



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Conflict Prevention Centre
Section for External Co-operation



**OSCE MEDITERRANEAN SEMINAR ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION COMMITMENTS**

Amman, Jordan, 6-7 December 1999

Consolidated Summary

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I. General Information

1. VENUE

The Seminar was held from 6 to 7 December 1999 at the Holiday Inn in Amman, Jordan.

2. PARTICIPATION

2.1 Thirty-two OSCE participating States took part in the Seminar.

3.1 All Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) were represented. The Partners for Co-operation (Japan and Korea) were also represented.

2.3 The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was represented by members of the German Parliament.

2.4 From the international organizations and institutions, the following were represented: European Union/Barcelona Process; International Committee of the Red Cross; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; Council of Europe; North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

2.5 Representatives of non-governmental organizations were able to attend and contribute to the seminar in accordance with the relevant OSCE provisions and practices. Ten NGOs were represented after having given prior notification.

2.6 Other countries and organizations were invited by the host country.

3. TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES

3.1 The Seminar began at 9.30 a.m. (opening ceremony) on 6 December 1999 and ended at 7.00 p.m. on 7 December 1999.

3.1 The Seminar was conducted in four sessions.

3.1 The opening session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Kai Eide, Representative of the Chairman-in-Office. The closing session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Jutta Stefan-Bastl, Head of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE.

3.1 Each session had a moderator and rapporteur.

3.1 The working language was English. At the request of several participating States interpretation was provided from and into French. At the expense of the host country, interpretation into Arabic was also provided.

3.1 Arrangements for press coverage were made.

3.1 Local transportation was arranged by the host country.

3.1 Other rules of procedure and working methods of the OSCE were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Seminar.

3.1 The seating arrangement is shown in the Annex.

4. AGENDA

Monday, 6 December 1999

Opening Ceremony

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Kai Eide, Representative of the Chairman-in-Office

9.30 a.m. Opening address by H.E. Eng. Nasser Al Lawzi, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Kai Eide
Representative of the Chairman-in-Office

Statement on behalf of the OSCE Secretary General
H.E. Ambassador Márton Krasznai, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre

Session 1: The human dimension: risks and challenges

“Democratization and the rule of law”
“The cultural dimension of security”
“The role of civil society”

Moderator: H.E. Prof. Kamel Abu Jaber, President, Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, Jordan

Rapporteur: Mr. Hinkinus Nijenhuis, Deputy Head of Delegation to the OSCE, Netherlands

10 a.m. 1. Mr. Peter Eicher, First Deputy Director, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

2. Mr. Stanley Schragar, Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

3. “The cultural dimension of security” – Prof. Mohammed Adnan Al Bakhit, President of Al-Al Beit University, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

4. Prof. Gerald N. Steinberg, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

11.15 a.m. Coffee break

11.45 a.m. –
– 1 p.m. Discussion

1 p.m. Lunch hosted by the Ministry of Tourism, Jordan, Holiday Inn, Senate Coffee Shop

Session 2: Experience gained in OSCE field operations

“Case studies of field operations”

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Hervé Ladsous, Permanent Representative of France to the OSCE

Rapporteur: Ms. Elizabeth Abela, Adviser, Conflict Prevention Centre

- 3 p.m.
1. H.E. Ambassador Márton Krasznai, Director of the CPC
 2. Mr. David de Beer, Director, Regional Centre Pec/Peja, OSCE Mission in Kosovo
 3. The Case of Central Asia – H.E. Ambassador Gantcho Gantchev, Head of the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia
- 4.15 p.m. Coffee break
- 4.30 - 6 p.m. Discussion
- 6.30 p.m. Reception hosted on behalf of the OSCE Secretary General, Holiday Inn, Ballroom III

Tuesday, 7 December 1999

Session 3: The relevance of OSCE tools in the human dimension for the Mediterranean region

“Early warning, conflict prevention, post-conflict rehabilitation, aspects of social, economic and environmental dimensions affecting the human dimension”

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Marianne von Grünigen, Switzerland

Rapporteur: Mr. Emmanuel Nahshon, Counsellor, Israel

- 10 a.m.
1. H.E. Ambassador Gajus Scheltema, Personal Adviser to the High Commissioner on National Minorities
 2. Mr. Tom Price, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
 3. Mr. Rabah Tobal, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria
 4. Prof. Dr. Mohammed El-Sayed Selim, Cairo University, Egypt
 5. “The role of civil society” – Mr. Ahmed Lemdasni, Centre d’Etudes Strategiques de la Faculte de Droit de Rabat – Universite Mohammed V, Morocco
- 11.15 a.m. Coffee break

11.45 a.m. - Discussion

1 p.m. Lunch hosted by the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, Holiday Inn, Senate Coffee Shop

Session 4: Developing a partnership in the Mediterranean region

“The future of the OSCE Mediterranean dialogue – Seeking common responses to risks and challenges in the human dimension”

Moderator: H.E. Ambassador Hani Riad of Egypt to Jordan

Rapporteur: Mr. Michael Karnitschnig, Second Secretary, Austria

- 3 p.m.
1. H.E. Ambassador Carlo Civiletti, Head of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE
 2. H.E. Ambassador Heikki Hannikainen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland/EU reporting on the Barcelona Process
 3. Ms. Fifi Benaboud, Representative of the Council of Europe
 4. H.E. Ambassador Attia Abdelrazzak, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tunisia
 5. Dr. Alberto Bin, Co-ordinator for NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue, Political Affairs Division, NATO Headquarters-Brussels

4.15 p.m. Coffee break

4.45 – Discussion
– 5.30 p.m.

Closing Session

Chairman: H.E. Ambassador Jutta Stefan-Bastl, Head of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE

5.30 p.m. Reports by the session rapporteurs

Concluding statement by H.E. Prof. Kamel Abu-Jaber, President of the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, Jordan

Concluding statement by H.E. Ambassador Jutta Stefan-Bastl, Head of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE

6.30 p.m. End of Seminar

7.30 p.m. Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, at the Khan Zaman Village

II. SUMMARIES BY RAPPORTEURS

Summary of the Opening Ceremony

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Eng. Al Lawzi, made the opening address, and welcomed the Seminar's participants to Jordan on behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In his statement, he welcomed the OSCE's efforts to promote international awareness of the human dimension of security. Jordan worked tirelessly to promote cultural understanding and provided a model in terms of religious tolerance and cultural understanding. He stated that as a result of the firm belief of a proactive approach to world politics, Jordan supported the OSCE field operations and activities in domains of peacekeeping, election-monitoring, monitoring human rights violations and post-conflict rehabilitation. He added that Jordanian soldiers were active participants in peacekeeping forces around the world, and that Jordan looked forward to drawing upon the OSCE's vast experience.

Statements were then made by H.E. Ambassador Kai Eide, representative of the Chairman-in-Office, and H.E. Ambassador Márton Krasznai, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, on behalf of the Secretary General of the OSCE. Both expressed their deep gratitude to Jordan for hosting the Seminar.

H.E. Ambassador Kai Eide stated that at the Istanbul Summit participating States decided to strengthen the OSCE's instruments and develop new ones, including a system that made it possible to call on experts in different fields at short notice, thereby enabling a quicker OSCE contribution to conflict prevention and settlement. He continued by saying that the Istanbul Charter clearly stated the intention to develop co-operation with the MPCs which if fully exploited could represent a breakthrough in relations. Reference was also made to the recent OSCE Ministerial Troika meeting with the Mediterranean Partners during which it was agreed to draw on joint expertise with regard to culture and conflict prevention and religion and conflict prevention.

H.E. Ambassador Márton Krasznai stated that the OSCE Secretariat stood ready to make its contribution to the OSCE-MPC dialogue. In particular, it would be happy to welcome representatives from the Mediterranean Partners within the framework of the Researcher in Residence programme, which was designed to give researchers working on OSCE or OSCE-related topics the opportunity of carrying out research in the OSCE archives in Prague.

He added that the Secretariat together with the Chair of the Contact Group intended to convene a workshop in Vienna during which representatives from the Mediterranean Partners would be briefed on OSCE existing instruments and mechanisms. The workshop would also provide an opportunity for the Mediterranean Partners to express their views on the possible applicability of these instruments in their region. It would also present an occasion for discussion between the partners and officials from the Conflict Prevention Centre, other OSCE bodies and institutions, such as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media, as well as interested delegations.

Session 1

The Human Dimension: risks and challenges

"Democratization and the rule of law"
 "The cultural dimension of security"
 "The role of civil society"

Report by Mr. Hinkinus Nijenhuis, Netherlands

During the session, there were several interventions, which drew upon OSCE experience. It was stated that lessons could also be learned from the Mediterranean Partners on accepting challenges, risk-taking and political courage. Jordan was mentioned as an example for co-existence between Christians and Muslims.

The first presentation by a representative of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) dealt with a number of challenges within the human dimension facing both the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. Among others were cited free and fair elections; law enforcement and the rule of law; equal rights for women; freedom of religion; and children in armed conflict.

The speaker suggested solutions such as raising such issues in the OSCE Permanent Council, the Troika and the human dimension meetings, and to use more systematically the considerable political and moral influence of the OSCE to tackle them. He also suggested integrating human rights issues into the mandates and work of all OSCE field operations; supporting domestic and international NGOs and civil society organizations, developing specific projects in the OSCE area to advance free elections, democratization, the rule of law and human rights; and supporting the work of OSCE institutions within the human dimension such as the HCNM as well as the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the ODIHR.

The second presentation described the framework of the four constituencies that the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media works with: OSCE governments, as the executive powers; parliamentarians, as legislators; NGOs, as sources of information; and journalists.

It was said that independent media, albeit sometimes opposing government views, contributed to the strengthening of democracy. The instruments used by governments against the media were mentioned.

The third presentation by a representative of Jordan focused on the cultural dimension of security and in doing so touched upon the relationship between the Muslim world and in particular Europe. It dealt with the current position of Muslims residing in western Europe. Over the years a situation had developed, in which Europe understood Islam but did not accept Muslims, whereas Muslims accepted Europe, but were not able to understand its culture and civilisation. The speaker stated that the region needed thorough support and indigenous integration before it could collect itself and be a constructive partner to Europe.

The fourth presentation by a representative of Israel focused on confidence-building and civil society. In cases of conflict, it was impossible to move towards resolution, unless confidence

was created between the parties and societies. Without CBMs it became virtually impossible to take on other more complex steps, involving significant risks to the parties, such as arms control, which was a "hard" security measure. CBMs could take the form of dialogues and co-operative measures, particularly with respect to economic co-operation, environment and planning joint responses to natural disasters. Dialogues could take many forms, from academic conferences to discussion of threat perceptions and military-to-military meetings. They could create an environment of tolerance between elites, which could be extended through people-to-people activities at many levels.

For such a process to be really successful, spillover into conflict resolution was necessary. It was said that a code of conduct could be helpful in any conflict resolution process to prevent escalation.

In applying CBMs to the Arab-Israeli Peace Process, the importance of political events and how they could negatively or positively affect the confidence-building process was demonstrated.

In the ensuing discussion, several participants referred to CBMs as being of great importance. It was suggested by one participant that the OSCE experience would be of assistance in the Middle East Peace Process.

Several participants stressed the need for tolerance. One emphasized the importance thereof in the religious field. Another participant stressed that any use of religion to support violence was an abuse of religion. The same participant pointed to the need to respect not only religious freedom but also the preservation of the historic religious and cultural heritage common to many religions.

One participant was of the opinion that on the basis of mutual respect and understanding of the differences between cultures a common denominator could be found, on which to build policies. Instead of focusing on negative influences, the positive ones should be allowed to do their work. Another participant expressed the view that one should not try to change each other's cultural values, which were rooted to some extent in religion. The answer should be sought in agreements on what comprised universal values. For instance, relationships between men and women differed from culture to culture. However, other participants stressed that at least the rights of men and women should be the same. Another participant said that economic poverty or specific cultural characteristics should not be used as an excuse for violations of widely accepted norms. Speaking out was therefore important. If not, credibility would suffer.

Other participants emphasised that human rights issues were not only the internal affairs of states and a reference was made to the Charter for European Security. One participant stressed the importance of not upsetting the delicate balance between the sovereignty principle and human rights.

Another participant referred to the various elements under discussion, such as children in armed conflict, organized crime, trafficking in human beings, and pointed out that the human security concept took people as its principal point of reference, and complemented national security.

Another participant pointing to the importance of NGOs in the human dimension suggested opening up the OSCE Permanent Council, on a monthly basis, to make use of their contributions in a pragmatic way.

One participant stressed the importance of dealing with the different elements in the human dimension in a comprehensive fashion not as isolated elements.

Referring to contacts between governments and NGOs one participant referred to certain rules that had to be observed. Terrorism could under no circumstances be tolerated. The same participant drew attention to what were referred to as "hate speeches", which could create conflicts.

One participant called for a more focused dialogue between OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners on the problems different cultures posed. The modernization process was a potent force for change; new solutions to certain problems were to be found. Another participant recommended that in the future, instead of ad hoc events like the present seminar, the OSCE-Mediterranean Partners relationship should be shaped into a more systematic process.

On the freedom of the media, one participant emphasized the importance of them acting responsibly. It was replied that governments linking their level of tolerance to the media to their acting responsibly, usually themselves defined what responsibility entailed. The choice was between free, but somewhat irresponsible media and no free media. Training was important. Another participant expressed the view that States could not claim a monopoly on the media, which had an important role to play in fostering mutual understanding and respect as the basis for democracy and the rule of law.

Session 2

Experience gained in OSCE field operations

“Case studies of field operations”

Report by Ms. Elizabeth Abela, OSCE Secretariat, Conflict Prevention Centre

The Moderator opened the session by underscoring that the OSCE had the responsibility to translate its provisions into reality, and that it was essential to try to draw on the successes and failures of field operations in order to improve their performance.

The Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) stated that the CPC mainly supported field operations, which were working in early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. He underscored that the OSCE was a community of shared values and commitments. Therefore, the mandates of field operations were based on an impressive set of OSCE documents, such as the Helsinki Final Act 1975, the Charter of Paris 1990, and the Copenhagen Document 1990.

Field missions utilized an impressive range of expertise and worked very closely with OSCE institutions: the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media. The input of these institutions was vital for the work of the missions. Reference was made to regular, lively discussions at weekly Permanent Council meetings in Vienna, which provided guidance to the field operations.

He recalled that when the first field missions, for instance the Missions of Long Duration in the early 1990s were deployed, they were staffed mainly by “generalists” and that there had existed little co-operation among international organizations. Currently, on the contrary, the OSCE fielded a wide range of expertise and worked in a concerted effort with other international organizations. The need for a regional approach was recognized.

In speaking on the relations with countries that hosted field operations, he stated that there was need for incentives to make the host country interested in co-operating with OSCE missions. Human dimension issues addressed by field operations, such as freedom of the media, human rights or work with the opposition, were complicated and often thorny.

In assessing field operations, the real criterion consisted of progress in transition. The importance of professionalism of the mission members was highlighted. The CPC, among others, by implementing the Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Team (REACT) concept which is part of the Charter for European Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit, helped participating States to select and train experts and to prepare them for deployment in field operations. He reiterated the possibility of holding a workshop in Vienna during which representatives from the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (MPCs) would be briefed on OSCE existing instruments and mechanisms, stating that he looked forward to such a visit by the Mediterranean Partners for a professional exchange of information leading towards mutual understanding.

Reacting to statements made during the discussion, he emphasized the importance of the full implementation of all OSCE principles and commitments by participating States, while not forgetting the importance of a thorough study and respect for historic traditions and culture.

The Acting Regional Director of Peja/Pec highlighted some examples of the work of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OSCE MiK). This mission differed from most other OSCE field operations in that it was part of the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMiK). In highlighting the achievements of the OSCE's contributions to the field, it was stated that both in the case of the Refugee Task Force in Albania and the Mission in Kosovo, the OSCE succeeded in extremely rapid deployment. The Mission was in place even before the refugees and displaced people themselves had arrived. Within 24 hours of the first post-conflict team arriving in Peja/Pec, people were returning at the rate of 5,000 per day. The OSCE had already set up a temporary office and could immediately re-establish pre-war contacts with politicians and human rights activists. In that context, the need for a rapid reaction team planned by the OSCE under REACT was underscored.

The MiK was staffed by dedicated and competent mission experts. Post-conflict work in Kosovo required a different set of skills but most of the staff was able to adapt readily. The question was posed on whether the mission had suffered a short-term failure in not having been able to prevent so many human rights violations and in not bringing about reconciliation between Albanians and Serbs. Further, the speaker pondered on whether it would have been better to also include an active human rights education campaign in addition to human rights monitoring. Human rights education should be an essential part of a post-conflict operation. It was essential to lay the groundwork for conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation out among the people.

The Head of the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia stated that the five countries of Central Asia were in the midst of a challenging transition process that was affecting all facets of social, political and economic existence. Throughout most of Central Asia the democratization process and implementation of OSCE human dimension principles and commitments was still at a very early stage. As these countries emerged from the old Soviet system, they faced numerous hurdles and challenges on the way to the establishment of a democratic society. ODIHR rapidly took on an active role in Central Asia by establishing of contacts and making visits to the region, the dissemination of information, and setting up of workshops and seminars. Important aspects of human dimension were included in the activities of the HCNM and the Representative on Freedom of the Media in Central Asia.

The human dimension still remained a key issue for the strengthening of security and stability not only in individual countries but also throughout the entire region. It remained difficult for OSCE representatives to convince the Governments of the Central Asian countries that the policy of opening up to democracy would be more effective for the strengthening of security than any restrictive policy against political rivals, democratic institutions and media.

In the ensuing discussion, one participant pointed out that though the notion of a multi-ethnic society was ambitious due to psychological, legal and administrative problems, the OSCE was committed to attain such goals. With reference to the statement on the Mission in Kosovo, another participant expressed strong opposition to extremism that might emerge from both sides.

The representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stressed the importance of co-operation in order to avoid overlap, and respect of the integrity of the terms of

reference for both organizations. It was equally important to secure independence in order to meet and to serve the interests of concerned bodies.

One of the Partners for Co-operation expressed interest in the various activities of the OSCE and in learning from its experience gained over the last two decades. He also hoped that his country's experience in implementing security and peace-enhancing policy would become a reference for the OSCE.

The Chairman of the Permanent Council as the representative of the Chairman-in-Office spoke of lessons learnt in OSCE field operations that should be considered when planning a future strategy on establishing missions in the field. He stated that there should be a stronger link between the headquarters in Vienna and the field operations as, at times, there existed an insufficient line of policy guidance. He questioned whether the OSCE had reached the limits of its flexibility. Both the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretariat would have to be strong enough to provide guidance to field operations, in accordance with OSCE procedures. He also mentioned the possibility of regional co-ordination, saying that the host governments should facilitate the regional approach. There was also the problem of what some referred to as a stigma connected to having a mission on the territory of a country. In that context, finger pointing should be avoided, including the tendency to prescribe to a country in a patronising way what it ought to do instead of dealing with a given situation more pragmatically. In fact, the HCNM had succeeded in providing a low-key approach and in obtaining results by conducting talks with the participating States with regard to national minorities. That approach should be reflected in other OSCE activities, including missions.

With regard to the Mediterranean Partners, he stated that the MPCs might have expertise, that the OSCE did not possess. Thus, thought might be given to drawing on their expertise, perhaps for specific tasks in some field missions.

A participant, in recalling the possibility for Partners to monitor elections and make short-term visits to missions, asked why little use of this option had been made so far. One of the Mediterranean Partners offered a possible clarification to explain the lack of participation on the MPCs side in election monitoring. It was stated that in the eyes of some of the ruling elites, there was a fear that free elections may bring about the victory of parties that would be opposed to freedom of elections.

The Moderator stated that it would be a pity to forego expert collaboration with the OSCE (such as participation in short-term visits to missions and election monitoring) because of financial problems. Perhaps, in future, the Chairman-in-Office might look into the matter, taking into account the mutual advantages and benefits of such co-operation. In concluding, the Moderator stated that neither side had a monopoly on speaking about values and commitments. That question was also evident within the OSCE at times. It was important to focus not only on election monitoring and missions, but also to address the wider issue of making a transition from one phase to another.

Session 3

The relevance of OSCE tools in the human dimension for the Mediterranean region

“Early warning, conflict prevention, post-conflict rehabilitation, aspects of social, economic and environmental dimensions affecting the human dimension”

Report by Mr. Emmanuel Nahshon, Israel

The discussion focused on the applicability of basic OSCE tools involving the human dimension to the Mediterranean region and on the question of whether the application of such tools might require a certain adaptation due to differences in the social, economic and cultural environment, and to differences in perceptions.

The speakers, a representative of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environment Activities and three of the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation – Algeria, Egypt and Morocco – analysed from various perspectives the central role that the human dimension plays in enhancing security.

The presentation on the HCNM gave an overview of the activities of the High Commissioner, emphasising the two central elements in his mandate, namely to try to contain and de-escalate potential or existing tension on the basis of confidentiality through silent diplomacy, mediation, advice and recommendations, and to alert the OSCE whenever such tensions threatened to reach a level at which the High Commissioner would not be able to contain them with the means at his disposal.

The speaker gave an overview of the root causes of conflict involving national minorities and the legal basis of the High Commissioner’s activities. The speaker addressed the issue of the national minorities’ positioning vis-à-vis the majority, stressing that a certain degree of integration was required in order to strike a balance between the minority’s specificity and harmonious relations with the majority.

The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities focused on the way economic and environmental factors might, under different circumstances, become a security-enhancing factor as well as a hindrance. The speaker emphasized the link between the economic and the human dimensions and suggested that the market could be used, in certain circumstances, in order to enhance the human dimension. On the issue of the relation between the human dimension and economic help programmes, the speaker mentioned that help programmes could be a success, if there were a transformation of the economy into a market economy as a result of them.

The presentation by a representative of Algeria stressed the importance of the creation by the Southern partners of equivalent mechanisms to those existing in the North, enabling the southern countries to be accepted as partners on an equal footing. The speaker dwelt upon new content that could be introduced into the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue (the Barcelona Process) by the Mediterranean countries and stressed that the ongoing development of an Euro-Mediterranean feeling of interdependent destiny is beneficial.

The presentation by a representative of Egypt expressed his views concerning the applicability of CBMs in the Euro-Mediterranean world drawing upon the European experience. In that context, the speaker exposed his arguments on this matter namely: CBMs can be applied under certain conditions and cannot be used regardless of context; CBMs should be seen as part of a larger political process and are not capable, by themselves, of maintaining peace; the question whether CBMs could be a universal tool; CBMs should be adapted to reflect upon the security perceptions of the region; reflection is needed on the question of reciprocity in the application of CBMs.

The presentation by a representative of Morocco analysed the significance of the concept of civil society, in the light of the historical evolution of that concept.

Regardless of the definition, the speaker expressed the view that civil society was a public forum, autonomous, distinct from the state, in which social actors tried, in the context of political openness, to defend multiple interests while participating in important changes in society. The speaker emphasized the central place of the notions of cultural specificity and tolerance calling for co-operation, which would be for the mutual benefit of South and North.

The discussion that followed dealt mainly with the issue of CBMs and the environment in which they were applicable. Many participants in the discussion addressed the question of whether CBMs should precede or follow major strategic change. Particular CBMs in the human dimension could contribute to conflict resolution. One participant suggested involving the Mediterranean Partners in OSCE field missions by enabling them to send representatives to those missions. Another participant suggested that it might be useful for the OSCE to exchange views with the Mediterranean Partners on their experience in the domain of the promotion of tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

A participant addressed the issue of the High Commissioner for National Minorities mandate with regard to the rights of individuals and with regard to his geographical priorities.

The High Commissioner's representative stressed that the High Commissioner does not hold ombudsman's functions and that his work is centred in areas in which there is a potential of escalation of tension involving national minorities.

Session 4

Developing a partnership in the Mediterranean region

“The future of the OSCE Mediterranean dialogue – Seeking common responses to risks and challenges in the human dimension“

Report by Mr. Michael Karnitschnig, Austria

The final part of the Seminar was meant to seek common responses to risks and challenges in the human dimension. After the end of the Cold War, security had acquired an ever more multi-layered nature. The Mediterranean basin was a particularly apt example of the inter-linkages between the politico-military, economic and human dimensions of security.

The inter-linkages between the different facets of security needed to be reflected in a variety of institutional frameworks in order to deal with the challenges ahead in the most efficient way. Each organization should make use of its comparative advantages.

It was therefore particularly useful that session 4 provided for an overview of the activities of various international institutions as well as of the Mediterranean Partners themselves.

The first presentation by the Head of the Italian delegation to the OSCE stressed the historical roots of the CSCE/OSCE Mediterranean dimension, which needed a renewed dynamic. He proposed a number of new reinforced tracks, along which the Euro-Med partnership in the OSCE could be bolstered, including:

- Increased meetings of the Contact Group in Vienna should give way to more thematic exchanges and better co-operation with OSCE-bodies and institutions;
- Additional high level ministerial consultations, troika consultations at the level of senior officials and round tables could also contribute to a stronger familiarization of the MPCs with the OSCE's activities.

The second presentation by a representative of Tunisia presented his country's long-term strategy for an ameliorated partnership with the OSCE participating States. He said that Tunisia would favour a more pragmatic approach, as opposed to the normative approach that the OSCE would promote. This new partnership should develop along a number of strategic axes, i.e. migration policy, economic development, education policy and gender issues. Generally, the Tunisian representative like other MPCs asked for better liaison structures of the MPCs with OSCE institutions and bodies.

The representative of the Finnish Presidency of the European Union presented the strands of the EU's policies towards the Mediterranean region: the Barcelona Process, the Association Agreements and the European Parliament's MEDA Democracy Programme. The Stuttgart Ministerial of April 1999 had produced a re-launch of those policies, making them more action-oriented and complementary to other initiatives. The Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Security

and Stability would give further impetus to the political dialogue between the two sides of the Mediterranean.

One participant stressed the specific normative and operational expertise that the OSCE could contribute, without bypassing other mechanisms such as the Barcelona Process.

The representative of the Council of Europe outlined the programmes of her organization at its different levels, ranging from the Ministerial Committee and the Parliamentary Assembly to co-operation with regional and local bodies. She said that the Council of Europe's North-South Centre served as a bridgehead for co-operation and managed a variety of programmes.

A representative of NATO stressed the distinct security identity, in its own right, that his organization had started to attribute to the Mediterranean region after the end of the global bipolarity. NATO's own Mediterranean dialogue would fit into the emerging pattern of organizational specialization.

Another participant emphasized that a niche for the OSCE existed in the region, in which it could apply its specific experience without duplication to other tracks of interaction such as the Middle East Peace Process.

Yet another participant pointed to the importance of seminars and supported the proposals of Italy, which he considered should be discussed in the Permanent Council.

A representative from the host country explained that the non-participation of his country in ODIHR election monitoring missions was primarily due to a lack of financial resources, a matter, which according to the Austrian Chair of the Contact Group could be addressed in the future. Moreover, Jordan proposed a Centre for Conflict Prevention in the region, which it would be willing to host.

Summary of the Closing Session

During the closing session, chaired by H.E. Ambassador Jutta Stefan-Bastl, Head of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE, the rapporteurs of all four sessions made their reports. Concluding statements were made by H.E. Professor Kamel Abu Jaber, President of the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, and H.E. Ambassador Jutta Stefan-Bastl, Head of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE.

H.E. Professor Abu Jaber, among other issues, highlighted the role of the OSCE, which he said, through a rational approach to conflict resolution was able to bridge cold war politics and provide the world with a broad-based platform, bridging continents, cultures, peoples, languages and religions, to debate in a rational manner the major problems of humanity. He continued by saying that the message of the OSCE was that civilizations need not clash and that divides could be bridged should the will exist to do so. He stated that security had to go beyond police and military dimensions to include socio-economic development.

In her concluding remarks, H. E. Ambassador Jutta Stefan-Bastl expressed her gratitude to the Jordanian hosts and the OSCE Secretariat for the organization of the Seminar. She stated that the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation joined in a number of activities in Vienna, and that they had already participated in a great number of events and meetings. She also made reference to the plan to organize a workshop in Vienna during which MPC experts could follow up on discussions held during the Seminar at a more concrete expert level, and to the possible participation of researchers from MPCs in the Researcher in Residence programme. The Secretariat was asked to draw up a list of proposals made during this Seminar.

III. List of Participants

Albania	
Mr. Ariel HALIMI Desk-Officer for the OSCE Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tirana Albania	Tel: (+355-42) 640-90/186 Fax: (+355-42) 620-85 (+355-42) 620-84 E-mail: @
Germany	
Mr. Reiner MORELL Counsellor Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Jordan P.O. Box 183 11118 Amman Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 59 30 351 Fax: (+962-6) 59 32 887 E-mail: @
Mr. Michael KLEPSCH Counsellor Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE Metternichgasse 3 1030 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 711 540 Fax: (+43-1) 712 1700 E-mail: osze@deubowien.at
Mr. Hans-Christian Freiherr von REIBNITZ Counsellor Federal Foreign Office 11013 Berlin Germany	Tel: (+49-1888) 17 2643 Fax: (+49-1888) 17 5 2643 E-mail: 203-5@auswaertiges-amt.de
United States of America	
Mr. Andrew STEINFELD Political Counselor U.S. Mission to the OSCE Obersteinergasse 11/1 1190 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 31339 74 3203 Fax: (+43-1)31339 74 3255 E-mail: steinfeldaw@state.gov
Mr. Chadwick R. GORE Communications Director Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe 234 Ford House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 U.S.A.	Tel: (+1-202) 225 19 01 Fax: (+1-202) 225 43 94 E-mail: chadwick.gore@mail.house.gov
Mr. Earle LITZENBERGER Regional Political Officer Office of Middle East Peace Process and Regional Affairs, Department of State 2201 C. ST. NW Washington, DC 20520 U.S.A.	Tel: (+1-202) 647-1444 Fax: (+1-202) 647-7837 E-mail: mlitzenberger@hotmail.com

Mr. Gennaro GORY Political Officer Obersteinergasse 11/1 1190 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 31339 74 3218 Fax: (+43-1) 31339 74 3255 E-mail: goryga@state.gov
Austria	
H.E. Ambassador Jutta STEFAN-BASTL Head of the Austrian Mission to the OSCE Ballhausplatz 2 1014 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 53 115-3585 -3259 Fax: (+43-1) 53 185-327 -53 666-3585 E-mail: jutta.stefan-bastl@wien.bmaa.gv.at
H.E. Ambassador Philipp HOYOS Embassy of Austria to Jordan Amman Jordan	
Mr. Michael KARNITSCHNIG Second Secretary Schenkenstr. 8 1014 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 53 115-3284 Fax: (+43-1) 53 185-227 E-mail: michael.karnitschnig@wien.bmaa.gv.at
Belgium	
H.E. Ambassador Filip CUMPS Embassy of Belgium to Jordan	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Mr. Ibrahim IFENDICH Charge d' Affairs Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Jordan	
Bulgaria	
Mr. Lubomir TODORLOV Counsellor, Chargé d' Affaires a.i. of Bulgaria to Jordan	
Canada	
Mr. François LAROCHELLE Counsellor Canadian Delegation Laurenzberg 2 1010 Vienna, Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 531 38 3224 Fax: (+43-1) 531 38 3925 E-mail: francois.larochelle@dfait-maeli.gc.ca
Mr. Scot SLESSOR Embassay of Canada to Jordan Amman Jordan	
Cyprus	
Mr. Stavros AUGOUSTIDES Second Secretary-Consul Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus to Syria Damascus	Tel: (+96-311) 613 08 12 Fax: (+96-311) 613 47 22

Denmark	
Mr. Lars Adam REHOF Danish Representation Office	
Spain	
H.E. Ambassador Antonio COSANO Head of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the OSCE Karlsplatz 1/11 1010 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 505 86 00 Fax: (+43-1) 505 37 73 E-mail: esp.osce@vip.at
H.E. Ambassador Eudaldo MIRAPEIX Embassy of Spain to Jordan	
Finland/European Union/Barcelona Process	
H.E. Ambassador Heikki HANNIKAINEN Ministry of Foreign Affairs Helsinki	Tel: (+358-9) 1341 6031 Fax: (+358-9) 1341 6420 E-mail: heikki.hannikainen@formin.fi
<i>European Commission</i>	
H.E. Ambassador James MORAN Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Jordan	
Mr. Ronald ELKHUIZEN END, National Expert, Unit Human Rights and Democratisation European Commission Rue de la Loi 200 1049 Brussels Belgium	Tel: (+32-2) 295 1511 Fax: (+32-2) 299 5396 E-mail: ronald.elkhuizen@cec.eu.int
France	
H.E. Ambassador Hervé LADSOUS Permanent Representative of France to the OSCE Schwindgasse 7 1040 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 504 41 53 Fax: (+43-1) 504 41 51
H.E. Ambassador Bernard EMIE Embassy of France to Jordan	
Mr. Christophe FARNAUD First Secretary Embassy of France to Jordan	
Ms. Veronique VOULAND Second Secretary Embassy of France to Jordan	
Mr. Lionel TENDERO First Secretary French Embassy in Amman Jordan	

United Kingdom	
Ms. Catherine KNIGHT-SANDS First Secretary UK Delegation to the OSCE Jauresgasse 12 1030 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 716 13 33 19 Fax: (+43-1)-716 13 39 00 E-mail: ukdel@netway.at
Mr. Andrew WELLS Third Secretary Embassy of the United Kingdom to Jordan Abdonn. Amman	Tel: (+962-6) 592 31 00 Fax: (+962-6) 592 37 59 E-mail: @
Greece	
H.E. Ambassador Christos ALEXANDRIS Director, OSCE-Council of Europe Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Athens Greece	Tel: (+30-1) 368 41 56-7 or 368 45 30 Fax: (+30-1) 368 41 46 E-mail: mfa@mfa.gr
Hungary	
Mr. Rudolf JOO Deputy State Secretary for Multilateral Affairs Bem Rkpt. 47 1024 Budapest Hungary	Tel: (+36-1) 458 1157 or 1342 Fax: (+36-1) 202 1329 E-mail: oszenthe@kum.hu rjoo@kum.hu
H.E. Ambassador Zoltan PERESZLENTI Embassy of Hungary to Jordan and Syria	
Mr. Attila SZANTO Chargé dAffairs Embassy of Hungary in Jordan	
Italy	
H.E. Ambassador Carlo CIVILETTI Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE Strohgasse 14c 1030 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 713 8920 Fax: (+43-1) 718 2390 E-mail: italoscevienna@via.at
H.E. Ambassador Stefano JEDRKIEWICZ Embassy of Italy to Jordan	
Luxembourg	
Ms. Yuriko BACKES Attaché Avenue de Cortenbergh 75 1000 Bruxelles Belgium	Tel: (+32-2) 737 57 50 Fax: (+32-2) 737 57 60

Malta	
Mr. Mario BUTTIGIEG Counsellor Deputy Head of Delegation of Malta to the OSCE Opernring 5/1 1010 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 586 50 10/13 Fax: (+43-1) 586 50/9 E-mail: buttigi@attglobal.net
Norway/OSCE Chairmanship	
H.E. Ambassador Kai EIDE Head of the Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE Löwelstrasse 20 1010 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 535 3554 Fax: (+43-1) 532 0364 E-mail: @
H.E. Ambassador Jan JØLLE Embassy of Norway to Jordan	
Mr. Carl P. SALICATH Adviser Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs P.O. Box 8114 0032 Oslo Norway	Tel: (+47-2) 224 33 18 Fax: (+47-2) 224 32 54 E-mail: carl.salicath@ud.dep.telemax.no
Ms. Kathrine RATH Second Secretary Löwelstrasse 20 1010 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 535 35 54-28 Fax: (+43-1) 532 03 64 E-mail: kathrine.rath@mfa.no
Ms. Guri SOLBERG Executive Officer, Middle East Desk Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs P.O. Box 8114 0032 Oslo Norway	Tel: (+47-2) 224 33 18 Fax: (+47-2) 224 32 54
Netherlands	
H.E. Ambassador Bernard TANGELDER Embassy of the Netherlands to Jordan	
Mr. Hinkinus NIJENHUIS Deputy Head of the Netherlands Permanent Representation to the OSCE Opernring 3 1010 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 589 39-245 Fax: (+43-1) 589 39 266 E-mail: H.NIJENHUIS@wen.minbuza.nl
Poland	
H.E. Ambassador Dr. Stanislaw PAWLAK Embassy of Poland to Syria	
Mr. Mirosław MALECKI First Secretary of the Embassy P.O. Box 2124 Amman Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 463 71 53, 463 71 54 Fax: (+962-6) 461 87 44 E-mail: polemb@nol.com.jo

Mr. Mariusz WOZNIAK Chargé d'Affaires a.i. P.O. Box 2124 Amman Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 463 71 53, 463 71 54 Fax: (+962-6) 461 87 44 E-mail: polemb@nol.com.jo
Professor Roman WIERUSZEWSKI Director of Poznan Centre for Human Rights Ul. Grunwaldzka 161A 60-313 Poznan Poland	Tel: (+48-61) 8520 260 Fax: (+48-61) 8520 260 E-mail: wierom@sylaba.poznan.pl
Ms. Aleksandra PACHOLIK Department of European Security Policy OSCE Section – expert on “human dimension” of OSCE Ministry of Foreign Affairs Al. Szucha 23 Warsaw Poland	Tel: (+48-22) 523 92 61 Fax: (+48-22) 628 58 41 E-mail: aleksandra.pacholik@msz.gov.pl
Portugal	
H.E. Ambassador Joao de LIMA PIMENTEL Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSCE Operring 3/1 1010 Vienna Austria	Tel: (+43-1) 585 50 51-53 Fax: (+43-1) 585 50 51-66 E-mail: mail@portdelosce.at
Romania	
H.E. Ambassador Vasile SOFINETI Embassy of Romania to Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 566 77 38 Fax: (+962-6) 568 40 18
Ms. Paraschiva BADESCU Counsellor, Deputy Director of the OSCE Department, MFA Bucharest	
Mr. Gheorghe POROJAN Second Secretary Embassy of Romania to Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 566 77 38 Fax: (+962-6) 568 40 18
Russian Federation	
H.E. Ambassador. Alexander IVANOV Embassy of the Russian Federation to Jordan	
Mr. Mikhail PETRAKOV Head of Section Department for European Co-operation MFA	
Holy See	
Monsignor Ivan JURKOVIC Head of Delegation Vatican	
Monsignor Charles Daniel BALVO Chargé d'Affaires Amman Jordan	

Slovak Republic		
Mr. Jan KURUC Chargé d'Affaires of Slovak Embassy to Syria and Jordan		
Sweden		
H.E. Ambassador Klas Christian GIEROW Embassy of Sweden to Jordan		
Mr. Lars BJARME Minister, Co-ordinator for the Barcelona Process Ministry for Foreign Affairs 10339 Stockholm Sweden		Tel: (+46-8) 405 54 65 Fax: (+46-8) 723 11 76 E-mail: lars.bjarne@foreign.ministry.se
Switzerland		
H.E. Ambassador Marianne von GRÜNIGEN Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE Prinz Eugenstr. 8 1040 Vienna Austria		Tel: (+43-1) 505 89 25 Fax: (+43-1) 505 89 25 5 E-mail: Marianne.vonGruenigen@vie.rep.admin.ch
Ms. Siri WALT Diplomatic Collaborator Bundesgasse 32 3006 Bern Switzerland		Tel: (+41-31) 324 62 32 Fax: (+41-31) 324 38 39
Czech Republic		
H.E. Ambassador Tomas SMETANKA P.O. Box 2213 Amman 11181 Jordan		Tel: (+962-6) 592 7051, 2 Fax: (+962-6) 592 7053 E-mail: czech@go.com.jo
Turkey		
Mr. Osman PAKSÜT Director of the OSCE Dep. Ministry of Foreign Affairs Balgat, Ankara Turkey		Tel: (+90-312) 287 8817 Fax: (+90-312) 287 1871
Mr. Cen ORNEKOL Embassy of Turkey to Jordan		
Mr. Babür GIRGIN Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Turkey in Jordan		
Ukraine		
Mr. Olexander MAIDANNYK Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs		
Mr. Vitali CHILIOK First Secretary Embassy of Ukraine to Israel		

PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

Japan

Mr. Tsuneki MATSUDA First Secretary Embassy of Japan in Amman PO.Box 2835 11181 Amman Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 5930 486/7 Fax: (+962-6) 5931 006 E-mail: tomokaw@go.com.jo
Ms. Tomoko WATANABE Special Assistant in the Political Section Embassy of Japan in Amman PO.Box 2835 11181 Amman Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 5930 486/7 Fax: (+962-6) 5931 006 E-mail: tomoko@go.com.jo

Korea

Mr. Kwang-Chul LEW Counsellor Korean Embassy to Jordan 3060 Amman 11181 Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 593 0745 Fax: (+962-6)593 1068
---	---

MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

Algeria

H.E. Ambassador Hameed CHEBRIA Embassy of Algeria to Jordan	
M. Rabah TOBAL Conseiller au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères	

Egypt

H.E. Ambassador Hani RIAD Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Egypt to Jordan	
Dr. Mohammed El-Sayed SELIM Faculty of Economics and Political Science/Cairo University Director of Asian Research Centre	Tel: (+202) 569 2735 Fax: (+202) 569 2735 571 1020 E-mail: mohammedselim@hotmail.com
Mr. Khaled YOUSSEF Second Secretary Ministry for Foreign Affairs	Tel: (+202) 574 7829 Fax: (+202)-574 7829 E-mail: khyoussef@hotmail.com

Israel

H.E. Ambassador David GRANIT Director of the Department for European Institutions, MFA Israel	
Mr. Emmanuel NAHSHON Counsellor, Desk-Officer of the OSCE, MFA	

Prof. Gerald N. STEINBERG Bar-Ilan University in Israel Israel	Tel: (+972-3) 531 8043 Fax: (+972-3) 535 3307 E-mail: gerald@vms.huji.ac.il
Jordan	
H.E. Eng. Nasser AL LAWZI Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	
H.E. Dr. Kamel ABU JABER President, Jordan Institute of Diplomacy	
Prof. Mohammed Adnan AL-BAKHIT President of Al-AI Beit University Jordan Institute of Diplomacy P.O. Box 850746 Amman 11185 Jordan	
H.E. Mr. Shaher BAK General Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jordan	
H.E. Mr. Hani TABARA MFA	
H.E. Mr. Nabil TALHOUNI MFA	
H.E. Mr. Samir NAOURI MFA	
Dr. Marout BAKHIT MFA	
H.E. Ambassador Latif BAWAB Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of Jordan to Switzerland 3007 Bern Switzerland	Tel: (+41-31) 381 41 46
H.E. Ambassador Elsayed ELAMIN Amman Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 5805 45 00 Fax: (+962-6) 5854 401 E-mail: @

Observers

HRH Zeid Bin SHAKER Royal Court	
Mrs. Leila SHARAF Senator, Upper House of Parliament Jordan	
H.E. Mohammed Al SHANKARI Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
H.E. Atef HALASA Ministry of Foreign Affairs	

H.E. Abdullah El LAYAN Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
H.E. Mr. Ramez GOUSSOUS Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
Mr. Fawaz BILBESI Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
Mr. Ihab OMEISH Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
Mr. Amjad MBAYDEEN Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
Mr. Omar Al NAHAR Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
Mr. Nader TARAWNEH Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
Mr. Mahmmoud El HMOUD Ministry of Foreign Affairs		
Major General Mahmoud Al OMARI Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Training Jordanian Armed Forces		
Major General Musa AZOUKA Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence Jordanian Armed Forces		
Brigadier General Abdul Razzaq Ibrahim QASEM Assistant Chief of Staff for Planning and Organization Jordanian Armed Forces		
Brigadier General Ahmed BATAYNEH Jordanian Armed Forces		
Colonel Walid KREISHAN Jordanian Armed Forces		
Colonel Khalaf Al SHAR'AH Jordanian Armed Forces		
Brigadier General Omar AMAD Intelligence Department Jordan		
Lieutenant General Nasouh Muheiddine MARZOUQA Director-Public Security		
Major General Mohammed Sa'ed TARAZI Director-Public Security		
Major General Hisham El NSOUR Director-Public Security		
Brigadier General Mahmoud Al HADID Directorate of Public Security Jordan		

Brigadier General Fakri ESKANDER Directorate of Public Security Jordan		
Mr. Abdallah SALAH Member of the Board of Trustees, Jordan Institute of Diplomacy Jordan		
Mrs. Nancy BAKIR Director, Human Rights Unit, Prime Ministry Jordan		
Mr. Munther Al MASRI Secretary General Higher Council for Science & Technology Jordan		
Ms. Amani JARRAR Director, Planning & Development – Civil Service Dept. Jordan		
Ms. Nawal ABDULBAQI Director, Studies & Research Dept. Jordan		
Ms. Rania Abu GHOSH Economic Department Muta' University		
Mr. Mu'ayyad MEHYAR Conflict Resolution Specialist P.O. Box 5421 11183 Amman Jordan		Tel: (+962-6) 79-607 494 E-mail: mehyar1@firstnet.com.jo

Morocco

Mr. Ahmed LEMDASNI Centre de'Etudes Strategiques de la Faculte de Droit de Rabat Universite Mohammed V Morocco		
Mr. Lhoussaine KHATORI Embassy of Morocco to Jordan		

Tunisia

H.E. Ambassador Attia ABDERRAZAK Charge de Mission, MFA Tunisia		
H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Alhabib Al KA'ABASHI Embassy of Tunisia to Jordan		

OSCE INSTITUTIONS

OSCE Secretariat
Kärntner Ring 5-7
1010 Vienna, Austria

H.E. Ambassador Márton KRASZNAI Director, Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)	Tel: (+ 43-1) 514 36-122 Fax: (+ 43-1) 514 36-96 E-mail: mkrasznai@osce.org
Mr. Tom PRICE Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities	Tel: (+ 43-1) 514 36-151 Fax: (+ 43-1) 514 36-96 E-mail: tprice@osce.org
Mr. Andrei ANDROSOV Head of Section for External Co-operation, CPC	Tel: (+ 43-1) 514 36-115 Fax: (+ 43-1) 514 36-96 E-mail: aandrosov@osce.org
Ms. Elizabeth ABELA Adviser, Section for External Co-operation, CPC	Tel: (+ 43-1) 514 36-540 Fax: (+ 43-1) 514 36-96 E-mail: eabela@osce.org
Ms. Aldona SZYMANSKI Secretary, Section for External Co-operation, CPC	Tel: (+ 43-1) 514 36-190 Fax: (+ 43-1) 514 36-96 E-mail: aszymanski@osce.org
Ms. Maria MUNSPERGER Secretary, Section for External Co-operation, CPC	Tel: (+ 43-1) 514 36-526 Fax: (+ 43-1) 514 36-96 E-mail: mmunspenger@osce.org
OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media	
Mr. Stanley SCHRAGER Adviser to the Representative on Freedom of the Media Kärntner Ring 5-7 1010 Vienna, Austria	Tel: (+ 43-1) 512 21-4512 Fax: (+ 43-1) 512 21-459
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	
Mr. Peter EICHER First Deputy Director Al Ujazdowskie 19 00-557 Warsaw Poland	Tel: (+48-22) 520 0600 Fax: (+48-22) 520 0605 E-mail: eicher@odhr.osce.waw.pl
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities	
H.E. Ambassador Gajus SCHELTEMA Personal Adviser/HCNM 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 Parliamentary Assembly	
Mr. Gerd HÖEFER Member of the German Parliament, OSCE/PA Unter den Linden 50 11011 Berlin Germany	Tel: (+49-30) 227 73319 Fax: (+49-30)-227 76363 E-mail: gerd.hoefen@bundestag.de
Ms. Stephanie Ann WICKES Bosch Fellow, Office Gerd Höfer, MdB Unter den Linden 50 11011 Berlin, Germany	Tel: (+49-30) 227 73319 Fax: (+49-30) 227 76363 E-mail: swickes@hotmail.com

Mr. Johann RAIDEL Member of the German Parliament Friedrichstrasse 83 11011 Berlin Germany	Tel: (+49-30) 227 94550 Fax: (+49-30) 227 96939
Mr. Helmut RAUBER Member of Parliament, OSCE/PA Platz der Republik 1 11011 Berlin Germany	Tel: (+49-30) 227 71180 Fax: (+49-30) 227 76323 E-mail: helmut.rauben@bundestag.de
Mr. Peter von SCHUBERT First Councillor of Parliament Platz der Republik 1 11011 Berlin Germany	Tel: (+49-30) 227 30581 Fax: (+49-30) 227 36068 E-mail: @
Mr. Michael STÜBGEN Member of the German Parliament, OSCE/PA Platz der Republik 11011 Berlin Germany	Tel: (+49-30) 227 94506 Fax: (+49-30) 227 96928 E-mail: ichael.stubgen@bundestag.de
OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia	
Mr. Gantcho GANTCHEV Head of Office Kh. Alimdjan Sq. 700 000 Tashkent Uzbekistan	Tel: (+998-71) 32 01 52 Fax: (+998-71) 120 61 25 E-mail: oscecao@online.ru
OSCE Mission in Kosovo	
Mr. David DE BEER Regional Director RC Peja/Pec Pristina, Kosovo	Tel: (+381-38) 500 162 Fax: (+873-38) 500 188 E-mail: DdB.2@inter.NL.net
OSCE Spillover Monitoring Mission to Skopje	
Ms. Melinda M. LORD Human Dimensions Officer Makošped Building Marshal Tito Street 91000 Skopje Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Tel: (+389-91) 111 143 Fax: (+389-91) 111 267 E-mail: sofurrs@unet.com.mk
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	
COUNCIL OF EUROPE	
Ms. Fifi BENABOUD Transmediteranean Programme Co-ordinator Avenida da Liberdade 229 1250 Lisbon Portugal	Tel: (+) 351-21-352 4954 Fax: (+) 351-21-352 4966 E-mail: fbenaboud@nscentre.org
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS	

Mr. Pascal CUTTAT Head of Delegation P.O. Box 9028 11191 Amman Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 568 8645 Fax: (+962-6) 568 8649 E-mail: pcuttat.amm@icrc.org
Mr. Bruno ZIMMERMANN International Organizations Division 19, avenue de la Paix 1202 Geneva Switzerland	Tel: (+41-22) 730 2844 Fax: (+41-22) 733 2057 E-mail: bzimmermann.gva@icrc.org
Mr. Hassan ABAZA Military Adviser for HOB P.O. Box 460116 11946 Amman Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 505 3344 Fax: (+962-6) 506 3614
UNESCO	
Dr. Lina KHAMIS Jordan	
UNHCR	
Mr. Dario CARMINATI UNHCR Representative P.O.Box : 17101 Shmeisani 11195 Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 5691262/3 Fax: (+962-6) 5691915 E-mail: joram@unhcr.ch
NATO	
Dr. Alberto BIN Political Affairs Division 1110 Brussels Belgium	Tel: (+32-2) 707 3543 Fax: (+32-2) 707 5228 E-mail: a.bin@hq.nato.int
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS	
ESARSV	
Mr. Salem ALTURK Chairman & MD of Retired Servicemen Association P.O. Box 5202 11183 Amman Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 420 17 40 or 581 97 17 Fax: (+962-6) 420 17 40 or 581 28 60 E-mail: esarsv@amra.nic.gov.jo
THE FOUNDATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF	
Mr. Murat YASA Assistant Director Macar Kardesler Cad. Hulusi Noyan Sx. No: 23 Fatih Istanbul Turkey	Tel: (+90-212) 631 29 65-6-7 Fax: (+90-212) 621 70 51 E-mail: myasa@ihhvakf.org
GENERAL FEDERATION OF JORDANIAN WOMEN	
Mrs. Nuha MAAYTAH President Jordan	

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH		
Mr. Joe STORK Advocacy Director, Middle East Division 1630 Conneticut Ave. NW Washington DC 20009 USA		Tel: (+1-202) 612 4327 Fax: (+1-202) 612 4333 E-mail: storkj@hrw.org
Mr. Hanny MEGALLY Executive Director 350 Fifth Ave, New York, NY 1118, USA		Tel: (+1-212) 216-1230 Fax: (+1-212) 736-1300 Email: megallh@hrw.org
THE JORDAN PRESS ASSOCIATION		
Mr. Saif Al SHARIF Chairman Jordan		
JORDANIAN WOMEN'S UNION		
Mrs. Amneh Al ZU'BI President Jordan		
MEDITERRANEAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMATIC STUDIES		
Dr. Stephen C. CALLEYA Deputy Director University of Malta MSD 06 Malta		Tel: (+356) 48 3090 Fax: (+356) 48 3091 E-mail: scalley@diplomacy.edu
THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR RIGHTS AND HUMANITY		
Mrs. Julia HÄUSERMANN President 2, St. Peter's St. IPSWICH IPI IXB United Kingdom		Tel: (+44-1473) 28 65 65 Fax: (+44-1473) 28 67 20 E-mail: rights.humanity@pop3.poptel.org.uk
WOMEN STUDIES CENTER		
Mrs. Malak ANABTAWI President P.O. Box 831245 11183 Amman Jordan		Tel: (+962-6) 592 7177 Fax: (+) E-mail: hadi@nets.com.jo
WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL		
Mr. Saleh Al ZU'BI Director Jordan		
Guests invited by the host country		
Mr. Abdullah AL ANSARI Counsellor, Embassy of Bahrain to Jordan		
Mr. Claudio ALIAGA Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of Chile to Jordan		
H.E. Ambassador Edhimurt SUNOKO Embassy of Indonesia to Jordan		

H.E. Ambassador Nasrat Allah TAGEEQ Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Jordan	
H.E. Ambassador Dr. Sabah YASSEN ALI Embassy of the Republic of Iraq to Jordan	
Mr. Mite'b TOTAH Second Secretary Embassy of Kuwait to Jordan	
Mr. Ariel PENARANDA Executive Officer and Vice Consul Embassy of the Philippines to Jordan 13 Alramadi St. Amman 11110 Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 55 18 134 Fax: (+962-6) 55 18 441 E-mail: ammanpe@index.com.jo
H.E. Ambassador Henry B. De BRUYN Embassy of South Africa to Jordan	
H.E. Ambassador Sheikh Hamad Bin Hilal AL MA'MARI Embassy of Sultanate of Oman to Jordan	
Mr. Mushtaq SHAH Chargé d'Affaires Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Jordan	
Mr. Boullah OULD MOGUEYA Mauritanie	
H.E. Ambassador Dr. Vincent T. ZULU Embassy of South Africa to Jordan	Tel: (+962-6) 592 11 94
INTERPRETERS	
Ms. Vera NOFAL	English
Ms. Ghada DALLAL	
Ms. Abla LAWANDOS	French
Ms. Nelly KABBOUCHE BAROUDY	
Mr. Aktham EL-TALL	Arabic
Ms. Lina DOKHGAN	

IV. List of Documents Distributed during the Seminar

No.	Date	Title	Author	Language
1.	5/12	Agenda	OSCE Secretariat	English
2	5/12	Tentative List of Participants	OSCE Secretariat	English
3	5/12	Statement by the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	H.E. Eng. Nasser Al Lawzi, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	English
4	5/12	Cancelled		
5	6/12	The Human Dimension to Conflict Resolution: Confidence Building and Civil Society	Prof. Gerald N. Steinberg, Bar-Ilan University, Israel	English
6	6/12	Experience gained in OSCE Field Operations: Some Examples from the Mission in Kosovo	Mr. David de Beer, Acting Regional Director, Peja/Pec, OSCE Mission in Kosovo	English
7	6/12	Intervention	Ambassador Carlo Civiletti, Italy	English
8	6/12	The Human Dimension: Risks and Challenges	Mr. Peter Eicher, OSCE ODIHR	English
9	6/12	Statement	Ambassador Márton Krasznai, OSCE CPC	English
10	6/12	Intervention	Prof. Mohammed Adnan Al Bakhit, President of Al-Al Beit University, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	English
11	6/12	Intervention	Mr. Rabah Toubal, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria	French
11R	6/12	Revised version of 11	-- --	-- --
12	6/12	Cancelled		
13	6/12	An Assessment of the Conditions Conducive to an Effective Application of Confidence-Building Measures in the Euro-Mediterranean World	Mr. Mohammad El-Sayed Selim Cairo University, Giza, Egypt	English
14	6/12	Talking Points, The Implementation of Human Dimension Commitments	Monsignor Ivan Jurkovic, Holy See	English
15	6/12	The Case of Central Asia	Ambassador G. Gantchev, OSCE CALO	English
16	6/12	Cancelled		
17	6/12	Opening speech	Ambassador Kai Eide, Norway/CIO	English
18	6/12	The establishment of a Euro-Med conflict prevention centre	Mr. Stephen C. Calleya, University of Malta	English
19	7/12	Background Paper	UNHCR	English

20	7/12	The Relevance of OSCE tools in the human dimension for the Mediterranean region	Ambassador Gajus Scheltema, Office of the OSCE HCNM	English
21	7/12	Le Role de la société civile	Mr. Ahmed Lemdasni, Université Mohammed V, Morocco	French
22	7/12	Intervention	Amb. Abderrazak Attia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tunisia	French
23	7/12	Developments in the Political and Security charter of the Barcelona Process in 1999	Ambassador Heikki Hannikainen Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland/EU/Barcelona Process	English
24	7/12	Intervention	Mr. Buttigieg, Malta	English
24R	7/12	Revised version of 24	-- --	-- --
25	7/12	Developing a partnership in the Mediterranean region: NATO's contribution1	Dr. Alberto Bin, NATO	English
26	7/12	Concluding remarks	Dr. Abu Jaber, Jordan Institute of Diplomacy	English
27	13/12	Intervention (made available after the seminar)	Mr. Bruno Zimmermann, ICRC	English
28	13/12	Concluding Remarks (made available after the seminar)	Ambassador Jutta Stefan-Bastl, Austria	English

Seating Arrangement

