



REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (27 April – 3 May)

OSCE Chairman Attends Security Conference in Seoul

SEOUL - OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel suggested that the OSCE model of multilateral security co-operation could be applied in North-east Asia as he addressed the OSCE-Korea Conference in Seoul on 25 April. Rupel told political officials and representatives of NGOs in attendance that there were many features of the OSCE which could prove useful for NE Asia. Although he claimed the Helsinki concept "cannot be simply franchised", Rupel said there were "plenty of commonalities that can be discussed and experience that can be shared" with the region. He also stressed the OSCE was rethinking its strategy in order to effectively deal with emerging security threats. The two-day conference, which focused on emerging threats to global security and stability, brought together the OSCE's Asian partners Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Mongolia and Afghanistan.

OSCE Can Help Countries Fight Violence Against Women, Rupel Says

PARIS - OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel stressed on 28 April in Paris that the organisation could act as a promoter of global efforts to root out violence against women. Attending a two-day workshop on preventing violence against women, Rupel claimed the burden of responsibility for fighting this phenomenon rested on individual countries. According to him, not much has been done globally to remove the key economic, social and cultural reasons behind the phenomenon. Outlining a set of measures to eradicate the phenomenon, Rupel said more effort should be dedicated to making sure countries implement improved legislation and to give proper assistance to victims. On the margins he delivered a lecture on the OSCE at the French Institute for International Relations.

OSCE Envoy Welcomes Readiness for Dialogue in Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK - Alojz Peterle, the OSCE Chairman's personal envoy for Central Asia, welcomed the readiness of Kyrgyz officials to see dialogue between political forces in the country held under the auspices of the OSCE. The Personal Representative of OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel also welcomed the formation of a constitutional conference that was established by the Kyrgyz parliament earlier in the week. Peterle held a series of meetings with political leaders and potential presidential candidates for the 10 July election.

Rupel Congratulates Journalists on World Press Freedom Day

LJUBLJANA - OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel congratulated all journalists who have contributed to democratic change in OSCE countries in a statement on World Press Freedom Day, 3 May. Rupel underscored that journalists were always the first to show resistance against authoritarian regimes. The OSCE puts great emphasis on human rights, freedom of movement and speech, and especially democratic processes without being partial to individual parties, added Rupel. "To support these processes, we need professional journalism which can distinguish between information and commentary, and equally represents all sides involved in the democratic processes," Rupel added.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WARSAW, 16 & 17 May - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel is scheduled to attend the 3rd Summit of the Council of Europe

WARSAW, 11 through 13 May - Head of the OSCE Task Force, Ambassador Boris Frlec is to attend an OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on Migration and Integration on behalf of OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel