



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

High-level Consultations Held in Vienna

VIENNA - A high-level two-day meeting of OSCE participating states, focusing on proposals to reform the Organization, concluded on 13 September in Vienna. A Perception Paper was circulated by the Slovenian Chairmanship after the Consultations to form the basis for further expert-level meetings. The consultations were organized as a follow-up to the Report of the Panel of eminent persons. Among the topics discussed were the set of priorities, creation of a legal capacity for the OSCE, rules of procedure, field activities and election monitoring.

Slovenia Backs Any Democratic Deal on Serbia-Montenegro, Chairman-in-Office Says

NEW YORK - Slovenia supports any agreement between Serbia and Montenegro, as long as it is a result of agreement and democratic dialogue, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel told his Montenegrin counterpart Miodrag Vlahovic on the margins of the UN Summit on 16 September. The Chairman-in-Office stressed that crucial decisions regarding the future of Montenegro required broad national consensus. The OSCE's role in preparations for the referendum was also discussed.

Chairman-in-Office and Kazakh FM discuss Kazakhstan's bid for 2009 OSCE Chairmanship

NEW YORK - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel met Kazakh Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev on the margins of the UN Summit on 14 September. Tokayev informed him about Kazakhstan's candidacy for the 2009 OSCE chairmanship; a decision on that will be taken next year. Chairman-in-Office welcomed Kazakhstan rejection of a law on NGOs, which he believes will "facilitate the development of the civil society".

Chairman-in-Office Meets Representatives of Jewish Organisations

NEW YORK - OSCE Chairman-in-Office met representatives of the American Jewish Committee and the B'nai B'irth International on 16 September to discuss the global promotion of tolerance. "Slovenia has made the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination one of the priorities of its OSCE presidency. I believe that the promotion of inter-civilisational dialogue will be one of the most important tasks of international organizations in the coming years," told Chairman-in-Office

Chairman-in-Office Meets Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs

NEW YORK - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel met Georgian Foreign Minister Salome Zourabichvili on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on 17 September to discuss the role of the OSCE in helping to resolve the situation in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Chairman-in-Office told her that Slovenian Chairmanship was ready to assist in helping to bring about a peaceful solution to the issue.

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw

WARSAW - The ODIHR is hosting the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the biggest human rights review conference in Europe. The two-week event is aimed at checking the progress of OSCE participating states in implementing international commitments in human rights and democratization. The annual conference is expected to see the participation of around 1000 international experts, government officials and human rights activists.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NEW YORK, 19 September - OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel attends a meeting of EU foreign ministers with their Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

NEW YORK, 20 September - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel will attend a meeting of the OSCE Troika and the EU Troika on the margins of the UN General Assembly. Chairman-in-Office will also attend a meeting of EU foreign ministers with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.