaints

project, the Centre funded training for lawyers from all regions to better help victims of violations.

A roundtable emphasized the humanization of Tajikistan's Criminal Code, alternatives to imprisonment, and joint efforts between government and civil society to develop alternative penalties.

Minority rights. A minority survey and a website set up in 2005 intend to give insight into the situation of national minorities and offer the Government a better framework for its policies.

Media development. The Centre expanded the activities of the *Media Resource Centre* set up in 2004 through training for journalists on journalistic skills and Information Technologies. The intensive one-month *Master School of TV Journalism* taught 13 youth the basics of television journalism, starting from how to hold a TV camera to the production of news programmes. To improve the quality of Internet news coverage in the Ferghana Valley, further training and the renovation of the online press agency, *Varorud* (www.varorud.org), were carried out.

OSCE/Eugenia Benigni



A participant in the Master School of TV Journalism training programme in Dushanbe films participants during an exercise.

The Centre in Dushanbe continued to assist the regional newspapers *Kulyabskaya Pravda* (in Russian and Tajik) and *Bomdod* (in Tajik) in southern Tajikistan, as well as the Uzbek-language *Nafosat* magazine for the Uzbek minority.

Raising gender awareness. The Centre organized gender education sessions for Tajik State Employees Training Institute staff. This project, which will continue in

OSCE/Surat Toimastov



The women's shelter in Khujand has provided accommodation to nearly 20 women and more than 700 psychological consultations.

Domestic violence: Nargis and her husband make a fresh start

Thanks to U.S. funding, the OSCE Centre opened the first shelter for victims of domestic violence in Tajikistan in July.

In August, a 33-year-old woman we call Nargis was granted accommodation and counselling at the shelter, suffering from her husband's repeated beatings and sexual and psychological abuse. In the presence of a lawyer, her husband later signed a declaration that he would not attack Nargis and would face court proceedings if he did so. He also asked to be given another chance to re-build his family.

"Nargis has recently returned home and together with her husband is presently undergoing psychological consultations at the shelter," said Mavzona Khakimbayeva, shelter co-ordinator. "They seem to be conducting a more harmonious life, and I consider this a successful case".

Since opening, the shelter, located in Khujand in northern Tajikistan, has provided more than 160 psychological consultations at its premises and 580 on the telephone helpline. Nearly 20 women have taken shelter at the centre.

2006, included a general assessment of the state employees' sensitivity and knowledge of gender equality and will be used to elaborate educational modules for various Tajik ministries.

Women's resource centres. The OSCE funded nine women's resource centres in the regions. The centres raise women's

awareness on human rights, provide free legal and psychological consultations, and help women develop professional skills. Groups to eliminate illiteracy helped rural girls close gaps in their education caused by poverty and the civil war.

Seminars and TV programmes on gender equality compared secular law with traditional and Shariah law, continuing the OSCE's 2004 project, *Women's Rights in Islam*. The last three concluding seminars were conducted for the students of Islamic schools in northern Tajikistan.

OSCE/Surat Toimastov



A woman learns computer skills on a training programme at a Women's Resource Centre in Khuroson.

Anti-trafficking. The Centre funded the compilation of Tajikistan's initial report on the implementation of the *Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, supplementary to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. This helped identify gaps in national legislation and practices and develop a national anti-trafficking action plan.

Head of Centre:
Ambassador Alain Couanon
Revised budget: €3,728,900
www.osce.org/tajikistan

Centre in Tashkent

The Centre focused its 2005 politico-military work on the fight against terrorism, the destruction of unused rocket fuel components, combating trafficking in small arms and light weapons and the strengthening of border

security, all security concerns raised by Uzbek authorities.

In the economic arena, the Centre worked with Uzbek farmers to enhance their legal protection, and trained women and youth in entrepreneurship. It helped

raise public awareness of environmental issues and assisted with the drafting of a secondary school curriculum on water conservation issues, given the scarcity of resources in the country.

In the human dimension,

it launched a project to promote student intercultural exchange and continued its work in prison reform and legal education.

Politico-military dimension activities

Preventing and combating terrorism.

The Centre developed a long-term programme to assist Uzbekistan in preventing and combating terrorism. Following up on a workshop conducted in Tashkent in December 2004, the Centre held talks with the Government on a possible project that would help enhance the national passport system.

It ensured Uzbek officials participated in a number of expert workshops organized by the OSCE Secretariat's Action against Terrorism Unit, including on *Container Security* (February), *Co-operation in Criminal Cases related to Terrorism* (April), *Suicide Terrorism* (May) and *Combating the Use of the Internet in Terrorist Purposes* (October).

Promotion of border security. The Centre organized the participation of five Afghan border and customs service experts in a

regional training course for advanced dog handlers in Central Asia, held in Tashkent under the framework of the UNDP/EU Border Management in Central Asia programme. Five participants each from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan also attended. The training course objectives were to:

- upgrade practical and theoretical skills of dog handlers/instructors;
- train dogs on drugs and explosives searching;
- re-inforce regional co-operation among representatives of dog training centres and dog handlers of Central Asia.

Destruction of toxic rocket fuel component. In January, the Centre received a formal request from the Ministry of Defence to help it destroy its stocks of a toxic rocket fuel component. Approximately 1,000 liquid tons of the fuel is located at Oqtosh, in the Samarkand region. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

Economic and environmental dimension activities

The Centre facilitated the participation of an Uzbek delegation to a preparatory seminar for the Thirteenth OSCE Economic Forum on the theme of *Migration from an economic, environmental and security perspective*, held in Almaty. The delegation included representatives from the Interior Ministry, Centre for Effective Economic Policy under the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population and the Centre for Social and Marketing Research.

Support for farming development.

Together with the Farmers' Association of Uzbekistan, the Centre organized training programmes to help develop farming. The project gave some 520 farmers an opportunity to discuss practical issues, such as contractual relations, tax and insurance as well as irrigation, land use and soil productivity. The Centre developed a number of recommendations based on the obstacles participants said they faced as entrepreneurs. The Centre also supported

**Sobirjon Mina-
varov, head of
the Dog Training
Centre of the State
Custom Committee
of Uzbekistan, ex-
plains dog training
exhibits to visitors.**



Exercises use specially trained dogs to detect criminals or terrorists.



Young people learn about the legal aspects of entrepreneurship during a series of training workshops supported by the Centre in Tashkent.

OSCE



The OSCE Centre in Tashkent is helping young people such as Bakhtyor Toshpulatov develop skills in private entrepreneurship.

Bakhtyor Toshpulatov draws up a business plan

Promoting entrepreneurial initiatives is crucial for Uzbekistan's transition to a market economy. Unemployment is high, especially in rural areas. Many young people have difficulty finding work due to limited opportunities and a lack of practical entrepreneurial skills.

The Centre in Tashkent aims at increasing opportunities for young people in order to keep them from leaving Uzbekistan, ease social tensions and stimulate the country's economy. With the help of the Republican Youth Social Movement, *Kamolot*, the Centre organized a series of training workshops to help young Uzbeks develop their own business plans and learn to defend their interests.

Bakhtyor Toshpulatov produces and sells sports balls. He took part in an OSCE-sponsored youth entrepreneurial project in his home province, Ferghana. A panel of experts selected his plan to expand his business and produce more types of balls for a larger market for funding.

"The OSCE training expanded my knowledge of private entrepreneurship and legal issues," he said. "It allowed me to define the direction and possibilities of my own business plan."

Asked about his future plans, Toshpulatov said that he intends to make his product well known nationally and internationally – an ambitious plan for the young entrepreneur. But with support from his country and the OSCE Centre, he just may realize it.

Fight against drug trafficking. The Centre facilitated the publication of 1,000 copies of an information bulletin detailing the drug situation in Central Asia in 2004. This annual publication is prepared by the local partner, the National Centre on Drug Control, under the auspices of Uzbekistan's Cabinet of Ministers. It is based on information from the national centres on drug control in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and is distributed free of charge to the relevant international and national agencies.

Promoting entrepreneurship and environmental protection in Mahallas. The Centre and the National Mahalla Foundation of local community organizations held workshops in several provinces of Uzbekistan from the series on *Mahallas: Promoting Entrepreneurship and Environmental Protection*. The workshops briefed Mahalla leaders on business and environmental law, rational use of natural resources, processing of domestic wastes and entrepreneurship.

Environmental education for school-children. In co-operation with the Scientific Information Center of the Interstate Co-ordination Water Commission for Central Asia, the OSCE Centre in Tashkent supported the development of a draft curriculum on water conservation issues for secondary schools. The Scientific Information Center trained secondary-school teachers in the curriculum and organized a 10-day summer camp for provincial schoolchildren to promote youth awareness of environmental issues.

Human dimension activities

Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings. The Centre organized a study tour for members of an inter-agency working group of law enforcement officers and members of civil society to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Italy, countries of transit and destination. The study tour and regular joint meetings helped improve government and civil society co-operation and co-ordination in tackling trafficking. The Centre also supported small projects in the field, designed to raise general awareness and educate

arbitration. Run by a non-governmental organization, *Legal Problems Research Centre*, the two-day training courses aimed to facilitate the development of arbitration in the provinces and to promote the legal protection of farmers by educating local lawyers in settling farmers' disputes and in carrying out proper legal consultations.

Women's entrepreneurship. The Centre continued its project on women's entrepreneurship, briefing some 125 women on the legal and practical aspects of doing business. At the request of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the Centre carried out workshops in the five provinces which were not covered in the 2004 programme. The Women's Committee plans to maintain contacts with these entrepreneurs and help them access financial credit in order to start their own businesses. Throughout the year, the Women's Committee/OSCE Information Centre gave free consultations on business topics to women who aim to become entrepreneurs.

Fight against corruption. The Centre provided additional copies of the Uzbek edition of its handbook, *Best Practices in Combating Corruption* to the General Prosecutor's office and the Supreme Economic Court, among others.

Tourism. The Centre followed up on an OSCE initiative to promote small business development in the tourism sector. In the first phase, the project assessed the conditions and prospects of tourism development in the provinces of Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya.

Public participation in environmental decision-making. The Centre supported the Environmental Public Advocacy Centre, *Armon*, by promoting a series of roundtables in several provinces on environmental security and civil initiative. Participants discussed hazardous industrial wastes, their impact on environmental conditions and social welfare. The project provided citizens with free legal consultations on environmental matters.

at-risk groups in Termez, Samarkand and Ferghana. The Centre, supporting a Navoyi-based NGO initiative, published a brochure under the title, *Make your own choice*. The Centre also trained some 1,500 investigators in methods of identification and investigation of human trafficking-related crimes.

Empowering women. The Centre focused on enhancing women's organizations' capacity-building in advocacy and women's rights monitoring and reporting. It paid special attention to a joint Ombudsman and civil society initiative on training national experts to implement, monitor and report under the *Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*.

Prison reform. The Centre concentrated on further humanizing and liberalizing the penitentiary system. It assisted authorities and NGOs by providing literature, developing reform initiatives and capacity-building. It focused support on Uzbekistani NGOs that monitor penitentiaries. The Centre trained NGO representatives from different regions in human rights monitoring, building this capacity to widen the geography of prison monitoring. It helped establish a Resource Unit at the Prison Training Centre which consists of a specialized library and computer class with permanent access to the Internet.

Legal Education Support Programme. The Centre, the U.S. Embassy, the American Bar Association and the Central European and Eurasian Law Institute launched a train-the-trainer programme to incorporate practical skills training into the continuing legal education of prosecutors. The first training courses focused on



Participants at a roundtable on CEDAW monitoring and reporting, supported by the Centre, discussed women's rights and opportunities for women in Uzbekistan.

safeguarding defendants' rights during preliminary interrogations as well as on professional standards of prosecutors.

Youth activities. Together with three local NGOs, the Centre launched the *Youth of the XXI Century* project. It works to involve youth in the development of society and to promote student dialogue, debate and intercultural exchange. As part of the project, young people participate in seminars and summer schools on subjects such as tolerance and multiculturalism, conflict prevention and the role of youth in society.

Head of Centre:
Ambassador Miroslav Jenca
Revised budget: €1,275,900
www.osce.org/tashkent

OSCE Representative to the Estonian Expert Commission on Military Pensioners

The main task of the Representative is to participate in the work of the Estonian Expert Commission on Military Pensioners, which makes recommendations to the Government on residence permits for retired Russian military personnel who stayed in Estonia after the bulk of Russian forces was withdrawn in 1994.

Activities and developments

Review of applications for temporary residency permits. During six sessions in 2005, the Commission successfully reduced the number of pensioners and their families who hold short-term temporary (from one- to three-year) permits to just 27 from

300 in 2004 and 450 in 2003.

As a result of the Commission's work, 5,665 persons out of a total of 5,692 now have long-term temporary (four- to five-year) residence permits.

Permanent residence permits. The Aliens' Act was amended to exclude the issuance of permanent residence permits to military pensioners as of 1 January 2004. After the relevant state court ruling in 2005, the Estonian authorities finally approved the review of approximately 250 cases registered before the amendments were proclaimed.

Some 5,500 persons did not register, for whatever reason, for permanent residence permits, before the Aliens' Act was amend-

ed. They now have no immediate recourse to obtain permanent residence.

OSCE work for the Commission. The Commission on Military Pensioners handles applications for temporary and permanent residence permits for pensioners and their families whose cases fall under the 1994 Estonian-Russian Bilateral Accord on Social Guarantees. The OSCE Representative has continued to provide assistance in the solving of a number of problem cases in the ambit of residence claims, and will continue to provide support to the work of the Estonian Commission on Military Pensioners.

OSCE Representative: Uwe Mahrenholtz
Revised budget: €105,000

OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

As in previous years, the OSCE Representative provided assistance in the implementation of the 1994 Agreement between the Latvian and the Russian Governments on social guarantees for military pensioners of the Russian Federation and their families residing in Latvia.

In accordance with Article 2 of this Agreement, the OSCE Representative's tasks are:

- to consider, together with the Latvian and Russian parties, appeals on matters involving the rights of military pensioners;
- to participate in the adoption of recommendations and decisions on the basis of consensus; and
- to consider, at the request of either party, questions relating to the application of the Agreement's provisions.

In 2005, a total of 17,202 people were eligible under the Agreement, 674 less than in 2004. At the time of the Agreement in 1994, a total of 22,320 people were eligible.

Activities and developments

Softening potential hardship situations.

To a large extent, military pensioners' recent appeals related to social questions were resolved by the respective Latvian local administrative bodies in co-operation with the relevant Russian authorities.

As in 2004, housing issues in so-called "denationalized" accommodations gained in importance as these issues affected more pensioners and their families. Latvia adopted a law in 1991 regulating the return of nationalized property to their legitimate

owners or their descendants. Denationalization started in 1993/94 and stipulated a seven-year period of special protection for tenants living in these houses or apartments. Latvian authorities offered favourable financial conditions to affected pensioners and set limits on the rents in "denationalized" houses through the end of 2007.

Support for resettlement. Latvian authorities have taken up the issue of pensioners wishing to resettle from Latvia to Russia. On 1 January 2006, Latvia's financial aid programme for the resettlement issue took effect.

OSCE Representative: Helmut Napiontek
Revised budget: €8,300

Institutions



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

High Commissioner on National Minorities

Representative on Freedom of the Media

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is the main institution in the OSCE's human dimension: a broad concept that includes the protection of human rights; the development of democratic societies, with emphasis on elections, institution-building, and governance; strengthening the rule of law; and promoting genuine respect and mutual understanding among individuals as well as nations.

Ambassador Christian Strohal, an Austrian diplomat, has headed the ODIHR since March 2003. The Office has some 125 employees from 27 of the 55 OSCE participating States.

Based in Warsaw, Poland, the ODIHR works throughout the OSCE region, conducting activities aimed at fostering democracy and the rule of law, promoting and protecting human rights, addressing pertinent shortcomings and assisting participating States in the implementation of their commitments. The Office has also developed its role in providing information to the Chairman-in-Office about developments in these fields, including serious human rights violations, thus contributing to the OSCE's early-warning role.

As the region's lead agency in the field of election observation, the ODIHR has, in recent years, observed elections across the OSCE area, from the United States in the West to the far east of Russia, and many places in between. In 2005, the ODIHR conducted a total of 10 observation or assessment missions in both new and long-standing democracies. It made efforts to increase the diversity of election observers from across the OSCE region, as well as to help build the capacity of both governmental and non-governmental observers.

Through its new *Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme*, the Office has launched efforts to support participating States in strengthening their capacity to combat racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination throughout the region. Projects have been initiated to compile data on the frequency and types of hate crimes committed, to promote best practices in fighting hate crime and to provide targeted training to law enforcement officers as the first line of defence against all forms of hate and discrimination.

Elections

Recognizing that a democratic election process provides the foundation for democratic governance, the ODIHR works to improve the integrity of election processes, as well as the legislative and administrative framework for elections.

More than 3,000 observers were deployed to eight election observation missions and two assessment missions in 2005. In addition,

113 short-term and 19 long-term observers were financed through the ODIHR's voluntary Fund for the Diversification of Observation Missions, which was established to ensure more participation of nationals from 19 eligible participating States that may not regularly second individuals for ODIHR observation missions.

ODIHR Election Observation and Assessment Mission Schedule 2005

Country	Type of election	Date
Kyrgyzstan	Parliamentary	27 February/13 March
Tajikistan	Parliamentary	27 February/13 March
Moldova	Parliamentary	6 March
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Municipal	13 March/27 March/10 April
United Kingdom	General	5 May
Bulgaria	Parliamentary	25 June
Albania	Parliamentary	3 July/21 August
Kyrgyzstan	Early presidential	10 July
Azerbaijan	Parliamentary	6 November
Kazakhstan	Presidential	4 December

The ODIHR also fielded small teams of experts to support the assessment of elections by OSCE field missions in two cases where an observation mission was not deployed: parliamentary by-elections in Georgia and municipal elections in Moldova.



A member of the election committee at a polling station in Bishkek explains part of the Electoral Code to two voters during parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan on 27 February.

The ODIHR and the OSCE Secretariat jointly conducted two out-of-region activities in 2005: the deployment of a Training Needs Assessment Team to the Palestinian Territories during the January presidential election; and the deployment of an Election Support Team to the September parliamentary elections in Afghanistan. (For more on this topic, please see page 23.)

Election law reform and reviews. A legal framework that does not sufficiently reflect OSCE commitments is not conducive to the conduct of genuine and meaningful democratic elections. To address legislative gaps in many countries, the ODIHR uses a voluntary fund to provide expert advice on the reform of election-related legislation. In 2005, it issued a number of recommendations jointly with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, including on: amendments to Azerbaijan's Electoral Code; Moldova's amended Election Code; Ukraine's amended law on the election of members of parliament; the bill on the state election commission of Croatia; and amendments to Armenia's Election Code. The ODIHR also issued an independent review of Uzbekistan's parliamentary election law.

Follow-up and implementation of recommendations. The ODIHR has been developing its capacity to follow up on the recommendations contained in its observation reports, offering its assistance in meeting those recommendations, where needed. In 2005, the Office conducted specific follow-up visits to Albania, Ukraine, the United States, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Emerging challenges and new commitments. The ODIHR's observation activities continue to identify emerging challenges to the holding of democratic elections, including those related to the introduction of new election technologies and procedures. This subject was one of the main points of discussion at the *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Challenges of Election Technologies and Procedures*, held in April. Participating States were called on to ensure that there is broad public confidence whenever new election technologies are introduced.

States have now entered into a discussion on additional commitments to deal with these emerging challenges. The ODIHR convened an expert meeting in September to consider the need for additional commitments, which resulted in the drafting of an *Explanatory Note on Possible Additional Commitments for Democratic Elections* that was distributed among OSCE participating States. In the opinion of the ODIHR, three basic principles that are integral to democratic elections – transparency, accountability and public confidence – could serve as the basis for additional commitments.

Methodology. While the ODIHR's core methodology has not been fundamentally altered since the publication of the first *Election Observation Handbook* in 1996, it is periodically updated to take into account new challenges, as well as experiences gained over more than a decade of observation. In recent years, for example, the ODIHR has paid ever more attention to monitoring the participation of women and of national minorities in the electoral process.

In 2005, the Office updated and published a fifth edition of the *Handbook*. Available in English, French, Russian and Ukrainian it will soon be issued in a number of other languages. In addition to making the ODIHR's methodology available to a broader range of people with an interest in election observation, the handbook translations assist ODIHR efforts to support the role of domestic election observation as a distinct but complementary activity.

Domestic observation. The ODIHR has been instrumental in bringing together domestic observer organizations for exchanges of experience and best practices. In September, the Office convened a meeting dedicated to 15 years of domestic observation in the OSCE region. Participants recognized the significant role that domestic observer groups can play in ensuring the integrity of election processes in their own countries.

Democratization

The aim of the ODIHR's democratization work is to consolidate democratic culture. It creates a context for concerted action, bringing governments and civil society closer, and addresses issues that are often potentially divisive in a working context.

When developing a programme on any particular issue, two factors are critical for success: local ownership and the use of expertise from other OSCE participating States that have faced comparable situations. This is reflected in a methodological commitment to using consultants from the relevant regions and to developing lessons-learned mechanisms, as well as for sharing the experiences of south-eastern Europe with the wider OSCE.

The methodology of the Office's democratization programme continued to evolve in 2005, following the rationalization of project activities the previous year. For example, a measure was introduced to maximize the Organization's resources: structured assessment missions as a prerequisite to undertaking any democratization-related activities.

The five main human dimension meetings in 2005 saw increased participation by NGOs in comparison with previous years, including a record number of 433 representatives of 315 NGOs that took part in the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*.

Rule of law and legislative support

Criminal justice reform. The ODIHR contributes to efforts in the area of criminal justice reform in a number of countries, particularly with respect to preventing torture and monitoring places of detention.

Torture is a real and prevalent problem in the OSCE region. In all too many countries, torture and other forms of degrading and inhuman treatment are an everyday part of law enforcement. In some states, a case is considered solved only once there is a confession, which encourages a culture of taking statements under torture. Judges and prosecutors often contribute to this by not stopping the use of such statements as evidence in court.

The ODIHR has addressed the issue of prosecutorial power to sanction arrest, encouraging the transfer of that power to the judiciary. In Kazakhstan, the ODIHR, in co-operation with the Prosecutor-General's Office, the Supreme Court and the OSCE Centre in Almaty, organized a roundtable to initiate dialogue on this issue.



Young members of the Almaty City Collegium of Advocates at a legal-skills training course in April.

The ODIHR encourages the public monitoring of places of detention. The Office organized or supported roundtables on monitoring places of detention in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, which contributed to the creation of a public monitoring board in Kazakhstan. Such monitoring boards are an invaluable aid in the prevention of torture and in the improvement of prison conditions, as they open up prisons to the outside world, preventing the isolation and abuse that can happen behind closed doors.

Fair trials. Lawyers are one of the ODIHR's priorities in its efforts to ensure fair trials: both in terms of making systemic reforms of the defence bar and by improving the skills of individuals through training.

The international community has largely overlooked the importance of the defence bar, which is an integral part of any functioning legal system. To bring more attention to the topic, one of the OSCE's Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings in 2005 focused on the role of defence lawyers in guaranteeing a fair trial. The meeting brought together legal professionals from the entire OSCE region to address the challenges facing defence lawyers and to recommend ways in which the OSCE can provide useful assistance.

Legislative support. Responding to requests from participating States, the ODIHR provides expertise and assistance in the development of legislation that is in compliance with OSCE commitments. In 2005, the ODIHR commented on constitutional amendments in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, as well as on a number of legislative acts in the areas of human trafficking, anti-terrorism, fair trials, police reform, gender issues, freedom of assembly and elections in various participating States.

The ODIHR's approach focuses on local ownership and follow-up activities that are aimed at fostering inclusive and transparent legislative processes. In Armenia, for example, the ODIHR and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission supported a locally driven process for drafting amendments to the 2004 law on assemblies. These amendments significantly improved the legal framework governing freedom of assembly.

The ODIHR also maintains a legislative database (www.legislationline.org) for lawmakers and ODIHR experts, who gain a vantage point from which to observe patterns in legislative activity across the OSCE region and to help identify good practices. The database is being expanded to include materials on legislative processes and lawmaking.

Democratic governance

Legislative processes. As follow-up to the 2004 *Human Dimension Seminar on Democratic Governance*, the ODIHR developed a new methodology in 2005 that focuses on the legislative process as a whole. The need emerged to supplement activities aimed at improving the quality of individual pieces of legislation with work on the procedures and practices whereby legislation is prepared, drafted, adopted, published, communicated and evaluated. The starting point for this is a review of the legislative framework, including issues of transparency and inclusiveness. On this basis, options for remedying the risks and gaps identified are analysed and proposed.

In Georgia, ODIHR experts conducted a survey among members of Government and Parliament, as well as other relevant individuals, which resulted in a comprehensive analysis of the legislative procedure in that country. This analysis will serve as the basis for supporting domestic efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of legislation through workshops involving national and international experts.

Supporting political parties. To ensure that the political reforms made in transitional democracies are sustainable, there is a need, in some countries, for changes in the relationship between those who govern and those who are governed. The goal is government that is transparent, accessible and accountable. With this aim in mind, the ODIHR developed and piloted, in 2005, a methodology for critical self-assessment with respect to political party development and parliamentary reform.

The pilot country was Georgia, where the ODIHR engaged all six mainstream political parties; a leading think tank, the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Development and Democracy; and the Netherlands Institute for Multi-party Democracy in a joint assessment project. The parties answered questions about their *raison d'être* and their place in society, as well as about input into their party platform and the relations between members and party structures.

The parties will help draft a report by January 2006, which will serve as an action plan for the further development of political parties in Georgia.

In a further effort to ensure the sustainability of democratic reforms in Georgia, the ODIHR is helping the parliament strengthen its capacity to deal effectively with its own reform process through the creation of a Centre for Parliamentary Reform.

Participation of women in democratic processes. The ODIHR conducts country-specific programmes in the southern Caucasus and Central Asia, aimed at increasing women's participation in democratic processes. In 2005, the Office's priorities included promoting co-operation between government and civil society at the national and local levels, capacity- and expertise-building for civil society and government structures, developing women's leadership, integrating gender-equality aspects into policy-making, and preventing and combating domestic violence.

As a result of past efforts, women's networks created with ODIHR support lobbied successfully, in 2005, for a number of positive changes. Kyrgyzstan, for example, established the post of presidential representative to Parliament on gender equality. This new post resulted from lobbying efforts by a women's network following the 2005 parliamentary elections, in which not a single female candidate was elected.

In Georgia, the Women's NGO Coalition was instrumental in lobbying for the establishment of a State Committee on Gender Equality, which has been tasked with developing a comprehensive national policy and implementation plan on gender equality.

Migration and freedom of movement. The Slovenian Chairmanship set the pace for the ODIHR's work in the area of freedom of movement by placing greater emphasis on migration-related issues.

In May, the *Human Dimension Seminar on Migration and Integration* acknowledged the importance of migration management and the development of integration processes, calling for greater co-operation from participating States in this field. It was also stressed that both sending and receiving countries stand to benefit from migration.

The ODIHR's migration work has always reflected the Democratization Department's priority of exchanges of expertise and experience in a regional context, such as the regional conference the ODIHR organized for representatives of CIS countries and the Baltic States on reform of population registration.

Human rights

The ODIHR assists participating States in fulfilling their obligations to protect and promote human rights as they are set out in OSCE commitments and other relevant international standards. It monitors compliance with OSCE commitments on human rights and fundamental freedoms and provides advice and assistance. In practice, this involves monitoring of a broad spectrum of issues, from the fundamental freedoms of assembly, association and speech to sensitive and topical issues like capital punishment and the treatment of human rights in the fight against terrorism.

In broader terms, monitoring provides indicators for the ODIHR's institution-building activities by revealing areas where improvements to legislation or the functioning of state bodies could result in better protection of human rights for everyone. To take this one step further, the ODIHR's activities contribute to early warning and conflict prevention as an integral part of the Organization's comprehensive approach to security.

Death penalty. The ODIHR monitors the use of the death penalty in all 55 participating States in order to increase transparency and compliance with international safeguards, while facilitating the exchange of information about the abolition of the death pen-

alty. The Office's annual review, *The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area*, was released at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September.

A regional conference on alternatives to the death penalty in Central Asia was held in Almaty in November. The conference brought together governments, non-governmental organizations and other interested parties to exchange ideas and information on alternatives to capital punishment and to learn about the experiences of other states that have already introduced alternatives to capital punishment.

Trial monitoring. Trial monitoring is used to assess the fairness of court proceedings and whether they comply with OSCE commitments and other international standards. Trial monitoring is concerned only with the fairness of a trial, not with the guilt or innocence of the accused. The information gathered through trial monitoring can form the basis for reform efforts, as well as feed into institution-building projects conducted by the ODIHR and other international organizations.

Last year, the ODIHR launched a trial-monitoring project in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Almaty, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Supreme Courts of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. A group of monitors from several NGOs, who were trained by the ODIHR in 2004, observed criminal trials in a number of regions of both countries in 2005. The findings of the trial monitors, which will be issued in March 2006, will form the basis for dialogue with the relevant state authorities on potential reform.

In February, the ODIHR published a report from a trial-monitoring project in Azerbaijan during 2003 and 2004. The report contained a set of recommendations of general character for immediate action and specific recommendations pertaining to particular fair-trial guarantees.

At the invitation of the Uzbek Government, ODIHR experts monitored the trial of 15 men accused of crimes allegedly committed in Andijan in May. The ODIHR will report on its trial monitoring to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

Human rights and the fight against terrorism. The global fight against terrorism has put the protection of a number of fundamental rights and freedoms in jeopardy. It is important to ensure that security considerations do not undermine the very rights they seek to protect. With this in mind, the OSCE dedicated one of its Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings in 2005 to this issue, thereby stimulating debate on three key concerns related to human rights and counter-terrorism: freedom of religion; the prohibition of torture; and the role of NGOs in the fight against terrorism.

The Office also piloted a training course for senior officials and policy makers working in the field of counter-terrorism. A national course in Kyrgyzstan and a regional course held in Austria taught officials ways to ensure that their policies complied with international human rights standards.

Human rights training and education. Evidence indicates that, in some parts of the OSCE region, places of detention are rife with human rights abuses. Of particular concern are places of pre-trial detention, where force may sometimes be used to extract a confession and thus secure a conviction. Monitoring the situation in such institutions can both deter certain abuses and also allow interested organizations, such as the ODIHR and domestic NGOs, to develop strategies for change.



OSCE/Eric Gourlian

ODIHR human rights officers speak to Uzbek refugees in Kyrgyzstan following the 13 May events in Andijan.

In four Central Asian states – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – the ODIHR trained civil society representatives to monitor the human rights situation in prisons and pre-trial detention centres. In Armenia and Tajikistan, the ODIHR helped train NGOs to monitor the general rights situation.

Human rights, women and security. The ODIHR developed a new programme on human rights, women and security in 2005. The programme's first year focused on monitoring the situation of women's rights in Uzbekistan, while also conducting gender-awareness training for the OSCE's Central Asian Youth Network in Kyrgyzstan. A roundtable in Moldova brought together governmental and non-governmental representatives to discuss the reduction of violence against women as an effective means of preventing trafficking in women. The meeting focused on Moldova's draft law on preventing and combating domestic violence and resulted in a joint set of recommended amendments. In an effort to strengthen the security aspects of work in the field of women's rights, the ODIHR organized an international consultative meeting on the topic of early-warning indicators to conflict and women's rights. The meeting involved actors such as UNIFEM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as the NGOs, *Kvinna till Kvinna* and *International Alert*, among others.

Fighting trafficking in human beings. With the appointment of the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in 2004, the Organization created a focal point for all of its anti-trafficking activities, in a cross-dimensional perspective. The ODIHR has thus tailored its own activities in this area to ensure co-ordination with the Special Representative,

which has included the development of a set of common priorities, the provision of substantive input and expertise for conferences organized by the Special Representative, and ensuring that its project work benefits from the high political profile brought to anti-trafficking work by the Special Representative's country visits.

Tolerance and non-discrimination

Tolerance and non-discrimination, which was previously one of the many thematic areas covered by the Human Rights Department, was expanded into a programme in its own right in 2005. With new resources and an extensive mandate deriving from major OSCE conferences on combating anti-Semitism, racism and discrimination, its first year saw a range of activities aimed at promoting genuine respect and understanding, as well as ensuring protection of the fundamental freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.

Combating hate crime. In many states, one major obstacle to combating hate crime is the absence of accurate statistics. Because most countries have not established mechanisms to identify perpetrators or victims of hate crime, it is difficult to know how extensive the problem is or where to target resources to combat it. The ODIHR began, in 2004, to collect legislation, statistics and good practices from OSCE States, which it used to prepare a comprehensive report on *Combating Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: An Overview of Statistics, Legislation and National Initiatives*. Using this information, the ODIHR identified gaps in the collection of data and developed tools, including working definitions and a police reporting form, to support States in their efforts to improve data collection and legislation.

The Office developed a programme to increase the capacity of law enforcement officials to identify and respond effectively to hate crime and engage with affected communities, which was piloted in Spain and Hungary in May. One immediate result was an increased awareness by both countries of the need to address hate crime and to work closely with affected communities. This was evident in the evaluation of the training by the participants, as well as in the follow-up actions taken by authorities in both countries to incorporate elements of the hate crime training curriculum into their existing law enforcement training programmes. Plans are now under way to conduct the programme in Croatia and Ukraine.

Education to teach about the Holocaust, combat anti-Semitism and promote tolerance. In response to anti-Semitism in the OSCE region, which often finds expression in neo-Nazi activities, Holocaust denial and violent attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions, OSCE participating States committed themselves to promote educational programmes to combat anti-Semitism, as well as to promote remembrance and education about the Holocaust.

In order to assess existing programmes, highlight good practices among OSCE States, and identify gaps in the area of Holocaust

education, the ODIHR produced a study in 2005 called *Education on the Holocaust and on Anti-Semitism: An Overview and Analysis of Educational Approaches*.

To follow up on the findings of the study, the ODIHR, in co-operation with a number of partners, including the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research; Yad Vashem in Israel; and the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, as well as with experts from throughout the OSCE region, has been developing guidelines and teaching tools for educators to support their efforts to improve teaching about the Holocaust and address contemporary anti-Semitism.

The Office also held, in Poland, the first of a series of expert roundtables with educational authorities and representatives of non-governmental organizations to discuss initiatives to assist and encourage national authorities in their efforts to implement educational programmes on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism.

Within the wider context of tolerance education, a programme on education to promote respect and diversity was developed during the second half of 2005. The programme, which will be implemented in 2006, will result in an assessment and evaluation of existing educational strategies and initiatives currently in place throughout the OSCE region.

Promoting freedom of religion or belief. The ODIHR's 57-member Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which serves as an advisory and consultative body to OSCE States to advance religious freedom, provides legislative assistance and comments on specific cases. Using the newly developed *Guidelines for Review of Legislation Pertaining to Freedom of Religion or Belief* as a basis, the Panel reviewed a number of laws in response to requests from participating States. The guidelines were also translated into Russian in order to facilitate their increased use throughout the OSCE region.

Building the capacity of civil society. The Office initiated activities to support the efforts of non-governmental organizations to monitor and report on hate crime and violent manifestations of intolerance. In June, a training session for NGOs on monitoring hate-motivated crime and incidents was piloted. The ODIHR also supported the International Network Against Cyber Hate in organizing a seminar on monitoring hate speech on the Internet. An assessment of these pilot training sessions was used to design a comprehensive training programme that will be implemented in 2006.

In co-operation with the Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office, the ODIHR also organized three meetings with representatives of NGOs in order to support increased co-operation among NGOs, as well as the exchange of good practices and the development of recommendations regarding thematic issues.

Contact point for Roma and Sinti issues

Roma, Sinti and related populations face a variety of forms of racism and discrimination in nearly all aspects of life, which impedes their ability to integrate fully into the societies in which they live.

The OSCE has recognized this fact in numerous commitments and especially in the 2003 Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, which calls on participating States to take steps to rid their societies of all forms of anti-Roma bias.

A number of states have taken measures in this direction, first by adopting necessary legislation to combat discrimination, as well as by establishing institutions to enforce such legislation. Some countries have also developed national strategies to improve the situation of Roma and related populations.

One of the ODIHR's most important tasks in this regard is to call for constant review and assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan. The Office's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues has been particularly active in this area, using major OSCE conferences and other events to promote debates on Roma-related issues, distribute documentation related to the situation of Roma throughout the OSCE region and facilitate the participation of Roma and related groups in these events.

The *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* was particularly fruitful in this regard, as the ODIHR organized a number of side events that focused on various Roma-related issues, including the participation of Roma and Sinti in electoral processes; the situation of Roma from Kosovo, who are a minority in Kosovo itself and many of whom are internally displaced persons in other areas; monitoring national policies on Roma, especially in the areas of reducing poverty and improving gender equality; and calling for equal access of Roma to housing, residential security and access to quality education.

Revised budget: €11,963,700
www.osce.org/odihr

High Commissioner on National Minorities

Tensions and frictions between different groups within States – based on ethnicity, religion, and language – have caused most of the recent conflicts in the OSCE region. To respond to this challenge, the OSCE established the post of the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) in 1992.

The High Commissioner's function is to identify – and seek early resolution of – ethnic tensions that might endanger peace, stability or friendly relations between the OSCE participating States. His mandate describes him as “an instrument of conflict prevention at the earliest possible stage.”

The incumbent OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities is Rolf Ekeus of Sweden. He took up his duties on 1 July 2001.

In accordance with his mandate, the High Commissioner continued to monitor and take action to prevent inter-ethnic tensions from developing into confrontation and to stabilize situations of potential conflict. He supported specific projects to address locally relevant roots of conflict and to contain and de-escalate tensions involving national minority issues.

As part of his work on thematic issues, he gave special attention to policing in multi-ethnic environments, because policing practices have a major influence on inter-ethnic relations. In close co-operation with the Strategic Police Matters Unit in the OSCE Secretariat, international organizations directly responsible for such issues and other experts, the High Commissioner initiated an analysis of the relevant international standards and practices in the area of policing with a view to elaborating practical guidelines on policing in societies that are home to a plurality of ethnic groups.

In 2005, the High Commissioner paid particular attention to developing the basic principles of a policy of integration respecting diversity, particularly in the context of the Chairmanship's focus on migration and integration.

Commenting on recent tensions and in some instances social unrest in participating States, the High Commissioner emphasized the complexity and potential impact on society of the emergence of new minorities and the need to address those situations early on in order to prevent them from developing into serious societal confrontation. He also drew attention to the relevance of the methods and practices employed by the High Commissioner on National Minorities to these new minority situations.

Country reports

Belarus. In 2005, the High Commissioner paid particular attention to the situation of the Union of Poles in Belarus, the largest organization of the Polish minority community.

Croatia. During a visit to Croatia in February, the High Commissioner discussed different aspects of refugee return such as repossession of property rights and reconstruction assistance as well as reform of the judiciary with representatives of the Government and minorities. This included a discussion of the country's Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities, in particular the provisions regarding education and proportional representation of minorities in administration and the judiciary. Although he was encouraged by improvements in the area of refugee returns, the HCNM stressed to the authorities the importance of promoting integration in the area of education as well as implementing the Law's provisions in the area of minority representation in the judiciary and administration.

Estonia. During a visit to Estonia from 24 to 26 October, the High Commissioner noted improvement in the inter-ethnic relations, a fact also confirmed by the local elections held on 16 October. The economic programmes of the competing parties rather than their policies on ethnic and minority issues appeared primarily to determine the voting behaviour of non-citizens and Russian-speaking citizens who took part.

The HCNM noted significant improvement in the socio-economic situation in the Narva region. He also found an improved attitude on the part of students, parents and teachers in Russian schools towards the start of education reform. While he welcomed the debate in society on the start of the reform and its implementation, he also stressed the need for more teacher training, including courses in the Estonian language and in teaching methodologies.

The HCNM welcomed the legislative and administrative steps taken by the Estonian Government to facilitate naturalization. However, he indicated that further positive measures are needed to speed up the process, particularly for elderly citizenship applicants.

Georgia. In Georgia, the High Commissioner focused his work on the *Conflict Prevention and Integration Programme for Samtskhe-Javakheti*. Launched in 2003, this Programme aims at fostering the integration of the Armenian minority into Georgia's political, social and cultural life. It helps increase the knowledge of the Georgian language among civil servants in the region; improving the effectiveness of Georgian language teaching to minority students; furthering the information flow from minority regions to the centre and vice versa; and increasing the access to national television news. One of the initiatives included in the Programme, the *Language Training Project for Civil Servants*, instructed more than 500 civil servants in the Georgian language.

In Abkhazia, the HCNM continued to work with the *de facto* authorities in Sukhumi to ensure the right of Georgian students in the Gali district to be educated in their mother tongue. In

2005, the High Commissioner's office held six teacher-training seminars, which formed part of the *Teachers for Understanding* project, aimed at enhancing the skills of Georgian and Abkhaz language teachers in the districts of Gali, Tkvarcheli and Ochamchira. This project, which has been implemented since August 2004, should also help build confidence between the two communities.

Hungary. The High Commissioner closely followed Hungary's initiatives to support Hungarian minorities in neighbouring States. After the failure of the 2004 referendum on dual citizenship, the Hungarian Government developed new initiatives. In May, the High Commissioner visited Budapest to familiarize himself with these initiatives and to discuss their controversial aspects. He urged the Hungarian Government to engage in direct consultations with neighbouring States on which these initiatives have an effect, in order to avoid straining bilateral relations. For its part, the Hungarian Government brought to the HCNM's attention the situation of Hungarian minorities in the Serbian province of Vojvodina. The HCNM pointed out that he continued to follow developments in Vojvodina and noted that the changing ethnic composition of the region as well as difficult social and economic conditions could hurt the harmonious inter-ethnic relations that characterized Vojvodina in the past.

Kazakhstan. In his discussions with officials and representatives of national minorities in Kazakhstan, the High Commissioner paid particular attention to the issue of language. He encouraged the country's Government to adopt a balanced and gradual approach to the strengthening of the role of the State language, to put special emphasis on education and to more intensely promote the official language and languages of national minorities.

The HCNM continued his support for a pilot project promoting multi-lingual education in the southern Kazakhstan region. The project, developed together with the regional Department of Education, helps final-year students in Uzbek-language schools enhance their skills in either the State language, Kazakh, or in the official language, Russian, in order to improve their performance in the State entrance examination for admission to institutions of higher education in Kazakhstan. After two years of project implementation in two schools, the rate of successful university applications and the results achieved in State entrance examinations have improved considerably. Owing to this success, the High Commissioner discussed with authorities the possibility of extending the initiative to other schools and offered his expertise and support.

Kyrgyzstan. The economic, social and political pressures unleashed by the developments in Kyrgyzstan in spring 2005 have affected inter-ethnic relations. Many members of Kyrgyzstan's national minority communities have expressed anxiety about their future and their personal safety and decided to leave the country.

The High Commissioner paid three visits to Kyrgyzstan in 2005. On two occasions, he travelled to the southern regions of Osh and Jalalabat for discussions with local officials and representatives

of national minorities. Although the presidential election and the formation of the new Cabinet promoted some sense of stability among national minorities, the High Commissioner called on the new leadership of the country to take steps to strengthen social integration and to focus attention on inter-ethnic issues by developing a consistent policy of national integration and social cohesion in the country.



HCNM trainers in Osh, South Kyrgyzstan, help police officers acquire the skills required for operation in a multi-ethnic society.

Latvia. The High Commissioner visited Latvia at the beginning of June, a few days after the Latvian Parliament ratified the *Framework Convention on National Minorities*. His discussions with Latvian authorities focused on the ratification and the wording of the Declaration of Parliament that accompanied the ratification.

The HCNM stressed to the Latvian authorities the importance of ensuring that the implementation of the Convention was inclusive, in accordance with its object and purpose, and that there was no discrimination between different groups of citizens.

Since the number of non-citizens remains high, the HCNM urged the Latvian Government to accelerate the naturalization process. He stressed the need for the Government to provide additional resources and funds to strengthen the ability of the Naturalization Board to handle the growing number of applications in an orderly and timely manner. He also recommended as an immediate concrete step the granting of automatic citizenship to all children born in Latvia after 1991. This would also demonstrate the Government's intent to speed up the process of naturalization in the country.

The HCNM urged the Latvian authorities to show flexibility with regard to the implementation of the school reform, which stipulates that at least 60 per cent of lecture time should be carried out in Latvian. He stressed that the Government needed to consider the specific situation of each school to ensure that the quality of education was not compromised. All necessary material and training should be made available and regular quality checks needed to be made in the schools, the High Commissioner said.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The High Commissioner focused strongly on developments at the South East Europe University, set up to provide Albanian students with high-quality academic education. Enrolment in 2005 exceeded 5,000 students, of which 25 per cent were non-Albanians. Within a short period, the university significantly improved ethnic under-representation in higher education in the country. It also won praise for its academic standards and its role as a model for inter-ethnic integration and co-operation.

The HCNM also extended one of his largest undertakings, the *Transition Year Project*. In its eighth year, the Project continued to work towards increasing the number of ethnic Albanian students admitted to State universities in Skopje and Bitola. To do so, it provided intensive preparation courses for examinations in several subjects in the Macedonian language for Albanian-speaking students in the fourth year of secondary school. Seven Albanian secondary schools located throughout the country took part in the project. In 2004, 1,066 students enrolled in the project and, in some schools, up to 88 per cent of the student body participated.

The Minister for Education invited an HCNM expert to sit on the founding committee of the new university in Tetovo, the third State University founded by Parliament. The ultimate goal of this project is to establish a university that meets modern international standards, delivers multi-ethnic and multi-lingual teaching and works with and complements the South East Europe University.

The High Commissioner also focused on equitable representation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as it is considered a prerequisite for NATO membership and the EU also regards this as a key element of the 1993 Copenhagen criteria regarding admission to the Union.

Having acquired substantial expertise on the subject over past years, the HCNM advised the authorities on the bill on the use of flags of communities. Such a regulation is essential to minimize the risk that flags contribute to inter-ethnic tensions. The HCNM proposed a proper balance for the use of flags in the public sphere and recommended that the use of flags by private persons be treated as a matter of freedom of expression, which should be enjoyed within reasonable limitations. The Parliament officially amended legislation on the use of flags on 15 July, thus contributing to the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, the accord that ended the violent conflict of 2001.

Moldova. The High Commissioner continued to promote the right to education in Latin script in schools in Transdnistria. Considering that a good knowledge of the State language is the key to a successful policy of integration, he explored opportunities for various educational projects in Moldova, particularly in the field of teaching the State language (Moldovan/Romanian) to civil servants of Gagauz and Bulgarian origin in southern Moldova. The Gagauz population in general, and Gagauzian civil servants in particular, lack a working knowledge of the State language, seriously hampering the relationship between the Gagauz authorities and the central Government. This impedes adequate representa-

tion of the interests of the Gagauz population and isolates the Gagauz community within Moldova.

Romania. At the request of the Romanian Foreign Minister, the High Commissioner visited Bucharest in September to discuss the bill on the statute of national minorities prepared by the Romanian Government. Prior to his visit, the HCNM sent a detailed commentary on the bill's strengths and weaknesses to the Government. This comprehensive piece of legislation introduces a concept of cultural autonomy. In Bucharest, the HCNM pointed out that while the bill suffers from some political and legal shortfalls, it also establishes a generous framework of minority protection that reinforces Romania's standing as a democratic State.

Serbia and Montenegro. In February, the High Commissioner visited Serbia and Montenegro, including Vojvodina and southern Serbia. The main topics on his agenda were the security situation in these regions and the impact of Kosovo on the situation in the Western Balkans. The HCNM also discussed the implementation of the *State Union Law on National Minorities*, which was drafted with the assistance of his office. Political leaders in Belgrade encouraged the involvement of the High Commissioner in Kosovo.

The HCNM stepped up his engagement to explore how he can encourage and provide support to reconciliation among the communities in Kosovo. During a stay in Kosovo in May, which included visits to Pristina, Mitrovica and a Serbian "enclave", the High Commissioner examined possibilities how he could be of assistance in light of the status talks scheduled to take place in early 2006.

In Montenegro, the HCNM continued his engagement in drafting the *State Union Law on National Minorities*. The ultimate aim of this bill is to harmonize Montenegrin legislation with the State Union's legislation, in particular the Constitutional Charter, and with international and national standards regarding minority rights protection. The opinions and recommendations on the bill were largely elaborated in co-operation with the Council of Europe.

Together with representatives of the Serbian Ministry of Education and the local Albanian community, the High Commissioner initiated an education project for the Albanian national minority, which aims to develop a history book in the Albanian language for sixth-grade primary school children in the region. The commission completed the draft history curriculum in summer 2005 and textbook publication is expected in early 2006.

Tajikistan. In March, the High Commissioner visited Tajikistan to learn more about the current issues facing the country and affecting inter-ethnic relations. Through discussions with officials, representatives of national minorities and NGOs, he identified the urgent need to improve and modernize educational legislation in the country. All parties viewed education as a priority that would help bring the country together following the civil strife in past years.

The High Commissioner and the Ministry of Education organized a conference on education as a means of integration in Tajikistan. The conference explored how new approaches to curriculum design, teacher training and language teaching could strengthen the role of education in fostering more harmonious relations between different ethnic communities. It also considered how co-operation amongst neighbouring States on issues of minority education could help promote national integration and enhance regional stability.

As a result of the conference, the High Commissioner intensified his co-operation with Tajikistan's authorities, providing an opportunity to help organize teacher training and encourage textbook development that is appropriate for a multi-ethnic society.

Turkey. Following up on his first visit of January 2003, which aimed at creating a dialogue with the Turkish authorities within his mandate, the High Commissioner travelled again to Ankara in February 2005.

Turkmenistan. Over the last years, the High Commissioner's dialogue with Turkmenistan's authorities focused on finding an adequate balance between legitimate educational and linguistic concerns of the majority and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. In May, he visited Turkmenistan for meetings with the President and other officials. During this visit, he travelled to the region of Dashoguz, where he spoke with local officials. He committed himself to broadening his engagement in Turkmenistan.

Ukraine. As part of his efforts to facilitate the integration of people formerly deported from Ukraine – particularly those residing in Crimea – the High Commissioner visited Kyiv and Simferopol in June, resuming a dialogue with the new Ukrainian and Crimean leadership and with representatives of minority communities. With regard to the integration of Crimean Tatars, the discussions focused particularly on a controversial land issue as well as on the bill on the restitution of rights of formerly deported people. As a result of this visit, the HCNM is studying the possibility of a programme that promotes mutual understanding between the communities on the Crimean peninsula.

He also raised the important issue of minority-related legislation with the Ukrainian Government. He welcomed progress on the key bills on language and on minorities and discussed how he could contribute to the Government's efforts to bring such legislation into line with European standards.

Revised budget: €2,697,600

www.osce.org/hcnm

Representative on Freedom of the Media

The youngest of the three specialized OSCE Institutions, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM) was formally established in 1997 following a decision taken at the 1996 Lisbon Summit. Recognizing freedom of expression as a basic human right, the Representative's mandate is to ensure free, independent and pluralistic media in the participating States.

His primary tasks are:

- observation of relevant media developments in OSCE participating States to provide early warning on violations of freedom of expression; and
- in close co-operation with the Chairman-in-Office, assisting participating States by advocating and promoting full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments regarding freedom of expression and free media.

The second OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti, took up his position in March 2004. A writer and former dissident, Mr. Haraszti was one of the founders of the Hungarian Democratic Opposition Movement.

The Representative's office in Vienna consists of 13 international staff.

In 2005, the Representative on Freedom of the Media actively pursued the two main fields of his mandate: monitoring the media situation in all 55 OSCE participating States, and assisting governments to fulfil OSCE principles and commitments regarding freedom of the media.

Interventions. The Representative intervened in a number of cases throughout the OSCE region, West and East of Vienna, where these commitments were endangered or violated. Such interventions took place in more than 20 OSCE participating States. In addition, the Representative continued his country visits.

Country reports

Belarus. In February, at the invitation of the Belarus Foreign Ministry, the Representative visited Minsk for the first time. He had meetings with government officials, parliamentarians, journalists and the NGO community, and published a report on this visit.

The report shows that over the past years the media situation in Belarus has deteriorated. Against this background, the Representative on Freedom of the Media offered short- and long-term assistance to the Government in identifying desirable improvements. Apart from the necessary legal reforms to liberalize the overall media situation, he also stressed that the Government should immediately rescind several restrictive practices that are authorized, but not required, under current regulations.

The Transnistrian region of Moldova. In January, one of the Representative's Senior Advisers visited the Transnistrian region of Moldova. The Representative personally had tried to visit that region during his assessment trip to Moldova the previous year but was discouraged by the regional authorities in Tiraspol.

The situation of the independent media is very difficult. Different methods of pressure are applied on those few journalists who do not follow the official line. However, the regional leadership seemed to be open to a dialogue with the OSCE, which is essential to ease the constrained environment in which the independent media work.

Italy: the Gasparri Media Law. During a visit to Italy in March/April, the Representative targeted a two-fold agenda. First, he assessed the situation in the television broadcasting sector, one year after the adoption in 2004 of the Gasparri Law. This law, the country's first comprehensive regulation of all broadcast media, was enacted after repeated calls by Italy's Constitutional Court and by European political bodies for an overhaul of the highly concentrated television ownership in Italy. A report with concrete recommendations pointed out that Italy's new comprehensive digital-era media law needs a careful legislative review to address the present "duopoly" of RAI and Mediaset.

Second, Mr. Haraszti evaluated the Frattini Law, concluding that the Law did not yet fully resolve the conflict between the private interests of public officials and their political influence in Italian television.

Azerbaijan. The murder of prominent editor and journalist Elmar Huseynov shortly before an April assessment visit to Azerbaijan by the Representative unavoidably became one of the focal points of his stay. The case received worldwide attention and placed media issues in this country under international scrutiny.



Elmar Huseynov, founder and editor of the independent weekly news magazine *Monitor*, was murdered on 2 March 2005. He is pictured attending the First OSCE South Caucasus Media Conference in October 2004.

The multitude of views expressed in the printed press – and the high degree of politicization – indicated that pluralism had taken hold. However, diversity does not extend much beyond the print media, which has a very low circulation. It is also financially and professionally weak. The Representative's report contains a wide range of recommendations to the authorities on how to rectify the situation.

In consultation with Azerbaijani Government officials, the Representative launched a pilot assistance-training project on government-media relations, originally proposed by the Foreign Minister. The first workshop, with participation of governmental press and communication officers as well as journalists, was held on 18 and 20 July in Baku.

The handling of the media during the Andijan crisis in Uzbekistan. The Representative also issued a report on the coverage of the events and the restrictive governmental handling of the press during the Andijan crisis in Uzbekistan in May. This is the Representative's third report on the press coverage of events related to crisis situations. The earlier reports focused on the Kosovo events in March 2004 and the Beslan tragedy in October 2004.

The report contained detailed recommendations. It stressed that working with the press in times of crisis is a learning process. The press, however, also provides an important contribution to the peaceful solution of crises, as it delivers information to which the society has a right.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Representative visited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in October to assess the current state of media freedom in the country, especially in the context of a new broadcast law the Parliament was discussing at the time of the visit.

Overall, there is a high degree of media pluralism in the country, both in terms of the quantity of media outlets and the representation of different views. The legal framework for free media is generally in line with OSCE commitments and the Government, together with other stakeholders, is working on the remaining provisions. The Representative gave the Government credit for respecting the laws, but noted that there was still occasional pressure applied on individual journalists or commercial constraints hindering journalists from freely exercising their profession.

He welcomed the introduction of a new broadcast law by the Ministry of Communications and Transport and its approval by Parliament. The law brings the country further in line with European standards.

In November, two journalists were sentenced to prison terms for libel. Such sentences contradict the case law of the European Court of Human Rights with respect to freedom of expression.

The media situation in Kosovo. Following his report on the role of the media during and after the tragic events of March 2004,

the Representative followed up by appointing a temporary Special Representative for Kosovo for a six-month period. The main task of the Special Representative was to assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the report.

The progress made in Kosovo over the period mentioned is solid and promising. The Representative noted that these achievements were not the result of pressure by the international community on the Kosovo media, but that, at every step, the respective media associations and the media themselves were involved and consulted.

The Temporary Media Commissioner in Kosovo, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media initiated, helped and advised this process. Similarly, an ethnically mixed group of Kosovo journalists drafted the Code of Ethics, a process facilitated by the international community.

Legal reviews. The Representative continued reviewing media legislation in participating States.

He reviewed the draft media law and the regulations on the allocation of domain space in Kazakhstan.

In Kyrgyzstan, he reviewed the media law, the law on the professional activity of journalists, civil and criminal libel, the law on the protection of state secrets and the new draft law on the freedom and guarantees of access to information.

He dealt with the draft broadcasting and public service broadcasting legislation of Latvia. He advised the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on a broadcasting law; it has now been adopted.

In Moldova, counsel was given regarding the draft laws on information and on state and official secrets.

In May, the Representative issued a comprehensive review of the draft Turkish Penal Code. He identified a number of provisions that could hinder free discussion of public issues and pose a threat to the freedom of the press. While some of these have been corrected accordingly in the final version of the Code, other provisions have since been used to prosecute individuals for their opinions.

Projects

The Matrix – trends go against criminal libel laws. Following up on a project started in 2004, the Representative published the first version of a unique database on criminal and civil defamation laws and court practices in the OSCE area. The database, *Libel and Insult Laws: a Matrix on Where We Stand and What We Would Like to Achieve*, is a useful tool for legislatures, researchers, media NGOs and journalists who wish to promote decriminalization of defamation in their countries. So far, seven OSCE participating States have decriminalized libel and insult.

Guaranteeing media freedom on the Internet. The project, *Guaranteeing Media Freedom on the Internet*, continued in 2005. The *Media Freedom Internet Cookbook* was translated into Russian and media freedom on the Internet was a prominent topic in several conferences organized by the office of the Representative. The office has also been very active in the preparation of a number of OSCE expert workshops and conferences, such as on the use or misuse of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

Assisting participating States through training. This year, the Representative started a long-term assistance project dealing with government-media relations and access to information.

He held two training courses for government press officers and media professionals, in Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. The topics included journalists' rights to access information, the proper functioning of press offices and professionalism on both sides of government-media relations. The Representative plans to have similar training exercises next year in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, several regions in Ukraine and again in Kyrgyzstan, this time for regional journalists. He has offered this assistance to the Governments of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and expects their agreement soon.

Next year the Representative plans to explore possibilities for new training projects in the field of media democratization and professionalization.

In Georgia, together with the OSCE Mission, the Representative organized a training course for media law professionals.

International conferences

Third Amsterdam Internet Conference. The *Third Amsterdam Internet Conference* took place in the City Hall of Amsterdam on 17 and 18 June. The conference brought together leading international experts on human rights and the Internet from Western and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and North America.

The Representative and the Paris-based NGO, *Reporters sans frontières*, issued a joint declaration on *Guaranteeing Media Freedom on the Internet*. The declaration lists six main principles for protecting online media freedom. It stresses that in a democratic and open society citizens should decide what they wish to access and view on the Internet. Any filtering or rating of online content by governments is unacceptable and websites should not be required to register with governmental authorities.

Conference results were shared with media conferences held later in the year in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Central Asian Media Conference in Almaty. On 13 and 14 October, the annual *Central Asian Media Conference* was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, organized under the auspices of the Representative and the OSCE Centre in Almaty.

For the seventh successive year, 150 participants from all five Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – gathered to discuss developments in the media field in the region. The participants included journalists and representatives of media NGOs, as well as officials, experts and foreign guests. As in previous years, the conference provided a unique opportunity for an exchange of views among the participants and a forging of new bonds.

The two main topics this year were Pluralism in the Media and the Internet. During discussions on each, it became clear that the two are closely linked. During the last few years in Central Asia, the Internet has become the last resort of pluralism and an alternative source of pluralistic information to television and the print press.

The participants adopted the *Almaty Declaration on Pluralism in the Media and the Internet*, which recommends that international organizations like the OSCE put more emphasis on protecting the freedom of the Internet and reiterated that regulation of the Internet must be limited to instances where it is absolutely unavoidable.

Caucasus Media Conference in Tbilisi. The annual *South Caucasus Media Conference* took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 17 and 18 November. The office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the OSCE Mission to Georgia organized the Conference.

For the second time, 70 participants from all three South Caucasus countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia – discussed recent developments concerning the media within the region. Participants included journalists, representatives of media organizations, state officials, experts and foreign guests. As a follow-up to the first South Caucasus Media Conference in 2004, the event provided a unique platform for the mutual exchange of views on important media topics relevant for all three countries in the region.



OSCE/Zakhar Sviridenko

Delegate at the Second OSCE South Caucasus Media Conference examining the RFOM's publications.

Discussions in Tbilisi centred on the quality of public service broadcasting and the freedom of the Internet. The Conference adopted a declaration on these subjects, urging governments in South Caucasus to reaffirm their commitment to maintain a strong and vibrant independent public broadcasting service and to refrain from interference with the editorial independence and institutional autonomy of public service broadcasters.

The participants also noted that the subjects dealt with at last year's conference, libel and freedom of information, remained topical and the recommendations adopted in October 2004 were still valid.

OSCE roundtable on TV and radio licensing in Azerbaijan.

Further development needed for the regulatory framework in TV and radio licensing, the authority of regulating bodies and a guarantee of equal treatment of operators were discussed at a roundtable in April organized by the OSCE Office in Baku.

The Representative said private broadcasters needed clear-cut and non-discriminatory rules for the division of frequencies and to obtain licences.

The event was designed to provide an opportunity for an in-depth discussion and exchange of opinions between experts and all actors involved in the process of granting licences and frequencies for Azerbaijani TV and radio broadcasting companies.

It was the first in a series of activities designed by the Office in Baku with the aim to address the most pressing issues in the media field in Azerbaijan.

More than 60 experts, representatives from national institutions of Azerbaijan, including the presidential administration, government ministries, NGOs and international experts attended the event.

Miscellaneous

Media at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation

Meeting. The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in September focused on the media. The Media Representative helped with the preparations of the event and hosted a side event on *State Secrets and Freedom of Journalism: From the US to the CIS*.

A panel of international experts discussed the jailing in the United States of New York Times reporter Judith Miller, as well as the repercussions of publishing state secrets in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Joint statement by special rapporteurs on freedom of expression on Press Freedom Day. On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, 3 May, the international community's four special rapporteurs on freedom of expression issued a joint statement, paying tribute to the courage and professionalism of the numer-

ous journalists and other media professionals either killed or wounded because of their professional activities.

They also addressed such issues as decriminalization of libel, the importance of access to information and of media diversity in society.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszi, the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Ambeyi Ligabo, and the Special Rapporteur for freedom of expression of the Organization of American States, Eduardo Bertoni, were joined for the first time by the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Andrew Chigovera.

Secretariat



OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (left) and Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis sign an agreement on common goals with regard to local and regional self-government in south-eastern Europe, in Strasbourg, 17 November 2005.

Activities of the Secretariat | Partnerships for Security and Co-operation

Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

The OSCE enlarged its programme on gender issues in 2005. The Secretariat developed a strategy for gender mainstreaming in order to implement the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and increased the number of staff working on gender issues. There were also continued efforts to build staff capacity on this topic.

With the aim to promote the practice of gender equality and gender mainstreaming as essential elements of comprehensive security, the Ministerial Council redirected the programme on gender issues and endorsed the 2004 *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*. The Plan stipulates the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into OSCE activities, policies, programmes and projects. It further requires the development of a gender mainstreaming process in recruitment, the working environment and within structures. To establish the internal strategy for the gender mainstreaming process, the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues organized workshops with focal points for gender issues from missions and the gender unit of the ODIHR. The gender focal points, who were nominated by departments and units of the Secretariat, were instructed by the Senior Adviser on the requirements of the Action Plan and the basics of gender mainstreaming. Specific materials tailored to the needs of each department were developed in order to help gender focal points analyse respective activities and structures with regard to the integration of a gender aspect.

The 2004 Action Plan stipulates that the Secretariat and Institutions develop implementation plans with concrete measures for achieving its overall aims. The Senior Adviser, supported since September by a Gender Officer, is assisting the relevant structures to comply with this requirement. The Senior Adviser developed and introduced a comprehensive outline of the mainstreaming strategy and a collection of indicators to measure implementation.

Two seminars organized by participating States and supported by the Senior Adviser emphasized gender equality as a necessary element of comprehensive security. One seminar focussed on violence against women, the second on women in conflict prevention

and crisis management. Both themes were further discussed in the *Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking*, comprising representatives of the OSCE delegations. This forum further outlined the future role of the OSCE in combating violence against women and in promoting women's involvement in conflict prevention through the development of two Ministerial Council Decisions that were adopted in Ljubljana in December. The Senior Adviser and the Gender Officer provided substantial assistance in this work.

In March, the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) was reviewed and appraised. The Senior Adviser addressed the 49th Session of the *United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women* in a high-level panel on the role of regional organizations in promoting gender equality.

To further promote a professional and gender-sensitive management culture and working environment, the Senior Adviser continued to monitor the implementation of relevant regulations and assisted Missions in the application of the policy against harassment and discrimination. She also worked to strengthen co-operation with the network of gender advisers from other organizations and institutions, the *Organizational and Institutional Gender Information Network (ORIGIN)*. This group provides a rich resource of experience and best practice in the integration of gender-sensitive policies into organizational structures, which is instrumental for gender focal points in the Secretariat and missions for the implementation of the Action Plan.

To raise awareness and build capacity for the integration of gender aspects into the work of the field operations, the gender unit also continued to assist the training section in the implementation of the induction course for staff and mission members. Furthermore, it participated in several thematic roundtables to ensure that all staff members are aware of the requirements of the 2004 Action Plan and are starting to become involved in the gender mainstreaming process. Specific modules on gender mainstreaming and women's role in conflict prevention were developed and used in staff training in various Missions.

Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit

Supporting the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General, the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit (ATAU) provides a co-ordinating function among OSCE structures and Institutions involved in combating trafficking in human beings with a focus on the following activities: enhancing the awareness and understanding of human trafficking across the OSCE region; policy, planning and advocacy especially in the area of emerging trends of human trafficking and effective approaches to combating trafficking in human beings; and direct assistance to participating States in practical and technical areas, at their request.

In 2005, the Unit focused on raising the need for a victim-centred approach to combating trafficking, specifically in the area of protection and assistance provided to victims. It also called attention to the special needs of child victims of trafficking. In July, the OSCE participating States approved the *Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance*.

Specifically, the work of the ATAU includes:
Enhancing the awareness and understanding of human

trafficking across the OSCE region. The ATAU planned and facilitated the following high-level conferences and expert meetings within the framework of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons. These included:

- *Taking a Stand: Effective Assistance and Protection to Victims of Trafficking*, in February;
- *Combating Trafficking in Children*, in March;
- Experts Consultation by the OSCE and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on *Developing a Legal Framework to Prosecute the Exploitation of Trafficked Persons*, in July;
- *Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation and Forced and Bonded Labour: Identification, Prevention, Prosecution*, in November.

Policy, planning and advocacy. Through its ongoing research and analysis, the ATAU maintained comprehensive information on anti-trafficking activities in the OSCE region. It applied this information to enhance awareness of emerging trends and approaches to combating human trafficking by:

- supporting the activities of the Special Representative in monitoring anti-trafficking activities undertaken by participating States within the context of country visits;
- co-operating with the Council of Europe in combating trafficking in human beings;
- advising the European Union States on the Draft Action Plan, in co-operation with the Special Representative and the Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team.

Direct assistance and support to participating States. In co-operation with relevant OSCE structures, the ATAU continued to assist participating States, upon request, in fulfilling the commitments stated in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in the following areas:

- development of National Action Plans;
- establishment of National Co-ordinating Mechanisms;
- review and reform of anti-trafficking legislation; and
- promotion of the development of National Referral Mechanisms.

Priorities for 2006. Working closely with the 2006 Belgian Chairmanship within the mandate to combat organized crime, the ATU will focus on the following areas:

- increasing awareness of all forms of trafficking in human beings, in particular for labour exploitation and forced and bonded labour as well as child trafficking;
- promoting a multi-dimensional approach to combating human trafficking, with special focus on protection and assistance to victims of trafficking;
- developing and strengthening national co-ordination mechanisms; and
- enhancing co-ordination of anti-trafficking efforts among OSCE structures and Institutions and among relevant non-governmental organizations.

Strategic Police Matters Unit

The Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) aims to improve the capacity of participating States to address threats posed by criminal activity and to assist States in upholding the rule of law. In 2005, it focused on such work in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Georgia. It also combated trafficking in human beings, by building the capacity of law enforcement agencies to prosecute offenders. It addressed hate crimes and developed a database system to aid best practice in law enforcement.

The political upheaval in Kyrgyzstan in March focused attention on the OSCE Police Assistance Programme there. The Programme, launched after the shooting of five protestors by the Kyrgyz Militia during a minor demonstration near Aksy in March 2002, looked to strengthen police capacity to prevent conflict and manage public disorder, and resulted in the training and equipping of two specialized Public Order Management Units in Bishkek and Osh.

The Programme's first real test came on 24 March when large numbers of anti-government demonstrators massed outside the President of Kyrgyzstan's Office in Bishkek, demanding the immediate resignation of President Askar Akaev and his Government. The actions of the Kyrgyz Militia demonstrated that the

programme had succeeded in changing the policing culture. The Militia were not willing to contravene those professional policing practices, generally accepted by democratic States, in order to defend the governing regime at any cost.

On 7 April, the SPMU responded to developments by deploying the first of three police affairs officers to assist the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. The SPMU staff contributed to the overall OSCE Work Plan and created a one-year Interim Police Assistance Programme that addressed the most urgent short- and mid-term security problems in the country. The Interim Programme enabled the Kyrgyz Militia to ensure that the period of political transition passed peacefully, with law and order maintained throughout. The Programme also assisted the State Commission on Police Reform to "get back on track" with the elaboration of a detailed and concrete reform concept.

To further assist this process, three international police advisers were seconded to work side-by-side with the Minister of the Interior in Bishkek and policing officials in Jalalabat and Osh. This was the first time the OSCE had assigned an adviser directly to an Interior Ministry. (For more on this topic, please see page 21.)

In collaboration with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the SPMU provided instructions on *Human Rights and Policing* to the Kazakh Militia. This work led to the temporary appointment of a police adviser to the OSCE Centre in Almaty in September. Kazakhstan also hosted the *first OSCE Regional Sex Crimes Investigation Workshop*, from 8 to 10 November. The training included police practitioners from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

In Georgia, by March 2006, the SPMU and the OSCE Mission to Georgia will have completed a *Short-Term Assistance Project* that provides immediate assistance in the following areas: community-based policing, police training and development of a new human resources management system. In both Armenia and Azerbaijan, the SPMU supported the OSCE field operations in their implementation of the police training components of their respective Police Assistance Programmes.

To complement the OSCE's work combating trafficking in human beings, the SPMU focused on gathering evidence against offenders as an alternative to relying solely on victim testimony. A 12-day real-time simulation for law enforcement investigators, prosecutors, judges and non-governmental organization staff was held in Chisinau to demonstrate how sufficient evidence can be gathered, with existing resources, in order to prosecute successfully offenders without having to rely on the testimony of witness-

es. The training has already improved interviewing techniques and enhanced co-operation across the Criminal Justice Sector in Moldova. Another three OSCE field operations have requested this proactive training on behalf of their respective host-States.

In September, the SPMU organized a two-day meeting in Vienna for police experts on the subject of preventing and combating hate crimes. The meeting brought together more than 60 police investigators, representing 27 European and Central Asian countries, as well as a panel of distinguished experts. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to share acquired knowledge in the field of hate crimes and showcase the work of the ODIHR's Law Enforcement Officers Hate Crimes Training Programme.

During 2005, the SPMU designed and tested a pilot of the *OSCE Policing OnLine Information System* (POLIS). These three databases consolidate all aspects of contemporary policing issues, lessons learned and good practice undertaken by the OSCE. POLIS enables policing and law enforcement practitioners to access the information they need when they need it, no matter where they are in the world. Lessons learned and best practice are more than safeguarded; they are accessible in such a manner that operational practitioners will actually use them.

www.osce.org/policing

Action against Terrorism Unit

The Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) is the focal point for OSCE counter-terrorism co-ordination and activities. Established in 2002, it works closely with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCTC) and its Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other international partners.

The ATU collaborates with the OSCE *Informal Group of Friends of the Chair on Combating Terrorism*, which has become an excellent medium for interaction between the Secretariat and participating States as well as a major forum for reviewing implementation of anti-terrorism commitments and elaboration of the OSCE's response to emerging terrorist threats.

Support for the ratification and implementation of the 12 UN anti-terrorism instruments remains a core function of the Unit. The ATU partnership with the UN and the ODIHR in workshops and bilateral consultations has contributed to a four per cent rise in the region's ratification rate over the last year, bringing it up to 92 per cent.

Another key function of the ATU is to provide counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to OSCE participating States. In 2005, the ATU organized four major OSCE region-wide expert workshops on:

- *Container Security*, funded by the United States, Slovenia and Sweden;
- *Enhancing Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters Related to Terrorism*, funded by Germany, the U.S., Liechtenstein and Sweden;
- *Suicide Terrorism*, funded by the U.S.; and
- *Combating the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes*, funded by the OSCE's unified budget.

Participation in these events included representatives from nearly all participating and Partner States as well as relevant international organizations. Follow-up actions have been initiated, including national training workshops and closer co-operation with specialized international organizations.

Continuing efforts to strengthen travel document security in the OSCE region, the ATU launched a new series of workshops on the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) standards for the handling and issuance of passports with a workshop for south-eastern Europe in Sofia, funded by the U.S., and another for Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan. These workshops are designed to assist participating States in the implementation of their commitment to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls relating to the issuance of identity papers and travel documents.

To foster timely information exchange among counter-terrorism practitioners, the ATU maintains a Counter-Terrorism Network, an Internet-based network designed to facilitate the flow of information between participating States, counter-terrorism officials in the States' capitals and the ATU. It also publishes a monthly electronic newsletter providing practical counter-terrorism training and capacity-building information.

To avoid duplication of efforts, the ATU regularly keeps inventories of all OSCE and non-OSCE counter-terrorism, border secu-

rity and law enforcement programmes in the region. The ATU provides this information to OSCE programme planners and holds workshops to inform them about counter-terrorism related activities in the region.

The ATU maintains a website containing information on current OSCE anti-terrorism programmes and activities and links to key organizations and partners in the fight against terrorism.

www.osce.org/atu

Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

The range of activities in the OSCE's economic and environment dimension expanded further in 2005, especially with regard to environmental activities, the combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the fight against corruption and against the trafficking in human beings. The enhanced activity is based on the *2003 Strategy Document for the Economic and Environment Dimension*, the Slovenian Chairmanship's choice of priorities, the 13th Economic Forum as well as follow-up from previous forum meetings.

Economic forums. The office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) assessed the recommendations made at the 13th Economic Forum, held in May 2005, under the theme *Demographic Trends, Migration and Integrating Persons belonging to National Minorities: Ensuring Security and Sustainable Development in the OSCE Area* and suggested concrete follow-up in the three selected fields, for instance by developing a *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination* in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration.

In co-ordination with the 2006 Belgian Chairmanship, preparations have started for the 14th Economic Forum on the topic of *Transportation in the OSCE Area: Transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability*. The first part of the Forum was held in Vienna on 23 and 24 January; the second part will be held in Prague from 22 to 24 May 2006. The first preparatory conference for the 14th Forum was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 7 and 8 November.

Environmental activities

Progress on Environment and Security Initiative. The Environment and Security Initiative continued to implement its work programme for south-eastern Europe, the southern Caucasus and Central Asia. The in-depth assessment of the environmental situation in the Fergana Valley was completed

and launched. (More information on the initiative can be obtained at www.envsec.org.)

Disposal of hazardous waste and rocket fuel component. A joint OSCE-NATO Technical Workshop was organized in Kyiv from 6 to 8 July on the disposal of rocket fuel component. In co-ordination with NATO, several needs assessment missions followed to Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. The melange disposal project in Armenia continued. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

Awareness-raising. The OCEEA supported the setting up of environmental information centres (Aarhus centres). In 2005, centres were established in Yerevan, Baku, Dushanbe, Osh (Kyrgyzstan) and Khudjand (Tajikistan). Plans for further centres are underway for Ganja (Azerbaijan), Tbilisi and South Ossetia (Georgia), Bishkek, Tashkent and Minsk. An environmental education programme (the *Green Pack*) is underway in Azerbaijan and Belarus.

Water management projects. The OCEEA and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) continued to support a project to facilitate an agreement between the two riparian states to the Dniestr River – Ukraine and Moldova, including the Transdnestr region – on how to develop co-operation on integrated water resource management in the Dniestr river basin. Other activities in river monitoring continued on the rivers Chu and Talas between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and on the Sava River through Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro.

Economic activities. Working closely with OSCE field operations, the OCEEA promoted the development of good governance, business opportunities and entrepreneurship within the OSCE region. In this context, it provided assistance in project development and extra-budgetary funding to support technical training for small- and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurial training seminars for youth, women and other vulnerable population

groups, as well as economic summer camps for young people.

Combating money laundering and financing of terrorism. In the framework of the Global Programme against Money Laundering, the OCEEA and the UNODC continued to support participating States in their efforts to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, in particular through a high-level conference on combating terrorist financing held in Vienna from 9 to 11 November, a workshop for financial sector supervisors held in Vienna in June and several national workshops. Co-operation also continued on establishing or supporting financial intelligence units in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania and Uzbekistan. A financial intelligence unit is a central, national agency responsible for receiving, analysing and disseminating to the competent authorities, financial information concerning suspected proceeds of crime and potential financing of terrorism, in order to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.

Anti-trafficking programme. The OCEEA's *Anti-Trafficking Programme on Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings* was implemented in line with the OSCE

Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings to focus on the economic root causes and demand factor of trafficking as well as to mobilize the private sector in counter-trafficking activities. The Programme is a three-year umbrella programme, which currently consists of 13 project activities being implemented in eight OSCE participating States, including among others the empowerment of orphans in Ukraine. (For more on this topic, please see the box on page 14.) Other activities in 2005 included a project on *Public-Private Co-operation in Economic Empowerment for Potential Victims of Trafficking* through Vocational Training in Romania in co-operation with the International Business Leaders Forum's *Youth Career Initiative* and a project on *Women Entrepreneurship Training and Business Plan Competition* in Azerbaijan.

Education. The OCEEA continued to support the multi-year initiative *Central Asia Applied Research Network* by the Eurasia Foundation. The aim of the initiative is to strengthen institutional and human capacity in applied economic research among regional universities and research institutions in Central Asia.

Report of the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre

"In 2005, the CPC continued to be a key player in promoting co-ordination among the various operational structures of the OSCE. The heads of field operations, Institutions, and thematic units of the Secretariat are now increasingly working together to support the implementation of thematic and regional programmes to further advance security and stability in the OSCE area."

**Ambassador Lamberto Zannier,
Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre**

The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) co-ordinates the activities of the OSCE's field operations and assists them in the implementation of their mandates. It is also the focal point in the Secretariat for developing the OSCE's role in the politico-military dimension. In particular, the CPC is responsible for supporting the Chairmanship, the Secretary General and the decision-making bodies in implementing OSCE tasks in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The CPC comprises:

- the Mission Programme Section, which acts as the primary point of co-ordination and liaison with the OSCE field operations;
- the Project Co-ordination Cell, which provides support to field operations in the planning, development and evaluation of extra-budgetary projects;

- the Operations Unit, which plans future operations, identifies potential crisis areas by providing early warning and analysis, and is the focal point for border security and management issues;
- the Situation/Communication Room, which monitors developments in the OSCE regions and serves as an emergency crisis cell;
- the Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit, which provides advice and expertise to the politico-military dimension of security.

Mission Programme Section. The Mission Programme Section consists of four regional desks, covering south-eastern Europe, eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Mission Programme Officers responsible for these regions provide support and advice to the respective field operations on policy matters and on programmatic and managerial – including budgetary – issues. They also share and analyse with the Chairmanship early warning signals coming from the field and counsel on the most appropriate way forward. At the same time, they help prepare visits by the Chairman-in-Office, the Secretary General, and other OSCE officials to the field. They co-ordinate the preparation of Chairman-in-Office (CiO) visit files on substance, provide strategic advice, prepare visit reports, and ensure the appropriate follow-up.

In 2005, the **South-Eastern Europe Desk** actively supported the Chairmanship-in-Office in co-ordinating the work of the six

OSCE field operations in this region. This not only ensured that the OSCE remains effectively engaged in south-eastern Europe – one of the main priorities of the Slovenian OSCE Chairmanship – but also that it significantly contributes to consolidating the overall progress achieved since the OSCE became involved in the region.

The Desk further co-ordinated joint efforts by OSCE field operations and the Chairmanship in planning and organizing two follow-up meetings within the framework of the OSCE-facilitated process on inter-state co-operation in war crime proceedings launched in November 2004 in Palic, Serbia. One of the expert-level meetings took place in Brijuni, Croatia, in June; another in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in October 2005. In Brijuni, the expert meeting was preceded by a trilateral ministerial conference. The constructive exchange of views gave renewed impetus to the joint work of experts as the ministers expressed their full support for the work carried out within the framework of this process. The OSCE stands ready to facilitate further discussions at the political level, in support of the work at expert level.

The Desk devoted particular attention to the Kosovo issue, contributing to shaping a coherent and comprehensive policy meant to guide the future work of the OSCE in Kosovo/Serbia and Montenegro, in close interaction with its Partners of Co-operation.

The **Eastern Europe Desk** increased general support to its field operations in the area as the region gained greater attention in the different OSCE forums. Notable changes were the designation of two new heads of field operations, in the OSCE Office in Minsk and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the latter following the death of Ambassador David Nicholas.

The Desk also helped the Chairmanship to engage with developments in Transnistria with a view to strengthening efforts in the negotiations towards the peaceful settlement of on-going conflicts. The resumption of the Transnistria negotiation process and the *Yushchenko plan* provided the process with new impetus. The Desk further assisted the office of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in satisfying the increased demand by the State authorities for projects.

The **Caucasus Desk** focused in 2005 on assisting the field operations in the region in their activities, particularly those relating to the settlement of on-going conflicts. For example, the Desk supported the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the CiO on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference in their preparations for and during a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories around Nagorno-Karabakh. At the beginning of the year, the Desk also assisted the Mission to Georgia to develop and implement plans for the closure of its Border Monitoring Operation, and helped identify requirements for the establishment of a Training Assistance Programme for Georgia's border guards. Finally, it provided a liaison function between the OSCE Secretariat, the International Election Observation Mission and the OSCE Office in Baku during the November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan. Following dynamic political developments in the region, the **Central Asia Desk** took active part in the preparation of the high-level visits of the CiO, the Secretary General and the Personal Representative of the CiO to the countries in the region. In April,

the CPC supported the Chairmanship in reacting quickly and effectively to the deteriorating developments in Kyrgyzstan. The Director of the CPC worked together with the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Central Asia to facilitate a process of political dialogue and negotiation and to identify, together with the Kyrgyz authorities, key areas of assistance from the OSCE. As a result of their visit to Bishkek, a concrete work plan was set up, which identified major priorities for the OSCE presence in Kyrgyzstan in the short and long term. This also included a list of individual projects. The activities identified in the work plan were related to the preparations for the presidential election on 10 July and to the support of law enforcement agencies. (For more on this topic, please see page 21.)

The Project Co-ordination Cell. The OSCE field operations are increasingly implementing large and complex projects, both from budgetary and extra-budgetary resources. In close co-operation with the Mission Programme Section, the Project Co-ordination Cell supports the co-ordination of field operations' activities funded through extra-budgetary contributions with those implemented by the Institutions and the Secretariat. The Cell provides an effective channel for sharing views and technical expertise among field operations, Institutions and the Secretariat. In 2005, the Cell co-ordinated the assessment of 115 extra-budgetary projects planned by field operations with a combined value of over €31.2 million.

The Cell also supports programme managers in field operations in the planning, development and evaluation of their projects and programmes. Based on a resource manual developed together with the Department of Human Resources in 2003, the Cell continued to actively update and disseminate project management tools as a consolidated approach to project management. In line with the OSCE *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*, the Cell initiated the streamlining of gender aspects into the development and planning of field operations' projects.

Operational planning, liaison and analysis. The Operations Unit continued to be a key tool in supporting the Chairmanship and the participating States in operational planning. Background briefings and presentations were provided to representatives and high-ranking visitors of the participating States, and the Unit's small analytical team assisted the Secretary General, the Chairmanship and the participating States' delegations with background papers, analysis and speech writing. It played a major role in assisting the Chairmanship with the preparations, conduct and follow-up to the *Annual Security Review Conference* held in June. Discussions within all four sessions of the Conference led to a fruitful exchange of views and information on current major security issues, in particular anti-terrorism, border security and management and comprehensive security, as well as ideas to set strategies and define priorities for the coming year.

With the aim of developing and improving operational links with partner organizations, the Unit participated in the NATO Crisis Management Exercise in January and in the first EU-UN exercise study on co-operation in crisis management, both civilian and military, in April. The Unit also attended a series of events in London and Geneva, where recommendations were prepared for the 6th UN-Regional Organizations High-Level meeting in New York in July. It actively shared lessons learnt, situation assessments and

exchanged information on ongoing field activities during regular staff level meetings with partner organizations.

Border security and management. The team of experts established in the Operations Unit to deal with border management and security issues, held the second phase of the *OSCE South-Eastern Europe Cross-Border Co-operation Programme*. This phase of the two-year programme consisted of a series of five workshops, four within the Programme proper and one within a consortium of the *Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization (CARDS)*. This consortium promoted the implementation at an operational level of a number of cross-border agreements along land and sea borders and inter-agency co-operation as well as measures to curtail illegal immigration. Following the completion of the Programme's second phase, the Conflict Prevention Centre will evaluate the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of this programme to extract lessons which could be applied in other OSCE regions.

Following requests from participating States, the team conducted assessment visits to Central Asia, Georgia, and Belarus in order to provide technical assistance in improving border management and security.

The Operations Unit also supported the informal *Working Group on an OSCE Border Security and Management Concept* in drafting the Concept, which was adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana in December.

Situation/Communications Room. The Situation/Communications Room (Sit Room) provides a 24 hour/7 day-a-week service to the OSCE. The team of duty officers remains the central point of contact for the Organization, particularly out of working hours. Among its many services, the Sit Room ensures a continued media survey on relevant events and information dissemination during times of crisis and supports medical evacuation of staff members in distress. Through its constant monitoring of media outlets, the Sit Room fulfils an early warning function for the Secretary General. In 2005, Sit Room staff attended meetings with representatives of Situation Centres of other international organizations in New York and Brussels to establish a better information exchange.

Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit. The FSC Support Unit provides support and expertise to the FSC Troika and to OSCE delegations by submitting detailed quarterly and monthly reports regarding the implementation of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures by participating States. In 2005, it played a major role in assisting the Chairmanship with the preparations, conduct and follow-up to the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in March and to the second *Annual Security Review Conference* in June.

This year, the Unit assisted participating States with nine assessment visits and with the development of projects on small arms and light weapons (SALW), conventional ammunition and rocket fuel component (*Melange*). Examples of such activities include: the successful implementation of projects in Tajikistan; the development of project plans on SALW in Belarus and on hazardous munitions in Ukraine and Kazakhstan; and the evaluation of the *Melange* problem in a number of OSCE States. These activities

were held in close co-operation with the OSCE field operations. The Unit provides field operations with expert advice on the issues relating to the development and implementation of projects. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)



On 6 June, an OSCE Assessment Team visited Kazakhstan. Here they viewed some of the small arms and light weapons to be destroyed.



The Assessment Team also visited the conventional ammunition destruction facilities of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defence in Kapchagay. Specialists showed them the process of dismantling shells.

The Unit actively contributed to the *Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*, held in New York from 11 to 15 July. Supported by the participating States' delegations to the FSC, it organized and conducted an *OSCE side event devoted to the OSCE Activities to Assist Participating States in SALW-Related Areas*. It also participated in a number of preparatory events in the run-up to the Biennial Meeting of States 2005, in particular conferences in Beijing (Asian region including Central Asian Republics) and Algiers (League of Arab States); on the parliamentary oversight of armed forces in Prague (CIS countries); and in support of the OSCE's Partners for Co-operation.

The Unit also fostered co-ordination with NATO regarding the implementation of a number of projects. In order to increase the efficiency of assessment visits it organized a workshop in Kazakhstan on 1 and 2 June that explored problems related to stockpile security and destruction of small arms and light

weapons and conventional ammunition. The OSCE-NATO *Joint Technical Workshop on Rocket Fuel Component (Melange)*, held from 6 to 8 July in Ukraine, facilitated the identification of possible approaches to address this problem.

The OSCE Communications Network, which provides direct communications links between the capitals of participating States for the exchange of military information, was further upgraded in 2005. A new operating system and simplified network archi-

ture enhanced its efficiency, reliability and security. The Unit's Communication Network Cell operates the network and chairs the OSCE Communications Group, through which delegations provide their necessary input and oversight. The technical improvements make the Network even simpler and cheaper for all participating States to carry out their reporting commitments in the politico-military dimension.

www.osce.org/cpc

Department of Human Resources

The OSCE Secretariat's Department of Human Resources completed the rollout of the new Human Resources Management System with the January implementation of the Integrated Resource Management Agenda's (IRMA) Payroll and Labour Distribution modules in all OSCE Institutions and field operations. The completed rollout means that all the main human resource functionalities, including recruitment, training, and the administration of salaries and entitlements, have been streamlined and integrated onto one platform. This enhances reporting facilities and management control. The system, however, still requires improved usability and functionality. Since its implementation, the Department has provided continuous support and training on IRMA to Institutions and field operations.

The late approval of the 2005 Budget and Post Table meant that the Department could not advertise new posts in the first quarter of the year. However, new and improved procedures that shortened the period of time required to select and recruit staff helped offset the negative impact this caused. The Department issued 99 vacancy notices for contracted positions, attracting 8,878 applicants. During the year, 88 interview boards were held and some 440 candidates interviewed. The Department processed 2,700 nominations for seconded positions, resulting in the deployment of a total of 278 candidates to field operations and Institutions.

The Personnel Section assisted field operations and Institutions in all areas of human resource administration, but mainly with regard to policy direction and the accurate and consistent

application of staff regulations and rules. Consultations with the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance on the amendment of a number of staff regulations and rules, begun in 2004, have continued and, as a result, a number of changes were approved in March, July and September. The changes, which focus on social security issues, included an agreement that individual staff contributions could be transferred from the UN pension fund to the OSCE Provident Fund, and the implementation of a new health insurance provision for temporary incapacity, which provides enhanced conditions and protection for OSCE staff and the Organization.

The Training Section focuses on providing new staff with a smooth and efficient integration into the OSCE. In 2005, over 300 newly recruited OSCE officials attended one of 19 General Orientation "GO" Programmes, held in the Secretariat, prior to their arrival in Institutions and field operations. The Training Section directly manages the training needs of the Secretariat. It organized 28 seminars on relevant topics for some 220 staff members. In accordance with the OSCE's training strategy, it provided increased support to pre-mission training activities in participating States. The Section expects that demand for this type of support will continue in the future, especially in specialized fields such as election observation. In October, the second OSCE meeting on training and recruitment was held in Vienna, with the participation of more than 60 training and recruitment experts from capitals and representatives from the Secretariat, Institutions and field operations.

Department of Management and Finance

The Department of Management and Finance (DMF) is the managerial, financial and administrative service and support department of the OSCE. It comprises Conference Services, Finance Services, Mission Support, Information and Communication Technology, Central Records and Documents Management (CRDM) and the Prague Office.

IRMA and management reforms. The DMF has been at the forefront of the OSCE's management reforms. The reforms, initiated in 2001 in response to OSCE's rapid growth, aimed at increasing the Organization's capacity to turn policy decisions into concrete operations with speed and flexibility, while improving cost-efficiency, transparency and accountability to participating States.

At the centre of the reforms is the *Unified Budget process* – a key tool for the Permanent Council in directing the work of the OSCE. After the Permanent Council endorsed the principle of programme budgeting, the DMF has improved the format, clearly linking programme objectives to programme resources.

In 2005, the management reforms reached a decisive stage and the OSCE's operational activities are now managed through a common, modern and integrated IT-based management system called *IRMA* – Integrated Resource Management system. *IRMA* calls for assigning clear responsibilities, authorities and lines of accountability. Accordingly, the regulatory framework was remodeled to reflect streamlined operational requirements and simplified work processes.

The regulatory framework now comprises 29 Instructions – 12 Provisional Financial and Administrative Instructions and 17 Staff Instructions. The last five Instructions were issued during 2005 and addressed the Unified Budget, Records and Document Management, Premises Management, Official Travel Management and Policy on Use of Computing Resources.

Another critical component of the management reforms is the *Doc.In* documents management system. Initiated in 2003 to improve the way the OSCE manages its knowledge and information, *Doc.In* will be fully rolled out to all OSCE locations by January 2006.

To provide OSCE Delegations access to reliable and up-to-date information on operational activities, the *Delegates' Website* is linked to a specifically developed "Dashboard" providing easy access to information such as meeting schedules, official OSCE documents as well as up-to-date and on-line IRMA reports on OSCE operational activities.

Election support to Afghanistan. As in 2004 – then for the presidential election – the OSCE sent an Election Support Team to Afghanistan. The operational and administrative components of the mission, which was dispatched to support the country's first parliamentary election in over 30 years, were carried out by a team of volunteers from DMF based in the Team's headquarters in Kabul. The difficulties in operating in such a distant and relatively hostile environment were considerable, but the Mission was successfully raised, conducted and completed at very short notice.

New Secretariat premises in Wallnerstrasse. In late 2007, the OSCE Secretariat and Representative on Freedom of the Media will move to new premises in a historic building – Palais Palfy in Wallnerstrasse 6. The premises, provided by the Austrian Government, are currently being refurbished. DMF is actively following the progress of the construction works. The premises will improve the OSCE's visibility by consolidating the Vienna-based offices in one representative building in the heart of Vienna.

Supporting meetings and conferences. Conference Services provide support to the respective Chairmanships and participating States of the OSCE, Joint Consultative Group and Open Skies Consultative Commission, as well as to the OSCE Secretariat in preparing for and conducting meetings and conferences.

In 2005, Conference Services also co-organized a number of events outside Vienna such as the Economic Forum Meeting in Prague, the Cordoba Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance, the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana and the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in Tbilisi.

Prague Office. As the initial seat of the CSCE Secretariat (1991), the Prague Office inherited the historical collections of CSCE/OSCE conference documents and is the oldest institutional unit of the Organization. The core task of the Office – also known as the Research and Documentation Centre – is to efficiently preserve and make available OSCE legacy documents to its participating States and to academic researchers. In March, the Office moved to new premises in the embassy quarter, provided by the host country.

Throughout 2005, the Office worked closely with Conference Services and CRDM in building up the *Doc.In* database by posting over 3,500 files. It also welcomed 11 Master's and Ph.D. candidates in its *Researcher-in-Residence* programme and made presentations on OSCE activities to some 380 visitors. The Office provided support in launching the new public website and managing the on-line document library as well as the official mailing list. The Office continues to provide extensive support to events in Prague including the OSCE Economic Forum and the meetings of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Looking ahead. In 2006, the DMF will continue to consolidate information, procedures, support structures and reporting via the "Dashboards", to ensure that the benefits of the reforms are fully realized and the new management philosophy takes root. The Department will pay particular attention to providing training and support to administrative and programme staff, and to addressing management and systems issues arising from the implementation of IRMA. DMF will also play a key role in supporting the Secretary General's mandate by further enhancing the transparency and accountability of the budget process, through establishing clear strategic objectives with stronger links to programme activities and by making outputs increasingly results-oriented and measurable.

Partnerships for Security and Co-Operation

Interaction between organizations and institutions in the OSCE area

In 2005, the OSCE strengthened relations with partner organizations and institutions, such as the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, as well as with other regional and sub-regional organizations concerned with the promotion of security and stability in the OSCE area. Closer co-operation and better co-ordination with partner organizations responded to the decisions of the participating States, in particular the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit in 1999, the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century adopted at the Maastricht Ministerial Council in 2003 and other relevant Ministerial Council decisions.

Discussions on OSCE reform emphasized the importance of close partnerships. In their final report, the Panel of Eminent Persons underscored that “co-operation and co-ordination with other actors strengthen common and comprehensive security within the OSCE area”. The report called for further development of the relationship with the UN and the CoE as well as enhancing pragmatic and even-handed co-operation with other regional and sub-regional organizations. At the ensuing high-level consultations, held in September in Vienna, many delegations noted that the OSCE needed to identify ways to further improve co-operation and co-ordination with other organizations.

Such co-operation was also discussed at the OSCE *Annual Security Review Conference* in June in Vienna, where participating States demonstrated broad agreement on the importance of close co-operation and synergy of various international actors. Several organizations and institutions with security-related mandates participated in the two-day event, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the CoE, GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova), NATO, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, the UN Development Programme and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

At the end of the year, the 13th Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana adopted a number of decisions that underscored the importance of maintaining and building upon relations with partner organizations as an essential aspect in implementing those decisions and promoting comprehensive security in the OSCE area.

Consequently, the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and field operations maintained active contacts and co-operation with their counterparts in other international, regional and sub-regional organizations. The Secretariat’s Section for External Co-operation served as the focal point for fostering relations with partner organizations and institutions, as well as with the OSCE Partner States.

In 2005, new dynamics characterized the development of the OSCE’s relations, particularly with the UN and the Council of Europe. With the UN, the OSCE participated in and contributed to a number of meetings within the framework of UN co-operation with regional organizations that culminated in the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1631, in which the Council expressed its determination to further develop co-operation between the UN and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

The partnership with the CoE was enhanced in April with the adoption of a declaration on co-operation between the two organizations and the launching of the OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group.

The OSCE took part in the traditional annual high-level Tripartite meeting bringing together the OSCE, the UN, and the CoE in Strasbourg in February. Discussions focused on the rule of law as a basic prerequisite for promoting security, stability and sustainable development across the continent. Representatives of the European Union Institutions (the Commission and Council Secretariat), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) took part in the meeting that was preceded by a working level target-oriented meeting on freedom of expression.

The OSCE also participated in the Steering Group on the future arrangements in Kosovo together with the UN, EU and NATO.

The OSCE *Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance*, which took place in Cordoba, Spain, in June, gathered several international and regional organizations and institutions such as the CoE, the League of Arab States, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia as well as the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research also participated.

In the fight against terrorism, the OSCE Secretary General addressed the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee for the first time. A series of Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) workshops served to enhance collaboration with various UN bodies, the European Union, the Council of Europe, NATO, CIS, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), G8 and INTERPOL. ATU also worked closely with the International Civil Aviation Organization, IOM and EU, to strengthen travel document security in the OSCE region.

The office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities worked with international financial institutions and partner organizations, in addressing, money laundering, financing of terrorism, business development, small- and medium-sized enterprises, good governance, human-capacity building and environmental problems. In relation to the 13th Economic Forum

that discussed demographic trends, migration and integration, the office also worked closely with the IOM and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

In 2005, the first meeting took place between the OSCE Senior Police Advisor, the Head of the Police Division in the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the Head of the EU Council Secretariat Police Unit.

The Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit convened three high-level OSCE conferences related to victim assistance and protection, combating child trafficking and trafficking for forced labour exploitation and forced and bonded labour. These conferences were held within the framework of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons, an open forum of international organizations and NGOs. An Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team was established at the working level to enhance co-operation through information exchange, joint anti-trafficking strategies and donor co-ordination. In 2005, the ATAU convened three such meetings which led to the OSCE's direct contribution to the EU Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

As part of an ongoing process of exchanging information on international Roma-related initiatives, the ODIHR co-organized three meetings of the Informal Contact Group on Roma with the involvement of a number of international organizations, including the recently established European Roma and Travellers Forum.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media continued close co-operation with other international organizations such as the CoE, in particular on legal issues, and UNESCO, whose representatives participated in meetings organized by the Representative and vice versa. The Representative also worked with NGOs that provided legal reviews, delivered information on media freedom on the Internet and monitored media developments. In December, the three special rapporteurs on freedom of expression of the OSCE, the UN and the Organization of American States issued a joint declaration on the Internet and freedom of expression and on the need to protect civil liberties during the fight against terrorism.

The OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly continued its close co-operation with other parliamentary institutions such as the European Parliament, the CoE's and NATO's Parliamentary Assemblies, the Assembly of the Western European Union and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS. The OSCE PA President participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which was attended by more than 100 Speakers from around the world.

In the field, the OSCE continued its tradition of inviting representatives of international organizations to regional Heads of Mission meetings to exchange information on existing and planned activities and to discuss co-operation.

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference assisted

the High-Level Planning Group in fulfilling its mandated tasks. Contact was maintained with organizations such as the EU, CoE, UNHCR, ICRC and various international NGOs, on issues related to prisoners of war, missing persons and detainees as well as on the situation of internally displaced persons and refugees as well as de-mining questions.

United Nations

The UN and OSCE substantially strengthened their relations. The OSCE participated in a series of events that culminated in the adoption of a UN Security Council Resolution on co-operation between the UN and regional organizations.

On 25 and 26 July in New York, the *Sixth High-Level Meeting of UN, Regional and Intergovernmental Bodies* took place with the participation of 20 organizations. The Secretary General represented the OSCE. The meeting addressed issues such as dialogue among civilizations, co-operation in peacekeeping, protection of civilians in armed conflict, disarmament and the protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism. The OSCE Secretariat and the ODIHR were involved in the preparatory process by providing input to three meetings (held in March, April and June). The high-level meeting adopted a Joint Statement recognizing the need for a more structured relationship between the UN and regional and other intergovernmental organizations as well as a Joint Statement on *Partnership among Civilizations*.

"The task now ahead of us is to make sure that our co-operation mechanisms work as well as possible. They must be effective, efficient, and mutually reinforcing. They must be flexible and responsive to our rapidly changing and integrating world. And they must be consistent with the Charter and advance its principles and purposes."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, at the Security Council meeting on UN co-operation with regional organizations

In October, the Security Council held a meeting on UN co-operation with regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. The OSCE Secretary General emphasized that with 55 participating States and 18 field missions, the Organization was well placed to assist the UN Security Council in dealing with regional conflicts, preventing conflict, transmitting data and analysis and implementing relevant decisions and resolutions of the UN Security Council. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a Security Council Resolution in which the Council expressed its determination to further develop co-operation between the UN and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

The OSCE continued to promote ratification of the 12 Universal anti-terrorism instruments and the drafting of anti-terrorism legislation. ATU organized two expert anti-terrorism workshops, on *Enhancing Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters Related to Terrorism* in collaboration with the UN CTC Executive Directorate and UNODC and on *Suicide Terrorism* with the UN Interre-

gional Crime and Justice Research. UN representatives took part in OSCE workshops on container security and combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

The OSCE opened a new chapter in its relations with the UN when the Permanent Council decided on 19 May to take on greater responsibility by monitoring war crimes cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro. The OSCE Secretariat's Legal Services Section responded to ICTY requests for waivers of immunity of former and current employees who were requested to testify at the ICTY and provided relevant documentation to the ICTY.

The OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues addressed the 49th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on the role of regional organizations in promoting gender equality. She participated in various UN expert and regional meetings in preparation for the UN Secretary-General's study on violence against women.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, co-operating with the UNODC Global Programme against Money Laundering and the World Bank, ran workshops in interested participating States on combating money laundering and suppressing the financing of terrorism. Co-operation was maintained with UNDP, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and NATO on the Environment and Security Initiative. The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) also contributed to some projects, such as on the sustainable development of the Dniestr River between Ukraine and Moldova. UNECE will join ENVSEC as a main partner in 2006.

With reference to the politico-military dimension, the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre contributed to the *Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects* held in July in New York. Supported by the delegations of the Forum for Security Co-operation, the Conflict Prevention Centre conducted a Side Event on *OSCE Activities to Assist Participating States in SALW Related Areas*. In the run-up to the Biennial Meeting, the Centre participated in a number of preparatory events, in particular conferences held in Beijing, Algiers and Prague. It also contributed to a report of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research on *Strengthening European Action on SALW and Explosive Remnants of War* completed in November.

The Centre also participated in the third meeting of the Forum on Conflict Prevention for Central Asia organized by the UN Department for Political Affairs and hosted by the Tajik Government in Dushanbe in December. Participants discussed problems and interlinkages of terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime in Central Asia. The meeting concluded with a proposal to establish a regional analytical centre on conflict prevention in Central Asia.

The ODIHR worked with the UNHCHR, the UNHCR and the UNODC to develop joint activities related to the protection of

human rights, including of *non-refoulement* of trafficked persons, and the analysis of case materials on the implementation of the UN Palermo Protocol. The ODIHR contributed to relevant UN meetings on extradition and protection of human rights in counter-terrorism, tolerance and non-discrimination and promoting gender equality.

The UNHCR offered regular contributions to OSCE informal working groups and various high-level meetings. The UNHCR Liaison Unit in Vienna maintained frequent contacts and consultations with the OSCE Chairmanship, participating States, the Secretariat and other Institutions on issues such as the situation of the Uzbek refugees in Kyrgyzstan.

Relations between the OSCE field operations and the UN were particularly close in *south-eastern Europe*. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo forms a distinct component of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, the so-called Pillar III. It takes the lead in institution- and democracy-building and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law. It collaborated with various UN entities in general human rights monitoring and capacity-building. The OSCE Mission will strengthen co-operation with the UN Mission's Department of Civil Administration (former Pillar II) at the municipal level with a view to a gradual handover of functions and responsibilities to the OSCE. Co-operation on refugee returns, human rights, rule of law, democratization and the Kosovo Police School continued.

In conjunction with various UN entities, a number of projects were carried out in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro involving refugees, national minorities and gender equality. The Missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Serbia and Montenegro worked with the UNDP, EUFOR and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe on the destruction of small arms and light weapons.

Southern Caucasus. The Mission to Georgia supported the UN-led peace process in Abkhazia, Georgia and, as in the past, seconded a staff member to the UN Human Rights Office there. In the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the Mission closely co-operated with UNDP and UNHCR on a large rehabilitation programme funded by the European Commission. The Office in Yerevan and UNDP worked on human dimension issues such as anti-corruption, anti-trafficking, elections, gender and the ombudsman institution. In Baku, the Office, UNHCR and IOM promoted anti-trafficking and balanced media coverage with respect to diversity.

In *eastern Europe*, the OSCE Mission to Moldova acted with various UN agencies, national and NGO actors to fight child trafficking and to improve the situation of minors and women in Transdnistria. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine carried out a programme on human rights awareness and education together with UN entities and other organizations, such as USAID, the British Council and Transparency International.

In *Central Asia*, field operations interacted with UN agencies to support the five participating States in strengthening institu-

tion-building, economic development, combating organized crime, gender issues and raising awareness on general human rights issues. Co-operation spanned regional projects linked to anti-terrorism and the ENVSEC Initiative. For example, the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, together with UNODC and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, organized a regional workshop on the implementation of universal anti-terrorism instruments. The OSCE Centre in Dushanbe co-operated with the UN Tajikistan Office of Peace-building and other international actors in helping the Tajik Central Commission for Elections and Referenda organize the February parliamentary elections.

European Union

The enlargement of the European Union, the adoption of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the appointment of the EU Special Representatives for Moldova and Central Asia further promoted OSCE-EU relations.

In January, the Foreign Minister of Luxembourg representing the EU Presidency addressed the Permanent Council. He underscored the significance of enhanced EU-OSCE co-operation as well as the importance of the OSCE's contribution to the promotion of good governance, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General participated in two EU-OSCE Ministerial Troika meetings, one during each Presidency. Two meetings of the EU Political and Security Committee-OSCE Ambassadorial Troika also took place.

In October, the Secretary General of the OSCE addressed the EU Political and Security Committee in Brussels. He called on EU Member States to remain committed to the OSCE's further development and modernization and for the EU and OSCE to improve their complementary roles. The Secretary General held bilateral meetings with the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy/Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union and the European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy.

The High Representative and EU Special Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus briefed the OSCE Permanent Council on developments in their areas of responsibility. At the working level, the OSCE hosted the third EU-OSCE staff meeting in July. The European Commission participated in the work of the OSCE bodies through its Delegation to the International Organizations in Vienna.

In April, the CPC participated in the first EU-UN Exercise Study on co-operation in civilian and military crisis management. ODIHR officials explained the OSCE's human dimension at EU events linked to training for civilian aspects of crisis management and human rights concerns in the fight against terrorism. In the field of elections, the European Parliament participated in ODIHR observation missions to parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan,

Moldova, Albania and Azerbaijan, and to presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. In June, the ODIHR participated in a briefing in Brussels for European parliamentarians on its election observation missions.

With regard to tolerance and non-discrimination, the ODIHR increased co-operation with the EUMC, including by participation in high- and working-level inter-agency meetings, such as the ODIHR's expert meeting in March on hate crime data collection and in the development of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia information databases.

In *south-eastern Europe*, the OSCE missions worked closely with EU representatives on issues such as refugee return, national minority rights, police development and judicial and electoral reform.

The OSCE Presence in Albania and the EU held consultations to promote, for example, electoral and judicial reform, human rights, property reform and a non-monopolistic bill on digital broadcasting.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro, the OSCE Missions played a leading role in the "3x3" regional returns process on resolving regional returns-related issues by the end of 2006. With the assistance of the OSCE, the EC and UNHCR, the initiative aims to implement the Sarajevo Declaration on Return signed in January through effective and regular inter-state contact among the three countries.

In Serbia and Montenegro, a complementary partnership was developed with the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) on legal reform, including media development and law enforcement activities. The two organizations co-operated in particular in support of the implementation of the Roma Action Plan adopted by the Serbian government and on public administration reform in Montenegro.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo implemented the Bar Exam Training Project as well as a project to establish a comprehensive legal aid system for Kosovo funded by the EAR. With respect to the EU's Strategic Action Plan on Capacity-Building Tracking Mechanism for Kosovo, the OSCE Mission provided extensive input on such matters as governance, elections and referenda. The Mission worked closely with the European Commission's Office in Kosovo on legislation establishing the Independent Media Commission.

The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje participated in weekly meetings convened by the Office of the EU Special Representative to co-ordinate the international community's activities in the country. The Mission regularly exchanged security-related information with representatives of EUPOL Proxima and the EU Monitoring Mission. Together with EUPOL Proxima and the Ministry, the Mission oversaw police conduct investigations.

In Croatia, the Mission worked closely with the European Commission delegation on refugee return and advocated a legal framework for civil society development and a civil society strategy.

In **eastern Europe**, the Mission in Moldova co-operated with the EU Special Representative for Moldova on issues related to the settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict. They focused on the political negotiation process, the monitoring of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, democratization of the Transdniestrian region and the monitoring of Transdniestrian military-industrial enterprises. In Minsk, *ad hoc* meetings took place with visiting representatives of the EC Delegation in Kyiv.

In Ukraine, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator worked with the EC delegation on border projects and participated in periodic meetings initiated by the delegation on judiciary reform assistance. With financial assistance from the European Union, the office assisted the Ukrainian Central Election Commission in its effort to create a voter registry.

Southern Caucasus. In Armenia, the European Commission participated in the anti-corruption working group chaired by the OSCE Office in Yerevan. In Georgia, the Mission co-ordinated policing assistance with the EC delegation. The OSCE and the EC regularly exchanged information on developments related to the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian conflicts. The European Commission entrusted the Mission with the management of a large rehabilitation programme in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and provided support to the OSCE economic Needs Assessment Study. The EU granted funds to the Mission in support of activities of the Georgian and South Ossetian sides within the Joint Control Commission on the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

Central Asia. The Centre in Almaty co-organized events with the EC Delegation on legislative issues concerning extremism, national security and non-commercial organizations. The Centre in Ashgabad expanded co-operation with TACIS (Technical Assistance for the Cities of the Independent States, a programme sponsored by the European Commission), mainly in the area of capacity-building of customs officials, computer and English-language training and assistance to Voluntary Farmers' Associations. The Centre in Bishkek received EU support for its Police Assistance Programme and upheld a working relationship with the EU Border Management Programme for Central Asia and Central Asian Drug Action Programme. The OSCE in Kyrgyzstan worked with EU-TACIS on issues of developing small business and attracting direct foreign investment, while the Centre in Tashkent co-operated with the EuropeAid EU Programme Project to support the newly established bicameral parliament of Uzbekistan.

Council of Europe. Relations between the OSCE and CoE were underpinned by a series of important strides that concluded with a Declaration on Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. Adopted in April (PC.DEC 670), it encouraged the two organizations to work together and explore various forms of enhancing their co-operation. The Declaration was welcomed by Heads of State and Government at the Third CoE Summit (Warsaw, 16 and 17 May). A joint meeting between the OSCE Permanent Council and the CoE Committee of Ministers convened on 18 April in Strasbourg to focus on drafting the declaration.

Another significant step took place with the first meeting of the OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group in March, which was established to promote enhanced synergies and complementarity between the two organizations. The Co-ordination Group decided to target four areas for enhanced co-operation: the fight against terrorism, combating trafficking in human beings, promoting intolerance and non-discrimination and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The second meeting of the Co-ordination Group on 30 September in Strasbourg reviewed progress.

Regular high- and expert-level meetings also took place focusing on a number of regional and thematic issues of mutual interest. In February in Strasbourg, the 14th high-level "2+2" meeting between the OSCE and the CoE was held with the participation of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the Chairman of the CoE Committee of Ministers and the two Secretaries General. A Joint Declaration was issued after the meeting stressing the two organizations' important roles in promoting security, co-operation, peace and stability across the continent and creating a Europe without dividing lines based on the core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Similarly, in July in Strasbourg, the 8th annual "3+3" meeting at the level of senior officials between the CoE and OSCE was held. Participants focused on country- and region-specific developments and various thematic issues including examples of good practices and lessons learnt in the field.

In their respective addresses to OSCE Permanent and Ministerial Council meetings and the annual Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the two Secretaries General focused on pragmatic approaches in co-operation.

"We work together because the Council of Europe and the OSCE share the same concerns about the future of Europe and have the common goal of making our continent a better, safer and fairer place."

Terry Davis, Secretary General of the CoE at the 13th Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana.

On 17 November in Strasbourg, the Secretaries General of both organizations signed an OSCE-CoE Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in south-eastern Europe. Based on many years of close co-operation in the field between the CoE and the OSCE, the agreement aims to assist the countries concerned in benefiting more efficiently from the OSCE's experience in implementing local government assistance programmes and encourages them to comply with international standards on local governance.

Another example of enhanced co-operation was the convening of an inter-agency meeting on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in September in Paris, in which representatives from the UN, the ODIHR, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the CoE and the EUMC.

The ODIHR continued to work with the CoE on legal reform in OSCE participating States, gender equality and women's participation in democratic processes, local governance, elections, human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination and Roma- and Sinti-related issues. The ODIHR and the Venice Commission jointly reviewed draft constitutions and constitutional amendments in various participating States, as well as draft primary legislation on specific constitutional rights and anti-trafficking legislation.

The ODIHR worked closely with the CoE's Parliamentary Assembly and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, whose delegations took part in ODIHR observation missions to presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan; parliamentary elections in Moldova, Albania, and Azerbaijan; and municipal elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The ODIHR co-ordinated analysis of election-related legislation with the Venice Commission and published joint recommendations on legislation in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities actively participated in Co-ordination Group meetings and submitted proposals for further developing co-operation on national minority issues.

In **south-eastern Europe**, the OSCE Presence in Albania co-operated extensively with the CoE on electoral reform, media development and the implementation of a Best Practice Programme for Albanian local government units. It also continued ongoing co-operation on judicial reform.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission and the CoE worked together on the implementation of the *Beacon Scheme*, an initiative to raise standards in municipal government, on the development of entity-level laws on local self-government and on the issuance of the Roma Informal Settlements Report.

In Serbia and Montenegro, the OSCE Mission and the CoE provided advice on legal issues such as judicial and police reform, media legislation, civil society issues and refugee legal protection. They also co-operated on capacity-building such as the development of a national training strategy for local government officials.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo worked with the CoE to develop a framework for local governance reform and to ensure effective democratic governance at the local and regional level. They co-operated in training the Media Committee members of the Assembly of Kosovo and improving the central and municipal government's conformity with the CoE *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*.

The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje worked with the CoE on rule of law, police reform, alleviation of ethnic tensions and free access to the media. The Mission and the CoE also conducted seminars for lawyers in private practice. They worked with the EC and the Stability Pact Task Force in drafting the Law on Broadcasting and assisted the Interior Ministry in drafting a Code of Ethics.

In Croatia, the recent signing of the OSCE-CoE *Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in South East Europe* reinforced work undertaken in good governance projects. In relation to the Roma national minority, co-operation took place on electoral reform. Together with the ODIHR and the Venice Commission, the Mission organized a roundtable on the bill on the State Election Commission.

In **eastern Europe**, the OSCE Mission to Moldova co-operated closely with the CoE in promoting freedom of the media and democratic reforms. The Mission had almost daily contact with the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the CoE and jointly encouraged education authorities on both sides of the Nistru River to continue negotiations on the functioning of Moldovan schools in Transdnistria.

In the **southern Caucasus**, the OSCE Office in Yerevan co-operated closely on human rights with the CoE, particularly by monitoring the legislative process. Joint initiatives concerned the Electoral Code, the *Law on Conducting Public Gatherings, Rallies, Demonstrations and Marches* and on combating corruption. The OSCE Office in Baku and the CoE supported implementation of the right to freedom of assembly by training police and security forces.

Human rights, systemic reform and anti-money laundering were the main fields of co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE Mission in Georgia. In addition, the Mission disseminated the CoE's human rights manuals, liaised with the CoE on cases of individual human rights violations and conducted consultations in the area of anti-trafficking and anti-torture. They collaborated on the establishment of a Higher School of Justice and provided the Georgian authorities with technical assistance in drafting legislation related to restitution of property rights for the victims of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

NATO

The OSCE and NATO improved and deepened co-operation with a view to meeting new challenges in a changing security environment. Regular contacts took place at senior political and expert level.

In January, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed the North Atlantic Council, underscoring the importance of a number of joint activities in all three dimensions. In November, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office also addressed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. He highlighted key areas of co-operation such as joint work in south-eastern Europe, disposing of small arms and light weapons and combating terrorism. The NATO Secretary General addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 3 November and met bilaterally the OSCE Secretary General.

Regular OSCE-NATO staff meetings held at the level of the respective headquarters provided the necessary framework for dialogue on a wide range of issues, including combating terror-

ism, economic and environmental activities, border management, small arms and light weapons, regional issues and the Mediterranean dialogue. With the aim of developing and enhancing operational links with NATO, the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre participated in the NATO Crisis Management Exercise in January. The CPC fostered co-ordination with NATO in implementing a number of projects, including the OSCE-NATO Joint Technical Workshop on Rocket Fuel Component held in Kyiv, Ukraine in July.

"In NATO, the OSCE will find a strong and co-operative partner. NATO has broadened its agenda and it has done so in line with the objectives shared by the OSCE (...) Over the past 10 to 15 years, Europe has made great strides, but it still remains unfinished business. The OSCE will have to continue to play a major role if our common goal of a continent that is whole, free and secure is to be realized."

Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary General in his address to the Permanent Council on 3 November.

OSCE-NATO co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension continued to be productive, in carrying out joint projects on the disposal of rocket fuel components, combating money laundering and financing of terrorism, in particular in organizing a high-level conference on combating terrorist financing in Vienna in November, but also within the ENVSEC initiative.

The OSCE and NATO established close co-operation in Afghanistan, where the two organizations had complementary roles to play. The OSCE Election Support Team was deployed to Afghanistan for the period of 21 August to 2 October, during which NATO, in the form of the International Stabilization Force (ISAF), agreed to provide *in extremis* support to OSCE staff.

Representatives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly participated in the NATO PA Annual Session in November.

In **south-eastern Europe**, the OSCE Mission in Albania maintained close consultative contacts with the NATO Sub-regional Command on subjects of common interest. With the aim of creating an effective parliamentary oversight mechanism, the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the NATO Tailored Co-operation Programme and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces organized bilateral visits between Bosnia and Herzegovina and countries that shared comparably sized armed forces facing similar challenges in reform and stabilization.

In Serbia and Montenegro, the OSCE Mission and NATO supported defence reforms and strengthening the democratic control of the defence and security sector in such areas as parliamentary oversight and border security issues. The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje co-ordinated efforts in monitoring the political and security situation with NATO headquarters in Skopje. The Mission also took part in fortnightly security meetings chaired in rotation by EUPOL Proxima, OSCE and NATO.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo maintained close links with the NATO-Kosovo Stabilization Force (KFOR), which provided a secure environment for the Mission's activities in Kosovo. KFOR appointed a liaison officer to the OSCE, while OSCE Offices in the field regularly interacted with KFOR by exchanging information and recommending action. The Mission co-operated with KFOR on issues related to the justice system and respect and protection of property rights. OMIK's co-operation with KFOR led to a joint capacity-building effort to raise qualitative standards of local radio and TV stations.

In **eastern Europe**, by sharing information, the OSCE Mission in Moldova assisted the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency project for the disposal of pesticides and dangerous chemicals. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine worked with the NATO Office in Kyiv, concerning social adaptation of former military personnel. Together with the NATO Resettlement Programme, the Project Co-ordinator also ensured the continuation of a successful re-training programme for discharged officers.

In the **southern Caucasus**, the missions worked with NATO in the framework of the South Caucasus River Monitoring project. The Mission in Georgia exchanged information with NATO on their respective activities related to the disposal of obsolete weapons. The OSCE Office in Yerevan implemented a project to neutralize 872 tons of rocket fuel component. In co-ordination with NATO, and following the Azerbaijani Government's request, the OSCE conducted a Needs Assessment Mission to check the need for soil remediation in Azerbaijan and the disposal of other hazardous chemicals.

In **Central Asia**, NATO provided an expert on civil emergency planning for the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad's roundtable on cross-boundary co-operation. Co-operation also continued within the ENVSEC initiative. NATO's newly-appointed Liaison Officer for Central Asia established contacts with the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre and field presences.

Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. The OSCE and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe have co-operated in all three dimensions at the level of headquarters and in the field on issues such as small arms control, defence conversion, integration of the regional energy sector, refugee returns, parliamentary capacity-building, Roma and Sinti and anti-trafficking.

The Secretary General of the OSCE and the Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe discussed co-operation at a bilateral meeting. The Special Co-ordinator addressed the Permanent Council in June, noting the organizations' joint work particularly in the field. The OSCE PA continued co-operation in the framework of the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact, along with the CoE PA and the European Parliament.

The OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre continued to implement the *Ohrid Border Security and Management Way Forward Document in close co-operation with the EU, NATO and the Stability Pact*, in particular by developing the second phase of the OSCE

South-East Europe Cross-border Co-operation Programme. This Programme consisted of a series of five seminars held in the region to develop operational aspects of cross-border management agreements on issues such as transition to border policing, joint training exercises, co-operation of law enforcement agencies and “blue-border” (seas, rivers and lakes) issues.

The SPMU’s Police Affairs Officer in charge of crime maintained regular contact with counterparts of the Stability Pact initiative to fight organized crime, including attending policy level meetings. Another important area of co-operation between the two organizations focused on implementing the Ohrid Process for Border Management and Security. In addition, OSCE field work on issues of combating organized crime and corruption and the media was linked to the Stability Pact’s work in those areas.

International Organization for Migration. Co-operation between the OSCE and IOM continued at headquarters and field level. The IOM participated in the high-level and target-oriented Tripartite Meetings between the UN, CoE and the OSCE in February in Strasbourg, in the Ljubljana Ministerial Council as well as a number of other OSCE conferences and meetings, including the OSCE Economic Forum and its preparatory seminars.

Both organizations worked closely on anti-trafficking and migration in south-eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The OSCE Presence in Albania worked with IOM and UNHCR to implement a project, funded by the EU, on pre-screening asylum-seekers and migrants. The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission in Skopje together with UNICEF, IOM and others drafted an *Action Plan against Trafficking in Children*. The OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro co-operated with the IOM Mission in the framework of the National Referral Mechanism. The Mission to Croatia and IOM supported the Croatian Government’s Office for Human Rights in organizing an international conference against human trafficking held in October. A project combating trafficking in Ukraine, funded by the EU-TACIS, was implemented by IOM in partnership with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator. The OSCE Centre in Almaty interacted with IOM and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development with respect to the development of a national anti-trafficking plan. The OSCE Centre in Dushanbe and the IOM financed an information resource centre aimed at potential migrants.

In co-operation with the IOM, the ODIHR launched a new project in the Russian Federation related to the state programme on the regularization of migrant workers. The ODIHR and the IOM also undertook joint efforts in developing a mechanism for collecting data and exchanging information on migration issues to provide participating States with reliable migration-related data.

International Committee of the Red Cross. At the headquarters level, the ICRC participated in the high-level and target-oriented Tripartite Meetings and relevant OSCE conferences and events, including the Ljubljana Ministerial Council. A delegation of the ICRC visited the OSCE Secretariat in January to meet representa-

tives of various departments and units in order to learn more about their activities, share information and discuss co-operation.

In the field, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission in Skopje co-operated with ICRC on access to prisoners. In Moldova, the two organizations followed the detention of two members of the Iliascu group in Transdnistria and detention conditions in both Moldova and Transdnistria. The ICRC and the OSCE exchanged information on monitoring of prison and police custody facilities in Kyrgyzstan.

Co-operation with other regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives. In April, the OSCE Secretary General participated in the 9th meeting of the GUAM Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Summit of GUAM Heads of State in Chisinau, Moldova. In May, he represented the OSCE at the 8th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the South East European Cooperation Process in Bucharest, Romania. In May, he also participated in the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Central European Initiative (CEI), which took place under the CEI Presidency of Slovakia in Tatranska Lomnica, while in November the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General participated in the CEI Summit of Heads of Government in Piestany, Slovakia. In August, the President of the OSCE PA attended and addressed the 14th Session of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference. In December, the Secretary General attended the Forum of Community of Democratic Choice in Kyiv, Ukraine.

In July, the Executive Secretary of the CIS visited the OSCE Secretariat. In January, representatives of the OSCE Secretariat took part in a conference organized by the CSTO in Moscow. In April, the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings participated in the CIS Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Interiors in Minsk, Belarus. The SPMU maintained contact with the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative in Bucharest. The OSCE Mission to Croatia held consultations with the Migration Asylum Refugee Return Initiative as part of the South East European Cooperation Process, whose Secretariat is based in Skopje.

A number of representatives of regional and subregional organizations and initiatives, among them the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the CEI, the CIS, the CSTO, GUAM, and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, attended the OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana on 5 and 6 December. Regional and sub-regional organizations were regularly invited to other relevant OSCE events.

Interaction with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and organizations and institutions outside the OSCE Area

The Secretariat, together with the OSCE Troika, further strengthened relations in 2005 with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation. The main focus was the implementation of recommendations contained in the Harkonen report following a Ministerial Council decision adopted in Sofia on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation.¹

In 2005, co-operation with organizations and institutions beyond the OSCE region was further developed, in particular in the context of the *Sixth High-Level Meeting between the United Nations and Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations* (New York, 25 and 26 July). Relations were marked by increased cross participation in relevant activities as well as enhanced sharing of information, experiences and lessons learnt.

Co-operation between the OSCE and its Mediterranean and Asian Partners. A number of recent Ministerial Council documents, such as the Maastricht Strategy to address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, as well as the Sofia decision, underlined the importance of deepening dialogue with the OSCE's Partner States, in recognition of the transboundary and transregional nature of modern security threats. The Harkonen report provided important guidance in pursuing this goal. In this process, the Section for External Co-operation provided continued support and advice to the Belgian and Bulgarian chairs of the Mediterranean and Asian Contact Groups.

Apart from the regular work in the Contact Groups, 2005 was marked by three central events. On 25 and 26 April, in Seoul, the OSCE-Korea conference on New Security Threats and a *New Security Paradigm* gathered participants from the OSCE and Asia. In his opening statement, the OSCE Secretary General highlighted the relevance of the Conference given the prominence of new security threats and increased interdependence on security issues in a globalized world.

The Head of External Co-operation presented the OSCE's strategy for addressing new security threats. Following the September 11 attacks, the OSCE reviewed its priorities and instruments and added new capacities. The OSCE co-operated with other organizations and partner States and acknowledged the potential spillover of security threats to adjacent regions.

In their conclusions, the Co-Chairmen (represented by the host country and the OSCE Chairmanship) stated that the conference provided an interesting exchange of ideas on the definition of new security threats and their manifestation. Strengthening relations between the OSCE and the ASEAN Regional Forum was also highlighted as a major recommendation of the conference.

The Secretary General was invited to address a Thailand conference on *Sharing of Experiences in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: Opportunities for Co-operation* (Bangkok, 16 and 17 June). He underscored the Conference's timeliness as it followed up one of the conclusions of the 2002 OSCE-Thailand Conference, which called for strengthening co-operation between the OSCE and Asian regions to effectively address issues such as human trafficking. He pointed out that combating trafficking in human beings topped the OSCE agenda, demonstrated by the 2004 appointment of a Special Representative of the CiO on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings as well as the creation of an Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit in the OSCE Secretariat. Conference participants discussed human trafficking in Asia and Europe; the critical role of legal and law enforcement measures in combating human trafficking; and regional solutions and models for co-operation. In the concluding summary, the Chairperson suggested strengthening relations between the OSCE and the Bali process.

On 8 and 9 September in Rabat, Morocco, the annual OSCE Mediterranean Seminar took place and addressed *The Role of the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co operation in Migration and Integration Policies*. The Secretary General stressed that the event was an indication of a growing trans-Mediterranean consensus on shared security interests and concerns, as well as of a widening of common values and principles. Terrorism, migration, social and cultural integration and finding ways of maintaining security while respecting human rights were major political issues in the Mediterranean region, the OSCE area and around the world.

With regard to the main theme of the Seminar, he emphasized the cross-dimensional character of migration. Economic, environmental, cultural and security implications must all be addressed when considering migration. To do so, participants called for continued dialogue in the OSCE context between countries of origin, transit and destination. Some of the proposals arising from the

¹ See the Report of the Chairman-in-Office and the Reports of the Chairmen of the respective Contact Groups with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and Asian Partners for Co-operation

discussion included measures aimed at facilitating the integration of migrants and of special contracts between the migrant and the host country.

Continuing its deepening dialogue with the OSCE's Partner States, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held its third Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean (Sveti Stefan, 9 October). In his opening address, the President of the OSCE PA reiterated the Assembly's determination to enhance the Mediterranean dialogue in the OSCE, as was stressed in the OSCE PA July Washington Declaration. In his keynote presentation, the OSCE Secretary General focused on prospects after the Rabat Conference, and highlighted the OSCE's co-operation with other organizations on improving dialogue amongst civilizations.

A representative of the External Co-operation Section participated in a workshop on *OSCE experiences in promoting democracy and co-operative security: an inspiration for the Mediterranean Partners and beyond?*, held in Istanbul on 3 to 5 March. The event, in which 35 experts and representatives from both governments and civil society in the Mediterranean participated, was organized by the Danish Institute of International Studies, the Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation. Participants discussed initiatives to include OSCE experiences and lessons learnt in areas such as election observation, the role of women and the possible creation of a regional conflict prevention research institute in the Mediterranean.

Following invitations from the Palestinian Authority, the OSCE Chairmanship tasked the Secretariat and the ODIHR to send a Training Needs Assessment Team for a short-term, one-time visit to the Palestinian Territories to observe the 9 January presidential elections. The Team spent 7 to 13 January in the Palestinian Territories, identifying areas in which the OSCE might offer expertise to the Palestinian Authority and to Palestinian civil society and presented them to the Permanent Council.

The second OSCE Election Support Team was deployed to Afghanistan for the National Assembly and Provincial elections of 18 September. (For more on this topic, please see page 23.)

The OSCE Ministerial Troika and counterparts from the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation met before the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana. Participants welcomed the more regular consultations on issues of mutual interest in 2005. The Secretary General expressed strong support for further strengthening the dialogue between the OSCE and its Partners.

Co-operation with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE Area. The *Sixth High-Level Meeting between the United Nations and Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations* (New York, 25 and 26 July) and the UN Security Council meeting on UN co-operation with regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security (New York, 17 October) provided regional organizations the opportunity to expand relations among themselves and to deepen knowledge about each other's roles and

mandates. In that context, on the margins of the Sixth High-Level meeting, the Secretary General of the OSCE held bilateral discussions with his counterparts, including the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the African Union.

The Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference addressed the Permanent Council for the first time on 14 November. He recalled the importance of promoting, protecting and improving shared common values of different cultures and of enhancing tolerance, dialogue and co-operation within and among nations and peoples. A bilateral discussion took place between the Secretaries General of the two organizations.

Mutual interest in exchanging practices on anti-terrorism, including through bilateral contacts and sharing of best practices, continued to be central to co-operation between the OSCE Secretariat's Action Against Terrorism Unit and regional organizations such as those mentioned above and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization. The Head of ATU briefed a conference in Algiers on *Building Counter-terrorism Capacity in Africa and Sub-regional Organizations* which was organized by the US National Defense University and the African Union's Centre for Strategic Studies. He also met representatives of the African Union and staff of the Union's Algiers-based Counter-Terrorism Centre with whom he discussed their partnership with the OSCE.

The Action against Terrorism Unit shared its experience in counter-terrorism at a regional seminar on Combating Terrorism (Cairo, 17 and 18 February) held by the League of Arab States, while the League participated in two OSCE workshops on counter-terrorism.

Upon the request of the Secretary General of LAS, the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons was translated into Arabic and launched in April as a model for co-operation in sharing experience between regional organizations. Germany sponsored the translation.

Given the establishment of the African Union's Election Unit and Election Fund, the ODIHR shared its expertise and information on election-related issues. In June, a Union official visited the ODIHR and discussed election observation methodologies as part of an ongoing dialogue between the two organizations.

As in the past, the OSCE-Asian Partner activities and the OSCE Mediterranean Seminar provided the opportunity for interface between the OSCE and regional organizations. Eleven ASEAN Regional Forum member States participated as observers in the OSCE-Korea Conference, seven in the Thailand Conference. At the Mediterranean Seminar in Rabat, League of Arab States and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization took part. The League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated in the *OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and other forms of Intolerance*. Representatives of the ARF, the League of Arab States and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization took part in the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana.

Annex Statistics of OSCE staff

International staff in Missions/Centres/Offices

Nationality	OSCE Mission in Kosovo	OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	OSCE Mission to Croatia	OSCE Mission to Georgia	OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje	OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro	OSCE Mission to Moldova	OSCE Presence in Albania	OSCE Centre in Almaty	OSCE Centre in Ashgabad	OSCE Centre in Bishkek	OSCE Centre in Dushanbe	OSCE Centre in Tashkent	OSCE Office in Baku	OSCE Office in Minsk	OSCE Office in Yerevan	The Pers. Rep. of the CIO on Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	Total for Missions/Centres/Offices
Albania	1	1																	2
Armenia	1														1				2
Austria	10	5	2	5	3			2	1		1			1				1	31
Azerbaijan	1	1			1														3
Belarus					3		1	1				1							6
Belgium	5	2			1	2													10
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4			1		2													8
Bulgaria	14	3		5		2		1		1		2			1				28
Canada	6	1		1		1													9
Croatia					2														2
Czech Republic		1	1	3	1		1	3								1	1		12
Denmark	2					1													3
Estonia	1		1	3	1	1													7
Finland		1	1	3		1		1		1									9
France	10	11	6	7	5	3		5		1	1	2	1	1	1				54
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia				2															2
Georgia	2	1	1		2														6
Germany	30	7	2	3	8	6	2	1	1	1	1			1		1		1	65
Greece	3	1	1																5
Hungary	1	2		2				1		1		1					1		9
Iceland																			0
Ireland	3	4		1	3	3		2											16
Italy	11	7	6		5	6				1	2			1					39
Japan					1														1
Kazakhstan																			0
Kyrgyzstan		2													1				3
Latvia				1								1							2
Liechtenstein																			0
Lithuania		1	1	2								1							5
Luxemburg																			0
Malta																			0
Moldova	2		1	1		1					1		1			1			8
Netherlands	3	1	1		1	2		1				1				1			11
Norway		1			1	5	1		1			1							10
Poland	4	1	2	7	2		2											1	19
Portugal	2	1			2	1													6
Romania	9	1	1	2	3	2					1								19
Russian Federation	2	6		4	1							3				1			18
Serbia and Montenegro																			0
Slovakia	1	1	2	1		1							1						7
Slovenia	2	2			1	2													5
Spain	7	2	1		3	2												1	13
Sweden	8	3	1	1	1	2		2	1						2				22
Switzerland		1		1							1								3
Tajikistan	2	1			1														4
Turkey	6	1		2	10	3													23
Turkmenistan																			0
Ukraine				2	4						1							1	9
United Kingdom	18	6	4	4	8	6	1	2						1			1		51
United States	26	20	5	7	7	7	2	3	1	1		1	1			2		1	83
Uzbekistan			1																1
Total	197	99	41	71	81	58	10	25	4	6	10	16	4	6	5	8	6	4	651

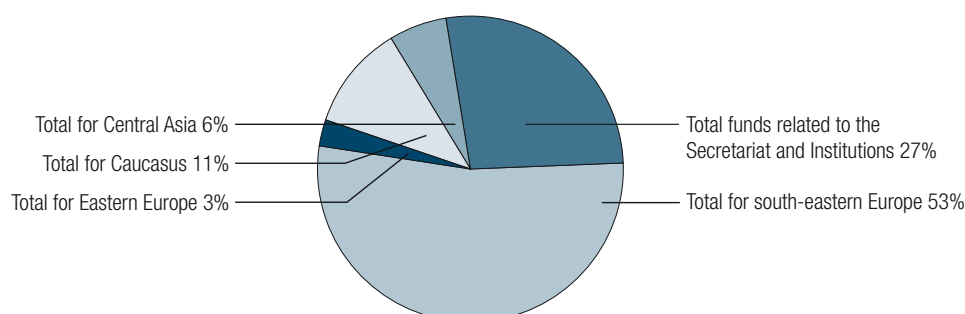
Total numbers of internationally recruited staff in Missions, Secretariat and Institutions

Nationality	Missions	%	Secretariat and Institutions	%	GRAND TOTAL	%
Albania	2	0.3	0	0.0	2	0.2
Armenia	2	0.3	2	0.8	4	0.4
Austria	31	4.8	16	6.7	47	5.3
Azerbaijan	3	0.5	1	0.4	4	0.4
Belarus	6	0.9	5	2.1	11	1.2
Belgium	10	1.5	4	1.7	14	1.6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8	1.2	2	0.8	10	1.1
Bulgaria	28	4.3	8	3.3	36	4.0
Canada	9	1.4	9	3.8	18	2.0
Croatia	2	0.3	2	0.8	4	0.4
Czech Republic	12	1.8	2	0.8	14	1.6
Denmark	3	0.5	4	1.7	7	0.8
Estonia	7	1.1	1	0.4	8	0.9
Finland	9	1.4	3	1.3	12	1.3
France	54	8.3	13	5.4	67	7.5
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2	0.3	0	0.0	2	0.2
Georgia	6	0.9	4	1.7	10	0.8
Germany	65	10.0	24	10.0	89	1.1
Greece	5	0.8	1	0.4	6	10.0
Hungary	9	1.4	2	0.8	11	1.2
Iceland	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.1
Ireland	16	2.5	2	0.8	18	2.0
Italy	39	6.0	10	4.2	49	5.5
Japan	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Kazakhstan	0	0.0	2	0.8	2	0.2
Kyrgyzstan	3	0.5	2	0.8	5	0.6
Latvia	2	0.3	2	0.8	4	0.4
Liechtenstein	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lithuania	5	0.8	0	0.0	6	0.7
Luxemburg	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.1
Malta	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.1
Moldova	8	1.2	7	2.9	15	1.7
Netherlands	11	1.7	7	2.9	18	2.0
Norway	10	1.5	1	0.4	11	1.2
Poland	19	2.9	9	3.8	28	3.1
Portugal	6	0.9	0	0.0	6	0.7
Romania	19	2.9	6	2.5	25	2.8
Russian Federation	18	2.8	13	5.4	31	3.5
Serbia and Montenegro	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.1
Slovakia	7	1.1	1	0.4	8	0.9
Slovenia	5	0.8	1	0.4	6	0.7
Spain	13	2.0	6	2.5	19	2.1
Sweden	22	3.4	7	2.9	29	3.3
Switzerland	3	0.5	4	1.7	7	0.8
Tajikistan	4	0.6	0	0.0	4	0.4
Turkey	23	3.5	3	1.3	26	2.9
Turkmenistan	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.1
Ukraine	9	1.4	5	2.1	14	1.6
United Kingdom	51	7.8	18	7.5	69	7.8
United States	83	12.7	21	8.8	104	11.7
Uzbekistan	1	0.2	3	1.3	4	0.4
Total	651	100.0	239	100.0	890	100.0

2005 Revised Unified Budget

Fund	Revised budget PC.Dec/715	% of total
I. FUNDS RELATED TO THE SECRETARIAT AND INSTITUTIONS		
The Secretariat	27,319,300	17.14%
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)	11,963,700	7.51%
High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)	2,697,600	1.69%
Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM)	1,095,800	0.69%
Total funds related to the Secretariat and Institutions	43,076,400	27.02%
II. FUNDS RELATED TO OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS		
South-eastern Europe		
Mission to Kosovo	34,147,300	21.42%
Tasks in Bosnia and Herzegovina	17,583,300	11.03%
Mission to Croatia	9,218,800	5.78%
Mission to Serbia and Montenegro	9,324,000	5.85%
Presence in Albania	3,658,300	2.30%
Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje	11,061,500	6.94%
Total for south-eastern Europe	84,993.200	53.32%
Eastern Europe		
Mission to Moldova	1,485,700	0.93%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	1,650,100	1.04%
Office in Minsk	858,500	0.54%
Representative to the Estonian Commission on Military Pensioners	105,000	0.07%
Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners	8,300	0.01%
Total for Eastern Europe	4,107,600	2.58%
Caucasus		
Mission to Georgia	12,324,800	7.73%
Office in Yerevan	1,460,900	0.92%
Office in Baku	1,593,500	1.00%
High Level Planning Group	172,600	0.11%
The Minsk Process	511,300	0.32%
Personal representative of the CiO on the Conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference	966,900	0.61%
Total for Caucasus	17,030,000	10.68%
Caucasus		
Centre in Almaty	1,683,900	1.06%
Centre in Ashgabad	1,050,600	0.66%
Centre in Bishkek	2,454,800	1.54%
Centre in Tashkent	1,275,900	0.80%
Centre in Dushanbe	3,728,900	2.34%
Total for Central Asia	10,194,100	6.40%
Total for funds related to the OSCE field operations	116,324,900	72.98%
TOTAL BUDGET	159,401,300	100.00%

2005 Unified Budget by region



Press and Public Information Section
OSCE Secretariat
Kärntner Ring 5-7
A-1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: +43 1 514 36 180
Fax: +43 1 514 36 105
info@osce.org

www.osce.org

OSCE INSTITUTIONS

Parliamentary Assembly
Radhusstraede 1
1466 Copenhagen K, Denmark
Tel.: +45 33 37 80 40; Fax: +45 33 37 80 30
E-mail: osce@oscepa.dk

**Office for Democratic Institutions
and Human Rights**
19 Aleje Ujazdowskie
00-557 Warsaw, Poland
Tel.: +48 22 520 06 00; Fax: +48 22 520 06 05
E-mail: office@odhr.pl

**OSCE High Commissioner
on National Minorities**
Prinsessegracht 22
2514 AP The Hague, The Netherlands
Tel.: +31 70 312 55 00; Fax: +31 70 363 59 10
E-mail: hcnm@hcnm.org

**OSCE Representative
on Freedom of the Media**
Kärntner Ring 5-7
A-1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: +43 1 512 21 45-0; Fax: +43 1 512 21 45-9
E-mail: pm-fom@osce.org

OSCE FIELD OPERATIONS

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

OSCE Presence in Albania
Rruga Donika Kastrioti, Vila 6
Tirana, Albania
Tel.: +355 4 235 993; Fax: +355 4 235 994
E-mail: Post.Albania@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
Fra Andjela Zvizdovica 1
71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel.: +387 33 752 100; Fax: +387 33 442 479
E-mail: info.ba@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Croatia
Florijana Andraseca 14
10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel.: +385 1 309 66 20; Fax: +385 1 309 66 21
E-mail: osce-croatia@osce.org

OSCE Mission in Kosovo
Beogradska 32
38000 Pristina,
Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro
Tel.: +381 38 500 162; Fax: +381 38 500 188
E-mail: press.omik@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro
Cakorska 1
1100 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro
Tel.: +381 11 367 24 25; Fax: +381 11 367 24 29
E-mail: omisam-spokesperson@osce.org

OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje
QBE Makedonija Building, 11 Oktomvri Str. 25,
MK-1000, Skopje
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tel.: +389 2 3234 000; Fax: +389 2 3234 234
E-mail: info-mk@osce.org

EASTERN EUROPE

OSCE Office in Minsk
Prospekt Gasety Pravda 11
Minsk 220116, Belarus
Tel.: +375 17 272 34 97; Fax: +375 17 272 34 98
E-mail: office-by@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Moldova
Str Mitropolit Dosoftei 108,
2012 Chisinau, Moldova
Tel.: +373 22 22 34 95; Fax: +373 22 22 34 96
E-mail: secretary-md@osce.org

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
16 Striletska St.
01054 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel.: +380 44 492 03 82; Fax: +380 44 492 03 83
E-mail: osce-ukraine@osce.org

**OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian
Joint Commission on Military Pensioners**
OSCE Secretariat, Kärntner Ring 5-7, 2nd floor
A-1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: +43 1 514 36 560; Fax: +43 1 514 36 96
E-mail: helmut.napiontek@osce.org

**OSCE Representative to the Estonian
Commission on Military Pensioners**
Pärnu mnt. 15, 7th floor, Kawe Plaza
10141 Tallinn, Estonia
Tel.: +372 665 1762; Fax: +372 665 1763
E-mail: oscerepresentative@osce.ee

CAUCASUS

OSCE Office in Baku
4, M. Magomayev lane, 2nd floor,
Icheri Sheher
Baku AZ1004, Azerbaijan
Tel.: +994 12 497 23 73; Fax: +994 12 497 23 77
E-mail: office-az@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Georgia
Krtsanisi Datcha No. 5,
0114 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel.: +995 32 24 42 01; Fax: +995 32 77 96 15
E-mail: pm-ge@osce.org

**Personal Representative of the
OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict
Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference**
4 Freedom Square, GMT Plaza, 1st floor,
Tbilisi, 0105 Georgia
Tel.: +995 32 99 87 32; Fax: +995 32 98 85 66
E-mail: prcio@osce.org

OSCE Office in Yerevan
89 Teryan St., Yerevan 375009, Armenia
Tel.: +374 1 54 10 65; Fax: +374 1 54 10 61
E-mail: yerevan-am@osce.org

CENTRAL ASIA

OSCE Centre in Almaty
67 Tole Bi Street, 2nd Floor
Almaty, 480091 Kazakhstan
Tel.: +7 3272 79 37 62; Fax: +7 3272 79 43 88
E-mail: almaty-kz@osce.org

OSCE Centre in Ashgabad
Turkmenbashi Shayoly 15
744005 Ashgabad, Turkmenistan
Tel.: +993 12 35 30 92; Fax: +993 12 35 30 41
E-mail: info_tm@osce.org

OSCE Centre in Bishkek
139 St. Toktogula
Bishkek, 720001 Kyrgyzstan
Tel.: +996 312 66 50 15; Fax: +996 312 66 31 69
E-mail: pm-kg@osce.org

OSCE Centre in Dushanbe
12, Zikrullo Khojaev Str,
734017 Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Tel.: +992 372 24 58 79, +992 372 24 33 38;
Fax: +992 372 24 91 59
E-mail: cid-tj@osce.org

OSCE Centre in Tashkent
Afrosiyob Street 12 B, 4th floor,
700015 Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan
Tel.: +998 71 120 44 70; Fax: +998 71 120 61 25
E-mail: osce-cit@osce.org

Abbreviations

ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum	MP	Member of Parliament
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
ASRC	Annual Security Review Conference	NGO	non-governmental organization
ATAU	Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit	NRM	National Referral Mechanism
ATU	Action against Terrorism Unit	OAS	Organization of American States
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina	OCEEA	Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities
BMO	Border Monitoring Operation	ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
BSEC	Black Sea Economic Co-operation	OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
CACO	Central Asian Co-operation Organization	OIC	Organization of the Islamic Conference
CAYN	Central Asian Youth Network	PA	Parliamentary Assembly
CBSS	Council of Baltic Sea States	PACE	Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly
CEC	Central Election Commission	PC	Permanent Council
CECS	Central Election Commission Secretariat	PCU	Project Co-ordination Unit
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	PISG	Kosovo's Provisional Institutions of Self-Government
CEI	Central European Initiative	RACVIAC	Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre
CIo	Chairman-in-Office	REACT	Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams
CFE Treaty	Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty	ALW	small arms and light weapons
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	SCO	Shanghai Co-operation Organization
CPC	Conflict Prevention Centre	SECI	Southeast Europe Co-operation Initiative
CSBMs	confidence- and security-building measures	SEE RIGHTS	South-Eastern European Regional Initiative in South-Eastern Europe
CSCE	Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe	SFOR	NATO-led Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
CSEECp	South East European Co-operation Process	SHDM	Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization	SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
EAR	European Agency for Reconstruction	SPMU	Strategic Police Matters Unit
EC	European Commission	SPTF	Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights	SRCC	Sub-Regional Consultative Commission
ENVSEC	OSCE-UNDP-UNEP Environment and Security Initiative	TACIS	Technical Assistance for the Cities of the Independent States, a programme sponsored by the European Commission
EU	European Union	UN	United Nations
EUSR	EU Special Representative	UNCTC	UN Counter-Terrorism Committee
FSC	Forum for Security Co-operation	UNDP	UN Development Programme
GUUAM	Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova	UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
HCMN	High Commissioner on National Minorities	UNEP	UN Environment Programme
HLPg	High-Level Planning Group	UNHCHR	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	UNIFEM	UN Development Fund for Women
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia	UNMIK	UN Mission in Kosovo
IDPs	internally displaced persons	UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
IFES	International Foundation for Election Systems	UNOHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
IOM	International Organization for Migration	USAID	US Agency for International Development
IRMA	Integrated Resource Management System	YES	Young Entrepreneur Seminar
JCC	Joint Control Commission		
JPKF	Joint Peacekeeping Forces		
KFOR	NATO-led Kosovo Force		
KPS	Kosovo Police Service		
MANPADS	man-portable air defence systems		

EDITOR | **Sharman Esarey**

PRODUCTION EDITOR | **Alexander Nietzsche**

DESIGN AND TYPESETTING | **red hot 'n' cool**

ART DIRECTOR | **Damir Krizmanic**

Press and Public Information

OSCE Secretariat

This is not a consensus document.

