

# OSCE

## NEWSLETTER

### Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Courtesy: Karl Schoenborfer



*The four Kosovar members of the province's Interim Administrative Council, who spoke on 31 May at the Permanent Council, later held a press conference in the Hofburg*

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## OSCE Permanent Council approves 22 million euro budget to organize Kosovo-wide elections in November

At its final meeting in May, the OSCE's Permanent Council (PC) decided to adopt a supplementary budget of almost 22 million euros for the holding of Kosovo-wide elections on 17 November 2001. The electoral process will be used to form a 120-member central assembly, as outlined under the constitutional framework for Kosovo.

The supplementary budget for the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK),

approved on 31 May, amounts to a total of 21,650,000 euros. This money will be used for two core tasks – updating the voters' list and organizing the election itself.

At the same Permanent Council meeting, guest speakers included the four Kosovar members of the province's Interim Administration Council, who each delivered brief statements to the meeting, in which they outlined their respective views of the current situation in the

province. All of them took the opportunity to praise the Mission's role in organizing and conducting last October's local elections, a task undertaken on behalf of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Ibrahim Rugova, President of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), the party which won most seats in the October elections, called on the OSCE for further support in the holding of the forthcoming elections. He said the secu-

city situation had improved and that Kosovo was functioning well in most areas. He also added his voice to the request of the United Nations Special Representative for Kosovo to raise the total number of police due to be trained by the OSCE in Kosovo by a further 2,000.

Hashim Thaqi, President of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK), called on the minority Serb community, which had largely boycotted the October poll, to participate in this year's elections. "Albanians have a responsibility to make Serbs feel safer in Kosovo", he said. "Serb children should be able to freely attend kindergartens and schools."

Speaking for the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK), Ramush Haradinaj, its President, said the OSCE was responsible for the most important challenge since the local elections, namely the holding of the general elections in November.

"For allowing us to look to a future of peace and stability, the OSCE deserves the best part of the credit for its leadership".

However, Mrs. Rada Trajkovic, Member of the Serbian National Council (SNC) for the district of Gračanica, sounded a less optimistic note, warning about the spectre of terrorism and the abundance of weapons. She described the life of the Serb community as "dire" and asked: "What sort of democratic elections can we have?" She also urged the OSCE to support the new government in Belgrade as a stabilizing factor in Kosovo.

The OSCE's Head of Mission in Kosovo, Daan Everts, who also spoke to the PC on the Mission's role in organizing the elections, told a well-attended press conference in the Hofburg, immediately after the meeting, that there was basic agreement on the way to move for-

ward in the building of democracy in Kosovo.

"This doesn't mean that there are no questions left overhanging the elections. We want to see the full participation of the non-Albanian communities. The issue of security is well-recognized by the OSCE and UNMIK and by the leading politicians on all sides".

#### **Ground rules approved**

The agreement on funding followed approval of the ground rules for the conduct of the elections, announced by the Kosovo Central Election Commission (CEC) one week earlier in May. This Code of Conduct applies to political par-



*Daan Everts, Head of the OSCE's Mission in Kosovo*

ties, coalitions, candidates and their supporters. It is the key to ensuring that the entire electoral process meets international standards. The Code is designed to ensure that the political entities contesting the elections, as well as their supporters, conduct their campaigns in a law-abiding and democratic manner. It aims to prevent violence, intimidation and corruption from marring the election campaign.

The rules prohibit the use of language aimed at provoking violence and outlaw the use of bribery and intimidation to gain support. Any display of weapons at campaign rallies is also barred. The code also warns against interfering with cam-

aign materials, such as posters, distributed by rival political entities.

On the same day (24 May), the OSCE Head of Mission, welcomed the statement by President Kostunica of Yugoslavia, in which he urged Kosovo's Serb community to take part in the upcoming registration campaign, which is integral to the preparations for the November elections.

He described the President's comments as "very encouraging" and said the statement represented a very constructive step forward. "We hope that Kosovo's Serb community listened to what he said and will take his advice. Our message to them is exactly the same. They don't have

to decide now on whether or not to participate in the elections for the new central assembly. We appreciate that this is not a simple decision and that they need time to weigh up the pros and cons."

For the 2000 elections, the OSCE compiled a civil and voters register of almost one million people. However, some people did not register at that time and others have returned to Kosovo since that initial registration.

In coming months, therefore, the OMIK will be making sure that the electoral roll is as comprehensive as possible. Its efforts will include a six-week drive to update the data. This is being done both within and outside Kosovo to ensure that all eligible voters have a chance to participate.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo will be building on its experience of running the successful municipal elections held last year. The range of tasks runs from checking the eligibility of parties and candidates to preparing the ballot paper. The work will continue in the months to come to ensure that Kosovo has an election which is up to the OSCE's high standards of transparency, fairness and accuracy.

# The Quiet Diplomat speaks

At the end of June, Max van der Stoel will be stepping down from the post of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities after eight and a half years. His retirement also marks a quarter of a century of involvement with the OSCE and its predecessor, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. As Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, he was instrumental in drawing up the OSCE's foundation document, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. The *OSCE Newsletter* asked him about his role as High Commissioner and his long association with the OSCE.

*Newsletter:* You were in the pre-Helsinki discussions in the early 1970s. Did you really think then that the CSCE could make a difference?

**Van der Stoel:** I did not believe – and I think most other Western diplomats shared the view – that the Communist governments would live up to their promise of implementing the various human rights elements of the Final Act. We all underestimated the impact that the Final Act would have on the citizens of these countries. It was they that held their leaders to account for what was signed at Helsinki. As Vaclav Havel, a man who made the journey from Czech dissident to Czech President, observed, the Communist leaders became caught up in their own web of lies.

*Do you think that Europe is nowadays a more stable place than it was when you started this job, over eight years ago?*

**VdS:** In several countries, yes. If you reflect back on the period of post-Communist instability that generated the idea of creating the post of High Commissioner in the first place, then I think it is fair to say that conflicts have been averted and crises have been brought under control. Nevertheless, it is clear that certain regions, like the Balkans, still face serious crises and in some countries tensions are



*Max van der Stoel, the outgoing OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities*

still boiling just below the surface. So I don't think that we can be too self-congratulatory or complacent. We still have a long way to go.

*Do you think that your message on the importance of conflict prevention has been heard?*

**VdS:** Well, I hope that it has been heard. More people do seem to talk about the importance of conflict prevention. But even more has to be done to translate good intentions into practice and to take early action in response to early warning. What has still been insufficiently understood is

that conflict prevention has to begin at an early stage. It is not crisis management; indeed, if successful, it can preclude crisis management.

*Why are we still slow in acting on the early warning signs, for example in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia?*

**VdS:** It is hard to pinpoint and frankly it is frustrating. A lot has to do with political will and/or putting sufficient resources into projects that can reduce tensions. The problem is that decision-makers have many issues on their plates. It is hard to generate interest in the potential crises of

tomorrow when people are busy dealing with the crises of the day.

*Why do you think that extreme nationalism persists?*

**VdS:** I would say that it has to do with certain groups defending narrow interests which are then packaged as “ethnic” issues. Because national identity is so emotive and affects people directly (because of language, culture, symbolism and so on), if they feel, or are led to believe, that this identity is threatened, then they react in a hostile way. This is dangerous because, as we have seen so often, extreme nationalism usually manifests itself by one group trampling on the rights of others whom they perceive as different.

*How would you respond to the criticism by some that you apply different standards in different situations?*

**VdS:** I am not aware of sinning in this respect. I base my recommendations and advice on international standards, and these are not open to compromise. Of course, these standards are not applied in a vacuum. One must be sensitive to the political conditions in a country and be pragmatic. But one must stick to fundamental principles.

*You have sometimes been criticized by members of the majority for going too far, and by some among the minorities for not going far enough; this must have seemed like a thankless job.*

**VdS:** It can be, but this is not a popularity contest. If extremists on both sides of the argument disagree with me, I usually consider that I must be doing something right.

*What is your proudest accomplishment in this post?*

**VdS:** I have been most impressed by the reaction that I have received lately from certain governments that I did not always see eye to eye with. I have the impression that there has been mutual respect, even though we may have often disagreed. This, to me, is a vindication of my approach of quiet diplomacy and co-operative security.

*How did you maintain your pace over the last eight years – travelling more than 150 days a year without holidays?*

**VdS:** I don’t think it was that many days, but I have travelled a great deal. If a job fascinates you, then you don’t get tired.

*What advice would you give to your successor, Rolf Ekeus?*

**VdS:** If he encounters setbacks, he should try and try again.

## Chairman-in-Office stresses need for more co-ordination between OSCE, EU and NATO

CiO welcomes mechanism of South-East Europe Common Assessment Paper

**R**omanian Foreign Minister, Mircea Geoana, speaking also in his capacity as the current Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, addressed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) meeting in Budapest on 30 May. He told the gathering of foreign ministers from NATO member and partner countries he saw current relations between NATO and the OSCE characterized by an increasingly co-operative spirit.

“Commonly shared principles, values and commitments, rooted in a mutual and comprehensive security approach, are the unifying features of our Euro-

Atlantic community”, he said, adding that one of the main goals of his visit, was to encourage the dialogue between the OSCE and the Alliance’s political link to Partner nations, the EAPC.

But he pointed out that the alarming increase in violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia meant that more co-ordination was necessary between the OSCE, the European Union and NATO to ensure a political settlement to the conflict.

“We strongly support the National Unity Government and the process of inter-ethnic dialogue on addressing legit-

imate concerns. There can be no military solution. The OSCE, and I personally, will continue to stay engaged and do our job, in a practical and cooperative way.

The CiO said that OSCE experience, especially in the Balkans, demonstrated the need for mutual trust and co-operation between member states. The key lesson of the Western Balkan breakdown was the necessity to develop and foster prevention and confidence-building measures.

“A strong NATO–OSCE partnership has much to offer in ensuring that such measures are properly conceived and

implemented. NATO and OSCE actions are aimed at similar objectives: promoting security, stability, cooperation and prosperity; promoting democracy, human rights and human dignity; promoting conflict prevention and early response to challenges and crisis”, he said.

contact and political-level cross-representation at ministerial and summit meetings had already been established.

But it was not enough to simply speak of cooperation; offering concrete mechanisms was essential.

“My second goal today is to offer

common and individual contributions to European security and stability,” he said.

The initiative was the first to involve all the countries of the region in defining common views on the challenges to security and the opportunities for co-operation. The SEECAP was perhaps the most significant regional approach to security in south-eastern Europe within the framework of NATO’s South-East Europe Initiative (SEEI).

“SEECAP is the beginning of a regional process, not an end in itself” said Minister Geoana. “It calls for concrete measures to be carried out in ‘follow-up’ annual reviews. The practice of individual nations assuming the co-ordination of specific initiatives has proven useful under NATO’s SEE Initiative and will continue in the SEECAP follow-ups.”

Regional ownership and lead of such initiatives had to become the norm, he stressed. Meetings of South-eastern Europe Defence Ministers, South-eastern Europe Co-operation Process, the Stability Pact or the regional anti-crime centre of the South-eastern Europe Co-operation Initiative in Bucharest could be looked upon as suitable frameworks and instruments to be used to foster, in the first stage, the objectives identified under SEECAP.

“NATO, EU and OSCE values can play a central role in promoting a new culture of relations based on mutual trust and cooperation between the countries of Central, East and South-East Europe”, said the Chairman-in-Office.



*OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister, Mircea Geoana*

The partnership between NATO and the OSCE had been largely influenced by practical co-operation in peace support operations and in the context of institutional development. Today, the OSCE and NATO were both involved in operations in the Balkans, co-operating closely on the ground. Intensified staff-level

some insight into one effective mechanism for building lasting security and stability in south-eastern Europe, the South-East Europe Common Assessment Paper (SEECAP). This initiative identifies the security challenges and opportunities of the region and strives to intensify and enhance the participants’

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# Completing a decade of work for human rights and democracy

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe celebrates its tenth anniversary this year and in this group of articles the *Newsletter* looks back at different aspects of its work.

When the Office for Free Elections (OFE) opened in 1991, few people could have foreseen how the institution would evolve in the ensuing decade. Renamed the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in 1992, it has since become acknowledged as the lead agency in Europe in the field of election observation, and is also now a highly respected partner in international efforts to help transition countries in the OSCE region to build sustainable democracies in which human rights and the rule of law are fully respected.

## From OFE to ODIHR

The beginnings of the institution were modest. Established under the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the OFE opened in Warsaw in May 1991 with only two international staff (its first director and one officer), a small budget and the narrow mandate to 'facilitate contacts and the exchange of information on elections within participating States'.

Against the background of the violence that accompanied the disintegration of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, the Office's mandate was subsequently broadened to include human rights and

democratization issues. This decision reflected the conviction, already spelt out in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, that respect for human rights and the principles of democracy is a precondition for security and stability in Europe. The ODIHR was tasked with helping OSCE participating States with building the structures and in-country capacities necessary for an open and democratic society.

## What does the ODIHR do?

The ODIHR, based in Warsaw, Poland, is the main OSCE institution dealing with democratization and human rights. The ODIHR observes elections, monitors the human rights situation in OSCE States, carries out democratization and human rights projects in over 20 countries and provides expertise on these issues to OSCE field offices.

In 2000 alone, the ODIHR sent more than 3,000 observers to monitor 14 elections and implemented some 100 democratization and human rights projects. These projects focused on:

- promoting the rule of law
- strengthening civil society
- assisting Ombudsman and other national human rights institutions
- preventing torture
- promoting gender equality
- combating trafficking in human beings
- enhancing respect for human rights of migrants
- fostering the rights of Roma and Sinti
- providing technical election assistance
- furthering tolerance and freedom of religion or belief

In the following years, the ODIHR's main activities consisted of observing elections and organizing conferences on various democratization and human rights issues, in Warsaw as well as in the transition countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

In 1994, the first Director, Luchino Cortese (Italy), was succeeded by Audrey Glover (United Kingdom), who held the post for the next three years.

## ODIHR history in brief

- 1991** Opening of the CSCE Office for Free Elections. First Director: Amb. Luchino Cortese (Italy). First election observation.
- 1992** Broader mandate and new name: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. First democratization projects and first Human Dimension Seminar in Warsaw.
- 1994** Amb. Audrey Glover (United Kingdom) appointed ODIHR Director.
- 1997** Amb. Gérard Stoudmann (Switzerland) appointed third ODIHR Director. New election and democratization programmes developed.
- 1998** Inauguration of new office premises. Number of staff exceeds 40.
- 2000** Amb. Stoudmann re-appointed. ODIHR implements over 100 projects and observes 100th election since 1991. Number of staff exceeds 80.
- 2001** ODIHR celebrates Tenth anniversary.

In 1997, the Office was completely restructured and its scope of activities significantly broadened.

### New democratization and election programmes

New democratization programmes were developed to focus on small but highly effective training and public awareness programmes targeting certain key groups such as the legal community or young people. The overall objective of these programmes, which continue to expand, is to strengthen democratic institutions, promote respect for human rights and the rule of law, and support the development of civil society. The Office also further improved its unique election observation methodology, which combines long-term election observation missions with assistance projects aimed at improving the framework for elections in OSCE countries. Since 1991, the

ODIHR has observed more than 100 elections in the OSCE region.

“The high level of expertise and professionalism developed by the ODIHR over the past years has made the Office a credible and highly respected partner for governments, as well as for other international organizations and NGOs”, says Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann, Director of the ODIHR since 1997.

Today the ODIHR employs more than 80 staff drawn from over 30 countries across the OSCE region. The Office’s budget in 2001 is expected to exceed 12,5 million, including 6 million in voluntary contributions by participating States and other donors.

### Responding flexibly and rapidly to emerging needs

Over the past few years, the ODIHR has proved its capability to respond rapidly and effectively to emerging needs

and opportunities in the OSCE area – one of the Office’s comparative advantages.

In 1999, for example, the ODIHR produced in under five months a major 400-page report on human rights violations committed in Kosovo before the NATO military intervention.

“Despite its relatively small size and its limited resources, the ODIHR, as a highly flexible and cost-efficient office, has had considerable impact in a number of clearly defined target areas”, says the Director. This was also the conclusion of an external evaluation of ODIHR project work carried out in 2000.

### Looking ahead

Following several years of steady expansion, the ODIHR has entered a phase of consolidation. The focus is now on refining the existing programmes and ensuring proper follow-up, while retaining flexibility. In the years to come, the ODIHR will remain committed to assisting OSCE countries in facing the challenges of transition.

“We will also pay increased attention to the growing number of human rights problems affecting all countries across the OSCE region such as xenophobia, racism and intolerance”, adds Amb. Stoudmann. “In doing so, we will do our best to retain our characteristic strengths: flexibility and expertise that give the capability to react quickly and unfettered by bureaucracy when our advice and assistance is requested anywhere in the OSCE area.”

## Facing the challenges of the next decade

### An interview with Eric Rudenshiold, the Head of the ODIHR Democratization Section

*Newsletter: Ten years after the opening of the ODIHR, what would you say are the Office’s main achievements in the field of democratization?*

**E.R.:** The ODIHR has conducted a remarkable number of democratization

programmes which have been designed to build capacity in transition countries and to create self-sustainability. The democratization programme at first was more of an ad hoc response to a tremendous number of problems and requests.

Since that time our programmes have evolved into a more strategic effort to target certain aspects of democratization where we believe we can make a difference. Because of our long-term engagement, we have developed very good rela-

tionships with ministries, NGOs, international organizations and other donors. This enhances our unique ability to provide specialized programmes.

*Can you give some concrete examples of success stories?*

**E.R.** A number of years ago, we started the process of legislative analyses and commentaries for draft laws submitted to us by governments. Initially this was met with some scepticism by local actors, but since then it has developed into a vital and active exchange and consultation process. Another example is our prison reform work in Kazakhstan, where we have assisted the government in developing one of the most reform-minded and human rights-oriented prison systems in the CIS. Despite a lack of resources and

many other problems, there has been a fundamental change in attitude. When the transfer of the prison system to the Ministry of Justice is complete, we hope soon to use Kazakh prison authorities as a model for other transition States to follow.

*What are the section's plans for the future?*

**E.R.** We hope to be able to continue our strong partnership with the different actors in the countries we work in. There remain a number of areas where governments and civil society do not engage in dialogue and treat each other with suspicion. And there are still a number of emerging problems, such as trafficking in human beings, which require

an international and co-ordinated effort to fight travesties of human rights. The kind of work we do generally does not produce rapid results. Instead, it requires changes in processes and ways of thinking. This can be a very slow, but also eventually a more valuable process. Building on our experiences from the last ten years, I believe we are well positioned to face the challenges of the next decade.



## Improving elections in the OSCE region

The ODIHR observes elections and helps reform electoral frameworks

Recognizing the importance of well-conducted elections for a democratic society, the observation of election processes has emerged in recent years as an important task in support of democratic transition and universal human rights. "I see the observation of elections as a diagnostic tool to detect deeper structural problems in a country and as an early warning instrument", says Hrair Balian, the Head of the ODIHR's Election Section. "It also provides the opportunity to get in touch with many actors of the society across the country and feel the pulse of the people. This helps to understand better societies in transition and identify areas where the international community can do something."

**Europe's leading election observation agency**

The ODIHR has evolved over the past

decade into the lead agency in the field of election observation in Europe and Central Asia. It has observed more than 100 elections in the OSCE region, and sends thousands of observers to OSCE States every year to assess whether an election is in line with domestic legislation and international commitments. The field operations are co-ordinated by a team of seven election experts based in the Warsaw headquarters.

With the adoption of the 1990 Copenhagen Document, all OSCE countries



committed themselves to holding democratic elections. Nevertheless, there are a number of elections and other electoral events in the OSCE area every year that fall short in one or more respects of meeting OSCE commitments. In some instances, elections are still marred by fraud, such as ballot stuffing or falsification of results, as well as by lack of transparency and accountability,

flawed legislation, restrictions of fundamental freedoms and intimidation of voters. The ODIHR highlights such shortcomings in its election reports and has developed technical assistance projects to help institute safeguards and remedy problems.



### Unique methodology

Tasked by the OSCE participating States, the ODIHR has developed a unique election observation methodology which aims at monitoring the election process as a whole, including the legislative framework, the work of election commissions, the media, the campaigns of political parties and the voting and counting procedures on election day. To this end, the ODIHR not only sends observers to monitor the conduct of elections on election day itself, but also deploys expert teams more than a month before the elections to observe and anal-

yse the long-term aspects of the election processes. Following the election, the ODIHR offers assistance in addressing the shortcomings identified by its observers.

As noted, the main basis for the ODIHR's assessment of an election is the Copenhagen Document, which contains a unique set of detailed commitments on how elections should be conducted in an OSCE country. At the 1999 Istanbul Summit, the participating States agreed to "follow up promptly the ODIHR's election assessment and recommendations", which are included in the reports

the ODIHR publishes after each election it observes.

"Over the past years, the administrative and legislative frameworks for elections have improved considerably in many OSCE countries, not least due to our assistance programmes", concludes Mr. Balian. "In the future, we will focus on remaining problems such as lack of transparency in the election process, lack of accountability in the work of election commissions, interference by the authorities in the electoral process and restrictions of fundamental freedoms."

## Promoting the rights of Roma and Sinti

Since 1994, the ODIHR has served as a contact point on Roma and Sinti issues

Nicolae Gheorghe is a difficult person to reach. Since he was appointed by the ODIHR as the first full-time international official working solely on Roma issues in 1999, Mr. Gheorghe has been almost constantly on the road to do his job: advise governments on policy-making and carry out projects to promote the rights of Roma and Sinti. In addition, he performs the functions of a clearing-house for the exchange of information on Roma and Sinti issues.

### Participation in public life

"One of our main focuses at the moment is to promote the participation of Roma and Sinti in the public life of the countries they live in", says Mr. Gheorghe, a well-known former NGO activist and scholar from Romania. "We also concentrate our activities on Roma

living in crisis or post-crisis situations."

The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues was established in 1994

bring the different actors together, and help Roma communities define common positions.



The Contact Point also carries out education and training programmes aimed at advancing the political participation of Roma and Sinti and promoting respect for their rights.

"I believe that we have succeeded in improving the relations between the major international Roma associations and in launching a

process of social mobilization of Roma in many countries," concludes Mr. Gheorghe.

"Where we still have to do more in the future is raising awareness of and improving the situation of Roma in crisis situations, in particular in the Balkans."

# Investing in the future generations of lawyers

The Kosovo Law Centre plays a central role in the reform of the Law Faculty of Pristina University, helping to train new young lawyers

The modernization of the Law Faculty of the University of Pristina is in progress. From the outside, changes are already visible: the front of the building has just been painted a pleasant shade of blue. But the changes are much more than superficial. Renovation is not only taking place on the outside, the curriculum has been revamped, international teachers have been invited to give lectures, the problem of ineffective administration has been addressed, and the introduction of innovative methods of teaching is also on the agenda.

The legal system in Kosovo is currently in a transition period. It has to be adapted to function in accordance with democratic standards, but it is also essential that the law students, who will be tomorrow's important actors in the judicial and economics arena, be familiar with the legal principles that win acceptance in democratic societies.

The Kosovo Law Centre (KLC), an independent NGO set up by the OSCE to promote the establishment of a democratic society, based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, is playing a central role in this process. The chief objective of the OSCE in creating the KLC was to cultivate professional skills of local legal talent and provide assistance to the legal community.

Among other tasks, the KLC drafts comments on planned legislation, holds seminars on legal issues, and has started to equip decision-makers with compilations of various domestic and international legal instruments applicable in Kosovo.

Since it was established in June last year, the KLC has also attempted to

enhance the capacity of the Law Faculty to turn out students who will be able to work in a modern legal environment, grounded in the principles of the rule of law. Experts from the KLC, in conjunction with their counterparts from the University, have been working together to develop a new curriculum which will be in line with the legal education in western countries, and to introduce innovative methods of teaching.

As Besim, a 23-year old student, explains, the students want to study the same topics as their western counterparts: "Our aim is to be open to the rest of the world, but for that we need to gain the legal knowledge that will allow us to be integrated in the global system".

## New study programmes

Since last October, the students in the first and the second academic years have been taught in several courses under these new programmes. They also attended classes in legal and political thought, Kosovo law in transition, European law and constitutional law given by KLC lawyers, and international specialists. In the next academic year, a new curriculum will be also introduced for the third and fourth years.

According to Dr. Sebastian von Münchow, the International Co-Director of the KLC, the negotiations were not easy. "Some individual professors showed reluctance to change their teaching methods, and it was also thanks to students who strongly expressed their wish for change that we managed to agree on the propositions", he said.

But as his local counterpart Professor Gani Oruqi, says: "It is not possible

any more to teach *ex cathedra*, we have to use interactive methods, discussions between students and professors, questions and answers". Last April saw the start of "legal clinical programmes" in public and civil law for the students of the third and fourth years, that will allow them to combine their academic knowledge with practical training sessions given by lawyers. This was a step in that direction.

Another imaginative approach aimed at promoting interactive methods is the initiative to send students abroad to events where they will be able to exercise their skill and initiate professional relations with other future lawyers. Thanks to the KLC, three students travelled to Washington to compete in an international law competition (*see box*) and four others participated as delegates at the Vienna International Model United Nations Conference.

In parallel, the KLC works to find donors to equip the Faculty with computers and books, and a computer room has been opened in the building. However, more support is badly needed in particular to develop the Faculty's library. In addition, in an effort to give the students who express an interest in international legal affairs the opportunity to get connected with other institutions or universities abroad, the KLC is facilitating access to scholarships.

For a student like Besim, whose first two academic years were spent studying in a private house in Pristina, study conditions today make students' work much easier. "Hopefully we had very strong motivation during those times, because the conditions were terrible: during the

first year most of us had no chair to sit on and were obliged to stand.”

However, going to university still remains a luxury for many people in Kosovo. “Too many talented students are

still obliged to leave the university because they have to work to support their relatives” says Albana, aged 22.

Like many fellow students, Albana, who is highly committed to the princi-

ples of human rights, would like to see their faster implementation in Kosovo, and suggests that human rights be taught to all students in all faculties of the University as a compulsory course.

## Kosovar students hone their advocacy skills in an international law competition

Bella Murati, Arijeta Kelmendi and Blerta Cella are students at the Law Faculty of the University of Pristina. In April, they had the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice, taking part in an international law competition in the United States.

The students, supported by the OSCE-sponsored Kosovo Law Centre, attended a simulation of the International Court of Justice, organized every year in Washington by the Jessup International Law Moot Court. The competition is open to teams of students from across the world. It gives them the opportunity to improve their advocacy skills, presenting pleadings as if they were before the Court.

A few months beforehand, the par-

ticipants received the description of the fictitious case they would have to handle in order to give them the time to research the topic and prepare their pleadings. This year it was about a complex border difference between the “Republic of Erebus” and the “Kingdom of Merapi”. During this preliminary phase, the Pristina team was trained by members of the KLC and OMIK volunteer lawyers.

During the competition, the team from Pristina played the role of the “Erebian” and the “Merapien” delegation and successively had to face another university which was acting as the delegation of the other party.

Although they did well in at least two cases, the results of their four “trials” against teams coming from Denmark,

Georgia, Puerto Rico and California did not qualify them for the second round. Nevertheless, the assessment was more than satisfactory.

In contrast to most of the other participants, it was the first time a delegation from Kosovo had taken part in the event. Bella, Arijeta and Blerta know now the tricks of the competition and have become familiar with the procedure of the Court. Next year, this experience will be useful if they choose to compete again, or if they coach a new team.



*Dr Sebastian von Munchow, International Co-Director of the KLC, addresses students on a recent course on international public law held at the Law Faculty*



*These students had the liberty to visit America to take part in a legal debating competition*

# Improving governance in economic matters

## Ninth Economic Forum discusses how the OSCE can provide more support

The OSCE can play an important role in facilitating and providing high level political support to good governance initiatives at the international level, and particularly in countries which have an OSCE presence. That was an important part of the consensus to emerge from the Ninth OSCE Economic Forum, held last month in Prague.

The event, which drew more than 400 participants, marked the culmination of more than a year of preparatory efforts on the part of the Romanian Chairmanship, supported by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

This year's theme of 'Transparency and Good Governance in Economic Matters' was discussed over four days, from 15 to 18 May 2001, in Prague's Czernin Palace.

In a keynote address, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, declared: "No matter how much support OSCE countries receive from international donor institutions, no matter how much attention we give to macro-economic indicators and economic reform, we cannot advance in the absence of good governance and transparency. They are key elements to sustainable growth, equal opportunities and, ultimately, enduring economic and political security in the whole OSCE area.

There was general agreement among participants that governance is the process and the institutions by which authority in a country is exercised. Governance can be defined in components that can be measured, analyzed and worked on: these include accountability, political stability and lack of violence, quality



*At the opening plenary of the Ninth Economic Forum: (from left) Secretary General, Jan Kubis, Deputy Director for Conference Services, Gunther Neumann, the Forum Chairman, Daniel Daianu and the OSCE CiO, Mircea Geoana*

regulatory framework, government effectiveness, control of corruption and rule of law.

Various approaches to promoting good governance were discussed throughout the working group sessions. A consensus emerged that good governance is most successfully implemented through the participation of stakeholders at the national and sub-national level, including national and local government, NGOs, the business sector, civil servants, and judiciary. The importance of ownership of the process of reform, political leadership and independent initiative in this context was emphasized.

"The role of field presences has been unanimously recognized as crucial for the implementation of the OSCE mandate. Their active and valuable contributions to the discussions demonstrated that field presences can be a key tool for the Organization in order to enhance its conflict prevention and early warning

capacity in the economic and environmental dimension," said Mr. Marc Baltes, Acting Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

The important role that the OSCE could play should be based on its special capabilities, including its ability to speak with the support of 55 countries; its field missions (which are close to stakeholders affected by the threats posed by corruption and instability); and the flexibility that permits the OSCE to respond to needs that are not being met by other international organizations.

This year's Forum was designed to further strengthen awareness among the 55 OSCE participating States and individual participants of the importance of promoting the rule of law and good governance.

Daniel Daianu, Chairperson of the Forum, described the debates as "very encouraging for what we are aiming at...they were rich in thoughtful com-

ments and useful insights,” he said. “The wide range of participants – representatives of governments, parliamentarians, academics, international organizations, NGOs etc – and the dedication vested in the debates prove that this year’s topic was rightly chosen, fitting a widely felt Zeitgeist and responding to overriding concerns.”

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Daianu advocated the importance of continuity in OSCE activities in order to achieve better results. He called for a substantive follow-up process to the numerous recommendations made during the Forum and stressed that transparency and good governance cut across the OSCE’s three dimensions. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, in co-operation with the Chair-in-Office, will engage in closer co-operation with OSCE Institu-



*An overall view of the Economic Forum plenary meeting in the Czernin Palace, Prague*

tions and partner organizations.

Total attendance at the Forum has

substantially increased, along with the number of participants representing non-governmental sectors throughout the OSCE area.

Partner organizations in attendance included the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the World Bank, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Pact.

For a detailed account of the proceedings and catalogue of recommendations, please check the OCEEA web page:

[www.osce.org/eea](http://www.osce.org/eea)

## New OSCE photograph gallery goes online

Over 650 images can now be accessed on the website

An online archive of images depicting the work of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in its 21 field operations throughout south-eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Eastern Europe is now available on the OSCE website.

Internet users can view and search images showing the impressive work done by the OSCE institutions and missions in the fields of early warning, conflict resolution, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation.

Featured categories include human rights, elections, border monitoring, police training, military aspects of security,

arms control, and media development. The archive also showcases key OSCE events and activities.

This comes as a result of eight months of effort involving 30 staff and relying on the latest Internet technologies available. It offers advanced search options, including by region, event and keywords. In many cases high quality versions of images are available for download upon request.

Over 20 photographers contributed to produce this database, which currently encompasses 650 pictures from the early 1990s up to the present day. More images are being added on a continual basis.

“This archive has been developed as a response to increasing requests from media representatives, governments, and non-governmental organizations for images of OSCE work in the field,” said Bonnie Landry, Online Manager of the Organization.

The OSCE is also pleased to announce that it will accept submissions to the archive from freelance photographers and agencies. No monetary compensation can be offered but full credit will be given. The best submissions will be featured as OSCE photo of the month.

The site is located at:

[www.osce.org/photos](http://www.osce.org/photos)



## News from the field

*The OSCE currently has Missions or other field activities in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo (Yugoslavia), Latvia, Skopje (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia. The following brief reports reflect some of the recent work which these field operations have undertaken.*

### **OMIK initiates workshops on human rights for Communities Committees**

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) held a workshop on human rights for members of municipal Communities Committees in Prizren on 18 May. It was part of a series of workshops organized by the OSCE-run Institute of Civil Administration (ICA) and the Mission's Department of Human Rights and Rule of Law, in co-operation with the Department of Local Administration of the Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS). The aim of one-day workshop was to provide guidelines for the members of community committees on their roles and responsibilities and to demonstrate how human rights are central to their work. Special attention was paid to the protection of minority rights.

### **Media training for young Roma journalists held in Kosovo**

Providing young Roma journalists with basic media training was the aim of a programme organized by OMIK from 14 to 18 May. The training focused on the preparation and presentation of radio programmes, in particular scriptwriting and the issue of how to satisfy the information needs of their audience. Technical skills required for the production of basic radio shows were also covered. Using their newly acquired skills, the young journalists prepared a radio feature programme together. The long-term goal of seminars of this kind is to facilitate the development of Roma language programmes and thus help to provide the Roma community with better access to the media. In the past, the development

of Roma media initiatives has proved difficult. Access to media in their own language is limited. Currently, only five radio stations in Kosovo broadcast in the Roma language.

### **Radio Television Kosovo gains political independence**

On 29 May, the Kosovo Interim Administrative Council approved a regulation establishing Radio Television Kosovo as the sole public service broadcaster in the province. Commenting on the decision, Daan Everts, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo said: "This is a huge step forward. It is crucial that people have access to reliable, non-partisan information. This regulation will ensure that Kosovo has a truly independent public service broadcaster, free from political interference and state control". The station has an independent board of directors, made up of six local and three international representatives. It aims at achieving a balance between programmes that have wide popular appeal and those which serve the needs of specific audiences.

### **Cantonal administration project launched in Central Bosnia Canton**

The Mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH) formally signed a memorandum of understanding with the Central Bosnia Canton on 23 May to commence implementation of the OSCE Cantonal Administration Project (CAP). It is the third canton to sign such document. The CAP project, which is the OSCE mission's largest and most comprehensive initiative undertaken at the cantonal level, is designed to increase the efficacy, trans-

parency and accountability of canton administration by targeting administrative and legislative authorities alike. "This is a key component of the OSCE's efforts to assist in promoting good governance and accountability of government officials to the citizens," said OSCE Acting Head of Mission, Ambassador Dieter Woltmann. The OSCE Mission inaugurated the project in the Central Bosnia Canton with the launch of a financial management assistance mission, followed by an organizational assessment mission.

### **Multi-ethnic police training starts in southern Serbia**

On 21 and 30 May, the first training courses for former police officers were conducted in Bujanovac, southern Serbia. The courses consist of three phases and are jointly organized by the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Serbian Interior Ministry. Participants are drawn from the Albanian and the Serb communities. The first phase of the training, consisting of three five-day refresher courses for former police officers and reservists, is to enable an ethnically mixed police presence to be rapidly established in the area of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja. A second phase starting on 11 June, consisting of a five-week training programme for a total of 40 trainees. A subsequent third phase will consist of a 12-week basic training programme for new recruits.

### **Prosecutors from southern Ukraine attend anti-corruption seminars**

On 14 and 15 May, the OSCE Project

Co-ordinator and the Ukrainian's Public Prosecutor General held a seminar on 'Corruption investigation and prevention strategy' for prosecutors in Yalta. It was the first of a series of five regional seminars planned within the framework of co-operation between the two institutions. Some 35 prosecutors from southern Ukraine participated in the seminar, which dealt with such key issues as the fight against corruption. Experts from the General Prosecutor's Office and the Institute for Prosecutors were among the speakers at the seminar. The participants also learned about international and foreign experience in this area.

### **Conference on gender issues organized in Yerevan**

The OSCE Mission in Yerevan, together with the Association of Women with University Education NGO (Centre for Gender Studies), hosted a conference on 'Gender culture in modern Armenian society: traditions and innovations' in Yerevan on 7 and 8 May. The conference, held in Yerevan, is part of a project on the 'improvement of women's participation in political, economic and public life in Armenia'. The event brought young teachers, researchers and students from the leading universities and research institutions together to discuss gender

issues. The conclusions and recommendations of the Conference will serve as a basis for the first textbook on gender studies in Armenia.

### **OSCE aids conference on democracy and law enforcement in Yerevan**

International experts and Armenian authorities came together on 17 and 18 May to discuss the current situation of law enforcement in Armenia, including reforms, challenges and perspectives. They were taking part in a conference in Yerevan, jointly organized by the OSCE Office, the Foreign Ministry and the Council of Europe with the support of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee. Discussion focused on the application of the European Convention on Human Rights in law enforcement bodies, adherence of domestic legislation to international standards, and the role of law enforcement bodies in protecting fundamental human rights and freedoms. The conference aimed at establishing a law enforcement project to improve police skills and competencies and increase knowledge of human rights among such agencies. This would include the foundation of a human rights and training centre for law enforcement bodies, the assistance in the elaboration of curricula for the police academy, the organization

of seminars and training, and study visits to western countries for senior officials. Follow-on discussions between the OSCE Office in Yerevan and ministries will identify specific themes.

### **Workshop in Tashkent focuses on Aarhus Convention**

The details of the Aarhus Convention on public access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters were discussed at a two-day workshop in Tashkent. The event was jointly organized by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, the State Committee on Nature Protection of the Republic in Uzbekistan (GosKomPriroda), and the American Bar Association Central and East European Law Initiative. Representatives from 13 state ministries and agencies, as well as environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the workshop. The agenda included a review of Uzbek national environmental legislation relating to access to information and public participation, a presentation of the Uzbek law on ecological expertise, and an analysis of the Aarhus Convention. A set of recommendations regarding the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Uzbekistan was prepared which will be presented to appropriate state officials.



On 7 May, the **Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana**, welcomed the release from prison of Ilie Ilascu, after nine years of detention. The release of Mr. Ilascu and his colleagues on humanitarian grounds had been demanded by the Council of Europe, Amnesty International and other international governmental and non-governmental organiza-

tions. Mr Geoana expressed his gratitude to Vladimir Voronin, President of Moldova, as well as to OSCE participating States for their continued efforts to ensure the release. He believed that Mr. Ilascu's release gives hope that all parties involved in the Transdnistria conflict might engage in a genuine dialogue to settle the outstanding issues facing Moldova. The CiO strongly appealed to the Tiraspol authorities to effect the speedy release on humanitarian grounds of other members of the Ilascu group.

On 11 May, the **OSCE Permanent Council** strongly condemned the renewed violent attacks by ethnic Albanian extremist groups in the northern parts of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A statement said the attacks constituted a threat to the security and stability of the state and of the wider region. The 55 participating States expressed their strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Council welcomed the establishment

of the mechanism for enhanced political dialogue under the leadership of President Trajkovski. The speedy formation of a broad coalition government consisting of all relevant political parties and reflecting the need for national unity and the continuation of the successful reform processes in the country was also encouraged. All relevant political leaders were urged to take their responsibility for the stability of the country and join the coalition.

The **Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ambassador Robert Frowick** supported the new coalition government in Skopje formed on 12 May. On behalf of the CiO, he congratulated the leadership of the political parties for their decision to establish the coalition, and said the OSCE would strongly support the efforts of the new government, manifestly strengthening the political unity of the country in the intensification of the dialogue aimed at reforms. In coordination with the European Union and NATO, every effort would be made to help bring about a cessation of hostilities.

On 25 May, the **Chairman-in-Office** released a statement in which he issued his strongest condemnation so far of the

extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He called for the immediate cessation of all violent acts. "The ethnic Albanian extremists must put down their arms, and all support for them must stop," said Mr Geoana. "We strongly support the National Unity Government and the process of inter-ethnic dialogue on addressing legitimate concerns. We express hope that the process can move forward urgently in the interest of the citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia... there is only one road to a resolution of the conflict and that there is no military solution to Macedonian problems." The CiO reiterated his support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and urged the Macedonian government to use only such force as was necessary and proportionate to respond to armed extremists, and to take steps to avoid more civilian casualties.

On 25 May the **Chairman-in-Office** also held a meeting with his **Personal Representative in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, to be briefed on the latest developments in the country. Ambassador Frowick described his meetings directed at ending the armed conflict, with Albanian political leaders in the former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo, as well as with Macedonian leaders in Skopje. He also noted that at no time had he had direct contacts with UCK representatives.

#### **Permanent Council changes**

The Permanent Representative of the Switzerland to the OSCE since 1997, **Amb. Marianne von Gruenigen**, left Vienna on her retirement from the Foreign Ministry at the end of May. Her Deputy, Josef Aregger, is currently Acting Head of the Delegation (an interview with Ms. von Gruenigen appears in the next issue of the *OSCE Newsletter*).

**Dr. Branislav Milinkovic** assumed his duties as Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 9 May. The Republic joined the OSCE in November last year, and Dr. Milinkovic is the first permanent Head of its Delegation. Born in Pljevlja, Yugoslavia in 1961, he studied international law and international relations, as well as film and TV production in Belgrade. Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs last year, his career included periods of academic research, lecturing, journalism and writing. He was editor of the *Review of International Affairs* from 1985 to 1996 and a member of the editorial board of the *Helsinki Monitor* for four years from 1996.



*Excerpts from international media coverage of the OSCE and its activities over recent weeks.*

#### **BELARUS**

*Financial Times, 22 May*

'Belarus's secret service, which still goes by the Soviet-era acronym KGB, yes-

terday accused the Minsk representative of the OSCE of subversion and trying to incite the ousting of President Alexander Lukashenko... It was the latest offensive by state officials against the OSCE, which is set to observe presidential elections in Belarus later this year. Mr Lukashenko and other high-ranking officials have repeatedly accused the OSCE of recruiting agents provocateurs as election monitors. The OSCE, a key participant in election monitoring in eastern Europe, has flatly denied these allegations.'

#### **CHECHNYA (RF)**

*Nezavisimaya Gazeta, 14 May*

'Russian President Vladimir Putin met yesterday with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, Adrian Severin, who visited Moscow... During their discussion, Putin offered "to expand the activities of the OSCE, to make its work more energetic, more persistent and more purposeful." In Putin's words, Russia "attaches great importance to the OSCE and to its co-operation with that Organization"... One of the issues in



the dialogue between Moscow and the OSCE is Chechnya. On the Russian side, it is anticipated that the OSCE Assistance Group will move in the very near future from Moscow to Chechnya.'

## FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 25 May*

'The OSCE described the establishment of a mixed police corps for the area (of Presevo) as an important step towards peace and stability in the region. The police corps of about 40 policemen, among them six Albanians, started their training this week, led by the OSCE. According to the OSCE Ambassador in Belgrade, Stefano Sannino, the policemen would start patrolling the administrative border with Kosovo on Saturday.'

## FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

*International Herald Tribune, 4 May*

'Tanks rumbled over cobblestone roads and helicopter gunships thundered overhead as Macedonian government forces unleashed a fresh assault on ethnic Albanian rebels in the country's north. There were unconfirmed reports of civilian casualties. Military officials, waging their largest offensive against the rebels since fighting subsided in late March, accused the insurgents of holding 3,500 people – mostly women and children – as "human shields" in the towns of Vaksince and Slupcane... Mircea Geoana, chairman of the OSCE, said: "These are acts which could only complicate the fragile equilibrium in the region. I urge all parties and all citizens of the country to show restraint and not allow the spiral of violence to grow".'

*Reuters, 7 May*

'A senior diplomat from the OSCE said the guerrillas were preventing some civilians from leaving villages under fire.

"We have observed cases of villagers not being allowed to leave by the UCK," the OSCE source said. "It is easy to create an atmosphere of intimidation in a small village, especially among the elderly and frail. We are extremely worried about the humanitarian situation. It is beginning to resemble a siege. They have problems with supplies", he told Reuters.'

*Le Monde, 8 May*

'According to the OSCE, the problem is urgent: "I do not believe that there exists a short term solution to the problem," said the OSCE representative in Skopje, Carlo Ungaro. "But," he added, "it is very important for the international community not to show even the slightest hint of solidarity towards those armed groups who are threatening the stability of Macedonia".'

*Reuters, 18 May*

'The OSCE called on Friday for ethnic Albanian guerrillas in Macedonia to end their armed rebellion, raising the prospect they could enter mainstream politics if they quit. In a radical departure from the official stance of foreign powers, the OSCE has made contacts with the National Liberation Army (NLA) rebels as part of broad Western efforts to convince them to abandon their armed struggle, a diplomatic source said... "These ideas are take it or leave it," Robert Frowick, the OSCE's top official in Skopje, told a news conference. "If they lay down their arms and if those who have come from Kosovo disappear, we can set in motion a new process," he said... The overture is at odds with unequivocal official Western backing for the Macedonian government's refusal to negotiate with rebels it denounces as terrorists for killing 13 soldiers, seven policemen and three civilians.'

*Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 21 May*

'In the last weeks, a high representa-

tive of the OSCE has met with leaders of the Albanian UCK-guerrilla in the occupied villages and presented a plan for a peaceful handover of the territory to government forces. The OSCE representative was incognito, however, moving with an official car of the Organization when he visited the headquarters of the rebels.'

*Der Kurier, 22 May*

'A plan for the withdrawal of the Albanian UCK rebels, negotiated by the OSCE, could be one of the last chances to save Macedonia from a bigger military conflict. According to the plan, the rebels, the majority of whom come from Kosovo, would lay down their weapons and return to Kosovo. Those who originated from Macedonia would get an amnesty.'

*Reuters, 24 May*

'Balkans envoy Robert Frowick, who left Macedonia under a dark cloud on Thursday, is well versed in the region's many intrigues after repeatedly being called out of retirement as a troubleshooter. But the 71-year-old career diplomat's ambition to carve out a major peacekeeping role for the OSCE has landed him in hot water. A secret deal he apparently brokered between ethnic Albanian politicians and Albanian guerrillas fighting the Macedonian army has threatened to shatter a fragile multi-ethnic coalition government, designed to avert a civil war. After just two months as the OSCE's special envoy in Skopje, the retired U.S. diplomat was packing his bags while Macedonia's Slav majority accused him of meddling and a fellow senior diplomat attacked his peace initiative as "extremely damaging".'

*The New York Times, 25 May*

'Efforts by an American diplomat, Robert Frowick, to end the Macedonian fighting ended in disarray after Mr. Frowick, working for the OSCE, bro-

kered a deal with the rebels, and members of Macedonia's government and European Union officials denounced any talks with the gunmen.'

#### *Financial Times, 25 May*

'Mr Frowick has been working in Macedonia for about six weeks, helping to narrow differences between the Slav and ethnic Albanian parties. He has also been involved in efforts to persuade the guerrillas to withdraw from Macedonia into United Nations-administered Kosovo. OSCE officials said they did not know exactly what Mr Frowick had been doing. Mr Frowick, who hurriedly left Skopje for Bucharest, could not be contacted for comment.'

#### *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 26 May*

'He came to Macedonia about two months ago, officially as special representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, the Romanian Foreign Minister. On Friday he then travelled pro forma to Bucharest for a debriefing. It was, however, clear that Frowick in reality was the special representative of Washington – and Washington only. He and his staff in Skopje were working in isolation, as an autonomous body without any connection to the OSCE mission. The impression was that only very few people knew what Frowick was doing. Many Western diplomats and especially the Macedonian government looked at his secret diplomacy with suspicion. Lack of communication and co-ordination were probably also contributing to Frowick's failure.'

#### *Reuters, 26 May*

'Balkans envoy Robert Frowick, asked to leave Macedonia over a deal he brokered with ethnic Albanian rebels, did

not personally meet guerrillas, the OSCE said on Saturday. Frowick has avoided any comment on his controversial peace gambit since arriving in Bucharest on Friday for talks with his boss, OSCE Chairman Mircea Geoana, Romania's Foreign Minister.

But a statement issued after the two met stressed that Frowick, a retired U.S. diplomat with extensive Balkan experience, had not broken across-the board commitments by foreign powers and Macedonian Slav leaders not to negotiate with guerrillas. "Ambassador Frowick noted that he had no direct contacts at any time with UCK representatives," the OSCE statement said.'

#### *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 28 May*

'The affair around the OSCE special envoy, the American Robert Frowick, reveals a striking lack of communication between Western political actors... After the hysterical reaction from leading Macedonian politicians to the meeting – above all from premier Ljubco Georgievski – suddenly no-one wanted to be involved. The EU, NATO, Washington, even the permanent mission of the OSCE in Skopje, headed by the Italian Carlo Ungaro – of which Frowick is not a member – were distancing themselves from the experienced and skilful American diplomat.'

#### *The Guardian, 29 May*

'The Frowick initiative made sense. It is not clear whether Frowick, who is a special envoy of the OSCE, was acting on his own initiative or, more probably, on behalf of governments who could disown him if things went wrong. Regrettably, when the Macedonian Slav leaders objected, the EU and NATO also did. They called the Frowick deal "unacceptable".'

## KOSOVO (FRY)

### *Reuters, 8 May*

'Kosovo's international administration urged Serbs on Tuesday to register for a province-wide election expected later this year or increase their isolation. Daan Everts, deputy head of the administration, said leaders in Belgrade should back registration now, even if they choose to wait before deciding whether Serbs should actually vote in the election, expected in late October or early November... Everts, who is also head of the Kosovo mission of the OSCE, said Serbs should accept the need for a Kosovo assembly. He warned that problems would increase if ethnic Albanians did not see progress towards the limited self-government that the UN-led administration is mandated to deliver. "I think that would lead to more tension, more fear and insecurity and more violence," he said.'

## NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

### *Interfax, 20 May*

'The Russian co-chairman of the Minsk-based OSCE group believes that the Nagorno Karabakh settlement still faces quite a few serious problems... He said the OSCE group's co-chairmen would work hard to bring nearer the date of signing a peace treaty.'

### *Reuters, 21 May*

"We are trying to make it a win-win solution," said one diplomat involved in the negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE. "The problem is that that idea is anathema to the mentality of this region where people think if you win, the other side must lose." Mediators said the next round of peace talks, scheduled to take place in Geneva in mid-June, would be postponed'.



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### ELECTIONS



#### **OSCE extends political support for domestic election observers**

Political support for domestic election observation groups is growing within the OSCE. This was one of the main findings of the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on Election Processes, held by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw from 29 to 31 May.

“This meeting has clearly shown that there is a growing consensus among OSCE States that domestic election observation is an important task of civil society and crucial for a democratic and credible election process”, said Ambassador Constantin Ene, the Special Representative of the Romanian OSCE Chairman-in-Office, at the closing of the Seminar. “Unfortunately, domestic observers still face numerous obstacles that severely hamper their work in an increasing number of countries.”

The ODIHR concluded that impressive improvements have been made in the fields of election administration and legislation in a number of OSCE countries over the past years, due not least to the ODIHR’s assistance programmes. “These improvements are essential for the credibility of an election, but they cannot substitute for the political will to hold genuinely democratic elections”, said the ODIHR’s Director, Gérard Stoudmann. “More attention has to be paid to the political follow-up.” Since its establishment ten years ago, the ODIHR has observed more than 100 elections and

referenda in the OSCE region. More than 200 election experts, government representatives and NGOs took part in the three-day meeting, Europe’s largest gathering of election experts. Participants also focused on the relationship between respect for human rights and the election processes, on the correlation between elections and economic development and good governance, and on the role of elections for stability.

The report of the meeting is available on the ODIHR website at

[www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr)

#### **ODIHR assists with preparation of guidelines for domestic observers**

The development of guidelines for domestic observers in the OSCE region was discussed at an ODIHR-sponsored working meeting attended by representatives of five domestic observation organizations, as well as the National Democratic Institute and Electoral Reform International Services, in Slovakia on 13 and 14 May. A first draft of the guidelines was produced following the meeting, and these draft guidelines were then discussed at a subsequent ODIHR conference – the first of its kind – attended by 23 domestic observation organizations from across the OSCE region in Warsaw on 28 and 29 May. After more consultations, the guidelines will be finalized by the end of the year.

#### **Gender issues are integrated into work of election observation**

The integration of gender issues in the ODIHR election observation methodology was discussed at a side meeting dur-

ing the Human Dimension Seminar on Election Processes in Warsaw.

The OSCE is the first international organization to look into gender as part of election observation. The ODIHR has already designed mechanisms to integrate gender aspects in its election observation activities. It is planned to refine the present observation procedures so as to ensure that gender issues are fully integrated in observation reports. It was recommended during the meeting that ODIHR election observation reports should include quantitative gender specific information, especially on voters, the representation of women in central and local government, among candidates, and in electoral authorities, and the incidence of family voting. In a qualitative sense, reports should contain analysis of the gender gap in participation rates, including socio-cultural, political and economic barriers to women’s participation. Reports should also contain recommendations on how the gender gap in political representation can be addressed.

#### **Croatian local elections judged to be in line with international standards**

An International Election Observation Mission concluded that the 20 May local government elections in Croatia were generally conducted in accordance with international standards for democratic elections. The international observers noted that the new Election Law generally provides for democratic elections, though the late adoption of the law contributed to some confusion regarding its implementation. The elections were contested by tens of thousands of candidates

at the municipal, town and county levels, representing a broad spectrum of political parties, coalitions and independent lists. The campaign was generally well conducted, focusing on socio-economic and national issues. Media coverage of the campaign was mostly balanced.

The overall positive assessment of these elections confirms the improvement the ODIHR noted during last year's parliamentary and presidential elections. However, several shortcomings were observed in the field of national minority participation and representation. These include stipulations in the new Election Law which provide for by-elections to ensure proportional minority representation, but fail to establish clear procedures on how to implement these provisions. Three other concerns, already highlighted during previous elections, remain: voter registers continue to identify the ethnicity of voters; the 1991 Law on Citizenship disadvantages persons who are not ethnic Croats; and ethnic Croat and Serb displaced persons are not afforded equal voting rights.

The International Election Observation Mission was a joint effort of the ODIHR and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. An ODIHR long-term observation mission was deployed on 18 April and was headed by Mark Stevens (UK). On election day, 136 short-term observers were deployed throughout the country. The observers reported from more than 830 polling stations covering 18 counties and the capital, Zagreb.

### **Experts meeting held on reform of Serbia's election laws**

The ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia met with representatives from the Serbian election administration, NGOs, and international experts in Belgrade on 8

May to launch a discussion in Serbia about the reform of election legislation.

In its report on last December's Serbian parliamentary elections, the ODIHR stated that the election was largely in line with OSCE commitments, but also noted a number of shortcomings in the electoral framework. The report's list of recommendations for improvements served as a basis for the discussions in Belgrade. The ODIHR welcomed the political will demonstrated by the Serbian authorities to address the shortcomings identified by the OSCE and to bring the electoral framework fully into compliance with international commitments for democratic elections.

### **DEMOCRATIZATION**



### **ODIHR and EC launch second joint programme on Central Asia**

In late April, the European Commission (EC) and the ODIHR launched a second joint programme for advancing human rights and democratization in Central Asia. This new programme builds on the first joint programme, a pioneering co-operation endeavour between the EC and the ODIHR, which was successfully concluded in June 2000. The new two-year programme includes projects in Central Asian countries with which the ODIHR has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Based on the achievements of the previous programme, the new projects cover two main themes: strengthening the rule of law by providing assistance to the reform of the region's penitentiary system, human rights bodies and relevant legislation, and building capacity within civil society through human rights monitoring training and other assistance projects.

A number of OSCE participating States are supporting this programme by providing voluntary contributions to the ODIHR share of costs.

### **Tajik legal clinic supervisors trained in Poland**

In the context of its project to assist with the establishment of a women's legal clinic in Tajikistan, the ODIHR organized a training visit for the professors who will be supervisors of the clinic. Three persons travelled to Poland for an internship that involved observation, participation and discussion sessions with all types of legal clinics run at the Law Faculty at Warsaw University and Krakow Jagielonian University. Intensive further curriculum development sessions, specifically designed to adjust gender equality lessons prepared by the participants, reinforced the clinical teaching methodologies and resulted in an additional three gender-focused lesson plans for the clinic.

### **Women's rights 'training of trainers' held in Azerbaijan and Georgia**

The ODIHR conducted two training workshops for future trainers on gender issues in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 30 April to 4 May, and in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 7 to 11 May. The training focused particularly on women from outside the capitals.

The aim of the workshops was to create local training capacity in the regions of both countries for awareness-raising and lobbying on women's rights, gender equality and the promotion of women's active participation in society. The training was also targeted towards bringing new women to the civil society movement and increasing the involvement of young women in public life. In each country, 22 participants from 11 different regions were selected in co-operation with local gender experts. Among the trainees in both countries were representatives of local governments and NGOs,

students, teachers and doctors, most of whom had had previous experience with gender-related work. The ODIHR initiative to work on gender issues in the regions of Azerbaijan and Georgia was highly welcomed both by the governments and civil society representatives and received substantial media coverage.

The training enhanced the knowledge of the participants on women's rights, gender equality and how to promote women's participation in society, and

human rights monitoring capacity. Three experts from the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights led the training, the main objective of which was to review and analyse the work performed by the participants since the last sessions, to discuss the main obstacles encountered in the monitoring process, and to find solutions to existing problems. The training also focused on the effective use of reports, and on co-operation, information sharing and networking between

ond phase of an ODIHR project supporting the reform of the registration system in Ukraine. It enabled the Ukrainian officials to familiarize themselves with the ongoing registration system reform in Moldova. On the Moldovan side, the visit was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

The Ukrainian officials were briefed at the Constitutional Court of Moldova on the Court's decision over the non-compliance of the Soviet-style *propiska* (residence permit) system with the Constitution. The delegation visited the Department on Information and Documentation of Population, the central state body dealing with population registration and the issuing of national identification documents. The programme also included visits to the Registration Office of Chisinau, the state enterprise *Registru* which is tasked with producing national identification documents and maintaining the state Population Register, as well as the training centre of the Department of Registration and Documentation of Population, which offers computer and language training courses for government officials.

In the final phase of the project, later this year, the ODIHR is planning to organize a round table on the reform of the registration system in Ukraine.

### **Regional legislative website for south-eastern Europe launched**

The ODIHR has launched *Legislationline* – a regional legislative website for South Eastern Europe. The website, a project under the Stability Pact, has been designed to support legislative reforms in south-eastern Europe. The site is a free-of-charge online service providing samples of national and international legislation relating to OSCE human dimension commitments. It primarily targets legislators, but will also be of



*Gerard Stoudmann, Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (right), and Max van der Stoep, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (left), during the recent OSCE/ODIHR Seminar on Election Processes.*

equipped them with basic training techniques and methodology. As a next step, the participants will conduct a series of one-day awareness-raising and lobbying seminars in their home regions throughout Azerbaijan and Georgia.

### **Follow-up human rights training held in Armenia and Azerbaijan**

Together with the OSCE Offices in Yerevan and Baku, the ODIHR has completed the second part of the human rights monitoring and reporting training programmes for Armenian and Azeri NGOs, aimed at strengthening local

human rights activists and government bodies.

At the end of the second part of the training, participants were invited to prepare proposals for human rights monitoring projects. The ODIHR will support some of these projects.

### **ODIHR arranges familiarization visit to Moldova for Ukrainian experts**

From 21 to 25 May, the ODIHR arranged a training visit to Moldova for Ukrainian government officials involved in the reform of the population registration system. The visit constituted the sec-

interest to legal practitioners, NGOs, academics, students, journalists and human rights activists.

The website provides access to international human rights instruments as well as domestic laws. Searchable by topic and by country, the online database allows the user to examine how a given issue is addressed in different legal systems across the OSCE region. So far, three topics are covered by the website: trafficking in human beings, elections, and citizenship issues. More topics will be added once funding for the continuation of the project is secured. The website can be found at

[www.legislationline.org](http://www.legislationline.org)

#### **ODIHR contributes to worldwide focus on children's rights**

As part of the OSCE's contribution to

giving children's rights a special international focus in the year of the UN General Assembly special session on children in September, the ODIHR co-sponsored the Young Voices poll, a survey of the views of children and adolescents in Europe and Central Asia about basic issues of politics, human rights and society. The results of the poll, which was developed and co-ordinated by UNICEF, were presented in Berlin on 16 May.

#### **ROMA AND SINTI**



#### **ODIHR continues to support participation of Roma in elections**

On 21 May, the ODIHR and the Project on Ethnic Relations jointly organized a meeting of representatives of Roma political parties and representa-

tives of the mainstream parties competing in the Bulgarian parliamentary elections on 17 June. The participants discussed the prospects for the recently established coalition of six predominantly Romani political parties, and other strategies to ensure proper representation of Roma in elected bodies.

As a follow-up to this meeting, the ODIHR launched an education programme for Roma voters together with the NGO Human Rights Project (Sofia). The programme includes the publication and dissemination of voter guidelines in Bulgarian and Romany, training workshops for Roma voters in six electoral districts, promoting Roma in the network of domestic election observers, and the development of post-election activities with Roma voters and the elected members of parliament.

## **NEWS** from the High Commissioner on National Minorities

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#### **High Commissioner visits Budapest and Bucharest**

From 6 to 8 May the High Commissioner visited Budapest. The main focus of his meetings was the draft law on the status of Hungarians living in neighboring countries. The law, currently being discussed by the Hungarian Parliament, is designed to provide support (e.g. medical, employment and educational) to the approximately three million ethnic Hungarians living in Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia. It is also designed to facilitate travel to Hungary for ethnic Hungarians living in neighboring countries. Mr. van der Stoel was interested to hear the views of the Government on the

details of the law, certain aspects of its implementation, and its effect on bilateral relations. He expressed the view that consultation on this subject between the Hungarian Government and the governments of neighbouring countries would be desirable.

Mr. van der Stoel also discussed issues concerning Hungarian minorities abroad, and minorities in Hungary. On 7 May he addressed the Raoul Wallenberg Seminar on Human Rights on the subject of 'Nationhood and Statehood: Reconciling Ethnicity and Citizenship in an Interdependent World'.

On 8 May, Mr. van der Stoel received the Middle Cross with Star of the Order of the Republic of Hungary from Foreign

Minister Janos Martoyni in recognition of his work in protecting minority rights and preventing inter-ethnic conflict.

From Budapest, the High Commissioner flew to Bucharest. Mr. van der Stoel was received by the President of Romania, Ion Iliescu. The main focus of his discussions with the President and other interlocutors was the 'Strategy of the Government of Romania for Improving the Condition of the Roma'. He met with Roma officials in Government and Roma representatives from the NGO community. Other topics of the High Commissioner's discussions included the implementation of public administration reform in communities with significant minority populations and the

reaction of the Romanian Government and ethnic Hungarians in Romania to the draft law.

### **Range of minority issues discussed in Belgrade visit**

The High Commissioner visited Belgrade on 27 May to discuss a range of minority-related issues with the Minister of National and Ethnic Communities, Mr. Ljajic. Among the subjects discussed were the draft law on national minorities, confidence-building measures for the Albanian minority in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the situation in Vojvodina (particularly as regards the Hungarian minority).

### **Urgent need for dialogue in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

In May, the High Commissioner visited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia twice. He again discussed international monitoring of the census (which has been postponed until October of this year), a number of issues concerning the establishment of the South East European University, and ways of addressing points of contention between the Macedonian and Albanian communities.

The High Commissioner repeatedly

stressed the urgent need for a rapid start to a meaningful inter-ethnic dialogue.

### **Minorities and religious extremism monitored in Central Asia**

From 19 to 25 May the High Commissioner visited Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. He began his visit in the south of Kyrgyzstan in Osh where there are tensions between the Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities. With members of the monitoring network (set up by the office of the HCNM) the High Commissioner discussed the general situation in the south of the country, including the threat of religious extremism.

In Bishkek the High Commissioner focused on the Russian minority in Kyrgyzstan. An increasing number of ethnic Russians are emigrating. Mr. van der Stoel spoke with President Akaev about the reasons for the exodus and what steps could be taken to stem it. He also discussed the desirability of including more Uzbeks into the public administration and the law enforcement agencies. In addition Mr. van der Stoel expressed the hope that ways would be found to ensure that the Uzbek language private TV channel in Osh would be able to continue its programmes.

He also gave his support to the

recognition of Russian as an official language.

The Russian minority was also a focus of the High Commissioner's meetings in Kazakhstan. Special attention was given to media broadcasts in minority languages. During his visit the Commissioner met with the team that is monitoring inter-ethnic relations in Kazakhstan under a joint programme between the HCNM office and the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan.

### **Need for minority participation in the electoral process highlighted**

On 31 May the High Commissioner addressed the closing plenary of the Human Dimension seminar on 'Election Processes' in Warsaw. In his speech he paid particular attention to the 'Guidelines to Assist National Minority Participation in the Electoral Process' which his office drew up together with the ODIHR and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. The objectives of the guidelines are to increase the effectiveness of national minorities in public decision-making bodies by means of enhanced representation as well as to provide 'food for thought' on various ways that this can be done.

## **REPORT** from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

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### **PA Moldova Committee organizes seminar on self-government**

From 28 to 31 May, the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, in conjunction with the Parliament of Finland and the Aland Lagting, organised a seminar on self-government which took place in Helsinki and Mariehamn. Initiated by the

OSCE PA Parliamentary Team on Moldova, the event not only gathered parliamentarians from nine countries (Canada, Finland, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine) but also other high-level personalities from international and national institutions (the United Nations Mission

in Kosovo, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the authorities of the Aland Islands, as well as a number of diplomats).

Most importantly, the seminar brought together those directly involved in the resolution of the conflict. A delegation from the Moldovan parliament, headed

by Vice-Speaker Vadim Misin, as well as leaders from Transnistria, headed by Grigory Marakutsa, participated in the discussions, as did the special governmental representatives on the Transnistrian issue from Russia and Ukraine, and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, Ambassador William Hill.

The seminar brought together different parliamentarians and other political leaders to promote further dialogue and to examine models of self-government, especially the model of autonomy developed within Finland for the Aland Islands, with a view to finding solutions applicable to the crisis in Moldova. Among other themes, the relevance of the language issue in the case of Aland's autonomy provoked discussions on the situation in Moldova with Moldovan as the official language, but with Russian- and Ukrainian-speaking minorities largely concentrated in Transnistria.

Ms. Riitta Uosukainen, Speaker of the Finnish Parliament and Erkki Tuomioja, Foreign Minister of Finland, addressed the seminar during the opening session and Adrian Severin, President of the OSCE PA, presented his thoughts on the role of the international community during its closing session. The participants were also received by the President of Finland, Mrs. Tarja Halonen. President Halonen is a former member of the OSCE PA.

The OSCE PA Parliamentary Team on Moldova, chaired by Kimmo Kiljunen, MP (Finland), was also represented by Jerahmiel Grafstein, MP (Canada), Roberto Battelli, MP (Slovenia) and Tone Tingsgard, MP (Sweden). The team was created in January 2000 with the main purpose of assisting in the reconciliation between the different parties



(From left) OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Vitaly Evseyev, OSCE PA President Adrian Severin, President Vladimir Putin and OSCE PA Vice-President Rita Suessmuth, meet at the Kremlin during President Severin's visit to Moscow.

involved and has, since its establishment, paid two visits to Chisinau and Tiraspol. The Transnistrian issue will also be addressed at the Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to be held in Paris in July.

#### **Kosovo Committee addresses Women in Politics Seminar**

From 26 to 27 May members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ad Hoc Committee on Kosovo participated in a two-day seminar in Pristina on women in politics, organized by the OSCE Mission

in Kosovo. The OSCE PA Delegation included Kosovo Committee Chair Ms. Rita Süßmuth, MP (Germany), Ms. Grethe Fossum, MP (Norway) and Ms. Elisabeth Meijer, MP (Netherlands).

In addition the Delegation was joined by Ms. Paula Kokkonen, MP (Finland). By providing concrete examples of personal experiences as politicians the four OSCE PA delegates played a key role in the seminar discussions aimed at strengthening the voice of female politicians in Kosovo. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo placed particular importance on the Seminar in view of the upcoming elections in Kosovo on 17 November 2001.

#### **OSCE PA Leaders meet President Putin of Russian Federation**

The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Adrian Severin, and Vice-President Mrs. Rita Süßmuth paid a working visit to Moscow from 9 to 12 May at the invitation of the Speaker of the Russian Duma, Gennady Seleznev. In



Elisabeth Meijer of the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Kosovo, speaking at the OMIK Seminar on Women in Politics.



addition to Speaker Seleznev, they met the Chairman of the State Duma Foreign Affairs Committee, Dmitry Rogozin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Evgeny Gusarov, and Deputy Defence Minister Igor Puzanov.

OSCE PA President Adrian Severin and Vice-President Rita Süßmuth were also received at the Kremlin by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin. During these meetings the role of the OSCE in the modern world was discussed as well as the ways in which Members of Parliament can contribute to the further development of stability and democracy on the European continent.

### **OSCE PA Delegation attends Ninth OSCE Economic Forum**

An OSCE PA Delegation including President Adrian Severin, MP (Romania), Second Committee Chair Jacques Floch, MP (France) and Second Committee Rapporteur Barbara Haering, MP (Switzerland) attended the Ninth OSCE Economic Forum in Prague from 15 to 18 May. In his address to the opening plenary of the Forum, Mr. Severin outlined the Parliamentary Assembly's approach to economic and environmental matters in the OSCE area as well as the importance of the parliamentary dimension.

"The role of parliamentarians is paramount when bringing transparency to the economic processes through com-

prehensive and effective legislature and implementation. Elected officials should address citizens and groups of interest (business/enterprises) concerns, as well as providing the oversight of executive practise."

Mr. Floch served as lead speaker of the working group dealing with instruments for promoting transparency and good governance and Ms. Haering served as rapporteur of the plenary session reviewing the implementation of OSCE commitments in the Economic and Environmental dimension.

### **PA Delegation participates in Human Dimension Seminar**

From 29 to 31 May, Kjell Engebretsen, MP (Norway) participated in the OSCE ODIHR Human Dimension Seminar on Election Processes on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly. Mr. Engebretsen delivered a keynote speech during the closing plenary session in which he highlighted the role of national parliaments in the consolidation of democratic values. He emphasized in particular the importance of parliamentarians in election observation missions.

Tina Schon from the Secretariat participated in the Seminar, assisting as Rapporteur for two of the five working groups. Ms. Schon reported to the closing plenary session on experiences of the OSCE in election organization and mon-

itoring, and listed a number of recommendations for future projects. She also reported on the working group that discussed democratic elections, rule of law and good governance, emphasising the need for transparency and measures against corruption.

### **PA President Severin pays official visit to Sweden**

On 28 May, President Severin and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver met in Stockholm with Tone Tingsgard, Swedish M.P. and Head of the Swedish OSCE PA Delegation and other parliamentarians, including the Speaker of the House, Ms. Birgitta Dahl. President Severin also spoke to the leaders of the Swedish NGO Network and met with State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Hans Dahlgren.

During the meetings, President Severin criticised the secret consensus decision-making processes in the OSCE and called for more oversight, transparency and accountability in the Organization's working methods. The Swedish Parliament also arranged for President Severin to be briefed by a representative of the Swedish National Audit Office, which had issued a highly critical report on the financial affairs of the OSCE during the calendar year 1999. The Audit Report in question has now been made available to the Assembly.

## **NEWS** from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

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### **Mandate extension for Freimut Duve recommended by Permanent Council**

The OSCE Permanent Council has recommended the Ministerial Council to extend the mandate of Freimut Duve as

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to 31 December 2003. Mr. Duve was appointed as the first OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in December 1997. In its recommendation,

the Permanent Council underlined the important contribution of Mr. Duve's office to the promotion of the freedom of expression and free media in the OSCE area.

## **Workshop held in Vienna on media freedom in Belarus**

On 31 May, a workshop was held in Vienna on freedom of the media in Belarus, organized by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. It was attended by journalists, governmental experts and by international media NGOs. Among the topics discussed were the following:

- structural problems of independent media;
- obstacles to the proper functioning of Belarusian independent media;
- information security policies and state authorities;
- presidential elections;
- support for the independence of the media.

The discussion represented a frank exchange of views between governmental and non-governmental media and it included, among other things, equitable media conditions for candidates from non-governmental sectors of the population in the upcoming elections. The par-

ticipants also discussed the establishment of a 'press club' to bring together journalists from all sides.

## **Media harassment alleged in Azerbaijan**

In a letter to Vilayat Gouliyev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, the OSCE Representative raised a number of cases of alleged harassment of journalists, among them: pressure against Khayal TV and Gutb TV in Guba and Aygun TV in Zakatala, the blocking of the transmission signal of Mingechevir TV and threats to shut down Dunya TV.

## **Duve takes up case of harassed journalist in Belgorod**

Throughout May, the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media has raised the case of the Russian journalist, Olga Kitova, a correspondent for Belgorodskaya Pravda and a member of the local legislature. She had reported on a miscarriage of justice in a case involving six college students, as well as on

questionable procedures regarding the privatization of local businesses in the Belgorod region. As a result, Ms. Kitova has been constantly harassed and threatened. Earlier this year she was arrested and later released after suffering a breakdown. She was again arrested in May and also released.

In a letter to the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, Freimut Duve stressed that this was one of the most egregious cases of physical and mental harassment of a journalist that he had come across during his tenure. Mr. Duve's office had contacted the Office of Sergei Yastrzhembsky from the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation.

"I hope that your Government, in line with President Vladimir Putin's strategy of getting more involved in regional issues, will be able to look into the case of Ms. Kitova and to do its outmost to bring to justice those who have put the life of a professional journalist in mortal danger," Mr. Duve noted in his letter to the Foreign Minister.

# REPORT

## from the OSCE Secretary General and the Secretariat

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## **Secretary General visits Brussels to discuss deepening co-operation with the EU/EC**

On 7 May, the OSCE Secretary General, Jan Kubis, visited Brussels to meet European Commissioner Chris Patten and several of the senior staff of the European Commission in Brussels. Both the European Union as a whole and the Commission in particular are in the process of refining and developing their own mechanisms and structures in the field of common security and of civilian and military crisis management, and a struc-

tured framework for co-operation. In this process, the Commission is keen to co-operate with and learn from the OSCE. The Secretary General confirmed a reciprocal willingness on the side of the OSCE and its Secretariat. The Commission and the OSCE see each other as prime partners. Co-operation should be further developed in a concrete, practical way, focusing on a few potential fields for co-operation.

Among the areas of co-operation discussed with the EC were:

- training for police functions, human

rights, rule of law, and REACT-related training;

- an invitation to the EC to attend a briefing on 'REACT implementation lessons learned';
- a visit to the OSCE Secretariat of staff from the Commission's conflict prevention desk;
- other visits as well as regular policy and staff consultations are also under consideration;
- an informal meeting in Vienna on the results of the Goteborg European Council on conflict prevention.

## **Secretaries General of OSCE and EBRD hold joint consultations**

On 10 May, Ambassador Kubis met the Secretary General of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, A.M. Costa, who was in Vienna to meet the Chairmanship and the Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre. Discussion included were modalities of co-operation between the OSCE and EBRD, based on the shared values and objectives and some specific situations. The OSCE Secretary General used the opportunity to inform Mr. Costa about the ongoing discussion on the role, tasks and objectives of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and OSCE's work in the economic and environmental dimension.

## **Secretary General meets CoE Ministers in Strasbourg**

At the invitation of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Walter Schwimmer, the Secretary General addressed the 108th Session of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers. On the eve of the Ministers' meeting, he attended an informal discussion of the Ministers with the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zlatko Lagumdžija, and of Ukraine, Anatoliy Zlenko. He used his stay in Strasbourg for a number of other meetings and discussions with participating Foreign Ministers.

## **Secretary General addresses Ninth Session of Economic Forum in Prague**

The Secretary General delivered an opening statement to the Economic Forum, held in Prague on 14-15 May. In

it he underlined the need to give greater visibility and responsibility to the next Co-ordinator, as the primary OSCE focal point and organizer of the economic dimension. He said that this would allow him, or her, to better assist the Chair in ensuring the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments in the economic and environmental dimension. It would also allow to strengthen the ability of the OSCE to address economic, social and environmental aspects of security, acting at the same time as an OSCE catalyst for international co-operation in these areas, co-operation engaging international organizations, international financial institutions, regional groupings, businesses and NGOs.

Discussions during the Forum clearly showed that poor governance in economic matters and lack of transparency pose serious threats to security and stability, and are cutting across the three dimensions of the OSCE. They highlighted again the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to security, and a balanced interplay between the politico-military, the human and the economic and environmental dimensions.

## **SG attends Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council meeting in Brussels**

At the invitation of NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, the Secretary General travelled to Brussels on 17 May to address the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) meeting.

On the margins of the meeting he also had a short meeting with the NATO Deputy Secretary General Balanzino, during which he discussed the situation

in South-Eastern Europe, including Southern Serbia. He also briefed Ambassador Balanzino on OSCE activities there, inter alia on the state of preparations for the elections in Kosovo.

In response to his presentation at the EAPC, a large number of Delegations spoke in support of the OSCE's efforts and praised the pragmatic co-operation between the OSCE and NATO, encouraging further Secretariat-to-Secretariat contacts. A number of Delegations also expressed their belief that the discussions demonstrated the complementary nature of the EAPC and the OSCE, and their support for the idea of joint ventures of the kind demonstrated by the Small Arms and Light Weapons seminar, to be held soon in Baku.

In response to questions, the Secretary General briefed the EAPC on operational developments in regard to REACT, Southern Serbia, Kosovo elections, OSCE efforts in Central Asia, small arms and light weapons, and other relevant matters.

The Secretary General also met Ambassador Bjurner, Chairman of the European Union Political and Security Committee. Discussion covered the work of the EU on conflict prevention, and possible OSCE-EU co-operation. Apart from early contacts between the OSCE Chairmanship and Secretariat with future EU Presidencies, Ambassador Bjurner encouraged Secretariat-to-Secretariat contacts between the OSCE and the EU Council Secretariat. He also spoke in favour of visits by OSCE Heads of Mission to the EU Political and Security Committee, which would give the 15 member States of the EU a better understanding of various situations.

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