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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (5 October – 11 October)

Chairman-in-Office Underlines Equal Representation as a Big Challenge

SKOPJE - The main problem the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has to solve is the equal representation of all ethnic communities in state institutions, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel said after talks with senior officials on 5 October in Skopje. The talks also touched on the reform of the electoral system, which the country is carrying out in cooperation with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. According to the Chairman-in-Office, the last local elections had shortcomings, but they were better than the previous ones. The electoral system reform is therefore one of the main tasks of the authorities.

OSCE and ITF in Tbilisi on Efficient Demining Activities

TBILISI - The OSCE and the Slovenian-run International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) organized a workshop in Tbilisi on 5 and 6 October on regional cooperation and building trust for efficient demining in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. The workshop was aimed at presenting problems with mines in the two regions and encouraging dialogue on demining activities. Over 70 participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, as well as several NGOs and international organizations presented an overview of the current situation in the region and best practices from other mine-affected regions.

Human Rights Seminar Held in Vladikavkaz

VLADIKAVKAZ - The Slovenian OSCE chairmanship has held a seminar in Northern Ossetia/Russian Federation as part of its pilot project aimed at educating people about human rights. The seminar got underway on 6 October in Vladikavkaz. The goal of the pilot project is to educate primary and secondary school students about human rights. Meanwhile, the Slovenian-run Together Foundation is currently offering psychological care to teachers and students who survived last year's tragedy in Beslan. The foundation launched the project in April.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BELGRADE/PRISTINA, 14 October - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel will visit Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo/Serbia and Montenegro.

MOSCOW, 17 October - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel is to visit Russian Federation.

CHISINAU, 18 October - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel is to visit Moldova.

KIEV, 19 October - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel is to visit Ukraine.