



ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE (22 to 28 June)

OSCE Chairman-in-Office visited economic projects in zone of Georgian-Ossetian conflict and called for greater co-operation on security

TBILISI, 22-23 June 2006 - During his two-day visit to Georgia, the Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, met President Mikheil Saakashvili, Prime Minister Zurab Noghaideli, Foreign Minister Bezhuashvili, and Chairperson of Parliament Nino Burjanadze, to discuss all aspects of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict resolution process.

He held similar consultations in Tskhinvali with the South Ossetian leader, Eduard Kokoity.

During the visit, he stressed the importance of co-operation between the sides on security issues, including those related to the implementation of the rehabilitation programme.

Minister De Gucht visited also several economic rehabilitation projects in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, following the OSCE Donors' Conference he hosted last week in Brussels, where as a confidence building measure more than 10 million Euros were pledged to help rebuild the area socially and economically.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office met OSCE Secretary General

NEW YORK, 26 June 2006 - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, met the OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut to discuss OSCE matters.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office told UN conference civil society can help thwart small arms trade

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 26 June 2006 - Addressing the opening session of a two-week United Nations review conference on eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, urged United Nations member states to work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to bolster government efforts to stop the global spread of small arms.

Minister De Gucht also said the OSCE had set the trend in this area and the organization stood ready to support the United Nations and other international organizations.

OSCE presented Alliance of Civilizations report to UN Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 26 June 2006 - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, and the OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, met the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and handed him a report that spells out ways in which the OSCE could contribute to the UN Secretary-General's "Alliance of Civilizations" initiative.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office defended Centre in Turkmenistan

BRUSSELS, 27 June 2006 – In a press statement, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, defended the Organization's Centre in Ashgabad.



He said that he does not understand the Turkmen accusations against a staff member of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, nor the time that is apparently needed to clear his name fully and unambiguously.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office participated in a hearing before US Helsinki Commission

WASHINGTON, 28 June 2006 - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, addressed US Helsinki Commission. He focused on the challenges the Chairmanship is facing today.

OSCE Chairmanship's Special Envoy participated to "Drug Routes from Afghanistan" ministerial conference

MOSCOW, 28 June 2006 - The Special Envoy of the Chairmanship, Senator Pierre Chevalier, participated to the 2nd ministerial conference "Drug Routes from Afghanistan" ("Paris 2 - Moscow 1"), organized by the Russian Foreign Ministry and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.