



CIO.GAL/48/05

19 April 2005

ENGLISH only

## **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (13 April – 19 April)**

### **Rupel Satisfied OSCE Has EU Backing**

LUXEMBOURG - EU foreign ministers expressed backing for the current policies of the OSCE and were pleased to hear that the organisation's budget crisis looks closer to the end, OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel said on 16 April. Speaking on the margins of an informal meeting of EU foreign ministers, Rupel said the ministers focused on political issues on the OSCE agenda.

### **OSCE Special Envoy Says Kyrgyz Situation Better, Not Stable**

VIENNA - The OSCE Chairman's special envoy for Central Asia has said the situation in Kyrgyzstan following the opposition's rise to power in March is improving, but is still fragile. Addressing the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna on 14 April, Alojz Peterle said the overall political situation had improved significantly following the parliament's confirmation of the resignation of deposed President Askar Akayev. However, full stability has not been achieved, Peterle said, adding that he was concerned by the overly high expectations of the new authorities and signs of growing nationalism.

### **OSCE Chairman travels to Central Asia**

BISHKEK - OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel started a three-day tour of Central Asia on 18 April that it is taking him to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. His talks with officials in the three countries are expected to focus on the OSCE's current political agenda and the building of democracy in the region. This will be Rupel's second visit to Kyrgyzstan in less than a month - he visited Bishkek on 31 March in an effort to help stabilise the situation following the disputed parliamentary elections. The OSCE Chairman will be in Tajikistan on Tuesday, while he is expected to visit Turkmenistan on Wednesday. Rupel is to meet top government officials and representatives of the civil society in all three countries.

### **OSCE Chairman Offers Help in Revival of Political Process in Albania**

TIRANA - The OSCE is willing to help Albania in the revival of the political process, democratisation and organisation of elections. Yet the organisation does not have "magical powers" that could be used for an event as important as elections in Albania, OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel said on 11 April in Tirana after meeting senior Albanian officials. The parliamentary elections, scheduled for July, will be a major test for the country and should be conducted according to international standards, he said. Rupel met President Alfred Moisiu, Prime Minister Fatos Nano and Foreign Minister Kastriot Islami, as well as representatives of different parties and NGOs.

### **Rupel Meets OSCE Anti-Trafficking Chair**

LJUBLJANA - Efforts to strengthen the fight against human trafficking topped talks between OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel and the OSCE's Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Helga Konrad, on 12 April. In their meeting, Rupel underscored Slovenia had made the implementation of goals set in the OSCE action plan for combating human trafficking its priority. Moreover, Slovenia wishes to step up cooperation with the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Rupel stressed.

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

BISHKEK, DUSHANBE, ASHGABAD, 18 through 20 April - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel is visiting Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in what is the second leg of his tour of Central Asia.

SEOUL, 25 April - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel is to take part in the OSCE-Korea Conference.

PARIS, 28 April - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel is to take part in an OSCE conference on violence against women.