



REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (30 November – 14 December)

OSCE Chairman-in-Office Urges Uzbekistan to Allow OSCE Monitors into Closed Trials of Alleged Terrorists

LJUBLJANA - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Dimitrij Rupel has written to the Uzbek government, recalling its promise to give international observers the opportunity to monitor trials arising from the violent events in Andijan in May this year. Reacting to news that closed-session trials involving 58 persons charged with offences including murder and terrorist acts have opened in Uzbekistan, Chairman-in-Office pointed out that experts from the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) were prepared to return to the country.

13th OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana Concluded

LJUBLJANA - The Ministerial Council adopted the "Road-map on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE". The reform blueprint also tasks the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) with drafting a report on its activities and submits it for discussion to the next Ministerial council. The Ministerial in Ljubljana could not pass statements on Kosovo and Moldova, a development that was regretted by OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel. However, the ministers did adopt regional statement on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Group and - after three years - also on Georgia, as well as a number of decisions on the fight against organised crime and terrorism, and efforts towards tolerance, non-discrimination and the rule of law, etc.

On the sidelines of the Ministerial Council the OSCE Chairman-in-Office held several bilateral meetings.

OSCE Troika Meets Asian and Mediterranean Partners

LJUBLJANA - The OSCE Troika held meetings with partner countries from Asia and the Mediterranean on 4 December on the eve of the Ljubljana Ministerial Council. In his address to the Asian partners, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel labeled the partnership with Afghanistan, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia and Thailand as a core element of the OSCE. An excellent example of cooperation was the second successful deployment of an OSCE Election support team to last September's parliamentary elections in Afghanistan. In his address to Mediterranean partners, Chairman-in-Office praised their active role in the OSCE's anti-terrorism conferences, and their interest in cooperating with the organization in programmes on intolerance and non-discrimination.

Chairman-in-Office addresses the Expanded Bureau of the OSCE Parliament Assembly

LJUBLJANA - The Expanded Bureau of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly met on 4 December in Ljubljana, on the eve of the opening of the OSCE Ministerial Council. In his address at the meeting, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel spoke about Slovenia's one-year turn as OSCE chair.