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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Annual Report 2007

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Message from the Secretary General



Marc Perrin de Brichambaut
(OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)

Annual Reports are more than simply bureaucratic or public relations exercises. They provide an opportunity to weave together the threads of our diverse Organization, and to clarify its various activities and programmes.

The OSCE is a uniquely complex Organization – complex in its decentralized structure and its ambitious and ever-growing mandates, complex also in the myriad activities it undertakes across 56 countries. The 2007 Annual Report goes a long way to revealing the OSCE as it is and points toward future opportunities.

The Ministerial Council in Madrid marked the end of a challenging but very productive year. It also opened new vistas for our Organization, including a decision on future chairmanships that offers us unprecedented transparency into the OSCE's leadership through 2011. The Ministers also decided to enhance the Organization's engagement with Afghanistan, a partner country of vital importance for the security of the OSCE community. There is considerable work ahead.

In 2007, many high-level officials addressed the 56 participating States in Vienna. Speakers included H.M. King Juan Carlos I of Spain; the Lithuanian President; the Croatian and Georgian Prime Ministers; the U.S. Secretary of State; the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs; the Kazakh Secretary of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Culture; the German and Portuguese Ministers for Foreign Affairs (in their capacities as European Union Presidents) and many other senior representatives of participating States and international organizations.

This diverse group of leaders provided a broad range of perspectives on ongoing work in the OSCE as well as the challenges before us, thereby reaffirming the unique role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue in wider Europe. Such a forum is particularly essential in the context of persistent differences between States on the future of the existing regime for politico-military co-operation, debates over the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments and discussions over how to settle the unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area.

2007 saw important milestones in the participating States' efforts to use the Organization to address new threats in innovative ways. For instance, a conference in Vienna on public-private partnership in countering terrorism cleared the way for a decision on the subject by Ministers in Madrid.

Central Asian States led the way in the economic and environmental sphere, with a conference in Dushanbe on transit transportation in the region and a major event in Tashkent on land degradation and the pollution of soil. And, of course, the Spanish Chairmanship also did much to advance the OSCE's thinking on the link between the environment and security.

Under the guidance of the Spanish Chairmanship, the participating States deepened the OSCE's dialogue on tolerance and non-discrimination, including through a high-level conference in Bucharest followed by a Chairmanship event in Cordoba.

As described in this Annual Report, the OSCE's Secretariat, Institutions, and 19 field operations worked throughout the past year

to promote a comprehensive approach to security. As ever, OSCE executive structures are here to help States help themselves in implementing OSCE commitments across the three dimensions and the OSCE's geographical area.

In 2007, OSCE Institutions continued to support the participating States in implementing their commitments across the human dimension, and in debating new ones, particularly with regard to freedom of the media. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, continued its vital work in providing States with election observation and support for the continuous consolidation of good democratic governance. In The Hague, the newly appointed High Commissioner on National Minorities, Knut Vollebaeck, hit the ground running. On the whole, strong co-operation between OSCE Institutions, the Secretariat and the field operations continued to characterize our work in 2007. This is vital for the health of the Organization and for the success of the OSCE's approach to security that cuts across dimensions.

For instance, as tasked by the 2006 Ministerial Council *Decision No. 5*, Ambassador Christian Strohal, ODIHR's director, and I drafted a report on organized crime that was presented to the Permanent Council in July. The report represented the first time that the Secretary General and the Director of ODIHR had been jointly tasked to report to the participating States. The experience was fruitful for all participating States.

At the management level, I was pleased this year to extend the application of Performance-Based Programme Budgeting to all Funds, and to see related improvements in overall programme budget planning. Participating States have recognized the importance of such measures for strengthening the OSCE's effectiveness.

Finally, 2007 saw the move of the Secretariat and the Representative on Freedom of the Media to their handsome new premises at Wallnerstrasse 6, with H.M. King Juan Carlos I and Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fischer speaking at the inauguration in November. This move bolstered the morale of all staff and provided an excellent chance to recommit ourselves to an

Organization that lives up to its full potential in facing future challenges.

The Annual Report, thus, shows that the OSCE adds up to more than the sum of its parts and that it is a vital actor for consultation, co-operation and joint work among the 56 participating States.

The 56 form a community brought together by common interests and shared values that have been defined and clarified in the course of 32 years of constant dialogue. Shared beliefs about values and security lie at the heart of all of the OSCE's undertakings. Taking these forward is a demanding job. It is also one that is exciting and worthy of all of our efforts.

*Secretary General
Marc Perrin de Brichambaut*

Executive summary

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) works for stability, prosperity and democracy in 56 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.

With its 56 participating States in Europe, North America and Central Asia, some 3,500 staff members in 19 field operations, several specialized Institutions and a Secretariat in Vienna, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. The Organization is recognized as a regional arrangement under the United Nations Charter.

In 2007, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe took concrete steps to enhance the security of its participating States and Partners for Co-operation through a range of thematic activities. At the same time, the OSCE lived up to its role as a pre-eminent forum for dialogue by tackling controversial political topics with a view to building consensus or addressing differences constructively.

The OSCE: Forum for dialogue, platform for action

Fostering dialogue. The Organization fostered its role as a forum for dialogue, no matter how contentious the topic. The participating States debated a number of issues, including election observation standards, the Organization's legal status and plans for a U.S. ballistic missile defence system in Europe. The Russian Federation, a Treaty Signatory, convened an *Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe* in Vienna in June, with OSCE logistical support.

Reaching political consensus. Culminating the year's work, the Ministerial Council in Madrid found consensus on a number of difficult issues and charted the Organization's future course. It solved the question of future Chairmanships from 2009 to 2011, lending the OSCE greater continuity, by choosing Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania, respectively, to chair the Organization. Kazakhstan will be the first Central Asian State and the first former Soviet State to chair the Organization. A number of other key decisions were reached on subjects such as the environment and security, tolerance and on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, which represents the military dimension.

Intensifying co-operation with Partners. Also at the Madrid Ministerial Council, Ministers agreed to step up the OSCE's engagement with Partner for Co-operation Afghanistan, with a particular focus on intensifying OSCE action to help secure and manage borders between the OSCE's Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan, train police and support the fight against drug trafficking. They also established a Partnership Fund and agreed a *Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation*. Partner for Co-operation Israel hosted the annual *Mediterranean*

Seminar for the first time since 1996. The 13th *Seminar* was attended by 34 participating States and six Partners for Co-operation, including Mediterranean Partners Egypt, Jordan and Israel. The annual conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation was hosted for the first time by Mongolia, attended by 21 participating States and by the five Asian Partners for Co-operation and Israel.

Tackling key practical challenges. The OSCE turned the spotlight on a number of pressing practical matters. A conference on *Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism* in Vienna resulted in a Ministerial Council commitment to actively involve the business sector and civil society in the fight against terrorism. The conference was a joint initiative of the Russian Federation and the United States (U.S.), with Spanish and U.S. funding. In another example, the *OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims* delved into the causes of discriminatory behaviour and focused on developing solutions.

Major projects completed. The OSCE assisted Ukraine in clearing the Novobohdanivka ammunition site of unexploded ordnance, equipped the Ministry of Emergency Situations with detection and safety equipment and trained staff to dispose of ammunition safely.

In Armenia, the OSCE recycled 872 tons of the highly toxic and volatile rocket fuel component *Melange* into 4,972 tons of fertilizer and sprayed it on 1,243 hectares of land in September. The project was financed by Canada, Finland, Germany and the U.S.

Building confidence. The OSCE-led *Economic Rehabilitation Programme*, funded by 21 international donors with €8 million and designed to build confidence in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, completed several drinking water pipelines, repaired the main Tskhinvali reservoir, constructed a new combined school and clinic and renovated several schools.

The OSCE worked to bring down the remaining barriers that divide communities in areas of conflict through visits, negotiations and a number of high-level political contacts. It sought to broker solutions not only in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, but also in Moldova's breakaway Transnistrian region and in the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference or the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. During the Madrid Ministerial Council meeting, Ministers adopted a *Statement* on the latter conflict. Russia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, France's Minister for Foreign Affairs Bernard Kouchner and U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns formally presented a set of *Basic Principles for the Peaceful Settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict* to the Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers for transmission to the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Enhancing security in all its dimensions

Based on the understanding that security touches on many aspects of our lives and how we are governed, the OSCE addresses a comprehensive range of subjects, which it has traditionally grouped into three areas, or dimensions. The Organization runs a plethora of programmes in each dimension. A small sampling of the work accomplished during the year is outlined below:

Politico-military dimension activities. The OSCE focused on combating the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) as well as ensuring the safe stockpiling of conventional ammunition, both by setting standards and by tackling concrete projects. It held a Special Forum for Security Co-operation Meeting on *Combating the Illicit Trafficking of SALW by Air*. It also launched two joint projects with the United Nations Development Programme, one on *Capacity Building in Stockpile Management and Security of Small Arms and Light Weapons* in Belarus and a *Demilitarization Programme* in Montenegro. It continued its efforts to enhance the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures and held a special meeting on such measures.

The OSCE continued to work with participating States to improve security and management of their borders. It worked with Tajikistan's authorities to develop a number of major projects to strengthen its border controls. It also conducted a comprehensive border assessment in the Kyrgyz Republic. It trained border security officials across the region.

The Organization promoted police reform across the region. It provided training courses, workshops and international exchanges for police and police trainers in a number of countries of South-eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. It supported an approach to policing that builds trust by promoting police-public partnerships. It organized a four-month regional training programme for police dog handlers from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan.

Economic and environmental dimension activities. The OSCE worked to help participating States modernize their economies and provide economic opportunities to their citizens. In Ukraine, it supported the expansion of a project estimated to attract some €140 million in investment and create more than 2,000 jobs in 2007-2008. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 200 people found jobs and 50 businesses were started as a result of nine jobs fairs and 26 entrepreneurship seminars. In Belarus, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan, the OSCE provided training for groups of entrepreneurs. In Georgia and Tajikistan, it funded or assisted resource, training and support centres for small- and medium-sized businesses. In Turkmenistan, it organized lectures on financial markets and engaged experts to explore the concept of community-based tourism.

Some 180 watercourses cross borders in the OSCE region; the Organization promoted co-operation to enhance their development, security and stability. In co-operation with partners, the OSCE worked on projects on the Sava River Basin, the Kura and Araks Rivers, the Chu and Talas Rivers, the Prypiat River and the Dniester River. In Madrid, Ministers agreed on a *Decision* on water management, marking the first time participating States reached a consensus in this area.

Human dimension activities. The OSCE is the leading organization promoting democratic elections in the region. In 2007 alone, the OSCE deployed more than 3,000 observers from 49 participating States to observe or assess 17 elections throughout Europe and Central Asia. Following up on recommendations in its election reports, the OSCE provided legal advice and technical assistance to improve participating States'

electoral frameworks. In Albania, it launched a major project to assist the Government in modernizing its civil registry and address system.

The OSCE more systematically monitored the situation of human rights defenders in the region and identified issues of concern. It issued a report highlighting threats to, and attacks on, individuals working to promote human rights throughout the OSCE region.

The OSCE also worked with participating States to develop an approach that is comprehensive and cuts across dimensions to combat the trafficking of human beings from prevention to reintegration of victims. It conducted needs assessments and aided participating States in setting up national referral mechanisms for cases of trafficking. At the Ministerial Council, Ministers agreed a *Decision on Combating Trafficking of Human Beings for Labour Exploitation*.

The OSCE at a glance

How the OSCE works

The OSCE is chaired by one of its participating States, a role which rotates annually. In 2007, Spain held the Chairmanship. Together with Belgium (2006) and Finland (2008), it formed the OSCE Troika. This body ensures continuity of the OSCE's activities and advises the Chairman-in-Office. The Chairman-in-Office may also appoint Personal or Special Representatives to deal with specific issues or situations.

Summits of OSCE Heads of State or Government are held periodically. Between Summits, the Foreign Ministers of the participating States meet annually as the Ministerial Council to review the OSCE's activities and to provide guidance and direction. The *Economic and Environmental Forum* meets every year to focus on selected economic and environmental issues. The *Annual Security Review Conference* and the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* focus, respectively, on key issues in the politico-military and human dimensions.

The Permanent Council is the main regular body for political consultation and decision-making. Composed of the Permanent Representatives of the participating States to the OSCE, it meets weekly in Vienna to discuss all pertinent issues and to take appropriate decisions. The Forum for Security Co-operation oversees the OSCE's politico-military dimension. It also convenes weekly in Vienna's Hofburg.

All 56 OSCE participating States enjoy equal status. Decisions are taken by consensus and are politically but not legally binding.

The Secretariat of the OSCE is based in Vienna. It is headed by Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut of France, who was appointed to a three-year term in June 2005. As Chief Administrative Officer, Ambassador Perrin de Brichambaut manages the OSCE's structures and operations and supports the OSCE's Chairmanship.

To assist participating States in complying with OSCE principles and commitments, the OSCE includes the following specialized Institutions: the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (established as the Office for Free Elections in 1990) based in Warsaw, Poland; the High Commissioner on National Minorities (1992) based in The Hague, Netherlands; and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (1997) based in Vienna. The Organization's autonomous parliamentary body, the Copenhagen-based OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (1991), consists

of 320 parliamentarians from the national parliaments of the participating States.

The OSCE collaborates with States outside the OSCE area, notably with six Mediterranean and five Asian Partners for Co-operation. It works closely with other international organizations, such as the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The OSCE has 19 field operations in 17 States. Slightly more than 70 per cent of the OSCE's 2007 budget of € 168 million was allocated to field operations, 18 per cent to the Secretariat and 11 per cent to its Institutions.

History

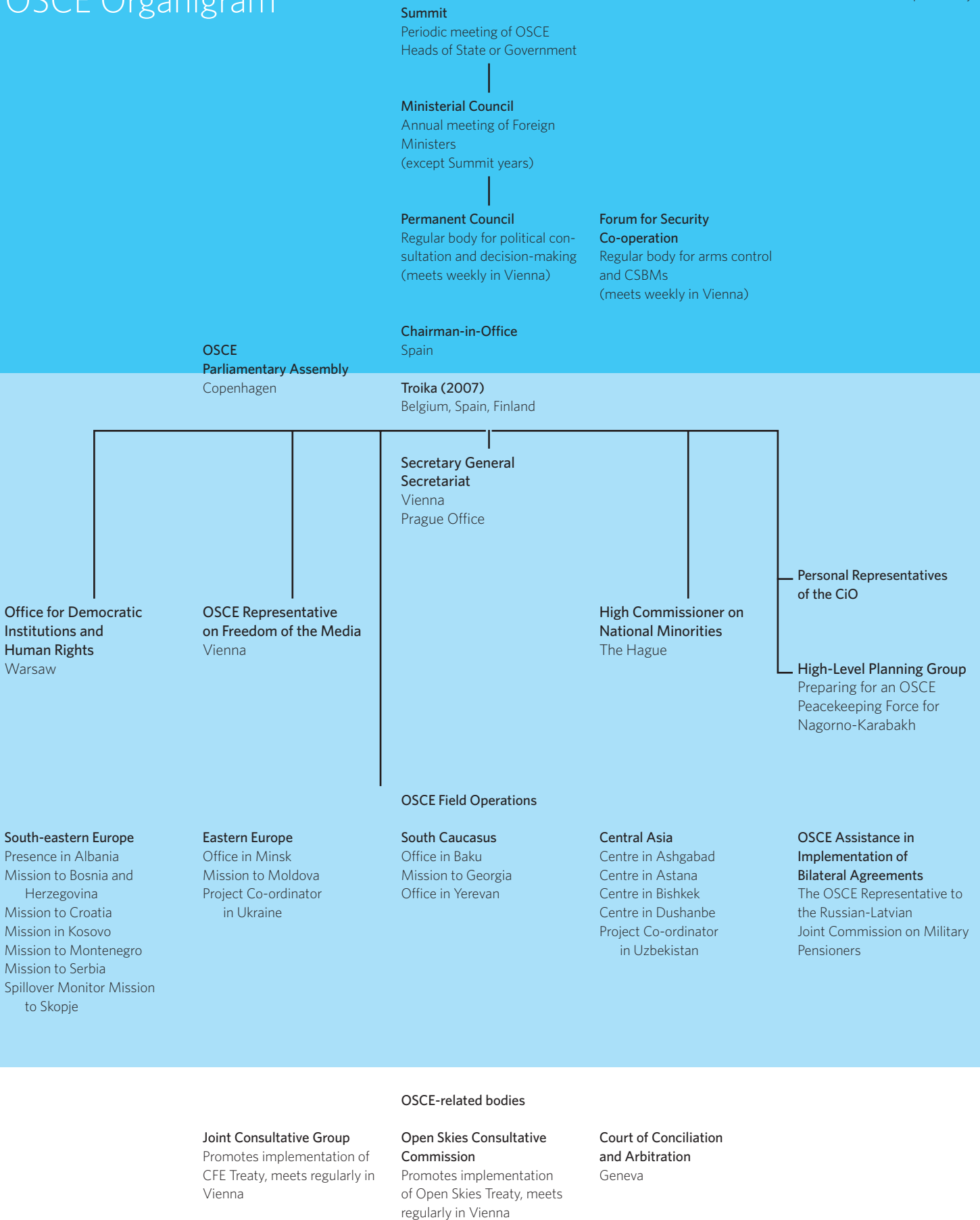
The OSCE traces its origins to the early 1970s, when the two-year Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe brought together representatives from Eastern and Western countries in Helsinki and Geneva, resulting in agreement on the *Helsinki Final Act*, signed on 1 August 1975. This document contained a number of key commitments on politico-military, economic and environmental and human rights issues and also established fundamental principles governing the behaviour of States toward their citizens and toward each other.

Following the end of the Cold War, the CSCE took on a new role in managing the historic change taking place in Europe and responding to new security challenges. This led to its acquiring permanent institutions and operational capabilities, including a Secretariat, an Office for Free Elections and a Conflict Prevention Centre. Important agreements on military confidence- and security-building measures were signed in 1990, 1992, 1994 and 1999 (*Vienna Documents*). The CSCE participating States belonging to NATO or the Warsaw Pact concluded a major arms control agreement, the *Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe*, in 1990 and updated it in 1999. Another CSCE-related agreement, the *Treaty on Open Skies*, was signed in 1992. In the early 1990s, the Conference's work became more structured, meetings were held more regularly and field operations were established. Recognizing that the CSCE was no longer simply a Conference, participating States agreed at the 1994 Budapest Summit to change its name to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The complex security challenges of the twenty-first century, such as the fight against terrorism and combating trafficking in human beings, often involve all three dimensions of security, making the OSCE's comprehensive approach more effective than ever. A priority of the Organization continues to be the resolution of protracted conflicts in the former Soviet Union and the embedding of stability in the Balkans. Important arms control agreements concluded by the participating States in the twenty-first century include the *Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons* (2000) and the *Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition* (2003).

OSCE Organigram

— Line of responsibility



Report of the Chairmanship- in-Office

The Madrid Ministerial Council

*Decision No.1
Extension of the
Mandate of the OSCE
Representative on
Freedom of the Media*

*No. 2
Appointment of
the OSCE High
Commissioner on
National Minorities*

*No. 3
Issues Relevant to
the Forum for Security
Co-operation*

*No. 4
OSCE Engagement
with Afghanistan*

*No. 5
Public-Private
Partnerships in
Countering Terrorism*

*No. 6
Protecting Critical
Energy Infrastructure
from Terrorist Attack*

*No. 7
Follow-up to the
Fifteenth Economic and
Environmental Forum:
Water Management*

*No. 8
Combating Trafficking
in Human Beings for
Labour Exploitation*

*No. 9
Combating Sexual
Exploitation of
Children on the Internet*

*No. 10
Tolerance and Non-
Discrimination:
Promoting Mutual
Respect and
Understanding*

*No. 11
OSCE Chairmanships
in 2009, 2010 and 2011*

*No. 12
Time and Place of the
next Meeting of the
OSCE Ministerial
Council*

*—
Ministerial Declaration
on the OSCE Partners
for Co-operation*

*—
Ministerial Statement
on the Conflict dealt
with by the OSCE
Minsk Conference*

*—
Ministerial Statement
on Supporting the
United Nations Global
Counter-Terrorism
Strategy*

*—
Madrid Declaration
on Environment and
Security*

Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office



Chairman-in-Office Miguel Angel Moratinos speaks at a news conference at the end of the Madrid Ministerial Council on 30 November. (OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)

“When I took up my responsibilities as Chairman-in-Office on 1 January, I was determined to highlight the strategic relevance of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to meeting the complex challenges we face today. The OSCE is intended to make Europe a space of peace, security, freedom and co-operation; together with the participating States, we furthered our common work toward that goal this year.

I strongly believe that the OSCE’s role as a forum for dialogue for the 56 participating States is of the utmost importance in bridging our differences and achieving our common security. Therefore, we insisted that all sensitive issues be aired and steadfastly refused to shy from any battles – regardless of their potential for ultimate consensus. We spearheaded the introduction of the Permanent Council’s new three-committee structure, which helped channel and focus debate. We also addressed evolving contemporary issues such as terrorism and threats to overall security, environmental degradation and intolerance against Muslims.

A detailed account of what we have achieved follows. Our work culminated in the Madrid Ministerial Council, where, in our most important achievement, we restored the truly political nature of the Organization. Against all odds, we found a solution to the issue of future OSCE Chairmanships from 2009 through 2011, ensuring greater continuity for the Organization. We also agreed together to engage with Afghanistan, one of our Partners for Co-operation, mapping out new avenues for concrete action by the Organization. We issued a *Declaration on Environment and Security* which highlighted the importance of the link between these two issues and, for the first time, we adopted a Ministerial *Decision on Issues Relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation*.”

2007
Chairman-in-Office
Miguel Angel Moratinos

Madrid Ministerial Council results

The Spanish Chairmanship determined at the start of the year that the Ministerial Council meeting must reclaim its role as the annual occasion to provide political guidance and visibility to the work of the Organization.

To do so, it made three pioneering choices. First, it developed an innovative, transparent and long-term approach to decision-making at the meeting. Early in the year, it canvassed delegations for the political issues each felt needed addressing at the Ministerial level. Then, it drafted a food-for-thought paper, dubbed *The Road to Madrid*, which detailed these issues. After further consultations with delegations, the Chairmanship put forth two further food-for-thought papers, detailing and making public the evolving consensus around these issues. The Permanent Council's new three-committee structure proved itself an excellent consultative tool in this process.

Second, it introduced a working Ministerial lunch on several topics of political interest. The 56 Ministers or their representatives debated, in particular, the future status of Kosovo in an articulate and constructive manner, within the framework of the OSCE. A majority of participating States called this innovation a highlight of the meeting.

Third, the Chairmanship insisted that the participating States confront the day's most contentious issues rather than skirt them. Healthy debate ensued on a number of topics. The dialogue underscored the Chairmanship's belief that the OSCE represents the best platform for debate and consensus-building in Europe and beyond. The Ministerial Council also achieved substantive results in a number of key areas, some of which are highlighted below.

Chairmanships in 2009, 2010 and 2011

The Chairmanship engineered a diplomatic coup when it solved the problem of future chairmanships which had bedevilled the Organization for many months. A decision on Kazakhstan's bid to chair the Organization in 2009 had been postponed until Madrid at the 2006 Brussels Ministerial. Because the OSCE is run by a troika that comprises the past, current and upcoming Chairmanships, a solution to this question was essential to securing continuity for the Organization.



“A positive outcome regarding our bid for the 2009 Chairmanship could have a multiplicative effect on the modernization of our country and region as a whole. It would encourage other Central Asian States to move towards liberalization and greater openness of their political and economic systems.”

— Kazakhstan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Marat Tazhin, addressing the Permanent Council on 30 April

↗ The source of the river Mundo in the Castilla-La Mancha region spills over into magnificent waterfalls. Water resources are a precious commodity in Spain as its temperatures and rainfall are increasingly affected by climate change. (TourSpain)

The importance of dialogue

It is the nature of healthy debate that agreement will not be reached on all topics. This was no less true at the Madrid Ministerial Council than at other important political gatherings. Several topics sparked vehement disagreement. But because the Spanish Chairmanship put considerable emphasis on reviving an open exchange of views, these should be seen as a reaffirmation of the OSCE's commitment to dialogue and underscore the value of the OSCE as such a forum. The Chairmanship was encouraged that it was able to keep all these negotiations going until the end of the meeting. On some issues, participating States came very close to agreement.

Ministerial Declaration

The Chairmanship worked hard to put together the first general political Ministerial Declaration since 2002, but unfortunately, as many had expected, the Council was unable to achieve consensus given divisions among participating States over a number of key issues. The Council addressed the region's frozen conflicts. It issued a statement on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference or the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but was unable to agree on statements on Moldova or Georgia.

The OSCE's legal status

Also chief among the issues that failed to reach consensus was the topic of OSCE legal status, part of the Organization's continued work to boost its effectiveness. Debate remained polarized between those who believe there is a need for an OSCE Charter or Statute, and those who do not. The Chairmanship regrets that this meant that the wonderful work done by Dutch Ambassador Ida van Veldhuizen-Rothenbuecher and the Group of Legal Experts in negotiating a Convention, which details OSCE staff members' privileges and immunities, did not receive the recognition it deserved. Still, by attaching the Convention to the Chairman-in-Office's Ministerial Statement, the continuity of their work was ensured.

Draft decisions

Draft decisions on human rights defenders and effective participation also failed to find consensus, as did the issue of election observation.

The Chairmanship believes these issues will need further debate in the future, provided that existing commitments are not undermined.

A draft Ministerial Declaration on the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine also failed to find consensus. However, 32 OSCE participating States supported a separate statement on this issue.

Under the so-called "Spanish compromise", Kazakhstan will become the first Central Asian State and the first former Soviet State to chair the Organization.

The Ministers approved a package of Chairmanships for 2009, 2010 and 2011. Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania, respectively, will chair the organization following Finland in 2008. The Chairmanship thanked the three countries for their flexibility in reaching an agreement and congratulated them on their upcoming roles.

Engagement with Afghanistan

The Ministerial Council approved *Decision No.4* to step up the OSCE's engagement with Partner for Co-operation Afghanistan, with a particular focus on intensifying OSCE action to help secure and manage borders between the OSCE's Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan, train police and support the fight against drug trafficking. The *Decision* follows Afghanistan's September request for assistance in these areas.

The *Decision* not only underscores the Chairmanship's belief that Afghanistan's security is of vital importance to the OSCE region but also opens up new avenues for OSCE activities.

Though there was some concern at the Ministerial Council meeting that the OSCE might overstretch its limited resources, the final *Decision* struck a delicate balance between keeping the scope of current commitments limited without foreclosing any future decisions to broaden the range of activities, should that be desired.

The OSCE launched a project to train Afghanistan's anti-drug police in November.

Environment

Another major achievement of the Ministerial – itself a carbon neutral event – was a number of important decisions on environmental security.

With the *Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security*, Ministers took a decisive step in bringing the link between security and the environment, which the OSCE has affirmed since the Helsinki Final Act, to the forefront of its programmatic activities.

The Ministers noted that environmental degradation could trigger migratory pressures and



An Afghan trainee sits in a simulated Russian 2154 civil air jet at a specialized training facility during a course on fighting drug trafficking facilitated and financed by the OSCE and held at the Russian Advanced Police Academy in Domodedovo, Russia on 26 November. (OSCE)

contribute to conflict. Climate change could exacerbate environmental challenges. Environmental co-operation and the promotion of early warning, on the other hand, could help diminish tensions. The OSCE has the potential to widen and deepen its co-operation in this sphere with other relevant international organizations.

The OSCE's involvement in one of the most pressing topics on the global agenda, climate change, particularly given its innovative approach, opens a promising new area for the future work of the Organization.

The Ministers also agreed a *Decision* on water management, marking the first time participating States reached consensus on the issue. In *Decision No. 7*, the Ministers urged greater co-operation between the OSCE and the UN Economic Commission for Europe and encouraged participating States to consider the ratification of relevant existing international legal instruments.

Decisions on countering terrorism

Ministers put together an innovative and comprehensive package in the fight against terrorism, addressing another of the Chairmanship's priorities. The Ministers issued a statement in support of the United Nations *Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* and agreed two *Decisions*.

Decision No. 5 focuses on public-private partnerships, a fresh approach in the battle against terrorism. The Ministers tasked the Secretary General and OSCE Institutions to continue to promote the involvement of the private sector in appropriate counter-terrorist activities, to co-ordinate a follow-up conference on partnerships in Vienna in 2008, and to invite participating States and Partners for Co-operation to exchange information and best practices in this field.

Decision No. 6 deals with protecting critical energy infrastructure from attack. The Ministers called upon participating States to work individually and in co-operation to ensure adequate protection for such infrastructure. They asked the Secretary General to explore opportunities for co-operation with relevant international organizations, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Decisions to fight human trafficking, exploitation of children and tolerance and non-discrimination

Ministers agreed three *Decisions* designed to defend basic human rights, including one on *Combating Trafficking of Human Beings for Labour Exploitation* and another focused on *Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Internet*.

The *Decision on Combating Trafficking* was the first OSCE Ministerial Council *Decision* addressing trafficking for labour exploitation as a stand-alone topic. It calls on participating States to adopt measures to combat this type of trafficking, such as providing assistance to victims, improving procedures to identify victims and ensuring effective sanctions against those who facilitate labour trafficking, including exploitative employers.

The second recommends that participating States, if they have not yet done so, take a series of measures to combat this crime, such as increasing

data collection and research into the crime or setting up hotlines for the reporting of child abuse, including in the form of sexual exploitation. The *Decision* commits the OSCE to deepening its work in this field by helping States meet these commitments. The Organization's Strategic Police Matters Unit will also set up an expert forum, a website and run an on-line workshop in 2008 to address this issue.

Decision No. 10 on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding acknowledges the specificity of different forms of intolerance, including intolerance against stateless persons, while at the same time recognizing the importance of taking a comprehensive approach. The *Decision* encourages the promotion of educational programmes in participating States that raise awareness among youth of the value of mutual respect and understanding, among a number of other measures. Ministers also said the OSCE should consider holding future conferences at the political level, possibly at regular intervals, with implementation meetings in 2008. Ministers also decided to consider an appropriate OSCE contribution to the implementation phase of the Alliance of Civilization's High-Level Group recommendations. In this *Decision*, Ministers took note of the presentation of the *Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools*, which were presented on the margins of the Madrid Ministerial Council.

Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation

In the *Declaration*, Ministers reiterated the interdependence between the security of the OSCE area and that of the Partners for Co-operation and encouraged further efforts to strengthen the relationship between the Partners for Co-operation and the participating States.

The Chairmanship at work

The Chairmanship took up work to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization as stipulated by the 2006 Ministerial Council. It produced three food-for-thought reports that assessed the year's progress and made suggestions for further improvements.

The report *Food-for-Thought on the Review of the Implementation of Ministerial Council 2006 Decision on the Improvement of the Consultative Process* reviewed the performance of the new three-committee structure of the Permanent Council.

In *Food-For-Thought on the Participation of NGOs in OSCE Events*, the Chairmanship compared OSCE practice with the United Nations and Council of Europe. It presented suggestions for making rules for the participation of NGOs more precise while keeping the spirit of the openness for NGO participation as reflected in the relevant documents of the Organization.

Finally, in *Food-For-Thought on Implementation of Existing Commitments* the Chairmanship discussed the review of the implementation of agreed commitments by participating States as suggested by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' report *Common Responsibility: Commitments and Implementation*.

Dealing with Political Crises

The Chairmanship-in-Office must be nimble and respond to political crises that arise during its tenure. **Ukraine.** In early April, the Chairman-in-Office issued a statement calling on all parties in Ukraine to find a swift solution to a political crisis that erupted as the President dissolved Parliament and called for early elections. The Prime Minister opposed the move. Several Members of Parliament asked the constitutional court to investigate the legality of the decree. When demonstrators disrupted constitutional court hearings in Kyiv two weeks later, the Chairman-in-Office, who was closely monitoring events, expressed his concern.

While the two government officials reached an accord on early elections on 4 May, there were still tensions at month's end. On 5 July, the Chairman-in-Office met with Ukraine's President, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, urging them to ensure that a sense of political maturity and responsibility prevail in the run-up to parliamentary elections on 30 September. He also said that Ukraine could afford no further delays of constitutional and economic reforms.



At Ukraine's invitation, the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights observed the election. They found the election was conducted mostly in line with international commitments and standards.

Albania. In response to a request from Albania's political parties, the Chairman-in-Office sent Ambassador Jose Pons, the Spanish Foreign Ministry's Director General for Europe and North America, to help in the search for a compromise that would allow local government elections to go ahead in a timely fashion.

With the OSCE's assistance, the parties came to an agreement and the elections took place on 18 February. The Chairman-in-Office highlighted the role of the Albanian Central Elections Commission in the development of the electoral process. He called on Albanian institutions and political parties to continue their co-operation in pursuit of electoral reform and asked them to follow up on recommendations from the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights "to ensure that Albania gets a fully reliable electoral system."

Bringing Political Will to Bear

Croatia. The OSCE, on the initiative of the Chairman-in-Office, decided in December to close its Mission to Croatia after 11 years, concluding that Croatia had successfully dealt with most of the issues contained in the broad mandate under which the Mission had been operating.

"Our co-operation with the OSCE was extremely important in building institutions, in dealing with transition issues and in enhancing the democratic environment. The OSCE played a key role in post-conflict rehabilitation in our region..."

— Croatia's Prime Minister, Ivo Sanader, addressing the Permanent Council on 10 July

It also decided to maintain a presence in the country with an Office in Zagreb to complete outstanding issues related to war crimes trials and residual aspects of the implementation of the housing care programmes.

"The Mission's good co-operation with the Croatian Government and the Government's efforts



Engaging with Central Asia

As security concerns converge with globalization, the Spanish Chairmanship was determined to further enhance the level of engagement of its Central Asian participating States in OSCE activities. The Chairmanship is convinced that active participation of Central Asian States is important for enhancing the security of the region and the rest of the OSCE.

The Chairman-in-Office visited the participating States in Central Asia from 10 to 14 April. He met top officials in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. His message was to intensify dialogue and expand ties and activities.

The Chairman-in-Office was pleased with the work accomplished. In addition to the Ministerial Council Decisions on neighbouring Afghanistan and the future Chairmanship of Central Asian State Kazakhstan, the Chairmanship chalked

↪ Polling station officials explain procedures to a voter in Tirana during local elections in Albania on 18 February. (OSCE/Urdur Gunnarsdottir)

↑ The OSCE held a conference on prospects for trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation on 23 and 24 October in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. (OSCE)



up substantive results in a number of fields in various countries.

Tajikistan, which this year celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Peace Agreement that ended its civil war, continued to consolidate stability. An OSCE-Tajikistan task force met in Dushanbe on 27 March to assess Tajikistan's needs and priorities and the OSCE's activities. Hailed as "historic" and "particularly constructive" by the Foreign Ministry, the task force identified a number of possibilities for increased co-operation, including border management and security. Tajikistan hosted an OSCE seminar on transit transportation through Central Asia in Dushanbe on 23 and 24 October.

Uzbekistan also made an important contribution to the OSCE this year, hosting a conference in Tashkent in October on how low-cost technologies could be used to improve water and land management in Central Asia. Participants looked at irrigation, water treatment and desalination, the optimal combination of electricity production and water management, the enhancement of dam safety and flood prevention as well as environmental security and sustainable development in the Aral Sea Basin.

and motivation to fulfil its commitments are a true and genuine success, and I would like to congratulate Croatia on this achievement," said Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, Head of the Mission to Croatia.

Kosovo. The Permanent Council, which decides each December whether to extend the mandates for a further year for all its field operations, voted to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo by one month only, through the end of January.

At the end of that period, and at the end of each month afterwards, the mandate will be extended for another month unless a participating State objects in writing to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council.

If the mandate ends, the Mission will start the procedure for closing down without delay. At the same time, negotiations will start on the terms of a possible further engagement of the OSCE in Kosovo.

There were three official comments on the *Decision*. The European Union (EU) and a number of other delegations expressed their strong support for a continued OSCE engagement in Kosovo. They said they had been fully committed to extending the mandate for a full year and agreed to this *Decision* solely to prevent the mandate's expiry on 1 January 2008. The United States agreed with the EU. It also said that it regretted that two participating States insisted on the month-to-month mandate renewal which endangered an operation that has been the most forceful advocate for the minority populations in Kosovo. Serbia said the full and correct name of the Mission should be the OSCE Mission in Kosovo/Republic of Serbia.

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV, Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV, Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords is mandated to assist the Parties – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia – in fulfilling the terms of the Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement of the Accords, such as mutual inspections of military assets.

In 2007, in total, the Parties conducted 20 inspections, each supported by OSCE assistants. Once more, the activities were conducted without problems in an environment of trust, openness and transparency.

All Parties to the Agreement continued to restructure and reorganize their armed forces. Consequently, Armaments Limited by the Agreement continued to be voluntarily destroyed even after the end of the Reduction Period.

Further reductions by all Parties are expected in the future. Since the implementation of the Agreement through the end of 2007, the Parties have reduced the number of heavy weapons by nearly 8,900 pieces.

This year, the Personal Representative was able to assist the Parties with the consolidation of several important changes. An important step in the transfer of the rights of the entities Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska to the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina was the establishment of a single Verification Agency at the State level in April.

Following Montenegro's accession to the Agreement as an independent Party in January, the Personal Representative assisted Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia with the negotiation of a bilateral Agreement on the Principles and Procedures for the Implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, which was signed on 6 July. At the request of the Parties, the Office of the Representative subsequently drafted a formal amendment to the Agreement reflecting the division of the Article IV entitlements between the two Parties. The document has been distributed to the Parties for their consideration, with a view to the subsequent signature at government level and respective internal ratification.

In order to harmonize the exchange of information, documents and notifications, the Parties agreed to adopt common software in English provided by the OSCE. The integration process is almost complete.

“I firmly believe that we all share the same goal in the Western Balkans: the achievement of a solution for Kosovo’s future status that promotes the consolidation of democratic values and institutions, a solution that promotes the economic transformation of the Western Balkans and the security architecture of all of Europe.”

— Serbia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Vuk Jeremic, addressing the Permanent Council on 17 July

Israel. OSCE participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation met in Tel Aviv on 18 and 19 December to discuss combating intolerance and promoting mutual respect.

Encouraged by the Chairman-in-Office, Israel hosted the 13th *Mediterranean Seminar* for the first time since 1996. The *Seminar* was attended by 34 participating States and six Partners for Co-operation, including Mediterranean Partners Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

The *Seminar* looked at OSCE tolerance-related commitments as well as OSCE tools and mechanisms to assist in their implementation. Other topics included promoting respect for cultural and religious diversity and facilitating dialogue; combating discrimination against women, migrants and other groups; and the role of women, educators and the media in countering violence.

Addressing protracted conflicts

The Chairman-in-Office strove to bring down the remaining barriers that divide communities in areas of conflict but he recognized at the start of his tenure that there was no replacement for the political will of the parties involved. The Chairmanship underlined the need to prepare the ground for peace in future by working to overcome distrust and build platforms for peace now.

The Chairman-in-Office took up this prime responsibility of his office by engaging with all the parties in these protracted conflicts in a series of meetings, consultations and trips aimed at reducing tension in these regions and developing a climate more favourable to advancing toward a solution. In addition to the respective field operations, Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference Andrzej Kasprzyk, Special Envoy Josep Borrell, Personal Representative Miomir Zuzul and Ambassador Pons of the Spanish Foreign Ministry, assisted him.

Moldova. Shortly after assuming its new OSCE responsibilities, the Chairmanship kicked off its work on the conflict surrounding Moldova’s breakaway Transnistrian region. Three meetings of the mediators – the OSCE, Russian Federation, Ukraine – and the observers – the EU and the U.S. – took place in 2007. Two were hosted in Madrid, on 25 January and 25 May, and one in Vienna on 30 March.

In April, the Chairman-in-Office asked Ambassador Pons to travel to Moldova and talk to the two sides. He himself traveled to Moldova on 7 and 8 October. In meetings with the Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin and other top officials, he commended them on their efforts in pursuing internal reform. He also held talks with the leadership of the Transnistrian region in Tiraspol. He emphasized the need to ensure freedom of movement of goods, services and people across the Dniester/Nistru River.

Later that month, the mediators and observers said they believed that the Chairman-in-Office’s visit had increased the chances of restarting the talks with the parties before the Madrid Ministerial Meeting, and an informal meeting with the parties’ negotiators, the mediators and the observers took place in Odessa. The mediators and observers praised Moldova’s work to address common problems in the socio-economic area, as well as its extension through the end of 2008 of a registration regime for Transnistrian enterprises. They also commended the Transnistrian leadership’s decision to remove duties on certain goods crossing the river.

The conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference or the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Throughout the year, the Chairman-in-Office and his Personal Representative, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, supported the work of the French, Russian and U.S. Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to bring about a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Chairman-in-Office met three times with the Co-Chairs in Madrid, and several times with Armenia’s and Azerbaijan’s respective Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

The Chairman-in-Office visited Azerbaijan and Armenia on 4 and 5 June. He met top officials and representatives of civil society in both countries. He said the Co-Chairs’ intensive mediation efforts had brought Armenia and Azerbaijan closer to a framework agreement for a peaceful settlement.

On 8 November, the Co-Chairs informed the Permanent Council that the electoral year 2008 promised not to be idle, but rather a year of working intensely with both sides to finalize the basic principles for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement. In Madrid, they met with the Chairman-in-Office on 14 November. During the

High-Level Planning Group

The High-Level Planning Group (H LPG), comprising military experts, was established at the Budapest Summit in 1994 to prepare operational plans for a possible peacekeeping operation in the area affected by the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference. The Spanish Chairmanship appointed Col. Santiago Rodríguez Santafe of the Spanish Armed Forces as Head of the H LPG. He assumed his duties on 1 January.

The H LPG focused this year on developing strategies in light of the uncertainty in the ongoing negotiation process, in line with a new directive issued by the Chairman-in-Office early in the year. It updated its plan for adding personnel in case of an emergency. On two occasions, officers of the H LPG participated in monitoring on the line of contact.

The H LPG conducted briefings for a number of delegations, liaised with other international organizations, including the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and participated in training courses and international conferences.

Madrid Ministerial Council, Ministers adopted a statement on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference or the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Russia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, France's Minister for Foreign Affairs Bernard Kouchner and U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns formally presented a set of *Basic Principles for the Peaceful Settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict* to the Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers for transmission to the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Georgian-Ossetian conflict. Through much of the year, tension ran high in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. The Chairman-in-Office tried to defuse those tensions through positive dialogue. The EU Special Representative, Ambassador Peter Semneby, discussed the EU strategy in this conflict with the Chairmanship in Madrid on 13 January. The Vice Prime Minister and the Minister for the Resolution of Conflicts of Georgia held meetings with the Chairman-in-Office in Madrid on 6 and 16 March. The Chairmanship-in-Office participated in the informal Joint Control Commission meeting in Istanbul on 23 and 24 March. The Chairman-in-Office met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia in Brussels on 15 May and 3 September.

When an unexploded guided missile, found in the southeast of the zone of the conflict in August, further exacerbated tensions, the Chairman-in-Office spoke by phone with the Georgian and the Russian Ministers for Foreign Affairs and offered the OSCE's help in investigating the incident.

From 20 to 24 August, the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Miomir Zuzul, held talks in Tbilisi and Moscow on the incident. The Chairman-in-Office travelled to Georgia on 3 and 4 September, briefing President Mikheil Saakashvili on the Personal Representative's report of the incident. He made clear that the tensions were in no one's interest and would resonate across the region. He said the OSCE would do whatever was necessary to foster a climate of understanding between Georgia and Russia.

In the wake of the Personal Representative's mission, the Chairmanship proposed a forward-looking approach, putting the emphasis on preventive and confidence-building measures. Among such measures, the Chairman-in-Office supported the proposal to increase the number of OSCE Mission Monitoring Officers to better monitor the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. The Steering Committee on the OSCE-led *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and adjacent areas had very successful meetings in Vienna and Georgia. The *Programme* carried out a range of projects.

“The only path we see to peace in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia is the same path that we see for all the people of Georgia: we must deliver on the promise of individual liberty, economic opportunity, quality of life and human security. This approach, I believe, reflects the spirit in which the OSCE was founded.”

— Georgia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gela Bezhushvili, addressing the Permanent Council on 14 June

Across dimensions: thematic achievements

Politico-military dimension

Work in the politico-military dimension was a priority of the Spanish Chairmanship.

Forum for Security Co-operation. The Madrid Ministerial Council meeting adopted *Decision No. 3 on Issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation*, the first such global *Decision* on the Forum and another success of the Ministerial. This *Decision* will serve as a basis for the activities of the Forum during 2008. Spain, which assumes the Forum's Chairmanship for the first session of 2008, hopes that the *Decision* will help the Forum to enhance its role as one of the Organization's decision-making bodies.

This *Decision* reaffirmed that participating States would ensure that their efforts in the Forum to promote arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building, security co-operation and conflict prevention would be coherent, interrelated and complementary.

It also recalled a 2001 *Decision* that tasked the Forum with addressing those aspects of new security challenges that fall within its mandate and with updating its activities accordingly.

The Ministerial Council expressed its desire to build further on the following OSCE documents: the *Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century*; the *Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons*; the *Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition*; the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*; and the relevant decisions adopted by the Forum.

The Ministers recognized the security and safety risks posed by the presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices, including liquid rocket fuel, in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some participating States and reaffirmed the will to continue providing assistance in destroying them or upgrading their stockpile management and security practices. This was also demonstrated during the side event chaired by the Danish Chairmanship of the Forum on the margins of the Ministerial Council.

Ministers also expressed their determination to continue enhancing the implementation of the existing confidence- and security-building measures within the framework of the *Vienna Document 1999*, taking into account the evolving nature of threats to security and stability in the OSCE area, and to continue enhancing the implementation of the

Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. **The Annual Security Review Conference.** This year, the *Annual Security Review Conference* looked at challenges in this dimension of security and at how to develop a coherent approach to OSCE activities in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-crisis rehabilitation. It further reviewed implementation of the *OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century*.

Dialogue on security issues. Another important goal of the Chairmanship in this dimension was to increase dialogue within the OSCE on all security issues in the OSCE area. It saw joint meetings of the Permanent Council and Forum for Security Co-operation as the appropriate venue to discuss these matters. The Chairmanship noted that a number of disagreements ensued, reaffirming that, despite questions from some quarters, the politico-military dimension remains an effective instrument for consolidating security in the OSCE region.

Early in the year, for example, Russia called for discussions of a U.S. missile defence proposal. It also stated that it would be expedient to freeze its commitments under the *Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE)*, which provides for cuts in the conventional military arsenals of NATO and former Warsaw Pact States. The *CFE Treaty* was negotiated in parallel with talks among participating States of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe – the OSCE forerunner – on confidence-building measures.

“It is obvious that the future of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the future of missile defence are very topical issues that have direct relevance to European security and to the security of the entire Euro-Atlantic region.”

— Russian Federation Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, addressing the Permanent Council on 23 May

The Russian Federation, a *Treaty Signatory*, convened an *Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the CFE Treaty* in Vienna in June, alleging that NATO was delaying ratification of the *Adaptation of the Treaty* signed in 1999. A number of States had said they intended to ratify the *Adapted CFE Treaty* once commitments concerning the withdrawal of Russian forces and ammunition from Georgia and Moldova had been fulfilled. Russia later suspended its participation in the *CFE*.

Security committee. The Permanent Council's newly established Security Committee was instrumental in channelling and driving forward work on non-military and political aspects of security.

A Chairmanship perception paper formed the basis for the Committee's work programme which focused on: the fight against terrorism, border management and security, policing, organized crime and anti-drug co-operation and preparations for the 2007 *Annual Security Review Conference*. Committee Chairperson Ambassador Peter Lizak, the Permanent Representative of Slovakia, presented concrete objectives and priorities to the participating States at the Committee's first meeting on 6 February.

The Security Committee met 13 times during 2007, and discussions focused on the following issues:



Russian Federation Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov (OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)



Forged documents confiscated by the Spanish Police from immigrants exploited for labour purposes, November (Spanish National Police)

- implementation of the OSCE work programme for 2007 on preventing and combating terrorism, adopted by the Permanent Council in Brussels in December, 2006, and co-operation with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in preventing and combating terrorism, with the support of the Action against Terrorism Unit and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;
- follow-up of the Permanent Council *Decision* on the terms of reference for the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network and the implementation of the *OSCE Border Security and Management Concept* adopted in 2005. The Conflict Prevention Centre provided support;
- follow-up of the Permanent Council *Decision* on enhancing international anti-drug co-operation;
- follow-up of the provisions and recommendations to the participating States included in Brussels Ministerial Council *Decision No. 5 on Organized Crime*, and follow-up of the Brussels Ministerial Council *Declaration on Criminal Justice Systems*;
- follow-up of OSCE police-related activities, including activities aimed at developing an OSCE community-based policing framework. The Strategic Police Matters Unit provided support on these issues;
- OSCE Security Sector Governance/Reform-related activities with a view to presenting a final document at the Ministerial Council in Madrid;
- the agenda, timetable and organization of a workshop on approaches to maritime border security co-operation involving all three OSCE security dimensions, as directed by the Permanent Council *Decision*;
- preparations for the *Annual Security Review Conference* held on 19 and 20 June, taking into account the contribution from the Forum for Security Co-operation.

The Security Committee prepared the following statement and decisions adopted by the Madrid Ministerial Council: *Ministerial Statement on supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*; *Decision No. 5 on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism*; and *Decision No. 6 on Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure from Terrorist Attack*.

The Committee prepared two decisions later adopted by the Permanent Council: one on the implementation of the UN *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, and another on combating the threat of illicit drugs and precursors.

The Committee contributed to the Chairmanship's perception paper on the Organization's basic norms and principles in the field of security sector governance and reform, which was issued during the Madrid Ministerial Council.

The Committee Chairperson also promoted co-operation with the Forum on issues of mutual relevance that involved more than the military dimension. Consultations with the Forum Chairs Cyprus, Croatia and Denmark on this co-operation were held on several issues during the year. Joint Forum-Permanent

Council meetings provided effective opportunities to address multi-dimensional issues with contributions from the Security Committee.

Counter-terrorism work. Under the Spanish Chairmanship, the OSCE continued to collaborate in helping participating States implement international agreements and conventions including UN *Security Council Resolution 1373*, a wide-ranging anti-terrorism resolution, and the international legal framework for combating terrorism.

The OSCE's most outstanding 2007 activities in the area of counter-terrorism were the *Workshop on Enhancing Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters to Counter Terrorism*; the *Workshop on the Implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/03 on Travel Document Security*; the *High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism*; and the *Political Public-Private Partnership Conference* on countering terrorism.

Together with the OSCE's Action against Terrorism Unit, the Chairmanship organized a conference on *Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society, and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism*, which determined that the fight against terrorism must be as multi-dimensional as the threat itself. While governments rely on diplomacy, law enforcement and military operations to fight terrorism, participants at the conference underscored that private and civil sectors were instrumental in promoting sustainable economic growth, helping generate changes quickly, creating jobs for minority communities and using technology to connect with youth. The conference was held in Vienna on 31 May and 1 June.

The 2007 *High-Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism*, organized by the Chairmanship jointly with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, recognized that solidarity with victims of terrorism needs to go beyond fulfilling the immediate physical and psychological needs of the injured. Discussions at the conference held in Vienna on 13 and 14 September with the participation of some 200 government representatives, legal professionals and civil society representatives focused on the victim, victim-assistance programmes, the victim in legal proceedings and the role of civil society.

Another important event was the *OSCE Expert Conference on Fighting the Threat of Illicit Drugs*.

Policing. The Chairmanship and the Secretariat's Strategic Police Matters Unit organized a workshop on the role of police and co-operation against terrorism in Madrid on 8 and 9 May. Participants discussed the need for a holistic approach to policing in societies, represented by the role of community policing, and secondly the need for strengthening co-operation among police and intelligence communities.

Enhancing co-operation among Police, Prosecutors and Judges in the investigation of cross-border organized crime was another successful project carried out in Albania and Montenegro and funded by the Chairmanship. The project contributed significantly to improved co-ordination of the criminal justice system and the international fight against organized crime.

Together with the Unit, the Chairmanship organized a workshop on gender balance in police management positions in Madrid on 5 and 6 June. More than 25 delegations discussed how to better recruit and promote women for more democratic and egalitarian police forces.

To help practitioners with good practices in the prosecution and sentencing of criminals, the Spanish Chairmanship continued the work of the Belgian Chairmanship by translating, printing, distributing and presenting in Astana a *Reference Guide on Criminal Procedure*.

The protection of children against sexual exploitation on the Internet and the co-operation of police, prosecutors, non-governmental organizations and the business community was the topic of a workshop organized in Vienna on 20 and 21 September, in part funded by the Chairmanship.

Economic and environmental dimension

The Spanish Chairmanship championed more visibility for the issue of environmental security in the OSCE region. It focused particularly on the problem of soil degradation and contamination and on the need for a rational and effective use of water resources.

The Chairmanship believes that only through dealing with the deterioration of ecosystems can we hope to counteract the resulting threats to security: poverty and environmentally induced migration. Similarly, the just, rational and effective management of increasingly scarce water resources is key to regional security in a territory where some 180 watercourses cross country boundaries.

The main annual event in the second dimension is the *Economic and Environmental Forum*. The 15th Forum was held in two separate sessions, the first in Vienna on 22 and 23 January and the second in Prague from 21 to 23 May. Preparatory conferences were held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in November 2006 and in Zaragoza, Spain in March.

Participants in Zaragoza discussed issues affecting international co-operation in sustainable water management, an area of considerable OSCE expertise. Participants were briefed on the upcoming *Expo 2008 on Water and Sustainable Development*. The event,

which Zaragoza will also host, is expected to be the largest to date on the topic. The first OSCE Ministerial-level *Decision* on water also began its gestation during the conference.

The OSCE supports trans-boundary water management through activities around the Sava, Dniester, Chu-Talas and Kura-Araks rivers, and the Organization could consider offering similar support to water co-operation projects between Tajikistan and Afghanistan on the Amu-Darya River.

The theme of the 15th *Economic and Environmental Forum* was *Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management*.

At the January session, more than 250 policy makers, high-level experts and representatives of the OSCE's 56 participating States discussed how to co-operate and co-ordinate efforts to reduce environmental harm. They devoted work to poverty and environmentally induced migration, the negative social effects of land degradation and soil erosion. They also discussed how to maintain a balance between economic growth and the use of natural resources.

In May, the conference focused on tackling environmental security threats, transforming concerns about threats into actions that will promote stability. Consensus among the 300 decision-makers, experts and officials from more than 60 countries crystallized around the need to study more closely the link between environmental sustainability and security. The Chairmanship sees a clear mandate for the OSCE to be more active in this area. The *Forum's* two sessions contributed to the *Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security*.

Following the *Forum*, the Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan, organized a conference focused on the



Exploring possibilities

On the occasion of International Environment Day on 5 June, more than 40 OSCE delegates visited the Austrian city of Guessing, which is powered exclusively by renewable energy.

The delegation toured a biomass gasification plant, a photovoltaic plant and a school for solar energy. Guessing provides an example of feasible, cost-effective and environmentally sound technologies to address the modern carbon-reduction challenge and participants discussed how to apply the city's energy concept to other countries.

The visit was made possible through support from the Spanish Chairmanship, the Republic of Austria and the European Centre for Renewable Energy in Guessing.



← This photo of a young Gypsy couple getting water from an underground water pipe in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, was one of the winners of the 2007 OSCE Photo Contest. Like many countries in Central Asia, Uzbekistan often faces water shortages. (Shavkat Boltaev)

↑ During a visit to the European Centre for Renewable Energy in Guessing, Austria, on 5 June, OSCE representatives learned about the centre's biomass power plant. (OSCE/Martina Gadotti)

→ King Juan Carlos I of Spain speaks at the inauguration ceremony of the new OSCE Secretariat in Vienna on 21 November. (OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)

→ Journalists interview League of Arab States Secretary General Amre Moussa at the *Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims* in Cordoba on 9 October. (OSCE/Susanna Loof)

Training diplomats on environmental issues

Delegates on the Permanent Council's new Economic and Environmental Committee received training in environmental diplomacy in Vienna on 19 and 20 October.

The 21 participants received a briefing on the history and constraints in the application of international environmental law. They explored the typical negotiating positions of government and industry representatives who generally favour short-term economic gain over environmental protection or social equity. They looked at the security implications of environmental diplomacy, with a special focus on energy security and finally they took part in a negotiation simulation exercise.

"This course is definitely a good initiative as diplomats need technical background on issues like Environment and Security that will take on ever more importance in foreign policy," one participant said.

The course was organized by the Spanish Chairmanship, the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and other Secretariat units, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the University of Geneva, UNEP's partner in the Environmental Diplomacy Training Programme, and funded by the Spanish Chairmanship.

challenges facing the Central Asia region in the areas of degradation of land and soil pollution and the transfer of technologies in these fields.

To follow up the Spanish Chairmanship's focus on water in 2007, the participating States decided to dedicate the 16th *Economic and Environmental Forum* to co-operation on OSCE maritime and inland waterways. The First *Preparatory Conference* took place in Helsinki in September.

In the economic arena, the OSCE followed up on the 2006 Chairmanship's emphasis on transport. It organized a conference in Dushanbe in October on the prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until 2015. The attending Central Asian States, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Mongolia issued a joint statement committing themselves to strengthening dialogue and transparency on transit and border issues. They also pledged to work to reduce the negative environmental impacts of transit.

On 12 and 13 December, the Arabic-language version of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies* was launched in Rabat, Morocco. The *Handbook* is a joint effort of the OSCE, International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization and was financed by the Spanish Chairmanship. It analyses how to handle immigration most effectively.

Human dimension

The Spanish Chairmanship focused on fighting intolerance and encouraging participation in pluralistic societies. To highlight its goals, it launched two innovative events.

The first, a conference to fight intolerance and discrimination specifically against Muslims, was designed to help counter what the Chairman-in-Office characterized in his January 11 address to the Permanent Council as an "alarming" problem. The second, the OSCE's first-ever Youth Forum, aimed at mobilizing the post-Helsinki generations for the defence and promotion of OSCE principles and values and to highlight how young people's creativity, spontaneity and capacity for transformation could help the OSCE's work in building democratic and pluralistic societies.

Challenging intolerance against Muslims

The OSCE *Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims* delved into the causes of discriminatory behaviour and focused on developing solutions. The 417 participants from participating States and Partners for Co-operation, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, experts on Muslims in society and tolerance looked

at specific issues such as how education could help overcome intolerance or what could be learned from communities' work in fighting discrimination. One hundred eleven journalists covered the *Conference*.

As part of their overall fight against intolerance and discrimination, the Chairman's three Personal Representatives in this field participated in the meeting. Anastasia Crickley, the Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focuses on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions. Gert Weisskirchen is the Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism.

Ambassador Omur Orhun, the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, told the conference that the environment in which Muslims live has deteriorated considerably since September 11. So-called Islamic terrorism or Islamic extremism is often falsely portrayed as the source of all evil, fanning existing prejudice.

The *Conference* took place on 9 and 10 October in Cordoba, a city with historic echoes of mutual respect and co-existence (or *convivencia*) of Muslims, Jews and Christians. The *Conference* followed up on Ministerial Council *Decisions* reached in Porto and Sofia, as well as earlier conferences, such as a 2005 conference on anti-Semitism, also held in Cordoba.

It also followed up on the *High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding: Follow-up to the Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and other Forms of Intolerance* held in Bucharest on 7 and 8 June. The Chairman-in-Office said the Bucharest Conference demonstrated the OSCE's unwavering commitment to promoting freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief.

"We will have to find ways and means in order for this spirit (of tolerance), led by Spain today, to be felt among the masses: that we have to live together, that Islam and Christianity and all other religions, including Judaism, all of them worship God and there are no reasons for confrontation, but reasons for mutual respect and tolerance,"

— Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, addressing the *Conference*.

In his concluding *Declaration*, the Chairman-in-Office said participating States bore primary responsibility for promoting interfaith dialogue and addressing acts of discrimination. International developments, he said, could never justify intolerance or discrimination. The *Declaration* called on Muslim communities



to engage fully within society. It found that education, research as well as legislation and law enforcement could play useful roles in the battle against intolerance.

Non-governmental organizations participated in a preparatory meeting on 8 October in Jaen as well as in the *Conference* itself, to which they presented their conclusions and recommendations.

Engaging with youth

The Youth Forum recognizes that today's youth will project the OSCE's values, principles and commitments into a new era. The event, held in Madrid on 5 and 6 November, followed up on a Brussels Ministerial Council *Decision*, which pointed out the particular contribution young people can make to fighting intolerance and discrimination.

The 100 participants from 35 participating States and Partners for Co-operation tackled topics pertinent to the OSCE's three dimensions of security. Their closing *Madrid Youth Declaration* suggested that participating States enlist young people's work and views more actively in the OSCE's pursuit of regional security.

Specifically, the *Declaration* suggests the Chairman-in-Office inform the participating States of relevant young people's ideas in regular reports, consider inviting youth representatives as observers to some of the OSCE's expert meetings, further support youth initiatives, transform the Youth Forum into an annual gathering and consider youth perspectives in decision-making. The *Declaration* also makes a series of specific recommendations by dimension.

“This meeting is important because it gives an opportunity to the leaders of the future to meet and discuss important issues.”

— Michael Botstein, a 24-year-old student from Hebrew University in Jerusalem

“At this meeting, we have had an open discussion of different questions. We had the possibility to discuss them without any criticism from the different sides.”

— Igor Pivovar, a lawyer at the NGO Centre for Inter-ethnic research in Chisinau, Moldova

Beyond these two headline events, the OSCE's work in the human dimension involved a full palette of activities.

This year's first *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting* addressed how the full implementation of the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression could be secured and advanced. *Freedom of Assembly, Association and Expression: Fostering Full and Equal Participation in Pluralist Societies*, held in Vienna on 29 and 30 March, identified the challenges OSCE governments face in ensuring all citizens' equal rights to express their opinions and interests, and focused on how to overcome any obstacles.

The promotion and protection of human rights was the focus of the second *Supplementary Meeting*,

held in Vienna on 12 and 13 July. The meeting examined the role played by national courts, civil society and national human rights institutions in dealing with violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children, the third and final *Supplementary Meeting*, focused on understanding and addressing vulnerability factors. It also examined legislation and its implementation, including social protection and criminal law, and good practices in prevention and protection.

“When I look at the important work that is being done in support of elections, in support of peacekeeping, in support of human rights, and in support of the security architecture that is the basis on which a Europe whole, free and at peace is emerging, I want to pledge to you that the United States will remain active in this Organization ...”

— U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice addressing the Permanent Council on 31 May

In May, the 2007 OSCE *Human Dimension Seminar* focused on *Effective Participation and Representation in Democratic Societies*, a Chairmanship priority. The *Seminar*, which builds closely upon prior OSCE events on democracy and democratization held in May 2004 and in November 2006, gave representatives of participating States, non-governmental organizations, civil society, international organizations, OSCE institutions and field operations the opportunity to discuss current forms of participation and representation and identify ways to improve them.

From 24 September to 5 October, the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* took place in Warsaw. The largest human rights conference in Europe, it is also the only such event where representatives of civil society sit with governments on an equal footing. For two weeks, interested parties came together to discuss the implementation of OSCE commitments on the protection of human rights, the rule of law, non-discrimination and other human dimension matters. More than 1,000 delegates, including 334 non-governmental organizations, attended. A special day of the meeting was devoted to the topic of gender and security. Further selected topics were combating intolerance and discrimination and the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti. The Chairmanship organized a side-event on the *UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security Implementation in Practice*, moderated by the Spanish Ambassador-at-large for Gender Equality, Aurora Mejia.



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice with the Chairman of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado (OSCE/Susanna Loof)



Chairman-in-Office Miguel Angel Moratinos at the OSCE Youth Forum in Madrid on 5 November (OSCE/Susanna Loof)

Permanent Council

Guest speakers at the Permanent Council in 2007

11 January
(Special PC): Chairman-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, Miguel Angel Moratinos

18 January
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier

25 January
Head of the EU Border Assistance Mission, Brigadier-General Ferenc Banfi

8 February
EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Peter Semneby

13 February
(Special PC): Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Nikolay Bordyuzha

20 February
Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the UN for the Future Status Process for Kosovo, Martti Ahtisaari

8 March
(Special PC): President of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus

—
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania, Besnik Mustafaj

17 April
(Special PC): Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Vartan Oskanian

19 April
EU Special Representative for Skopje, Erwan Fouere

26 April
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk

30 April
(Special PC): Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Marat Tazhin

23 May
(Special Joint PC/FSC Meeting): Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov

31 May
(Special PC): Secretary of State of the United States, Condoleezza Rice

14 June
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Gela Bezhuashvili

5 July
Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Terry Davis

—
Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Ambassador Bolat K. Nurgaliyev

10 July
(Special PC): Prime Minister of Croatia, Ivo Sanader

12 July
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Luis Filipe Marques Amado

17 July
(Special PC): Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Vuk Jeremic

19 July
EU Special Representative for Moldova, Kalman Mizsei

26 July
Minister of Culture and Information of Kazakhstan, Yermukhamet Yertysbayev

—
Secretary General of the Eurasian Economic Community, Ambassador Grigory Alexeyevich Rapota

25 October
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, Milan Rocen

—
High Representative of the UN and the EU for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Miroslav Lajcak

30 October
(Special PC): Prime Minister of Georgia, Zurab Noghaideli

15 November
UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Kosovo, Joachim Ruecker

Permanent Council



The Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council, Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado of Spain, at the Hofburg in Vienna on 11 January (OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)

The Permanent Council, which convenes weekly in the Hofburg in Vienna, is the Organization's main body for political consultation and decision-making.

In 2007, many senior political officials from OSCE participating States addressed the Permanent Council and presented their views on contentious and important issues. The Council also heard numerous reports from Heads of Institutions, field operations and the Chairman's Personal Representatives.

One of the more difficult and lengthy but ultimately successful debates surrounded the appointment of a new High Commissioner on National Minorities. The Spanish Chairmanship steered the appointment of Knut Vollebaek of Norway, who took up his duties on 4 July, succeeding Rolf Ekeus. Many participating States praised the Chairmanship's decision to use a food-for-thought paper to help pull together a consensus; they suggested employing a similarly transparent process in future.

The main innovation of the year was the launch of the three-committee structure. Adopted at the Brussels Ministerial to reflect the three OSCE security dimensions, the committees transformed the Council's day-to-day work.

The Chairmanship considered the committees' record in the first year to be very satisfactory, although still perfectible, and suggested extending their mandate with a view to making them permanent.

The Security Committee, led by Ambassador Peter Lizak, the Permanent Representative of Slovakia, drove forward the OSCE work programme against terrorism and co-operated with the Mediterranean Partners in this field. Similarly, the Committee shepherded OSCE agendas on border security and management, international anti-drug co-operation, work on organized crime, community-based policing and other issues.

The Economic and Environmental Committee, chaired first by the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, Ambassador Doulat Kuanyshev followed by Ambassador Artim Zekoli, the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, helped prepare the *Economic and Environmental Forum* and discussed follow-up recommendations. It examined the economic and environmental aspects of security.

The Human Dimension Committee was chaired by the Chairman of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE, Ambassador Carlos Sanchez de Boado. The committee looked at the implementation of commitments by participating States in this sphere, provided support for relevant OSCE

meetings and recommendations for follow-up. It also considered the work of the relevant OSCE Institutions in this area.

Each committee discussed a number of political initiatives and draft texts, which resulted in various decisions and declarations of the Permanent Council and the Ministerial Council.

The Chairmanship found the committees provided a useful interface between participating States, the Secretariat, Institutions and, in some cases, a broader constituency including civil society. All three committees fulfilled their work programmes; they each met once a month or more as needed, dealing flexibly with their respective portfolios.

The committees were particularly invaluable in their consultative role in planning the Ministerial Council in Madrid. In general, the Chairmanship found the committees enhanced planning throughout the year and increased transparency in the process of consultation.

Forum for Security Co-operation

Forum for Security Co-operation

The Forum for Security Co-operation represents the military dimension of the OSCE. The Chairmanship of the Forum rotates every four months in accordance with the alphabetical order of the OSCE participating States. In 2007, the Forum was chaired successively by the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Croatia and the Kingdom of Denmark.

The weekly Security Dialogue served as a valuable mechanism for the continuing debate on regional and sub-regional security issues and facilitated co-operation and an exchange of views with other international organizations. Participating States discussed topics such as the construction of a U.S. ballistic missile defence system in Europe and a missile incident in Georgia on 6 August.

In the course of the year, the Forum convened a number of special meetings to examine issues of particular interest to participating States, including:

Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) by Air, 21 March;

Civil Military Emergency Preparedness, 26 September;

Existing and Future Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-building Measures in the OSCE Area, 24 October.

The special meetings afforded an opportunity to exchange views and comments in a structured and specialized manner. They also contributed to awareness raising, information sharing and networking among national experts.

The 17th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting to discuss the present and future implementation of agreed confidence- and security-building measures as established in Chapter XI of the *Vienna Document 1999* was held in Vienna on 6 and 7 March. In addition to the standard agenda, the Forum introduced a meeting of the heads of national verification centres as well as a working session on improving the implementation of existing measures. Both features enriched the debate.

In May, the Forum contributed to the *Annual Security Review Conference* by suggesting a list of possible politico-military topics for discussion. Similarly, the Forum Chairperson delivered an address setting out the work accomplished since the previous year's *Conference*.

The implementation of the *Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons* and the *Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition* continued throughout the year, during which the assistance projects in Armenia

to dispose of the highly toxic and volatile rocket fuel *Melange* and in Ukraine to clean up the Novobohdanivka ammunition explosion site were successfully concluded. The Forum received formal requests for assistance from the Republic of Georgia, Montenegro and Ukraine related to stockpiles management and demilitarization of conventional ammunition.

Similarly, the OSCE, in co-operation with the UN Development Programme, initiated activities in the Republic of Belarus and Montenegro.

The tragic loss of two military officers seconded by the Kingdom of Norway to the OSCE field operation in Tajikistan was received with shock and great sadness in the Forum, which expressed its condolences to the families of the deceased.

On 23 May, the Forum convened an informal meeting on the *OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* as a follow-up to the Special Forum held on the *Code* on 27 September 2006. The discussion centred on the implementation, public awareness and outreach of the *Code*, as well as on suggestions for qualitative improvement of the related questionnaire. In July, a Co-ordinator for the *Code* was appointed to collate ideas, views and proposals by participating States, and to assist the Forum's Chairperson and the Chairmanship Troika in matters related to the subject.

The implementation of the 2004 *UN Security Council Resolution 1540* on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continued to be an area of particular interest to participating States. Efforts to formulate a best practice guide were launched by the United States, later joined by Canada. To raise awareness and reach out geographically, the Forum made presentations at 1540 seminars in Jordan on 4 and 5 September and in Kyrgyzstan on 16 and 17 October.

In order to facilitate and strengthen co-operation among the three dimensions within the OSCE, the Spanish Chairmanship institutionalized regular meetings with the Permanent Council. The fall joint meeting proved to be an excellent opportunity for the two decision-making bodies to co-ordinate efforts towards the OSCE Ministerial Council. Participating States agreed this practice should be continued, as it allowed for integrated handling of issues that cut across dimensions.

The Madrid Ministerial Council meeting adopted *Decision No. 3 on Issues Relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation*, the first such global *Decision* on the Forum. It will serve as a basis for the Forum's activities during 2008.

Delegations of the 56 OSCE participating States discuss a U.S. missile defence initiative at a meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation, in Vienna on 31 October. (OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which has its International Secretariat in Copenhagen, represents the Organization's parliamentary dimension. Established by the 1990 Paris Summit to promote greater national parliamentary involvement in the OSCE, the Assembly today comprises 320 parliamentarians. Its primary task is to support inter-parliamentary dialogue, an important aspect of the overall effort of meeting the challenges of democracy throughout the OSCE region.

2007 was a busy year for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. It held three major conferences, highlighted by the 16th Annual Session in Kyiv, Ukraine, and the fifth bi-annual Economic Conference in Andorra. It also led six OSCE election observation missions.

Assembly President Goran Lenmarker travelled extensively throughout the year, with major visits to the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Balkans, Russia and the United States (U.S.). He addressed the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Election Co-ordination Group of the European Parliament and the U.S. Helsinki Commission in Washington, as well as the Ministerial Council in Madrid. He also addressed the OSCE Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination held in Cordoba, Spain in October. Assembly President Lenmarker and Secretary General Spencer Oliver met twice with OSCE Chairman-in-Office Miguel Angel Moratinos in Madrid to discuss election observation.

Inter-parliamentary dialogue

16th Annual Session, Kyiv, July. The theme of the Assembly's 16th Annual Session in Kyiv, Ukraine, was Implementation of OSCE Commitments. The five-day session was attended by parliamentarians from 49 countries and resulted in a Declaration, with recommendations for all 56 participating States and OSCE institutions.

Representing the collective voice of OSCE parliamentarians, the *Kyiv Declaration* expresses support for all efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the so-called frozen conflicts in Moldova and Georgia based on the principles of territorial integrity. Reaffirming the crucial importance of democratic values, the Declaration calls on Belarus and governments of other participating States to pursue their international commitments.

The Declaration urges all participating States to sign and ratify the *Energy Charter Treaty* and the *Kyoto Protocol*. It calls for greater action on migration and against human trafficking, especially of children, and for the dismantling of criminal networks which facilitate illegal migration. It contains provisions on women, peace and security, cluster bombs, environmental security, human rights and intolerance.

The Declaration emphasizes that the Parliamentary Assembly is the OSCE's most valuable asset in enhancing the credibility of its efforts to promote democracy and the establishment and improvement of parliamentary institutions.

It reiterates the relevance of OSCE Electoral Observation Missions and states that parliamentarians contribute a wide range of professional political experience and visibility to these missions.

Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko and Chairman-in-Office Moratinos addressed the Session. **Winter Meeting in Vienna, February.** The Assembly held its sixth annual *Winter Meeting*, the second-largest event in the Assembly's calendar, in Vienna on 22 and 23 February. Parliamentarians from 53 participating States attended. Speakers included President Lenmarker, Josep Borrell, Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Barbara Prammer, President of the Austrian Parliament, and OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut.

In a debate focused on energy security in the OSCE area, many speakers underlined the importance of finding global solutions that create stability and reliability, while others stressed the new environmental aspects of energy security as well as conservation and alternative sources to fossil fuels.

Kazakhstan was formally approved as the host of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's *Annual Session* in 2008.

Fall Meetings in Portoroz, Slovenia, September/October. The *Fall Meetings*, held in Portoroz, Slovenia from 29 September to 1 October, consisted of a

Parliamentary Conference, a meeting of the Standing Committee and a *Forum on the Mediterranean*.

The theme of the *Parliamentary Conference*, organized within the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, was *Security through Co-operation in South East Europe: The Role of Parliamentarians*. Conference sessions included: Decentralization and Local Government in South East Europe; Education as a Basis for Security: Knowing Your Neighbour; and Regional Co-operation in Energy Security.

The OSCE Secretary General briefed the Standing Committee on the OSCE budget, stressing that the Assembly, as one of the original OSCE bodies established by the Charter of Paris, was "vital for the OSCE."

During the *Forum on the Mediterranean*, the parliamentarians focused on minority protection and non-discrimination in the Mediterranean region.

Economic Conference. The Assembly held its fifth biennial *Economic Conference* in Andorra la Vella, Andorra, from 24 to 26 May. Nearly 100 parliamentarians from more than 30 OSCE countries participated in the conference on international trade and security, which was inaugurated by the President of the Andorran Parliament, Joan Gabriel I Estany. President Lennmarker and Andorran Prime Minister Albert Pintat also addressed the participants.

Election observation

The Assembly continued to play a leading role in observing elections in the OSCE area. The Assembly deployed more than 250 observers to monitor parliamentary elections in Serbia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia and Kyrgyzstan. In observing elections, the Assembly often works in co-operation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the region's other parliamentary assemblies.

In accordance with practice, the Chairman-in-Office appointed senior Assembly members as his Special Co-ordinators, as follows:

- President Lennmarker led the observer mission to the elections in Serbia;
- Vice-President Tone Tingsgaard of Sweden led the observer mission to the elections in Armenia;
- Vice-Chair of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's First General Committee Consiglio Di Nino of Canada led the observer mission to the elections in Kazakhstan;
- Vice-President Tingsgaard also led the observer mission to the elections in Ukraine;
- Vice-President Kimmo Kiljunen of Finland led the observer mission to the elections in Kyrgyzstan.

For the Russian elections in December 2007, the Assembly formed a joint observation mission with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, with the participation of the Nordic Council. President Lennmarker headed the Assembly's delegation.



↖ Parliamentarians vote at the Annual Session in Kyiv. (OSCE/Andreas Baker)

← President Goran Lennmarker talks with Prime Minister Albert Pintat at the Economic Conference. (OSCE/Andreas Baker)

↑ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice-Presidents Joao Soares (left) and Kimmo Kiljunen are interviewed by Reuters on the OSCE observation mission in Kyrgyzstan in December. (OSCE/Andreas Baker)

Special Representatives

President Lennmarker appointed the following new OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representatives during the year:

- U.S. Congresswoman Hilda Solis, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was appointed Special Representative on Migration, with the mandate “to promote interest and discussion on migration issues within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.”
- Senator Carlo Vizzini, head of the Italian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, was appointed Special Representative on Transnational Organized Crime, with the mandate “to act as a link to OSCE governmental agencies fighting transnational organized crime and corruption.”
- Vice-President Kiljunen was appointed Special Representative for Central Asia, with the mandate “to encourage active participation by parliamentarians from Central Asia in the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.”
- U.S. Congressman Christopher Smith was appointed Special Representative on Human Trafficking, with the mandate “to promote dialogue in the OSCE on how to combat human trafficking.”

Parliamentary field work

In co-operation with the Nordic Council, the Assembly Vice-President and Special Representative for Central Asia Kiljunen organized a seminar in Oslo in December on regional parliamentary co-operation in Central Asia.

Assembly Vice-President and Special Representative on Guantanamo Anne-Marie Lizin of Belgium paid a second visit to the detention facility at Guantanamo in June. In her report, she called for closure of the base and transfer of the detainees. She addressed the Permanent Council in Vienna about her visit.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s working group on Belarus, headed by Uta Zapf of Germany, and the Assembly’s Belarusian delegation jointly organized the seminar *Exploring the Opportunities for Belarus within the European Neighbourhood Policy* in Minsk in March.

President Lennmarker accompanied the Chairman-in-Office on a trip to Azerbaijan and Armenia to encourage the parties to reach an agreement on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

As the chair of the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact on South Eastern Europe, the Assembly organized a seminar in Belgrade in June. The Stability Pact will be replaced next year by a Regional Co-operation Council with headquarters in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Petur Blondal of Iceland, the Assembly’s Special Representative on the OSCE budget, visited Albania in July to examine the work of an OSCE presence in the field and assess the use of financial and

human resources. He also met with the Secretary General in Vienna.

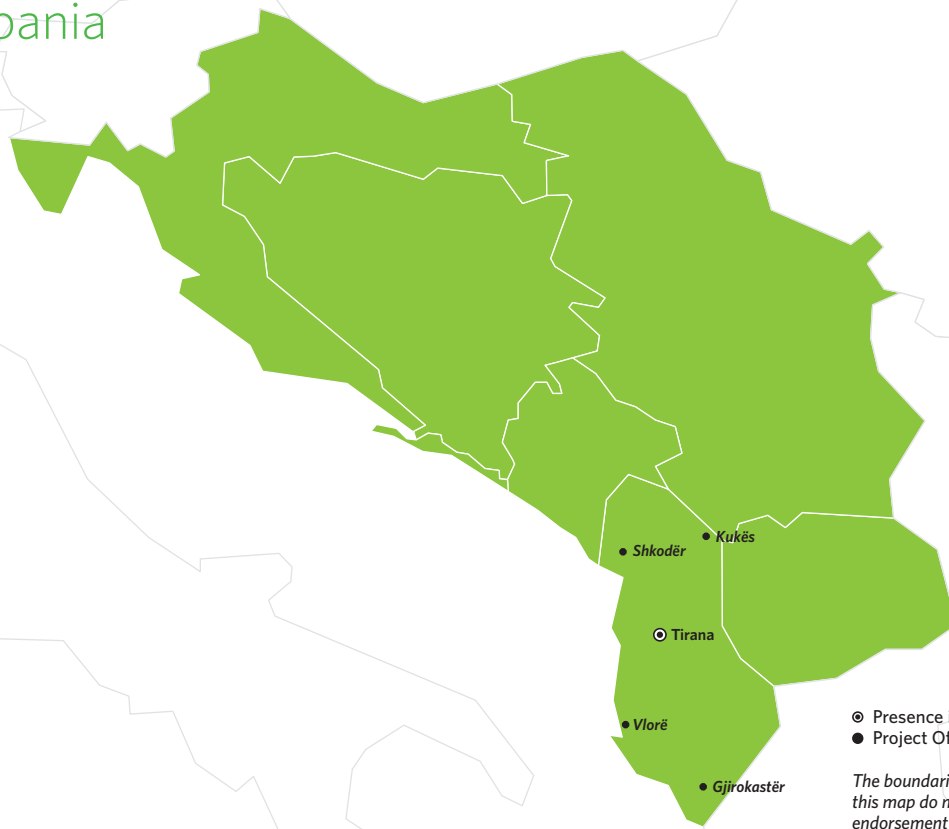
Assembly Vice-President and Special Representative for Central Asia Kiljunen visited Turkmenistan in October together with the head of the Norwegian OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation, Morten Hoeglund. The purpose of the visit was to encourage greater participation in Assembly activities by the Turkmenistan parliamentarians.

Parliamentary Assembly President:
Goran Lennmarker
www.oscepa.org

Field operations



South-eastern Europe Presence in Albania



● Presence in Albania
● Project Office

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

The Presence continued to provide assistance in the areas of electoral and judicial reform, legislative, judicial, property and regional administration, parliamentary capacity-building, anti-trafficking and anti-corruption. The Presence supported the independent media and good governance, provided police training assistance and worked to strengthen civil society. A highlight was the start of a project to assist the Government in the modernization of its civil registry and address system.

Politico-military dimension activities

Strengthening cross border co-operation. The Presence assisted the border and migration police in formulating and implementing its *Integrated Border Management* strategy. It facilitated joint border co-operation meetings with Italy, Kosovo/Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and assisted with the development of cross-border agreements with Montenegro.

Assisting border and state police. In preparation for the 2007 local elections, the Presence trained 55 police trainers on the role of the police during an election, and these trainers in turn provided the same training to a further 5,000 police officers. To help improve prosecution rates, the Presence supported a

six-month training course in interview and investigation techniques for 120 mid-level investigators. With the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime, it provided training in investigation management to 19 organized crime investigators.

It made a large donation of border surveillance equipment to the border and migration police and instructed 60 border police officers in using the equipment. To help fight transnational organized crime, the Presence, together with the Spanish Chairmanship and the Strategic Police Matters Unit, established working groups to improve co-ordination among the police, prosecutors and judges within Albania and co-operation with Montenegro.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Supporting property reform. With financial support from Norway, Finland, the Czech Republic and the United States (U.S.), the Presence created an electronic database of 43,000 claims submitted for restitution and compensation. Its co-operation with the Immoveable Property Registration Office resulted in the first-time registration of 33,752 titles during 2007. It supported the creation of a digitized mapping system database and conducted an assessment of restrictions placed on registered properties.

Supporting decentralization and regional reform. The Presence helped the Government carry out an analysis of regional government structures. It facilitated discussions between the Government and donors on regional development and anti-corruption strategies.



↑ Cross-border co-operation between Albanian and Kosovo/Serbian authorities (OSCE/Jack Bell)

→ Ballots from the 18 February local elections are counted at a Tirana counting centre. (OSCE/ Urdur Gunnarsdottir)

↗ An old man votes in the 18 February elections. (LSA/Gent Shkullaku)

Promoting good governance. The Presence implemented a programme to empower women leaders in local government, focusing on the nine women mayors elected in the local government elections. It trained 160 local government officials of the High Inspectorate of Declaration and Auditing in preventing conflicts of interest. It provided the Finance Intelligence Unit with expertise on the new anti-money laundering law and technical training in gathering financial data from 17 banks. As a result of the Presence's promotion of corporate social responsibility, 22 tourist operators signed the *Global Code of Conduct for Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism*.

Supporting the protection and reintegration of victims of trafficking. The Presence helped local non-governmental organizations mount a campaign against child begging. Together with the Government and with the participation of anti-trafficking authorities from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo/Serbia, it organized roundtables on cross-border co-operation in combating trafficking in human beings. The Presence helped 15 former victims of trafficking develop micro-enterprises by providing training and disbursing micro credits. It drafted a manual for law enforcement officials on identifying and protecting victims of trafficking.

Promoting better environment management. With an Environment and Security Initiative grant for the implementation of the *Aarhus Convention* and with the co-operation of the Ministry of the Environment, the Presence addressed several concerns of the Compliance Committee, which monitors the *Convention's* implementation. It opened regional Aarhus Information Centres in Shkodra and Vlora, trained 40 public officials and members of civil society on Aarhus rights and obligations and created an Aarhus website. Such activities resulted in the increase in consultations between the Ministry and civil society on issues such as waste management.

Human dimension activities

Furthering electoral reform. The Presence provided technical and logistical support to the Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reform and funded a series of workshops on international standards and best practices. It began a major project to help the Government modernize its civil registration and address systems, with funding from the European Commission and the U.S. and additional support from the Council of Europe and Norway.

Strengthening the Parliamentary Assembly. The Presence began implementing the second phase of its parliamentary support project, which aims to increase the transparency, accessibility and research capacities of the Parliamentary Assembly's committees, staff and services.

Strengthening the justice system. The Presence published a report analysing criminal appeals in Albania and provided training to the Deputy Chair of the High Council of Justice and four other judges on judicial ethics. Together with the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Justice, the Presence trained 300 legal professionals on the new *Domestic Violence Law*. It published a handbook for victims and non-profit organizations on seeking protection from domestic violence. It helped draft witness protection legislation

and, together with the police assistance missions of the European Commission and the U.S., assisted with the drafting of a new *State Police Law*.

Human rights. The Presence provided training to 92 legal professionals on the protection of minors. It coordinated the efforts of donors contributing to the implementation of the National Roma Strategy. It made recommendations on the creation of a probation system in prisons and helped design a new juvenile detention centre.

Media development. The Presence helped the public media regulator to develop a strategy for switching to digital broadcasting. With the support of the Presence and the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media, six Members of Parliament attended workshops in Vienna on best practices and the current European Union media law.

Promoting civil society and citizens' rights. The National Network of Civil Society Development Centres, created by the Presence and now an independent legal entity, helped many local non-governmental organizations participate in local decision-making processes. The Presence facilitated studies on the implementation of the National Strategy on People with Disabilities and on the compliance of proposed legislation with the *UN Convention on People with Disabilities*.

Advancing gender equality and women's rights. The Presence, together with the UN Development Fund for Women, helped the Government to draft the recently passed *National Strategy on Gender Equality and Eradication of Domestic Violence*. The Presence together with the UN Development Programme



assisted the Government in amending and publicly discussing the draft *Law on Gender Equality in Society* and, with funding from Germany, continued to provide assistance to victimized women through the Women's Counselling Centre in Kukës.

Head of Presence:
Ambassador Robert Bosch from 25 October,
succeeding Ambassador Pavel Vacek whose mandate
ended on 5 October

Approved budget: € 3,726,600

www.osce.org/albania



Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina



Political tensions impeded the Mission's work in 2007 in certain areas – most notably in building certain educational and human rights institutions – but otherwise the Mission continued to carry out its mandated tasks without too much hindrance. These included assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet its OSCE politico-military commitments, strengthening parliaments, improving local governance, speeding up the domestic prosecution of war crimes and the return of refugees, and seeking to end endemic discrimination against those in a minority in a community, especially in schools.

Politico-military dimension activities

Compliance with politico-military commitments.

The Mission supported the work of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1-B of the Dayton Agreement by providing technical and logistical assistance for 10 Article IV inspections. Bosnia and Herzegovina led the first multinational Article IV inspection of a Montenegrin military base since Montenegro became a party to the *Sub-regional Arms Control Agreement*.

Helping with the reduction of the vast stockpiles of surplus small arms and light weapons and

ammunition in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained a priority. The number of weapons and ammunition storage sites continued to decline, although the rate of destruction decreased, in part because of delays in employing adequate numbers of trained personnel and in part because of problems with the transfer of defence property from the entities to the State. Together with its international partners, the Mission worked as well on a strategy to build effective arms control mechanisms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Parliamentary oversight and democratic control of the armed forces. The Mission assisted the work of the defence, security and intelligence committees of the Parliamentary Assembly. It organized seminars and workshops to help these parliamentarians prepare and examine defence and security budgets. It also put together a programme under which committee members visited five European countries, where they exchanged views and information on defence reform and security oversight as well as on parliamentary oversight practices in other democracies.

Institution building. The Mission, in co-operation with the Ministries of Defence and Security, organized six seminars on the *OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*. Approximately 180 senior officers and officials participated. With support and assistance from the State Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of Finland, the Mission also developed and conducted two pilot courses on co-ordinating the development of national security policy.





Economic and environmental activities

Jobs and the economy. The Mission organized nine job fairs and 26 entrepreneurship seminars in partnership with municipalities, employment bureaus, businesses, development agencies and civil society groups. As a result, more than 200 people found jobs and 50 started businesses. The Mission also helped 17 municipalities develop plans in partnership with their residents to identify and address barriers to local economic development.

Human dimension activities

Human rights and rule of law

War crimes prosecution. Twelve years after the end of the war, the prosecution of war criminals remains an unmet goal. Believing that justice is essential for reconciliation, the Mission sought to help Bosnia and Herzegovina achieve this goal. It also assisted the office of the Bosnian State Prosecutor in developing a strategy for the prosecution of the many outstanding cases. In addition, it continued to monitor war crimes trials, including those transferred by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to the Bosnian State Court.

Supporting sustainable refugee returns. Now that the process of property repossession has nearly reached its completion, attention has turned to making the return process sustainable by seeking to help create a climate of respect for human rights without discrimination throughout the country. In addition the Mission, in co-operation with OSCE Missions and representatives of the European Commission and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, sought to assist the fulfilment of the commitments made by refugee ministers of the region in the January 2005 *Sarajevo Declaration*.

Advancing the rights of vulnerable groups. Roma and other national minorities suffer from discriminatory treatment when seeking access to health care, housing and employment. The Mission strove to rectify this and to alleviate gender disparities by providing training and legal advice to the relevant institutions and civil society groups. It also assisted the national authorities in designing solutions to tackle the growing problem of trafficking in human beings within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Democratization

Promoting transparent and accountable government. The Mission trained parliamentarians and strengthened committees of the State Parliamentary Assembly under its *Legislative Strengthening Programme*. The Parliament introduced measures to raise public participation in its work and moved to adopt a Code of Conduct regulating its activities.

Twelve municipalities completed their participation in the Mission's local governance project, *UGOVOR* or *Contract*, and another 60 are on track to do so before the project ends in June 2008. The second round of the *Beacon Scheme*, which recognizes and rewards excellence in municipal service delivery, was completed, bringing the total number of municipalities involved to more than 100.

With the Mission's assistance, 30 municipalities were able to reform their municipal administration to achieve minimum standards of effectiveness and efficiency. The Mission also helped municipal practitioners produce a guide to the management of human resources for municipalities. This included assisting 92 municipalities to replace paper-based personnel management systems with personnel registry software.

Improving legislation and regulatory frameworks. The Mission provided assistance to most municipalities in the Federation, one of the country's two entities, in harmonizing their statutes and rules of procedure with this entity's new *Law on the Principles of Local Self Government*. The Mission's democratization officers also provided assistance to the government of the other entity, the Republika Srpska, in developing proposals to improve its own version of this law.

Strengthening civil society and citizen participation. The Mission trained more than 100 civil society organizations in how to participate effectively in the public hearings of the State Parliament. It continued as well to support a network of 27 such organizations, work that also strengthened the voice of young people in the political arena. Its *Open Parliament* programme televised 22 debates between parliamentarians and youth.

Electoral issues

At the request of the Central Election Commission, the Mission provided expert advice on changes and amendments to laws pertaining to electoral matters, political party financing and conflict of interest.

Education

The Mission produced and issued five reports to the public on education reform in order to increase the general public's awareness of the problems impeding the advancement of education and to build support for addressing them. Most notably, these included analyses of the large-scale avoidance of mandated enrolment areas in favour of ethnically pure schools and of successful multi-ethnic education in the Brcko District as a model for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Mission also carried out projects to increase the participation of parents and students in the governance and activities of schools; to promote more regular attendance of schools by certain groups of disadvantaged children such as Roma, children with special needs or children whose families cannot afford school-related expenses; and to raise awareness of the deleterious effects of the inefficient and often inequitable allocation of financial resources to education.

Head of Mission:
Ambassador Douglas Davidson
Approved budget: € 17,944,200
www.oscebih.org



↑ Young people learn about employment opportunities at a Youth Job Fair in Mostar on 5 October. (OSCE)

↑ The Mission's Peer Education Programme gave student peer trainers an opportunity to visit the Srebrenica area and gain first-hand knowledge of the situation and experiences of their peers. (OSCE)

← A technician defuses mortars in an ordnance factory. (OSCE)

Mission to Croatia



2007 saw the culmination of a process begun in 1996, when the Mission to Croatia was established, as the ongoing reform process in a number of areas covered by the Mission's mandate was deemed sufficiently self-sustaining. Four Mission units – police reform, civil society development, freedom of the media and political affairs – closed at the end of last year. During 2007, observable progress by Croatian authorities in the two remaining programmatic areas of the Mission's mandate on return and integration of refugees and the rule of law allowed the Mission to close six field offices.

Reflecting this evolution, the year ended with the closure of the OSCE Mission to Croatia and the establishment of the OSCE Office in Zagreb by a Permanent Council decision. The Office will monitor war crimes proceedings and report on the implementation of housing care programmes.

Human dimension activities

Rule of law

The Permanent Council, as part of its decision to close the Mission, judged that the ongoing reform process in Croatia related to several areas addressed by the Mission's Rule of Law activities had progressed sufficiently to be considered self-sustaining at year's end and so no longer to warrant OSCE activities. These included the adequacy of financing of Croatia's human rights institutions, the Constitutional Court and Ombudsman. In mid-year, the Prime Minister provided written assurances that the Government would increase funding for these institutions in 2008, in particular facilitating field work by the Ombudsman. Given the importance of the Constitutional Court for human rights protection, the Mission emphasized the importance of a transparent appointment process to bolster the independence of this institution. The Parliament filled six Constitutional Court vacancies in 2007, leaving three vacancies to be filled in 2008.

The Mission continued throughout the year to fund free legal aid, particularly to assist refugees and displaced persons with judicial disputes related to the return of housing and land. Efforts on the part of the Government to develop a free legal aid system resumed in late 2007. An earlier proposal was withdrawn from the Parliament in the autumn in agreement with the Mission.

To facilitate the fulfilment of commitments related to the employment of national minorities, the Mission and the Government co-organized three

The 'Platform': moving mandate-related issues to conclusion

In 2007, the Mission intensified its discussions with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Development within the 'Platform', a special framework set up between the Mission and the main stakeholders in the Government early in 2006 to negotiate steps toward completing the Mission's mandate. The 'Platform' included joint meetings with local authorities in regional centres as well as ministerial-level plenary sessions. The 'Platform' proved to be a productive forum in which the Mission and the Government jointly identified and prioritized objectives, discussed tasks to be accomplished and checked progress on a monthly basis.



↑ (Across the table from the left) Minister of Justice Ana Lovrin, Minister for Foreign Affairs Koliinda Grabar Kitarovic, Minister of Development Bozidar Kalmentar and (foreground, right) the Head of the OSCE Mission Ambassador Jorge Fuentes at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Three Ministers Plenary on 21 March (OSCE)

→ The President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Fausto Pocar (left), Judge Zeljko Horvatovic (centre) and Head of Mission Ambassador Fuentes (right) at a *Palic* Process meeting on 11 June (OSCE)

roundtables focusing on the implementation of Croatia's *Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities*. Each roundtable highlighted a specific public service sector – judiciary, state administration and local administration – and emphasized the need for concrete plans for implementation, means of assessing progress toward stated minority hiring goals, and the link to refugee return and the *Sarajevo Process*.

Monitoring of Croatia's numerous war crimes proceedings, including cases transferred from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), continued as the core Rule of Law activity in 2007. In general, Croatia continued to improve its record toward a balanced and fair system of war crimes prosecution, but further efforts were needed to better ensure impartiality and end impunity regardless of the national origin of victims and suspects. While Croatia can accomplish some reforms alone, others are dependent on similar reforms by other States of the former Yugoslavia, particularly those to enhance inter-state judicial co-operation. Observations from the Mission's monitoring formed the basis for reform recommendations discussed during the Ministry of Justice plenary. At year's end, the Mission produced a written summary of the plenary discussions over 18 months, noting reforms adopted and open questions.

The role of judges in war crimes proceedings: inter-state co-operation and training. The Mission in co-operation with other OSCE institutions and field operations organized the fifth *Palic* Process meeting, during which judges from the region discussed inter-state judicial co-operation needed to prosecute war crimes effectively and to put an end to impunity. The participation of judges from the ICTY, including the Tribunal's President, greatly enhanced the discussion. Inter-state judicial co-operation remains significantly limited by the legal framework of each state, an important area for future reforms.

In co-operation with the Croatian Judicial Academy, the Mission financed a seminar for judges and prosecutors, emphasizing fair trial issues involved in war crimes proceedings such as the right to an adequate defence. The Mission provided project support to develop the capacity of local non-governmental organizations to monitor war crimes proceedings.

Refugee return

The Permanent Council's year-end decision determined that several issues addressed within the Mission's Return and Integration mandate no longer needed OSCE support. These included the pending return of a limited amount of private property – residential and business premises as well as agricultural land – allocated by the Government. Another such issue was the completion of the reconstruction process of destroyed residential properties, including the resolution of nearly 14,000 appeals against denials of reconstruction, most lodged by ethnic Serbs. Lastly, the Mission was engaged with State authorities to ensure continuation and completion of the process of providing the necessary infrastructure for electricity and water for Croatian Serb returnee areas.

The Mission supported efforts to successfully complete the *Sarajevo Process*, a commitment to a joint regional solution for the thousands of wartime

displaced persons and refugees. Progress was achieved on most issues. However, despite Croatia's efforts, the political circumstances in the region did not allow for a resolution of the *Process* in 2007. A Ministerial Summit to complete the political phase was not held, nor were all country action plans, so-called Road Maps, finalized. Two key issues remained outstanding: a solution for former Occupancy and Tenancy Rights (OTR) holders unwilling to return to Croatia and the issue of the convalidation of working years in formerly occupied areas. By year's end, no consensus was reached on the Croatian proposal to resolve this issue bilaterally. Discussion continued about a mechanism for Croatia to address convalidation as well as other matters highlighted during the process.

Ensuring housing for Croatian Serb refugees who were former OTR holders was a primary activity of the Mission in 2007. The Government committed itself to accelerating the pace of providing housing to former OTR holders intending to return to Croatia. In agreement with the Zagreb-based international community, the Government pledged to provide 1,400 housing units by the end of 2007, of which 1,000 would be in war-affected areas and 400 in urban centres. At year's end, it appeared that significant progress had been made to achieve this goal, although not all housing solutions had been physically allocated to the respective beneficiaries. The Government also committed itself to completing determinations as to the availability of housing for the remaining 5,600 Serb families by the end of 2009. The Government's commitments will be specified in an Action Plan to be presented to the European Commission in the context of the European Union accession negotiations.

Head of Mission:

Ambassador Jorge Fuentes

Approved budget: € 7,324,000

www.osce.org/croatia



Mission in Kosovo



● Mission in Kosovo
○ Regional Centre

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

The highlight of the Mission's achievements was assisting with elections, which were organized in fewer than three months.

In accordance with its mandate, the Mission has played no role in the internationally mediated talks on the status of Kosovo that once again dominated the year's political scene.

The Mission, a distinct component of the United Nations (UN) interim administration, is the only civilian international player with a comprehensive field presence throughout Kosovo, mandated to contribute to the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, in particular the relevant parts of operative paragraph 11 of this resolution. Through its field presence, the Mission monitored and assisted the work of local authorities to ensure respect for human rights, rule of law and practices of good governance.

This work does not always hit the headlines. However, quiet and unbiased monitoring

along with professional recommendations for improvement is the work that in the long run makes a difference, especially for improving the lives of the different communities in multi-ethnic Kosovo.

Human dimension activities

Elections

The decision to organize elections for 17 November came from the UN administration in late August. The tight timetable was particularly critical, for several reasons. For the first time, the Kosovo institutions had the primary responsibility for organizing the elections. Elections were held for the Kosovo Assembly (Provisional Institution of Self-Government), municipal assemblies and newly created mayoral posts. For the first time, the three elections were held simultaneously.

Although the OSCE Mission had trained the Central Election Commission and its Secretariat, the compressed timeframe made the Mission's operational support critical to the election's success.

More than 25,000 local polling and counting staff were hired and trained to conduct the elections in 621 polling centres throughout Kosovo. A by-mail voting system was used in order to give voters living outside Kosovo a chance to vote. Some 50 per cent more valid postal votes were received compared with previous elections.

Unique field presence

The OSCE deploys the largest civilian field presence in Kosovo and constitutes the "eyes and ears" of the international community in Kosovo. OSCE personnel are present in every municipality, in all ministries and in the Kosovo Assembly, as well as in a number of independent public institutions. The Mission also has access to Kosovo courts and police stations.

This field presence, which is becoming increasingly important as the UN downsizes its activities, puts the Mission in a unique position to comment on, predict and address local changes at an early stage. OSCE municipal teams and specialized sections dealing with property, good governance, minority, judicial and police matters keep the

international community abreast of developments and assist in effecting positive change.

Proactive monitoring of municipal official bodies, working groups and commissions entails more than simple observation. The monitoring leads to political intervention to improve the performance of Kosovo authorities. In working with local actors since 1999, the Mission has developed a reputation for competence and professionalism. The strength of the OSCE field staff lies in the confidence it has gained over a long period.

The relatively low turnout – just over 41 per cent for the Assembly elections – continued the trend observed in previous elections, but was also caused by bad weather and outdated voters’ lists. The Mission carried out projects encouraging minority communities, especially Kosovo Serbs, to participate in the elections. However, the turnout among the Serb community was extremely low, presumably less than one per cent.

The Council of Europe considered the elections efficient, transparent and in line with international and European standards.

Human rights

In 2007, the Mission strengthened its focus on minority rights and related issues. The Mission monitored and advised on issues related to return and reintegration, the restoration of property rights, the safe public transport of minority communities, the use of languages and the civil registration of persons belonging to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

The Mission provided technical assistance and training to the Human Rights Units in 16 Provisional Institutions of Self-Government ministries, thus enabling the units to significantly improve their ability to implement and report on domestic and international human rights legal obligations.

The Mission also continued to support independent institutions, such as the Ombudsperson Institution, which it helped to create. The Mission criticized the lack of transparency in the recruitment process for a new ombudsperson. As a result, the selection process will be repeated in a more transparent manner.

In the areas of civil and criminal justice systems, comprehensive monitoring and assessment reports addressed violations of domestic law and international human rights standards. The Mission focused this year on legal representation in civil cases, domestic violence, trafficking in persons and witness protection. As a priority area, the Mission continued to monitor cases involving inter-ethnic crimes, including those arising from the March 2004 riots. The Mission also continued to promote the development of an accountable and human rights compliant police service for all communities in Kosovo.

➤ Workers at a polling station in the Suhareke/Suva Reka Municipality prepare the register book before they start vote counting on 17 November. (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)

➤ At the same polling station, workers open the ballot boxes to start counting votes on 17 November. (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)

➤ Kosovo election staff at the Mission-run Count and Result Centre in Pristine/Pristina on 9 November (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)

➤ Kosovo’s new Prime Minister, Hashim Thaci, addresses the new Kosovo assembly members, convened on 10 December after the November elections. (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)



↑ Members of the OSCE's Klina municipal team meet employees of a health clinic in Kline/Klina. (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)

↑ A Mission member explains the OSCE's mandate to the members of the Deaf and Mute Association. (OSCE/Dillon Case)



Good governance

The Mission continued to support the institutional set-up as well as the administration of the Assembly of Kosovo. Beyond day-to-day assistance to the Assembly Presidency, the Mission focused on supporting the Assembly's oversight over the executive branch, thereby providing concrete support to individual Assembly Committees.

As the position of directly elected mayors was introduced only shortly before the municipal elections, the Mission's assistance proved crucial in advising and training on the implementation of new regulations.

The Mission reviewed relevant legislation and provided analytical reports with detailed recommendations to support the local governance reform process at the central and local level. It also supported local financial management reform by organizing regional forums for the municipal leadership to build their skills in municipal financing.

Outreach to small Kosovo Serb enclaves

In close co-operation with Country Liaison Offices in Prishtine/Pristina, especially the British Office, the Mission designed an outreach campaign to address the special needs of those Kosovo Serb enclaves that remain relatively detached, not just from the main institutions in Kosovo, but also from larger Kosovo Serb settlements.

Every Liaison Office was assigned a particular enclave. Rather than conducting a one-off visit, each Liaison Office established a standing relationship with the chosen enclave, which would be beneficial both for the coming sensitive period and for potential longer-term development projects.

Battling corruption

The Mission provided technical assistance to the Anti-Corruption Agency, which became operational on 12 February. Public awareness was successfully raised by means of a media campaign with the slogan: "Corruption ends with you! Report corruption cases to the Anti-Corruption Agency". A hotline and a website were opened to motivate people to report corruption.

Since the campaign began in December 2006, the Agency has received five to seven calls a day from the public to its toll free number. This has led to 80 administrative investigations by the Agency and their referral to the Office of the Public Prosecutor for criminal proceedings. The Agency also intervened in irregular tendering procedures, preventing the misuse of funds. It ensured the recovery of €5,000,000 for the Kosovo budget.

Higher education

The Mission assisted the only public university in Kosovo offering education to the non-Albanian communities. This broke the two-year period of isolation of this university located in Mitrovice/Mitrovica and helped it reintegrate into the European Higher Education Area and Bologna process. Similar assistance was also provided to the public university in Prishtine/Pristina.

Media development

Serious disagreements in the Press Council of Kosovo over a decision regarding unprofessional reporting of a member newspaper threatened in 2007 to dissolve this self-regulatory body of print media that the Mission had helped to create. The Mission intervened and mediated and the crisis was solved.

The Mission also assisted the Independent Media Commission as the relevant regulator for broadcast media and finalized the establishment of the Kosovo Media Institute, a mid-career training facility.

Politico-military dimension activities

Police education and development

As of 2007, the Mission has facilitated the training of 7,353 Kosovo Police Service Officers. Having achieved its target goal, the department has evolved to serve the needs of the broader security and public safety sector to include Customs, Corrections and the Department of Emergency Management. It focused on specialized training, community safety development and the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo and continued to support the Kosovo Centre for Public Safety Education and Development.

The Mission completed the first phase of training for the Police Inspectorate, an independent police oversight body, and will complete phase two in early 2008.

Head of Mission:

Ambassador Tim Guldemann from 1 October, succeeding Ambassador Werner Wnendt whose mandate ended on 13 October

Approved budget: € 34,638,400

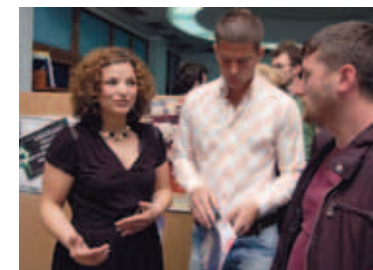
www.osce.org/kosovo

A look into the future

The intense discussions on the status of Kosovo affected all aspects of the work of the Mission in 2007.

With the status issue unresolved, the Permanent Council extended the mandate of the Mission for 2008 on a month-by-month basis only. Any participating State may put the Mission's future on the agenda at any time during the year.

As a result of these changes in progress, the Mission is re-examining its priorities. The Mission will strengthen its focus on issues such as the protection of minority communities, support for inclusion and co-operation of different communities, the return of displaced persons and property rights. It will stress its monitoring activities, focusing on the performance of Kosovo authorities with regard to their obligations and international standards.



↑ A representative of the OSCE-supported Student Service Centre, LINK, talks to a group of visiting students on opening day in Prishtine/Pristina. (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)

Mission to Montenegro



- ⊙ Mission to Montenegro
- OSCE Police Training Centre Danilovgrad

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.



The Mission to Montenegro engaged in active dialogue and partnership to assist its host country in strengthening existing and newly established institutions in the first year of its independence. Following a guiding principle of continuity and adaptability, the Mission has been responding to Montenegro's evolving needs as it progresses in its reform agenda.

Politico-military dimension activities

Code of conduct. In September, the Mission facilitated a workshop on democratic control of the armed forces and the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security held by the Conflict Prevention Centre at the Parliament of Montenegro.

Destruction of munitions. The Mission began implementing the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme for the disposal of military surplus and stockpile management. All 61 battle tanks designated for scrapping under the joint OSCE/UN Development Programme/Montenegro Ministry of Defence programme have already been processed.

Fighting corruption and organized crime. The Mission further supported the development of criminal intelligence, and initiated the establishment of the National Co-ordination Unit, the first organ of this kind in the region. The unit will bring together and

co-ordinate the efforts of all relevant law enforcement agencies in the fight against corruption and organized crime.

Community-oriented policing. The Mission provided expert assistance to the development of Montenegro's community policing strategy and trained the 56 contact police officers deployed to the pilot sites. The pilot phase was successfully completed by the end of the year.

Border policing. The Mission focused on enhancing regional cross-border co-operation and signing of bilateral agreements with Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina within the framework of the *Integrated Border Management* strategy and in the context of the *Ohrid Border Process*.

↑ The first tank is cut up to mark the start of the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme in Podgorica on 3 July. (OSCE/Ana Dautovic)

→ A police contact officer on one of his regular visits to the kindergarten in Ulcinj, Montenegro on 24 July (OSCE/Ana Dautovic)



Informant handling. The Mission developed methodology and instructions for informant handling, based on the Europol model.

Police education. The Mission closely assisted the Police Academy in establishing a Field Training Officer programme for probationary police officers.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Activities against money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The Mission organized a national conference to acquaint Montenegrin decision-makers with key international instruments for fighting money laundering and the financing of terrorism and held a regional conference on the topic attended by representatives from 10 countries of South-eastern Europe.

Anti-trafficking. The Mission's continuing implementation of the project *Prevention of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Travel and Tourism* included the signing of a revised co-operation agreement concerning the treatment of victims of trafficking by all relevant bodies.

Environmental issues. More than 1,000 first- to fourth-grade primary school pupils participated in the Mission's project *Help protect our environment*. The Mission initiated a project funded by the Spanish Government to tackle the problem of illegal logging, the biggest threat to sustainable forestry in Montenegro.

Human dimension activities

Democratization. The Mission launched a four-year project funded by the Austrian Government to help increase the efficiency of the committees of the Montenegrin Parliament. With support from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, it completed a *Municipal Handbook* on good governance at the local level and presented it to Montenegrin municipal assemblies.

Gender issues. The Mission helped strengthen the offices of the local gender focal points in five municipalities. It elicited the ideas and concerns of a broad group of municipal employees and provided them with essential information about gender equality and the newly passed *Gender Equality Law*.

Constitutional reform. In order to ensure the conformity of the new *Constitution* with international and European standards, the Mission organized discussions on some of the most sensitive issues, including the independence of the judiciary and the role of the Constitutional Court.

Judicial reform. The Mission supported the development and presentation of the *National Judicial Reform Strategy*, adopted in June. It assisted with the drafting of a new Criminal Procedure Code on the model of prosecutorial investigation. In co-operation with the Montenegrin courts, it launched its court monitoring project in May. The project will provide a thorough assessment of the administration of criminal justice in the host country.

Corruption. The Mission helped the host country review the compliance of its criminal, public procurement and conflict of interest legislation with the requirements of the *United Nations Convention Against Corruption*. It worked to help state employees identify and prevent corruption in public administration and

to improve the public relations profile of the Anti-Corruption Initiative Directorate.

Human rights. In close co-operation with the local non-governmental organization Centre for Democracy and Human Rights and the London-based Advice on Individual Rights in Europe Centre, the Mission delivered educational programmes in human rights for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and members of civil society.

National preventative mechanism. The Mission helped draft a final proposal for the establishment of a National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture in accordance with the *Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture* and continued to facilitate discussion among all involved state institutions.

Free access to information. The Mission supported the implementation of the *Law on Free Access to Information* by assisting with the publishing of a handbook for civil servants, training more than 300 officials throughout Montenegro and facilitating discussions that contributed to the inclusion of the *Law* into the new *Constitution*.

Media development. In co-operation with the President of the Swiss Press Council, the Mission continued to advise the Media Self-Regulatory Body in Montenegro and to draw media and public attention to this body.

Head of Mission:

Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu

Approved budget: € 2,200,900

www.osce.org/montenegro

Mission to Serbia



© Mission to Serbia

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

The Mission focused on assisting Serbia in building independent, accountable and effective democratic institutions, particularly in the fields of rule of law, human rights, media, law enforcement, economy and the environment. It supported civil society and fostered regional co-operation and reconciliation, contributing to a sustainable, secure and stable society for all citizens of Serbia. Key achievements included contributions to a complete transformation of basic police education in the country and to maintaining stability in south Serbia.

It helped to improve national and inter-state co-operation between police and prosecutors. It educated the public about domestic war crimes trials and the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Economic transparency and anti-corruption. The Mission continued to help Serbia implement its *National Anti-Corruption Strategy* and to support institutions introduced by the *Law on Public Procurement* and the *Law on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Discharge of Public Office*. It provided expert advice for the drafting of new public procurement legislation. Together with the Public Procurement Office, it developed training courses on public procurement procedures. In south Serbia, it worked with a non-governmental organization to assist local government in establishing municipal anti-corruption councils.

Border management. Following the demilitarization of Serbia's borders, the Mission continued to help the police service implement *Integrated Border Management*, combat human trafficking and identify stolen vehicles and falsified documents.

Police reform. The Mission, in co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior, launched a project to improve the Ministry's strategic planning and management in order to sustain police reforms. It took a leading role in helping to modernize the Ministry's crime scene investigations and laboratory examinations.

The Mission supported the development of community policing throughout the country, including in south Serbia. It helped establish a core of national police trainers on diversity and minority issues. It promoted best international practices in the area of

Politico-military dimension activities

Combating organized crime. The Mission assisted Serbian authorities in drafting new asset seizure legislation and developing a special detention regime for organized crime offenders. It offered training to police, prosecutors, judges and institutions investigating financial crime. It promoted regional and international co-operation, working with the Italian Anti-Mafia Directorate and Guardia di Finanza.

War crimes. The Mission monitored nine war crimes trials, up from six a year earlier. It organized training in investigative techniques, dealing with victims and witnesses and international humanitarian law.



Border police and customs officials inspect a vehicle and documents as part of a forensic workshop organized by the Mission in Nov Pazar on 25 October. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

police accountability and raised public awareness of the complaint and commendation procedure.

More than 700 police officers participated in the Mission's programmes to create a national police training capacity.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Strategic environmental support. The Mission assisted the new Serbian Government in creating the Ministry for Environmental Protection and linking it with the Environmental Fund and the Environmental Agency. It also supported the participation of Serbian non-governmental organizations in the *Sixth Ministerial Conference: Environment for Europe* in Belgrade in October.

Sustainable development. The Mission helped to develop model local environmental action plans in the small and undeveloped municipalities of Blace, south Serbia, and Lajkovac, central Serbia.

Economic empowerment. The Mission carried out Young Entrepreneurs' Spirit educational programmes in 10 municipalities. More than 1,000 young Serbians have attended the course over the past four years. To promote best practices in corporate governance, it helped set up the Serbian Association of Corporate Directors.

Support to small- and medium-sized enterprises. In December, the Mission opened the Innovative Technology Business Incubator Centre at Belgrade University, which will help outstanding students start their own businesses.

Human dimension activities

Democratic governance. The Mission helped the Parliament, the President's office and the Belgrade city assembly to improve their contact with citizens. Following up on an initiative of the Mission, the Parliament established a system for managing legislative documents electronically. The Mission supported the publication of the *Guidebook on Monitoring of the Work of Local Self-Government* for local media and non-governmental organizations. It also backed legislative reforms for more efficient parliamentary oversight of the security sector.

Refugee return and integration. Together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and regional non-governmental organizations, the Mission produced a comprehensive study designed to assist Serbian authorities in finding solutions to refugee issues, given the delay in the *Sarajevo Ministerial Declaration on Refugee Returns* process.

Human rights and anti-trafficking. The Mission identified key human rights issues requiring legislative changes and legal problems connected with enforcing decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. It supported the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings.

Equal opportunities. The Mission helped the Government to implement its *Roma Action Plan* on education, health and housing. It strengthened national minority councils, encouraged dialogue between the police and the Roma community and promoted inter-ethnic dialogue and respect for diversity among students. Together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, it produced a handbook on gender equality for public sector employees.



Revamping basic police training

The first pilot course of the new Basic Police Training Centre in Sremska Kamenica opened on 5 December, with 129 students enrolled. The launch marked the start of a complete shift in basic police education in Serbia, supported by the Mission. Instead of a four-year education at a police high school, future Serbian police officers will take a basic 18-month training course after finishing secondary school. A completely new curriculum makes police training more accessible to women and minority groups and prepares cadets to serve the public and be responsive to the needs of their communities.

(OSCE/Milan Obradovic)



← The Head of Mission, Ambassador Hans Ola Urstad, at the opening of the OSCE-supported Business Incubator Centre in Belgrade on 17 April (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

← A Roma girl watches a play performed in Silbas, Vojvodina on School Day, 25 May. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

→ A resident at the Mission-sponsored drug-free units at Belgrade Special Prison Hospital (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

→ Some 20 journalists working in the province of Vojvodina participated in a three-day economic reporting seminar, organized by the Mission in Novi Sad on 9 September. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

Judicial reform. The Mission continued to support the *National Strategy for Judicial Reform* adopted in May of last year. It helped to draft principles of the independence and accountability of judges and prosecutors, which will form the basis for a package of judicial laws. To help increase the number of qualified minority candidates for positions in the judiciary, the Mission implemented bar exam training programmes in south Serbia and Sandzak/Raska.

Human rights institutions. The Mission supported the implementation of the *Law on the Protector of Citizens* and started a skills programme for the first national Protector of Citizens. It also continued assisting the Vojvodina provincial ombudsperson and the network of local ombudspersons.

Prison reform. The Mission helped the Ministry of Justice’s Prison Administration to draft amendments to the Law on the Enforcement of Penal Sanctions, to further regulate internal oversight and the use of force, to establish a special detention regime and a system to classify prisoners and to develop the concept of alternative sentencing. The Mission introduced a programme of education for prisoners, as a first step toward their re-socialization. It also worked to raise health care standards in all prisons and established the first drug-free units in Serbia – an innovation embraced wholeheartedly by the Ministry of Justice. The Mission completed its programme of structural support to the Prison Training Academy this year.

Media reform. The Mission monitored the activities of the Republic Broadcasting Agency, including its allocation of regional and local broadcasting licenses, and voiced concern about their collision with European standards and practices. Having helped the national Radio-Television Serbia to begin its transformation into a genuine public service broadcaster, the Mission began assisting Radio-Television Vojvodina to improve the quality of its regional public service.

The Mission assisted the Ministry of Culture in drafting a Law on Prevention of Media Concentration and Ownership Transparency. It also organized events to raise public awareness of the *Law on Free Access to Information*.

The Mission provided advice on the privatization of municipal media and helped newly privatized media to enhance their marketing potential and become sustainable. It continued to co-operate with professional associations of journalists and offered seminars on political, economic and police reporting.

Head of Mission:
Ambassador Hans Ola Urstad
Approved budget: € 7,507,500
www.osce.org/serbia

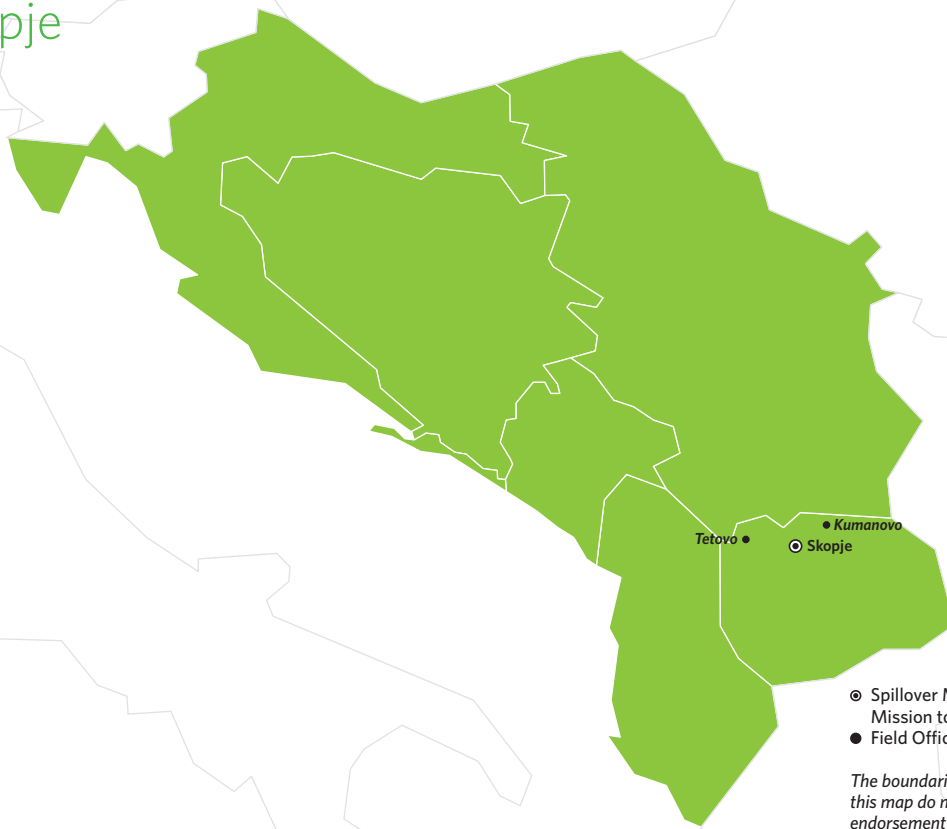
OSCE supports new ombudsperson institution

The first Serbian Protector of Citizens, Sasa Jankovic (left) and Ambassador Hans Ola Urstad signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 16 October. The agreement defines the co-operation and support that the Mission will provide to this new ombudsperson institution in areas such as building capacity, raising public awareness, creating an electronic workflow database and developing a public image.

(OSCE/Milan Obradovic)



Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje



The Mission continued to provide guidance and assistance on the country's reform process, with emphasis on the implementation of new laws. Concerted efforts were made to shift from short- to long-term projects such as enhancing the capabilities of the judiciary and police, with importance given to sustainability and increased ownership of projects and training initiatives.

Rule of law remained the Mission's priority, long-term judicial and police reform constituting essential steps toward fulfilling criteria for accession to Euro-Atlantic organizations. The Mission also fostered inter-ethnic dialogue and understanding, which is essential for building a stable political climate and implementing key legislation.

Politico-military dimension activities

Police reform. Following the adoption of the new *Law on Police* at the end of 2006, the Mission continued assisting the Ministry of the Interior in implementing police reform according to a twofold strategy that hinged on police training and community policing.

Supporting the national police force's goal of raising its level of professionalism to international policing standards, the Mission helped it lay the groundwork for an in-service training programme that will offer train-the-trainers courses on human rights, the *Code of Police Ethics*, media and public relations, management and curriculum development. To aid the country in its fight against all forms of organized crime, the Mission held courses on topics such as anti-trafficking, money laundering, illicit drugs and forged documents identification.

Community policing increases citizens' confidence in the police and improves mutual co-operation. The Mission assisted the country in implementing its community policing concept in all regions. As a result, more municipalities established permanent mechanisms allowing citizens to voice their concerns and the police to communicate directly with the public. Initiatives supported by the Mission included a national campaign for the prevention of drug abuse. The Mission also helped to improve policing in ethnic Roma communities.

Monitoring and early warning. Monitoring remains one of the Mission's most important means of defusing tensions and building confidence. The Mission's monitors talked with community leaders and local authorities daily, encouraging them to resolve conflicts through dialogue and reinforcing their confidence in state institutions.

Following the recommendations of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the monitors focused on addressing root causes of inter-ethnic tension and intolerance in primary and secondary

● Spillover Monitor
Mission to Skopje
● Field Office

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.



↑ Police officers and high school students work together to improve road safety in the town of Bitola, one of several community police initiatives supported by the Mission. (OSCE/Maria Dotsenko)



schools this year. They were also instrumental in furthering police reform and the delegation of authority to local government. The Mission conducted its second annual survey on decentralization, providing municipalities and stakeholders with valuable information for identifying administrative gaps and planning future projects.

Decentralization. The success of the country's decentralization process depends on adequate financing, since under-funding discredits local self-governmental units and weakens citizens' trust in public administration. Throughout the year, the Mission trained municipal officers in good governance and best practices regarding local taxation, internal control and auditing.

As a result of the Mission's efforts, central and local authorities, headed by the State Administrative Inspectorate, came together for the first time in 2007 to examine the entire administrative process at all levels of government. The meeting provided an opportunity to fine-tune administrative processes and define areas of responsibility. In collaboration with the State Inspectorate, the Mission provided training in administration to local officials. This was an important step toward enabling the country to sustain its own training programme.

Promoting increased citizen participation in the local decision-making process remained a cornerstone of the Mission's programme to assist with decentralization. The Mission provided training for members of the Committees for Inter-Community Relations that have been formed in mixed-ethnic municipalities, providing information on the legal position of the committees and the role they can play in improving ethnic relations and facilitating dialogue.

In support of the goals of the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005–2015), the Mission organized a series of workshops and delivered training to municipal councillors in the municipality with the largest ethnic Roma population.

Human dimension activities

Judicial reform. One of the Mission's biggest achievements in 2007 was a comprehensive training programme in *International Humanitarian Law and War Crimes Proceedings*, offered in collaboration with the newly established Judicial Training Academy. Designed to help the judiciary handle cases related to the 2001 armed conflict, including the four cases to be returned to domestic jurisdiction by the International Criminal Tribunal of the former Yugoslavia, the course also provided judges, prosecutors and investigators with tools for dealing more efficiently and effectively with complex criminal cases involving organized crime or corruption. The Mission actively monitored the judicial system and conducted an assessment of criminal proceedings to identify key issues and concerns to be addressed by future training initiatives.

Practical skills training for lawyers. The Mission collaborated with the Macedonian Bar Association and the Association of Young Lawyers to offer lawyers interactive training. It began train-the-trainers workshops in order to enable the two organizations to provide such training in the future. The Mission also trained lawyers in international standards for fair trials.

Supporting human rights institutions. The Mission worked with governmental and non-governmental institutions that promote human rights. It continued its three-year project to strengthen the ombuds-person institution by creating regional offices and offering training. It worked with national experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations to develop mechanisms for the external oversight of law enforcement bodies, which would make police more accountable. It also supported initiatives to help civil society organizations develop strategic plans and raise funds.

Anti-trafficking. The Mission continued to support the implementation of the national referral network and helped complete the drafting of standard operating procedures for institutions and organizations working with victims of human trafficking. These efforts contributed to establishing a multi-institutional system for bringing offenders to justice and providing comprehensive assistance to trafficking victims, from identification to rehabilitation.

Reform of the Elections Code. The Mission, with expertise from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, collaborated with Parliament to draft amendments to the recently adopted *Elections Code* regarding procedures for dealing with electoral irregularities, the regulatory framework for campaign financing and the transfer of competency for the administration of voter lists from the Ministry of Justice to the State Electoral Commission.

Media development. The Mission supported the implementation of the *Law on Broadcasting* by providing technical assistance to the broadcast regulatory authority in the development of a broadcast strategy in line with international standards. It closely monitored the restructuring of the public broadcaster. It also provided technical assistance to the new *Parliamentary Channel*, which broadcasts plenary sessions live on public television.

Freedom of the media. In order to provide all ethnic groups with equal access to information and services in their native languages and to ensure freedom of expression and pluralism in media, the Mission continued to support local authorities in drafting the National Strategy for Electronic Communications and Information Technologies and to monitor the implementation of the *Law on Free Access to Public Information*.

Head of Mission:

Ambassador Giorgio Radicati

Approved budget: € 9,948,700

www.osce.org/skopje

↑ The Mission supported a conference which discussed the financial status of local self-governmental units in light of the second phase of fiscal decentralization. (OSCE/Mirvete Mustafa)

↑ Two judges discuss judicial reform. Thanks to OSCE support, all the country's courts are equipped with automatic case distribution systems. (OSCE/Maria Dotsenko)

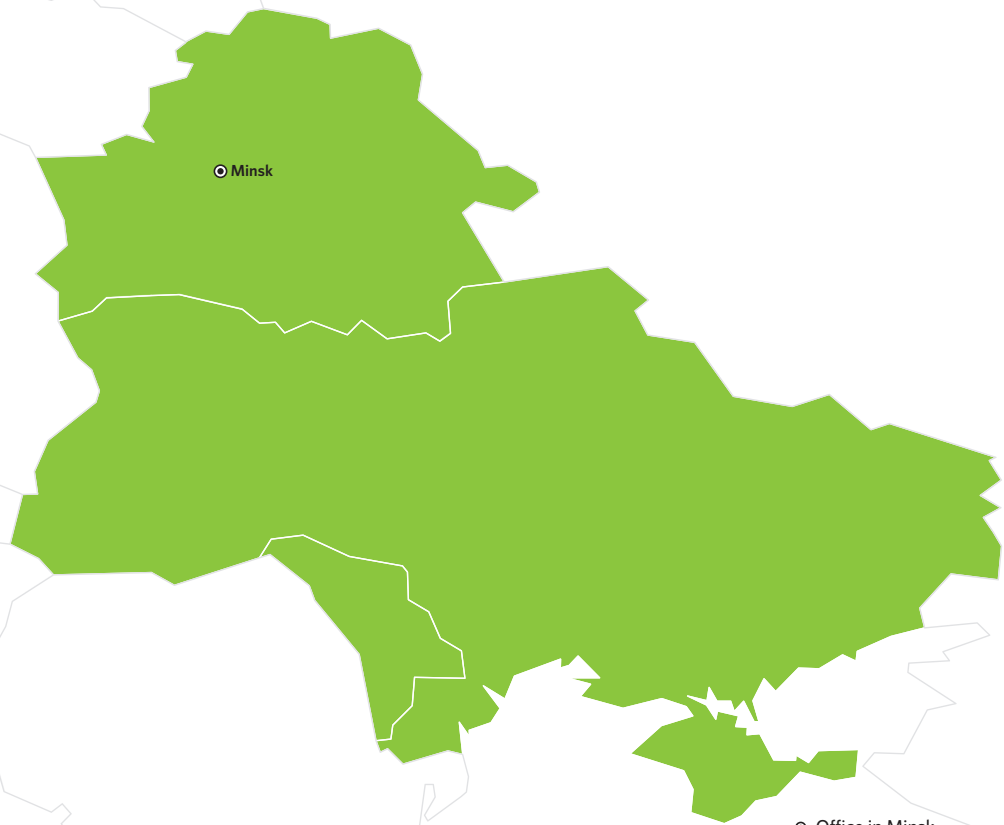
↑ Ombudsman Ixhet Memeti visits Idrizovo Prison. The Mission supported the expansion of the ombudsperson institution's geographical reach and expertise. (OSCE)

↑ The Mission supports an SOS helpline to combat trafficking in human beings. The helpline is open 24 hours a day to assist potential and actual victims. (OSCE/Maria Dotsenko)

→ The City of Skopje developed the strategy on co-operation with civil society organizations with the Mission's assistance. (OSCE/Mirvete Mustafa)



Eastern Europe Office in Minsk



⊙ Office in Minsk

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

The Office, in line with its mandate, carried out programmes in the economic and environmental and human dimensions aimed at enhancing the host government's capacity in these fields. A seminar on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, a number of projects targeting the economic and environmental rehabilitation of the Chernobyl-affected areas, a campaign against domestic violence and a film festival devoted to International Human Rights Day are some examples of the Office's activities.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Rehabilitation of Chernobyl-affected areas.

As a founding member of the *Co-operation for the Rehabilitation of Living Conditions in Chernobyl-affected areas*, a programme involving national and regional authorities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, the Office supported special training sessions for comprehensive agro-business development in the Chernobyl-affected areas.

Promoting alternative and renewable sources of energy. Under the project *Assistance in the creation of legal conditions for the usage of renewable (alternative)*

energy sources, the Mission organized a study tour to Sweden for national stakeholders in February, followed by a seminar in Minsk aimed at reaching a larger audience from outlying areas of Belarus.

Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC). The Office promoted the official launch of ENVSEC in Minsk on 19 September with the release in Russian of the ENVSEC assessment report for Eastern Europe. The Office supported the trans-boundary projects on water management along the Prypiat River bordering Ukraine.

Assisting Belarus with its commitments to the Kyoto protocol. The Office offered two training seminars for Belarusian technical experts, in Minsk and in France, on Green Investment Schemes and Carbon Funds.

Assisting Belarus with its commitments to the UN Convention against Corruption. The Office, with the National Law Drafting Centre, organized a seminar on the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism in Minsk on 14 and 15 November. International financial experts from Latvia, Ukraine and the United Nations (UN) Office on Drugs and Crime participated in the event.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Justice, the Office conducted a seminar on national and international legal instruments and best practices in the fight against corruption, with the participation of experts from the Council of Europe and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Human dimension activities

Anti-trafficking. The Office in Minsk continued to assist with the assessment led by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/La Strada and aimed at preparing for a national referral mechanism for victims of human trafficking.

Gender issues. For the second consecutive year, the Office co-sponsored an information campaign to prevent domestic violence in Belarus within the framework of the annual global initiative *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence*. This year, the campaign carried the slogan *Domestic Violence Denies Family*. It was widely covered by the media.

Multinational Belarus. In July, together with the Belarusian Office of the Representative for Religions and Nationalities, the Office published an updated edition of *Multinational Belarus*, in Belarusian, Russian and English. The publication provides information about cultural features, traditions and customs of ethnic groups and national minorities living in Belarus.

Public lecture on ombudsperson work. In March, the Office organized a public lecture, entitled *Legal Defence of Public Interest*, for law students from all universities in the Republic of Belarus. Invited speakers were Mats Melin, the current parliamentary ombudsperson of Sweden, Adam Zielinsky, the former Polish ombudsperson, and Vladimir Tambovtsev, the head of staff of the ombudsperson institution of the Russian Federation. The lecture provided students with an insight into the way different European countries approach ombudsperson work. The Office also distributed OSCE literature on human dimension commitments.

Human rights film festival. To commemorate the 59th anniversary of International Human Rights Day, the Office, together with the UN Representation in the Republic of Belarus, organized a film festival, entitled *Dignity, Equality, Justness*, in Minsk from 3 to 10 December. OSCE and UN human rights posters were on view and publications on human rights and other OSCE- and UN-related topics were available free of charge.

Training course on police behavioural skills. In September, the Office conducted a training course on police behavioural skills at the College of the Ministry of the Interior of Belarus. Two international police training experts shared their teaching experiences with the professors of the College and police staff from Mogilev and the surrounding region.

Monitoring activities. The Office monitored court hearings relating to freedom of association, the right to peaceful assembly, freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention and the right to fair trial, including several cases involving youth organization activists.

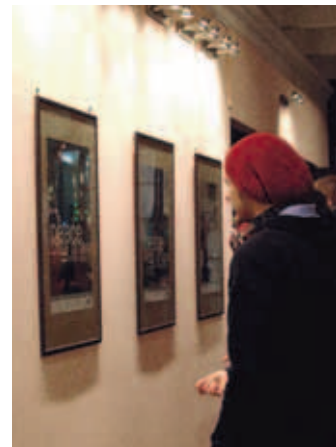
The Office also monitored public rallies, the European March in October and the Social March in November.

Individual complaints. The Office received individual complaints both from Belarusian and foreign citizens residing in Belarus. The greater part of the complaints involved the role of the judiciary in criminal justice matters as well as alleged human rights violations by law enforcement agencies. Whenever within its mandate, the Office referred the complaints to the competent Belarusian authorities.

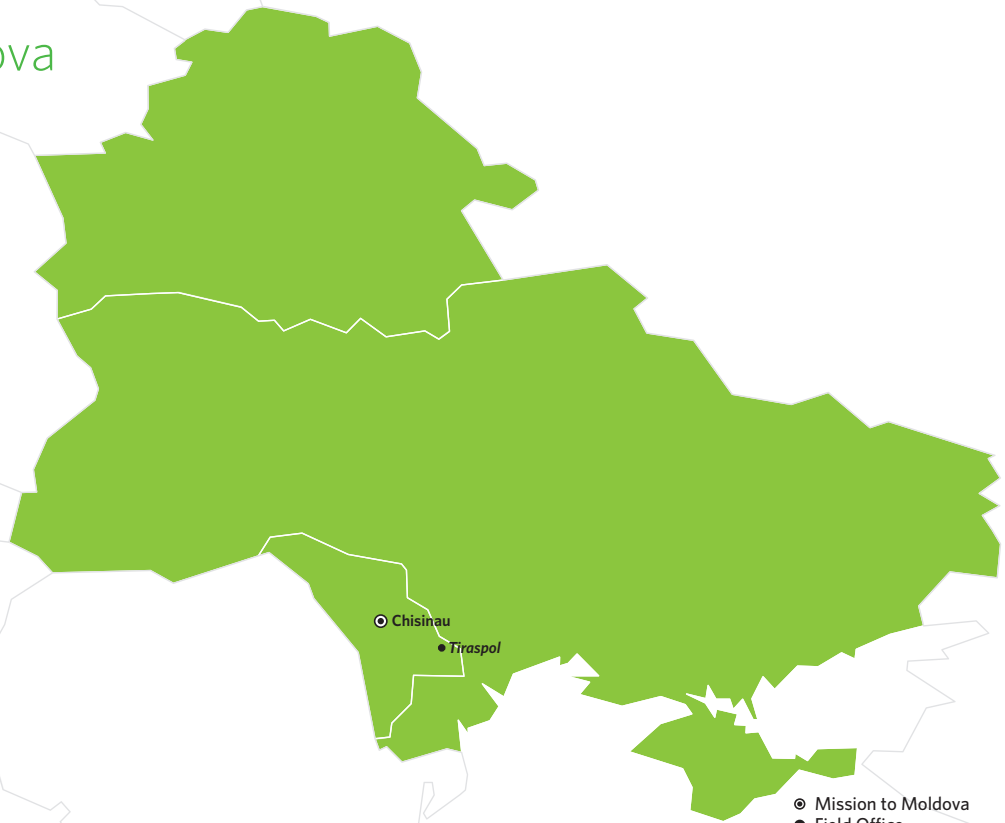
Acting Head of Office:
Vahram Abadjian,
succeeding Ambassador Ake Peterson whose mandate ended on 25 August
Approved budget: € 897,500
www.osce.org/belarus

→ Students in discussion with the Swedish, Polish and Russian ombudspersons during a public lecture on ombudsperson work in March, organized by the Office (Julia Doroshkevich)

→ Visitors to the OSCE and UN-sponsored exhibition and film festival in Minsk on the occasion of UN Human Rights Day on 8 December (OSCE)



Mission to Moldova



● Mission to Moldova
● Field Office

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

The Mission focused on defusing tensions in the Security Zone and attempting to get the political settlement negotiations back on track. Other important areas included mediating the controversy over the Moldovan Latin-script schools on the left bank, combating human trafficking and promoting the rule of law and freedom of the media.

Politico-military dimension activities

Political settlement negotiations. The mediators in the Transnistrian settlement process, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE, and the observers, the European Union and the United States, met four times. The mediators and observers met informally with the Moldovan and Transnistrian sides once, in October. All meetings concentrated on finding ways to restart formal settlement negotiations, which have nonetheless failed to resume.

The Joint Control Commission. The Joint Control Commission (JCC), which oversees the 1992 ceasefire arrangements, met regularly throughout the year and Mission members attended all sessions. A working group on posts in the Security Zone achieved a small success in May with the removal of a Moldovan police post and a Transnistrian militia post. A large part of the Mission's work was directed at defusing

tensions in the Security Zone, including those that led to the forced closure of the polling station in Corjova by Transnistrian law enforcement bodies in June. **Confidence- and security-building.** The Mission held a seminar on confidence- and security- building measures in Odessa in October. Both sides attended and expressed interest in continuing consultations. The Mission implemented a project funded by Finland for the destruction of surplus ammunition held by the Moldovan Army. In addition, it co-operated with the Forum for Security Co-operation in activities aimed at improving ammunition and arms stockpile management in Moldova.

Removal of Russian Federation arms and equipment. The Mission witnessed that there were no withdrawals of Russian ammunition or equipment during 2007. The Voluntary Fund retains sufficient resources to complete the withdrawal tasks.

Human dimension activities

Election and electoral reforms. The Mission supported the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)'s election observation mission to the local elections and continued, with ODIHR, to provide advice on further improvements of electoral legislation.

Protecting language rights. The Mission continued to work with Moldovan and Transnistrian authorities to ensure the functioning of Moldovan Latin-script schools in the Transnistrian region. The issue of the school building in Ribnita, confiscated by the local authorities in 2004, remained unresolved.



Monitoring human rights. The Mission responded to numerous individual human rights complaints, and monitored several high-profile court cases which involved issues such as the right to a fair trial or torture. The Mission also paid close attention to the release of the last two imprisoned members of the Ilascu group, who had been convicted by Transnistrian authorities of alleged crimes during the 1992 conflict and were later ordered released by the European Court of Human Rights.

Promoting human rights. The Mission continued to support small-scale projects aimed at promoting human rights and tolerance across the Dniestr/Nistru River and strengthening the capacities of non-governmental organizations.

Providing legal expertise. The Mission continued to work closely with Parliament on legal reforms and provided comments and expertise on draft legislation.

Promoting freedom of the media. The Mission helped build capacity in the media sector through training for journalists and continued to support Moldova's broadcasting reform. In co-operation with the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Mission also organized training for judges on defamation cases. It assisted with the transformation of the state-funded press in the Gagauz region into an independent press and supported an assessment project of the state of the media in Moldova.

Preventing human trafficking and promoting gender equality. The Mission continued to host regular technical co-ordination meetings in the anti-trafficking and gender fields. In addition, the Mission supported a number of gender and anti-trafficking projects. It

assisted in the provision of hotline counseling and other urgent support to victims of domestic violence in partnership with the shelter Casa Marioarei. It also worked with the international centre La Strada to offer humanitarian, social and legal assistance to victims of trafficking. Besides other activities, the Mission supported the drafting of a law on anti-discrimination.

Trial monitoring programme. Trial monitoring expanded from Chisinau to include southern regions in Moldova. The network of national trial observers monitored more than 3,000 hearings and trials in the national courts, including cases of trafficking in human beings, domestic violence, trafficking in arms, crimes against justice, corruption and crimes committed by public officials.

Head of Mission:

Ambassador Philip Remler from 19 December, succeeding Ambassador Louis O'Neill whose mandate ended on 16 November

Approved budget: € 1,868,800

www.osce.org/moldova

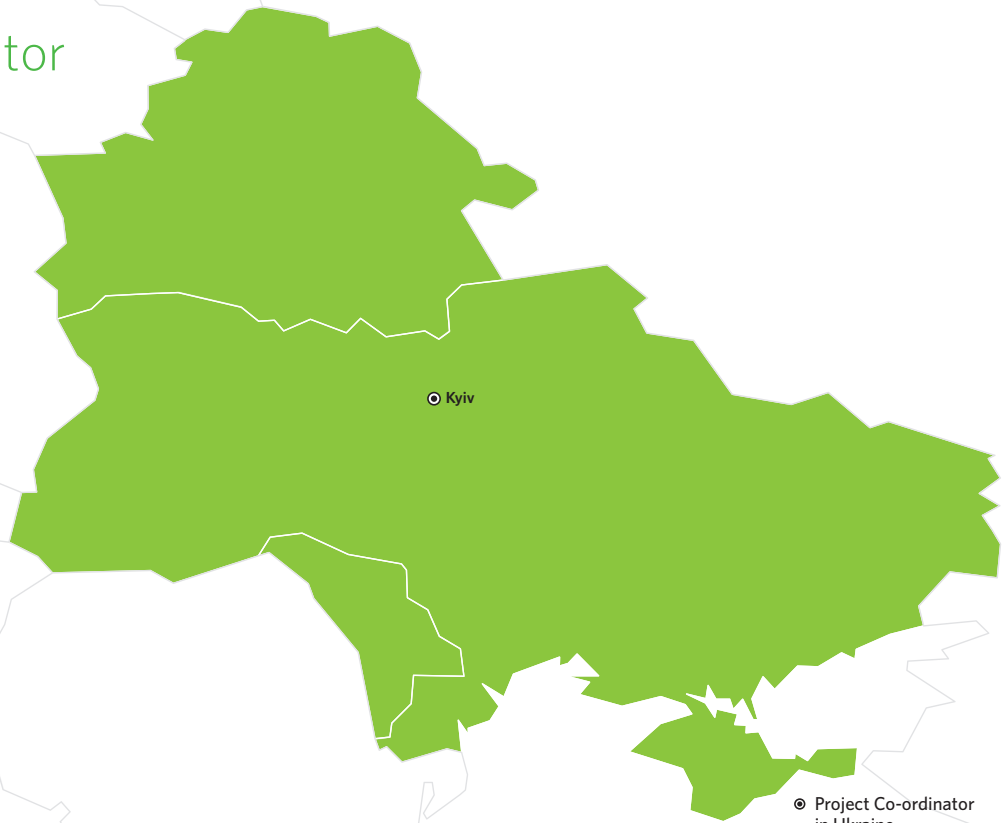
↖ Checkpoints along the internal boundary between Moldovan and Transnistrian controlled territory, like this one near Bender, hinder freedom of movement. A working group of the Joint Control Commission achieved the removal of one set of posts in May. (OSCE/Matthew Atkins)

→ *Satencele (Village Women)*, a photo by Lurie Foca, was selected in December by an independent jury as the winner of the Mission to Moldova's photo contest *Imaging Moldova - Diversity and Identity*. (Lurie Foca)

← Moldovan soldiers repack obsolete pesticides. More than 1,350 tons of pesticides and dangerous chemicals were repacked, centralized and destroyed as part of a NATO project supported by the Mission in 2006/07. (NAMSA/Ludmila Fisciu)



Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine



© Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

The Project Co-ordinator worked in co-ordination with Ukrainian authorities to promote the development of democratic institutions, increase economic prosperity in Ukraine and tackle serious environmental threats. A major project this year was to provide training and information for voters and election officials in preparation for the pre-term parliamentary elections held on 30 September. The Project Co-ordinator also continued to help retrain laid-off military personnel. With the field operation's assistance, the Government finished the clean-up of the Novobohdanivka ammunition site.

Politico-military dimension activities

Social adaptation of discharged military personnel. The Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the Ministry of Defence, organized retraining and employment assistance for 1,031 military officers in 25 cities throughout Ukraine. In addition, it supported the establishment of a Resource and Career Centre for discharged servicepersons. To date, 81 per cent of retrained officers have found employment.

Destruction of ordnance. In September, the government, helped by the Project Co-ordinator, finished clearing the Novobohdanivka ammunition site of

unexploded ordnance. The Project Co-ordinator procured and delivered detection and safety equipment to the Ministry of Emergency Situations and conducted training sessions to further build the Ministry's capacity to dispose of unsafe ammunition safely and effectively.

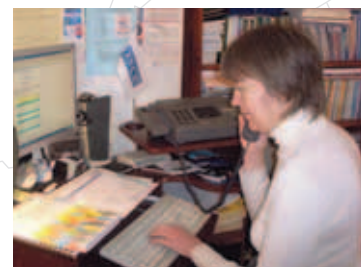
Economic and environmental dimension activities

Supporting local business development. Since initiating the *Local Economic Development Project* in 2004, the Project Co-ordinator has worked with partners to improve the business infrastructure for small- and medium-sized enterprises in Ukraine. Collaborating with regional employment centres to identify target groups throughout the country, the Project Co-ordinator held training sessions providing business basics, advice and information to at least 600 entrepreneurs.

Aiming to create conditions of sustainable economic development throughout Ukraine, the Project Co-ordinator continued to support the expansion of *Foreign Direct Investment*, a project which is estimated to attract approximately € 140 million in investment and create more than 2,000 jobs in 2007/2008.

Human dimension activities

Anti-trafficking support. The Project Co-ordinator focused on developing a comprehensive anti-trafficking law in Ukraine to help prevent and prosecute trafficking in human beings and assist victims



according to international human rights standards. The Project Co-ordinator, intent on ensuring the sustainability and efficiency of anti-trafficking non-governmental organizations, conducted anti-trafficking training sessions for more than 170 non-governmental organization representatives. The Project Co-ordinator is currently facilitating the National Referral Mechanism Needs Assessment, which will provide a clear understanding of the pre-requisites and conditions of establishing a Ukraine-specific referral mechanism.

Administrative law. The Project Co-ordinator established working groups of experts in administrative justice to suggest amendments to Ukrainian legislation regulating state-citizen relations, in order to bring it into line with established European standards. The Co-ordinator developed and published educational material based on the results of research conducted by the working groups. In concert with the French Supreme Court for administrative justice, it provided extensive training to Administrative Court judges at all levels, in particular judges of the Higher Administrative Court. Furthermore, the Project Co-ordinator carried out training sessions in the rule of law for Ukrainian professors of constitutional law and legal theory.

Detention monitoring. The Project Co-ordinator extended the scope of the inspections carried out under the detention monitoring project it established last year to include the juvenile justice system. The mobile monitoring groups monitored 25 juvenile detention facilities. Together with the International Society for Human Rights, qualified legal aid was provided to more than 750 juvenile detainees in six regions of Ukraine. The field operation continued to support the elaboration and dissemination of new legislation and international legal instruments, assist in adjusting legislation to international standards and conduct training seminars for judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

Strengthening of democratic practices. In preparation for the parliamentary elections, the Project Co-ordinator co-operated with the Central Election Commission to draft election manuals and distribute them to all of the approximately 34,000 polling stations across Ukraine. It trained almost 100,000 election officials. A second part of the project to support the elections, aimed at raising citizens' awareness of the legal aspects of the elections, included the production and broadcasting of public service announcements to a potential audience of 21 million viewers.

The Project Co-ordinator continued to work toward building an independent and strong media community in Ukraine by helping to reform and draft media legislation. It held a training programme for members of the judiciary on media issues.

Finally, the Project Co-ordinator worked to strengthen civil society and increase the transparency and accountability of government actions. With the aim of improving co-operation between the Ukrainian authorities and civil society, it supported several civil society initiatives, for example to improve the accessibility of public places and buildings for young disabled people in the Luhansk region.

Project Co-ordinator:
Ambassador James F. Schumaker
Approved budget: € 2,467,800
www.osce.org/ukraine

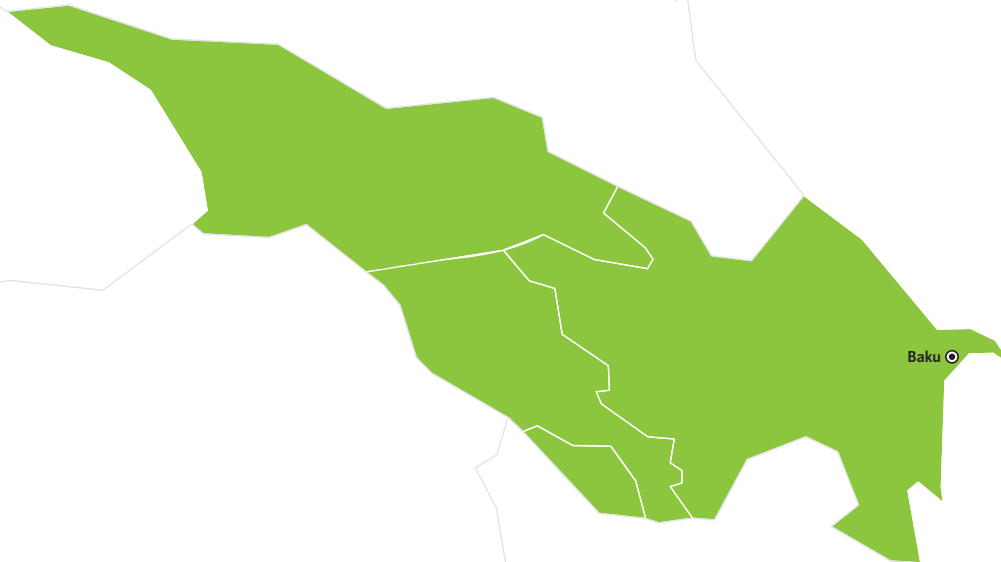
↻ The OSCE trained operators on the use of radio-controlled fire-initiation systems to destroy unexploded ammunition at the Novobohdanivka ammunition site from 31 July to 3 August. It also equipped the operators with safety vests and Kevlar helmets, metal and ferrous detectors, field computers and firing cable. (OSCE/Leonid Kalashnyk)

→ Training on project proposal writing for civil society organizations, potential recipients of project grants, in the pilot region of Khelnytskyi in June (OSCE/Antonina Prudko)

← Regional anti-trafficking hotline operated by the Kharkiv non-governmental organization Women's Community and financed by Denmark as part of the Danish Programme Against Human Trafficking in Eastern Europe. (Women's Community/Olga Biletska)



South Caucasus Office in Baku



⊙ Office in Baku

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

In anticipation of the elections to be held in October 2008, the Office intensified its efforts to help the Government of Azerbaijan meet its commitments as a participating State. It assisted with the reform of the police and the judiciary and promoted freedom of the media, freedom of assembly, good governance, environmental awareness and regional economic development.

Politico-military dimension activities

Police recruit training. A new curriculum for training police recruits, developed by the Office in partnership with the Czech Ministry of the Interior, will become effective in January 2008. Under the new curriculum, the duration of basic training for rank-and-file policemen will double to six months from three.

Community policing. The Office introduced community policing in a pilot project in the city of Mingchevir carried out in partnership with the Turkish police. In light of the very positive results of the project, Azerbaijani authorities have agreed to expand it to other locations in Azerbaijan.

Public assembly management. The Office continued to train troops of the Ministry of the Interior in effectively managing public events while respecting the freedom of assembly, this year in partnership with the police services of Hungary. So far, more than

300 members of the Police and Internal Troops have received training in public assembly management. **Democratic control of the armed forces.** The Office undertook a series of meetings and roundtables with Defence Ministry and civil society representatives this year to promote democratic control of the armed forces. As part of the initiative, the Office assisted in the creation of a central committee comprising all 35 associations that advocate for the health, housing and general welfare of serving and retired military members.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Good governance and the fight against corruption. The Office assisted two regional Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres operated by the Azerbaijani branch of Transparency International to promote citizens' legal rights and deal with corruption complaints.

The Office also initiated courses for Azerbaijani business managers and accountants on international accounting principles.

Environmental affairs. The Office helped the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources to establish two new Aarhus Centres, in Ganja and Gazakh. The Centres provide environmental information in support of the *Aarhus Convention*.

The Office was instrumental in implementing the Azerbaijani version of the 'Green Pack' environmental toolkit in more than 1,000 Azerbaijani secondary schools.



↑ Platoon commanders of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Internal Affairs troops with Hungarian trainers in Budapest, Hungary (OSCE/John MacGregor)

↗ Instructors trained in Ganja as part of a course for self-employed business entrepreneurs (Norwegian Humanitarian Enterprise/Trond Langen)

→ An OSCE environmental expert (right) and a National Academy of Science representative (left) sample the water of the Kura River in Mingchevir, Azerbaijan on 18 May. (OSCE/Ilgar Hasanov)



The Office continued to render administrative support to the OSCE-NATO South Caucasus *River Monitoring* project during this trans-boundary programme's fifth year of operation.

Regional development. Promoting the transition to an open market economy, the Office provided farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs outside Baku with advice and management training.

Human dimension activities

Rule of law

Trial monitoring. Having monitored more than 500 trials the Office completed its second trial monitoring report and communicated its findings to the Government of Azerbaijan as part of its programme to promote judiciary reform.

Pre-trial and police detention reform. The Office chaired expert group meetings held jointly with the Government to finalize a draft law reforming the country's pre-trial and police detention system. The Office helped improve the assessment and interpretation skills of representatives of national non-governmental organizations to monitor detention facilities.

Training of judges. The Office trained 102 judge candidates in civil law, criminal law and human rights. It also completed preparations for training judges of first instance and court of appeal next year.

Juvenile justice. The Office helped the non-governmental organization Alliance for Children's Rights to conduct research on institutions detaining minors and on the fairness and effectiveness of judicial proceedings involving juveniles. After consulting with the Government on how to improve the juvenile justice system, the Office published a juvenile justice monitoring report.

Legislative assistance. The Office helped draft amendments to laws on freedom of assembly, land administration, labour, advocates, the defamation provisions in the Criminal Code and the rules of procedure of the Constitutional Court.

Democratization

Freedom of the media. The Office began a long-term project to provide practical guidelines for improving the flow of information between government institutions and the media in order to increase the transparency of the Government's work.



The Office launched a comprehensive training programme for journalists and senior management professionals of the public broadcaster ITV. The programme, which will continue in 2008, focuses on free and fair election coverage and reporting.

The Office supported a proposal for a new defamation law, which, if adopted, would decriminalize defamation.

Election legislation and practices. The Office took the lead in co-ordinating activities of international actors with respect to the 2008 presidential elections, identifying shortcomings and areas requiring action for the preparation of elections in line with international standards.

Support to civil society. The Office opened a resource centre on democracy and gender in Shamakhi. To promote better representation of women within civil society, it offered training on establishing non-governmental organizations, managing them and raising funds.

Anti-trafficking. The Office organized workshops for women lawyers on fighting trafficking in human beings and sponsored a television production that raised awareness of the issue.

Head of Office:

Ambassador Jose Luis Herrero from 3 February, succeeding Ambassador Maurizio Pavesi whose mandate ended on 8 January

Approved budget: € 2,476,500

www.osce.org/baku

Mission to Georgia



- ⊙ Mission to Georgia
- Economic Rehabilitation Office
- Seconded staff to the UN Human Rights Office

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

The Mission provided ongoing support to the Government's reform agenda and also responded to unforeseen challenges and events in Georgia.

As part of the Mission's efforts to facilitate the peaceful resolution of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the Mission built confidence through the OSCE-led Economic Rehabilitation Programme. Political or security progress was hampered, however, by several contentious developments in the zone of conflict, including a crisis over water supply in early summer and a missile incident in August. Nevertheless, the new Head of Mission hosted the first formal plenary session of the Joint Control Commission in more than a year at the Mission premises in October.

The Mission monitored and facilitated the Organization's response to an 11-day state of emergency in Tbilisi in November, following the dispersal of thousands of opposition-led demonstrators, the closure of a leading television company and the calling of early

presidential elections for 5 January 2008. At year's end, the Mission was engaged in co-ordinating the international community's involvement in the upcoming elections and facilitating the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' long-term election observation mission.

The Mission successfully carried out projects in areas including democratization, human rights and rule of law, police reform, anti-terrorism, crisis response, economic development and environmental security.

Politico-military dimension activities

Conflict resolution

Georgian-Ossetian conflict. The Mission helped to ensure that the sides maintained dialogue within and outside the Joint Control Commission, co-chaired by the Georgian, South Ossetian, North Ossetian and Russian sides. OSCE military monitoring officers continued to observe the tense security situation on the ground, working closely with relevant bodies and the Joint Peacekeeping Forces, whose activities they are mandated to monitor.



↑ In October, the new Head of Mission Ambassador Terhi Hakala (centre) hosted the first formal plenary session of the Joint Control Commission in more than a year. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)



A pioneering film jointly made by Georgian and Ossetian journalists.

As part of an OSCE Mission project a joint crew of Georgian and Ossetian journalists made a documentary on the concepts and results of the recently completed European Commission-funded economic rehabilitation programme in the zone of conflict. A leading Georgian TV Company, *Rustavi 2*, broadcast the film in February. The film was the first of its kind since armed tensions rose again in summer 2004 in the region.

(OSCE/Martha Freeman)

➤ "I am thankful to the OSCE for its work to ensure peace and stability, which is very important for us here," says Zurab Lazarashvili, a Georgian farmer in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict who has benefited directly from the OSCE-led *Economic Rehabilitation Programme*. He learned about dairy farming standards and how to raise yields at a specialized forum in Israel. This study visit was financed by the United States. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)

➤ Trout farmers in the zone of conflict improved their yield, following a study visit to Kyiv funded by Sweden. The OSCE helped them form a local collective so that they could afford better stock. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)

➤ Labourers work on urgently needed renovations on a school in Dzari in the north of the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)

→ The villages of Ksuisi, Disevi, Khelchua and Gugutiantkari in the zone of conflict have drinking water after the OSCE-led *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* constructed 18 taps and 11 kilometres of pipes linking them to the local water supply. (OSCE/Martha Freeman)

Confidence-building in the zone of conflict. The Mission successfully completed the co-ordination of a programme for economic rehabilitation funded by a € 2.5 million European Commission (EC) grant. It continued implementing the OSCE-led *Economic Rehabilitation Programme*, funded by 21 international donors with more than € 8 million. The *Programme* is designed to build confidence both within the communities concerned and between the sides. Achievements to date include the completion of several drinking water pipelines, the repair of the main Tskhinvali reservoir, the construction of a new combined school and clinic, and ongoing substantial renovations to several schools. The *Programme's* Economic and Business Development Unit provided more than 80 separate training seminars on a broad range of subjects, directly benefiting more than 1,200 residents of the zone of conflict.

The Mission continued to work for peaceful conflict resolution in all three OSCE security dimensions. Projects included producing a confidence-building film made jointly by Georgian and Ossetian journalists, implementing a small grants programme to build the capacity of non-governmental organizations and working towards opening an environmental centre. **Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.** The United Nations-led peace process remained largely suspended due to developments on the ground. However, the Mission continued its activities in support of the UN process aimed at enhancing trust and confidence between the sides.

Other politico-military dimension activities

Destruction of obsolete weapons. The Mission continued dismantling obsolete ammunition and destroying unrecyclable munitions. Mission-donated TNT smelting equipment became operational early in the year and 9,000 artillery rounds of explosives were successfully recycled.

Police reform and action against terrorism. The Mission continued to assist the Ministry of Internal Affairs in implementing its police reform, focusing this year on community policing, support to the Georgian Police Academy and human resources management. It helped to support a sustainable capability within the Ministry to develop its counter-terrorism capacity. This was achieved through organizing training programmes and workshops and helping the Ministry develop a database centre to improve investigation into attacks involving bombs and other explosives.

Strengthening border management capacities. The Mission successfully completed a programme to transform the Georgian border guard department into a law enforcing body. More than 300 officers underwent training in rapid reaction, operational planning and the establishment of a functional training unit. The Mission furthermore provided the Ministry of Internal Affairs with emergency rescue personnel with specialized training in techniques for responding to crises in hazardous environments.



Economic and environmental dimension activities

Economic issues

The Mission funded Business Support Centres in Abkhazia and Alkhalkalaki. These Centres provided much-needed training to entrepreneurs to support the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in these regions.

The Mission continued to support non-governmental organizations monitoring the Government's compliance with its obligations to implement the recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Anti-Corruption Network.

The Mission continued to support good governance resource centres in Gardabani and Marneuli, areas with large ethnic minorities. These centres help local governments to develop and implement their budgets and manage public resources.

Environmental issues

The Mission and the Ministry of the Environment continued to support the Aarhus Centre, which aims to promote environmental awareness all over Georgia. Furthermore, the Mission supported two regional environmental centres in Kvemo Kartli.

The Mission supported the OSCE-UN Environment and Security (ENVSEC) initiative in developing projects that tackle environmental security concerns. It further supported the NATO-OSCE River Monitoring project.

The Mission also funded environmental youth clubs that provided environmental education for more than 500 Georgian students.

Human dimension activities

Democratization and elections. The Mission continued its collaboration with the Central Election Commission by providing training to its staff with a view to increasing its transparency, accountability and professionalism. With the help of Mission funding, a domestic election watchdog monitored the internal and external communications and management structures of the election administration. The Mission facilitated dialogue between the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Venice Commission and Georgian election stakeholders on bringing the election code into line with international standards. It co-ordinated the international community's involvement in election issues – a role which became even more crucial when early elections were called for the beginning of 2008.

National minorities. The Mission continued to work with national minorities in Kvemo Kartli, a region mostly populated by ethnic Azerbaijanis and Armenians. It helped develop the capacity of 11 local non-governmental organizations, fostered inter-ethnic interaction, offered classes in Georgian, English, information technology and civic education, established small legal clinics and organized a summer camp for youth.

Human rights. The Mission continued monitoring conditions in Georgian prisons and observing trials,

provided legal advice to victims of human rights abuses and addressed alleged violations with the authorities. It worked to improve conditions for prisoners by raising awareness of the rights of detainees and providing legal aid to prisoners. It offered training to legal professionals on advanced legal aspects of European human rights standards, to law enforcement personnel on criminal matters and to secondary school teachers from three regions on teaching human rights.

Human Rights Office, Abkhazia, Georgia. As in previous years the OSCE Mission to Georgia continued its collaboration with the UN's Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia, by seconding an OSCE Mission official to act as human rights officer. Apart from his work in monitoring human rights violations in Abkhazia, the OSCE official also monitored the OSCE's portfolio of projects which seek to promote both a human rights culture as well as civic awareness across the territory.

Anti-trafficking. The Mission worked with the Government and civil society to further develop the system of victim identification and assistance, helping two mobile units to identify cases in the field. It also implemented a small grants programme for non-governmental organizations to raise awareness of trafficking issues. It produced a handbook for medical schools on treating the victims of trafficking.

Freedom of the media. The Mission continued to improve the flow of information between regions populated by ethnic minorities and the rest of the country and to support the translation of the public broadcaster's news programme into Azerbaijani for the residents of Kvemo Kartli. To raise awareness of the challenges faced by ethnic minority communities, it organized study trips for journalists to Javakheti, home to the country's largest Armenian-speaking community.

After a leading broadcasting company in Georgia was prevented from operating on 7 November as a result of a case initiated by the prosecutor general, the Mission co-operated with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the international community in Georgia to monitor the media situation, seeking a speedy resolution of the issue.

Rule of law. The Mission continued assisting with the reform of the penitentiary system by offering practical recommendations, training for staff and rehabilitation programmes for inmates. In support of judiciary reform it offered training for judges, organized a study visit to France for Georgian officials and developed a curriculum for initial training at the newly established High School of Justice.

Head of Mission:

Ambassador Terhi Hakala from 15 October, succeeding Ambassador Roy Reeve whose mandate ended on 31 July

Approved budget: € 10,106,200

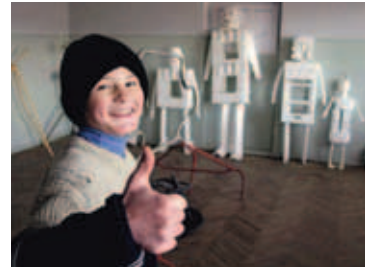
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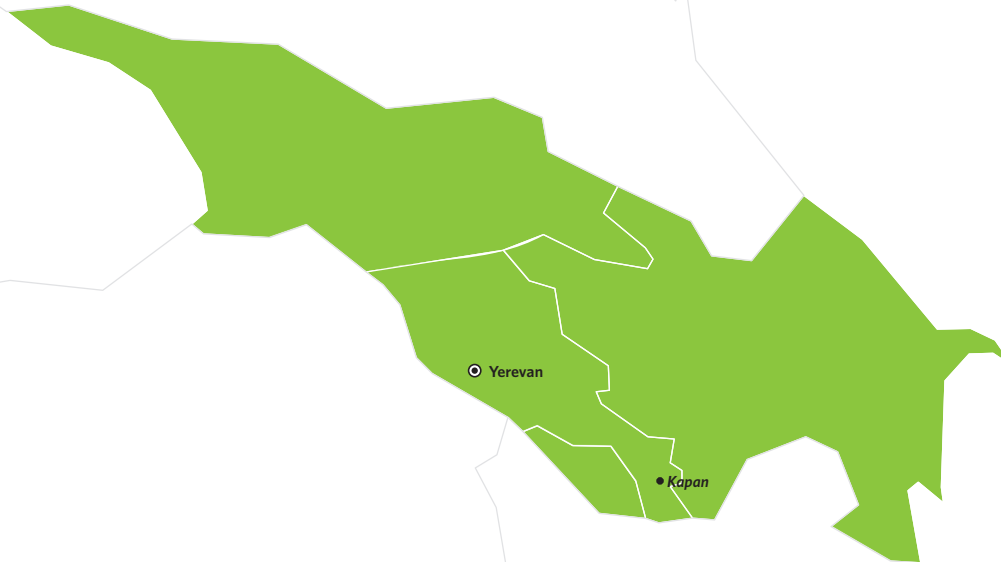
↑ Senior and middle-ranking Georgian Border Police fly to the site of a simulated serious border incident during an exercise of the Mission's capacity-building programme. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)

↑ OSCE-funded information technology classes for young people in Marneuli, Kvemo Kartli (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)

↓ Young people from vulnerable families in Tskhinvali developed social and creative skills in a Mission-funded project. (OSCE/David Khzanishvili)



Office in Yerevan



- ⊙ Office in Yerevan
- Field Office

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→ Anti-corruption Public Reception Centres in Yerevan and the Gegharkunik and Lori provinces provided legal and procedural consultations to citizens on corruption-related violations in the fields of the army, public education, healthcare, public services, traffic and civil and administrative law. (OSCE/Karen Minasyan)

↓ In the run-up to the year's Parliamentary Elections, the Office jointly with the Freedom of Information Centre of Armenia published for journalists the guidebook *How to receive electoral information*. (OSCE/Gohar Avagyan)



The Office in Yerevan supported further reform of election administration and legislation in Armenia. In co-operation with the Armenian authorities, it completed the recycling of the highly toxic and volatile rocket fuel component Melange. It assisted with the introduction of community policing in Armenia.

Electoral reform. The Office contributed to the improvement of electoral practices by supporting training of election officials, sponsoring the publication of specialized election materials and enhancing public awareness of electoral rights and procedures. It also provided technical assistance to the Central Electoral Commission.

Fighting corruption. The Office opened anti-corruption reception centres in three regions of Armenia and helped the authorities to elaborate the terms of reference for the new *National Anti-Corruption Strategy* for the 2008-2012 period.

Training for civil servants. The Office arranged training in foreign policy analysis for the staff of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It also initiated a training programme tailored to the needs of the staff of the Ministry of Defence.



Politico-military dimension activities

Police assistance programme. Having completed the renovation and re-equipment of the Police Centre for Induction Training, the Office helped to revise the curriculum and train the staff. It assisted with the introduction of community policing in Yerevan's Arabkir district and assessed the needs for a computerized emergency call centre in Yerevan.

Strengthening cyber security. The Office supported the work of the Cyber Security Task Force, which commented on the draft Law on Information Technologies. It presented the international information security management standard, translated into Armenian, to the authorities.



Democratic control of the armed forces. The Office offered training and advice on the democratic control of the armed forces to officials from the Ministry of Defence, the National Security Service, the police, parliamentary staff, media representatives and non-governmental organizations.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Elimination of Melange. With the Office's assistance, 872 tons of *Melange* rocket fuel were recycled into 4,972 tons of fertilizer and sprayed on 1,243 hectares of land in September. A group of local and international experts from Russia, Georgia and the extra-budgetary project's donor countries closely monitored the whole process to ensure its professional execution, financial transparency and environmental safety. An official ceremony marked the successful conclusion of the largest extra-budgetary project ever conducted by the Office with the financing of Canada, Finland, Germany and the United States.

Supporting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Office helped to elaborate a system of indicators to evaluate state SME support programmes. It commissioned the assessment of a government-funded SME loan guarantee scheme and presented the results at an expert workshop in Vienna organized together with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

Promoting regional socio-economic development. The Office's Presence In Syunik supported an

assessment of needs for socio-economic development carried out in 30 rural communities by a regional public-private partnership.

Promoting the Aarhus Convention. The Office supported existing Public Environmental Information Centres and established three new ones.

Human dimension activities

Supporting the ombudsperson institution. The Office and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights organized workshops to reinforce co-operation between the ombudsperson institution, the state administration and civil society. The Office regularly chaired an international ombudsperson working group.

Supporting criminal justice reforms. The Office offered training to the Chamber of Advocates and the General Prosecutor's Office and encouraged legislative initiatives in the field of criminal justice reform. It supported the activities of public monitoring boards in penitentiary institutions and police detention centres.

Tolerance and minority rights. The Office organized conferences, roundtables and produced publications on minority rights. It supported handcraft training courses for incarcerated women and juveniles and an international summer camp for disabled children.

Promoting public awareness of human rights. The Office produced four public service announcements on human rights and supported the publication of a bulletin on case law of the European Court of Human Rights. It also worked to inform the public about mechanisms for the promotion and protection of property rights.

Media freedom. The Office organized workshops on freedom of information and media self-regulation and offered expert advice on media legislation and the digitalization of broadcasting. It initiated an ambitious project to institutionalize freedom of information training for public information officers.

Anti-trafficking and migration. The Office, together with the International Labour Organization and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development supported the establishment of a national referral mechanism and helped assess the need for training in anti-trafficking within law enforcement agencies. The Office also commissioned a survey on labour migration from Armenia from 2005 to 2007 and a review of migration legislation.

Addressing gender issues. The Office supported research on women's political participation, domestic violence and the economic and political empowerment of women in the Syunik region. It helped a non-governmental organization publish a series of monthly newspaper inserts addressing women's political participation.

Youth. The Office supported discussions with youth on draft legislation on education and local government and the organization of a summer school for young leaders in Syunik.

Head of Office:

Ambassador Sergey Kapinos from 1 October, succeeding Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin whose mandate ended on 14 June

Approved budget: € 2,315,800

www.osce.org/yerevan

← The Police Centre for Induction Training was renovated with OSCE support as part of the on-going Police Assistance Programme that the Office in Yerevan has been implementing. (OSCE/Karen Minasyan)

↓ Thanks to OSCE support in Armenia, all 872 tons of the highly explosive missile fuel *Melange* have been neutralized, converted into 4,972 tons of fertilizer and sprayed on 1,243 hectares of land. (OSCE/Gohar Avagyan)



Central Asia

Centre in Ashgabad

© Centre in Ashgabad

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

The Centre in Ashgabad continued to raise awareness about OSCE commitments and principles, and increasingly emphasized sharing experience on translating them into concrete policy. The Centre, together with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), followed the February presidential election, and developed its programme of support on elections-related issues and training courses on international human rights law. The Centre enhanced its activities aimed at strengthening border security and management with training events both in Turkmenistan and abroad. It also increased its co-operation with Turkmenistan's institutions of higher education, organizing events on human rights and economic development, and offered increased support to local organizations promoting education.

Politico-military dimension activities

Strengthening border security and management. The Centre organized a series of training courses to sharpen the professional skills of border security officers from throughout the country dealing with

trafficking in drugs and other contraband. Participants were trained in drug search and identification and learned how to detect contraband using the latest X-ray equipment and search techniques.

Several customs and border officials also took part in Centre-organized practical training courses in Germany on border management and on providing training to customs officials.

Policing training. The Centre organized a one-week course in community policing at the Turkish Police Academy in Ankara. Six police officials from Turkmenistan were trained in police ethics and accountability and methods of establishing confidence within communities.

Confidence- and security-building. The Centre organized a training trip to the Verification Centre of the German Armed Forces for six arms control officers from Turkmenistan. The training focused on OSCE confidence- and security-building measures, and included participation in a live inspection in Switzerland.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Assisting Turkmenistan in integrating into the global economy. The Centre organized lectures in Ashgabad on global financial markets and international finance. More than 150 students, professors and young professionals from Turkmenistan's financial agencies attended the lectures.

Raising environmental awareness. The Centre continued to support a successful series of camps on

Specialized training on human rights in the politico-military dimension

Applying international humanitarian law in armed conflict and internal security operations was the focus of a training course organized by the Centre in August for armed forces and law enforcement officers. The course also aimed to assist Turkmenistan's armed forces in integrating these principles into their training programmes.

In November, the Centre organized a training course for Turkmenistan's civil servants on applying international human rights standards while combating terrorism. The seminar focused on operational and technical aspects of counter-terrorism initiatives and challenges related to the protection of human rights in countering terrorism.



ecology in the city of Khazar on the Caspian Sea, in which children learned about environmental problems and nature preservation during their school breaks. **Support for the development of the tourism sector.** Upon invitation of the Centre, two experts from Kyrgyzstan delivered presentations on the concept of community-based tourism, held meetings with private tourism companies and visited tourist sites to identify potential for the development of community-based tourism in Turkmenistan.

Seminar for women entrepreneurs. Facilitating the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises was the objective of a seminar for women entrepreneurs organized by the Centre in the southeastern Mary region. The seminar focused on strategic planning and marketing and aimed to familiarize the participants with the tools needed to start a business.

Human dimension activities

Courses on international human rights law. The Centre expanded its series of training courses for civil servants on incorporating international human rights norms into the national legal system. In 2007, the courses focused on human rights standards related to arrest, detention and the rights of the accused.

For the first time, the Centre organized a series of lectures on international human rights law for students of Turkmenistan's State University.

Supporting legislative reform. The Centre offered legal expertise and advice on best practices to support Turkmenistan's ongoing legislative reform. It provided more than 1,200 legal consultations to individual citizens. It organized a one-week study tour to Germany for four members of Turkmenistan's parliament, who exchanged experiences regarding parliamentary work and legislative processes and discussed issues of local self-governance with their German counterparts.

Support for dialogue with ODIHR and activities related to the presidential election. The Centre facilitated the activities of an Election Expert Support Team deployed by ODIHR at the invitation of Turkmenistan's authorities. The team helped the Centre to follow and report on the 11 February presidential election and collected information on the elections in order to identify possible areas for future co-operation.

The Centre facilitated the visit of the Director of ODIHR, Ambassador Christian Strohal, who agreed with Turkmenistan's authorities to develop co-operation in the country's legislative reform

process, specifically in the spheres of elections and criminal justice.

Supporting Turkmenistan's implementation of OSCE commitments regarding democratic elections. The Centre organized a seminar for more than 70 domestic election observers from throughout the country. The seminar gave an overview of OSCE commitments and other international standards for elections and introduced the methodology of ODIHR for election observation.

Promoting gender equality. To promote gender equality, the Centre supported the Tech Age Girls project, which provided young women the opportunity to develop their information technology skills and take leading roles in their communities. The Centre also organized a number of public presentations and training events on gender and domestic violence.

Head of Centre:
Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic
Approved budget: € 1,228,400
www.osce.org/ashgabad/



Supporting youth development

The Centre supported local organizations offering English and computer classes and other activities to help youth develop important skills and build co-operative relationships. During the school breaks, it facilitated a variety of camps and other events focusing on environmental protection, civic education and the prevention of drug abuse and HIV transmission. At its Information Unit, which also offered access to computers, the Internet and printed materials on OSCE-related issues, the Centre organized special events and training sessions for youth groups and young leaders.

↖ Turkmenistan border security officers at a practical course on using x-ray detection systems and metal detectors. (OSCE)

↗ Children work for a clean environment at an OSCE-sponsored summer camp. (Mingul Seitkazieva)

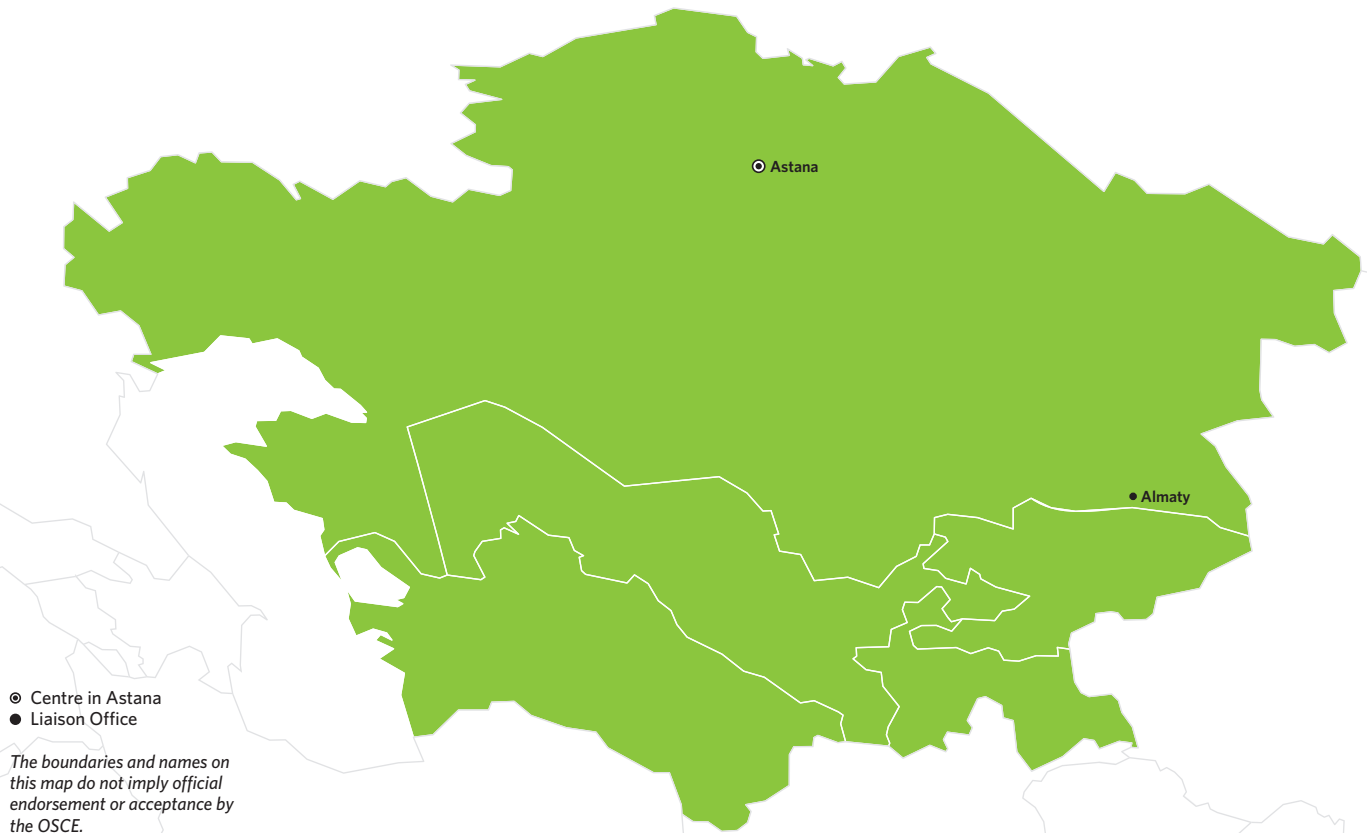
→ Professor Douwe Korff conducts a training course on human rights standards for civil servants in the city of Dashoguz. (OSCE/Evan Tracz)



Human rights courses

"It is very important that the topic of human rights is addressed within a specific legal context so that States have a concrete concept of how to translate international law into the national legal system," said Professor Douwe Korff, a human rights and comparative law specialist who has participated in OSCE-supported projects in Turkmenistan for the past four years. "Because we are more specific this year about how human rights principles are applied in the administration of justice, participants are better able to relate the concepts and legislation to their daily circumstances and work."

Centre in Astana



Fostering transparency in its activities, the Centre pursued a “triangular approach” that ensured the participation of official bodies, civil society and the OSCE in the implemented projects. The Centre promoted confidence- and security-building, better border management and the fight against terrorism. Promoting sustainable development and trans-boundary water management were also key activities. In the human dimension, the Centre paid particular attention to media developments, judicial and legal reform, the protection of religious minorities, gender issues and anti-trafficking. In June, by decision of the Permanent Council, the Centre was relocated to Astana from Almaty and renamed accordingly. A liaison office remains in Almaty.

Politico-military dimension activities

Building confidence. The Centre continued through training seminars to promote the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures in compliance with the *Vienna Document 1999*. The courses were organized jointly with the Ministry of Defence.

Developing a modern police force. In co-operation with police authorities, the Centre facilitated

roundtable discussions among law enforcement personnel and civil society representatives on public monitoring of police activities.

Border management. The Centre, in co-operation with the national authorities and other international organizations, offered training to Kazakhstani border guards, with the aim of enhancing border control by promoting international best practices.

Combating terrorism and organized crime. The Centre supported a four-month joint programme of the OSCE missions in Central Asia in which police dog handlers were trained in combating terrorism and organized crime.

Parliamentary development. The Centre co-operated with other international organizations to organize roundtables and training sessions for parliamentary deputies and government officials. The aim of these events was to prepare for the work of a special body to be established by Parliament to develop strategies for parliamentary development and to encourage broader participation of civil society in legislative processes.

Election observation and voter education. The Centre responded quickly to the calling of early parliamentary elections in August, offering training courses for local election observers. To raise future voters' awareness about elections, the Centre supported the publication and distribution of materials to youth throughout the country.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Sustainable development. The Centre assisted Kazakhstan in implementing its *Concept on Transition to Sustainable Development 2007-2024* by raising awareness among state officials and non-governmental organizations. Teenagers from the Aral Sea area attended this year's annual summer camp on sustainable development.

Trans-boundary water management. The Centre, together with the United Nations, organized regional events on trans-boundary co-operation in the management of groundwater resources. The Centre also assisted in developing the mandate of the bilateral water commission between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on the rivers Chu and Talas.

Access to justice in environmental matters. Together with Kazakhstani experts from the Supreme Court and members of the academic community, the Centre elaborated a manual for judges on access to justice in matters of environmental concern. The project forms part of a long-term programme to promote the implementation of the *Aarhus Convention* among governmental institutions and civil society.

Human dimension activities

Judicial and legal reforms. The Centre continued to work in tandem with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to promote principles and best practices of criminal justice reforms, particularly regarding judicial authorization of arrest and the humanization of the penitentiary system. A landmark was the completion early this year of the two-year *Trial Monitoring Project* implemented by ODIHR in co-operation with the Centre. The Centre subsequently conducted a follow-up project to develop recommendations for applying court procedures, which are already being implemented.

Human rights and democratization. In meetings and roundtable debates on international legal standards and practices regarding freedom of religion or belief, held in co-operation with Kazakhstani authorities, non-governmental organizations and experts of the ODIHR Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Centre focused on the rights of both majority and minority religions.

Gender issues. In connection with work on a proposed gender equality law, the Centre organized study visits to the Russian Federation and Lithuania for a group of parliamentary deputies, followed by a roundtable discussion of the best models for equality legislation.

Anti-trafficking. Together with the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Centre conducted an intensive three-week training course for prosecutors and police on new investigative techniques. The Centre continued to train regional officials on international standards, including national referral mechanisms, with the help of an extra-budgetary contribution from Germany and experts provided by the ODIHR.

Media developments. The Centre facilitated the exchange of expert views on the ongoing process of improving media legislation. It continued to support journalistic education, including in the Kazakh language, with a special focus on the regions. Topics

included reporting on parliamentary activities, covering terrorism issues and media and labour legislation. Training was also offered to lawyers specializing in the media.

Head of Centre:
Ambassador Ivar Vikki
Approved budget: € 1,981,800
www.osce.org/astana



☞ Participants from the Aral Sea region at a summer camp in Almaty on sustainable development on 14 July. The camp was organized by the Centre in Astana in partnership with the non-governmental organization National Forum for Radiological Protection and Ecology. (OSCE/Madina Ibrasheva)



← Rashida Naubetova, Chief Supervisor of the National Commission on Family Issues and Gender Policy under the President, gives an interview to journalists. (OSCE/Aidar Botagarov)



☞ Journalists discuss media coverage of parliamentary activities in Kazakhstan during an OSCE-organized course on access to information in Astana on 15 October. (OSCE/Aidar Botagarov)

Centre in Bishkek



⊙ Centre in Bishkek
● Field Office

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The Centre supported the constitutional reform process, which dominated the political agenda in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2007 and was highly debated between the Government and the opposition. The process led to the adoption of the new constitution and pre-term parliamentary elections. The Centre provided assistance in the electoral field both to authorities and civil society.

The Centre continued with its long-term commitments to police reform, the OSCE Academy and media development in the regions. It also supported the host country in improving human rights, ecological security, the efficiency of political institutions and good governance both in the north and south of the country. It worked to enhance the legal framework in various areas such as the penitentiary system, economic development, migration, the fight against trafficking in human beings and domestic violence.

→ Police cavalry with secondary school students during Police Open Day in Karakol in September (OSCE)

Politico-military dimension activities

Police programme. The Centre focused on encouraging the police to take ownership of the reform process. It trained local investigators and forensic experts in analysis-based policing and responding to emergencies. It helped consolidate community policing throughout the country and worked to strengthen police management skills.

Supporting the development of political institutions.

The Centre provided training for representatives of political parties on improving organizational structures and conducting efficient campaigns. It gave southern branches of political parties the opportunity to voice their platforms on live radio and in television debates. It offered expert legal advice to the national



Parliament and offered training courses to local councils on oversight techniques.

Preventing conflicts. The Centre supported confidence-building measures and training to promote inter-ethnic tolerance in targeted communities in the north of the country. It helped create a pool of experts in conflict prevention made up of members of state institutions and civil society. In its work on migration, inter-ethnic tolerance and conflict prevention in the southern border areas, the Centre made an increased effort to engage local authorities and actors. It promoted a nation-wide debate on freedom of religion and conscience, which led to a high-level meeting of representatives of state agencies, various religious communities, non-governmental organizations and the media in Bishkek in September.

Media development. The Centre continued to support the provincial media resource centres in Talas, Karakol and Batken and assisted with the opening of a new one in Naryn. It continued to help provide legal consultation and mediation to local media outlets and trained a group of journalists on ethnic issues.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Economic issues. The Centre supported governmental reforms to improve Kyrgyzstan's investment and business climate, as advocated by business associations, legislative reform working groups and the arbitration court. It worked to increase the number of business opportunities available to members of vulnerable groups by providing training on running small- and

medium-sized enterprises and guiding tourists. It also provided youth with information on university business studies.

Environmental issues. Following the lead of the Spanish Chairmanship, the Centre made it a priority to prevent land degradation and manage water properly. It helped a technical working group attract the attention of potential donors to the problem of the legacy of uranium tailings. It promoted water conservation and proper irrigation methods and supported campaigns to discourage the pollution of rivers and lakes.

Good governance. The Centre continued to provide assistance to the National Agency for Corruption Prevention. In three southern provinces the Centre raised awareness about corruption in the distribution of social benefits. It promoted open budgetary hearings in universities, local government and the industrial sector.

Human dimension activities

Constitutional and legal reform. The Centre supported the implementation of Kyrgyzstan's new constitution passed by the legislature on 30 December 2006, particularly insofar as it effectively abolished the death penalty and gave courts exclusive authority to sanction arrests. It supported public discussions in preparation for the national referendum on the new constitution and election code held on 21 October. When early parliamentary elections, the first to be conducted according to the proportional system of the new code, were called for 16 December, the Centre quickly mobilized its resources to educate



members of elections commissions, political parties and voters and to support independent domestic observers and television debates.

Promoting adherence to international human rights standards. Supporting Kyrgyzstan's national programme for penitentiary system reform, due to be completed by 2010, remained a priority. The Centre assisted with the implementation of the new law humanizing criminal legislation and with the improvement of the professional skills of prison personnel. It was instrumental in improving the treatment of detainees and the respect for human rights in temporary detention facilities in the provinces of Naryn, Talas, Osh and Jalalabat and at the Adaptation and Rehabilitation Centre for Juveniles of Bishkek.

The Centre continued to provide assistance to the Training Centre for Prosecutors and to facilitate the access of the indigent population to free legal aid. It also began to support strategic litigations regarding cases of torture.

Promoting gender balance and fighting trafficking in human beings. The Centre promoted the participation of women in the Osh local council elections in October. It worked to help prevent domestic violence in rural areas by supporting the establishment of women's self-help groups at the grass-roots level, training law enforcement and judicial officials and providing support to victims of domestic violence in shelters. In December, the Centre collaborated with the OSCE Secretariat and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to help organize a roundtable on combating trafficking in human beings in the Central Asian region.

← Students supporting the community policing public event in Naryn in November (OSCE)

↓ Training on prevention of domestic violence mechanisms for women leaders and members of Aksakal courts in Osh (OSCE)

Head of Centre:
Ambassador Markus Mueller
Approved budget: € 4,085,800
www.osce.org/bishkek



OSCE Academy

The class of 2007 celebrates its graduation from the OSCE Academy in October. Now in its fifth year, the OSCE Academy graduated 25 students with a Master of Arts in Political Science and recruited 23 Central Asian students. It enlarged its training programme and initiated a new research project, Oral History of Independent Tajikistan. (OSCE)



Centre in Dushanbe



● Centre in Dushanbe
● Field Office

The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE.

The Centre in Dushanbe continued its support for Tajikistan with a balanced and comprehensive approach to security in all three dimensions. In a high-level task force meeting and through an open call for ideas the Centre intensified its dialogue with the Government and civil society to jointly set the course for challenges in the areas of political dialogue, security, economic development, environmental protection, democratization, media development and gender equality.

Politico-military dimension activities

Political dialogue and civic education. In co-operation with the Public Council of Tajikistan, the Centre organized 10 meetings of the Social Partnership Club to stimulate dialogue on current issues among the government, political parties and civil society. Civic Education Summer Camps raised awareness about democratization and human rights among high school pupils and university students.

Police assistance. The Centre supported the dog training centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. During an OSCE fact-finding visit, agreement was reached with the Ministry that a joint needs assessment mission would examine police education and reform in 2008.

Small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition. The Centre reached the second phase of its

programme to dispose of explosives, refurbish storage sites for small arms and light weapons and construct storage sites for conventional ammunition. It completed the disposal of all Surplus Rocket Boosters C-75.

The Centre supports nine manual mine clearance sections, 12 mine detector dog teams and one survey team in Tajikistan. Its partner for the implementation of demining, the Fondation Suisse de Deminage, cleared a record 635,000 square meters of land, destroyed more than 2,106 antipersonnel mines and three antitank mines. This total more than doubles the amount destroyed in 2006. In addition, 740 cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance were located and destroyed. The new OSCE pilot project for the resurvey of Tajikistan's mine-contaminated areas has resulted in the reclassification of 18 square kilometers of previously suspected mined land as land available for economic activities.

Border security. The Centre, together with the Secretariat Borders Unit, continued consultations with the Tajik Government on the development of border projects in response to the Government's July request for assistance in strengthening border management and security, with special emphasis on the Tajik-Afghan border. In November, three large projects were submitted to participating States for extra-budgetary funding, related to development of a national strategy for border management, a training programme on border patrol programming and leadership as well as customs assistance.



↑ An OSCE mine detector dog team undergoes refresher training. (OSCE/Alexander Sadikov)

↑ An OSCE mine clearer learns render safe procedures for a type PMN2 anti-personnel mine. (OSCE/Alexander Sadikov)

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Encouraging economic development. In support of the host country's efforts to encourage the development of small and agricultural businesses, the Centre continued to assist a network of resource and training centres for small businesses and farms in 10 locations throughout Tajikistan. The International Finance Corporation provided some specialized training using the OSCE centres. The four regional resource centres for potential labour migrants expanded their services, adding job placement to their information and counseling activities. A network of information centres for entrepreneurs wanting to engage in trans-border trade was launched in late November with a Business Forum for Tajik and Afghan business people.

Promoting the implementation of the Aarhus Convention. The OSCE-established Aarhus Centre in Dushanbe continued to serve as a platform for co-operation on environmental issues and provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection in finalizing the new domestic Law on Nature Protection and five by-laws.

Assisting in developing environmental strategies. The Centre helped the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection to develop two sectoral environmental strategies addressing air and land degradation, respectively, and further supported efforts by the Government to improve its national environmental strategy.

Environmental awareness raising. The Centre helped reduce the negative human impact on Tajikistan's natural environment by supporting awareness-raising campaigns on national television, radio and other mass media with a potential target audience of nearly 51 per cent of the national population.

National Green Patrols movement. The Centre supported a campaign by 16,000 young people organized in so-called Green Patrols to raise environmental awareness among school children and university students. It also supported the Patrols' activities, including the planting of more than 70,000 trees to stop erosion.



Human dimension activities

Human rights and democratization. The Centre organized several large roundtables on human rights and democratization, including the *Preparatory Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* and a meeting on the draft Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Unions. It held bi-monthly meetings of the penitentiary reform working group and attempted to engage the Government on access to prisons. Together with its main partner, the Bureau of Human Rights and Rule of Law, it implemented projects on property rights and offered specialized training in human rights for university students.

Fostering the democratization of the media. In two international conferences, the Centre advocated for a transparent and smooth licensing process for electronic media and for self-regulation of the media. It initiated research and analysis to better understand the outreach, profitability and quality problems of print media in the country. The Centre also continued to offer technical support to independent print media. Two independent newspapers in southern Tajikistan and one Uzbek language journal including its supplement for children improved their quality of print and their print runs rose more than two-and-one-half times as the Centre began to gradually introduce steps toward more sustainability and profitability.

Gender. The Centre initiated co-operation with the lower house of the Parliament to help draft gender-sensitive legislation and improve the mechanisms for implementing the gender-equality law.

The Centre assisted the State Employees Training Institute and the Teachers Training Institute to mainstream gender into the work of government employees and teachers.

It supported 10 women's resource centres in their provision of free psychological and legal support to victims of violence. Special attention was paid to empowering women, improving girls' literacy, building the capacity of lawyers and psychologists, strengthening the network of crisis centres and co-operating with the state-run crisis centres.

Anti-trafficking. The Centre helped to raise the awareness of youth about the risks and consequences of human trafficking and about the recruitment methods used by traffickers. It supported the participation of officials and non-governmental organizations in an international and an interregional conference on victims' protection and the role of the national rapporteur in fostering co-operation and capacity building.

Head of Centre:

Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin from 15 June, succeeding Ambassador Alain Couanon whose mandate ended in September 2006

Approved budget: € 3,937,600

www.osce.org/dushanbe



↑ Social workers of the women's shelter Gulrukhsor counsel a victim of domestic violence. (Gulrukhsor women's shelter/ Nigina Mansurova)

↑ As the economy has grown, so have housing disputes. Here household possessions are forcibly removed by order of Dushanbe's City Court. (OSCE/Payam Foroughi)

← The OSCE supported the Tajik Government in its introduction of an ecological textbook for Tajikistan's secondary schools. (OSCE)

Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan



© Project Co-ordinator
in Uzbekistan

*The boundaries and names on
this map do not imply official
endorsement or acceptance by
the OSCE.*

The Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan expanded its activities in a number of key areas. In the politico-military dimension, work focused on the fight against terrorism and efforts to provide support for democratization initiatives. The Project Co-ordinator launched a new initiative to contribute to improved police training in Uzbekistan. Economic and environmental activities were in support of the Government's efforts to develop commercial arbitration, reform the farming sector and improve environmental education in schools. In the human dimension, the Project Co-ordinator continued to provide assistance to the ombudsman institution and the National Association of Non-Governmental and Non-Commercial Organizations in Uzbekistan.

Politico-military dimension activities

Activities against terrorism and organized crime.

As part of its programme to help the Government of Uzbekistan to address the threats of terrorism and organized crime, the Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the National Dog Training Centre, initiated a four-month regional training course aimed at improving police dog services in Central Asia.

The Project Co-ordinator also worked to improve national travel document security. The Office conducted a *National Workshop on Travel Document Security* in Tashkent in March and supported Uzbekistan's efforts to upgrade its travel documents in compliance with international standards.

Policing reform. The Project Co-ordinator launched a long-term project to help the Police Academy of Uzbekistan to improve police training in the country. The project focuses on contributing to the modernization of police education methodology and makes use of best practices in the OSCE region. The goal of the training is to create a police force that is truly able to ensure security and effectively preserve peace and public order in line with OSCE practices.

Democratization. To promote public awareness of the role of political parties, the Project Co-ordinator organized two international expert roundtables with the participation of all the registered political parties of Uzbekistan. The Co-ordinator commissioned the publication of a *Handbook on Political Parties* and a *Handbook on the Senate*, with the aim of improving citizens' access to information and supporting their participation in the democratic process.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Economic activities

The Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce and the Legal Problems Research Centre, a non-governmental organization,

➤ The technique of pursuit and arrest using a single dog is demonstrated at the closing ceremony of the regional dog handling training course on 28 August. (OSCE/Oleg Zaichenko)

➤ Demonstration of a new dog handling technique which enables dogs to work simultaneously without hindering each other during capture. (OSCE/Oleg Zaichenko)

→ Trainers from the OSCE partner organization Farmers Association of Uzbekistan teach farmers new skills in a training event in Ferghana city in August. (OSCE/Anne Suotula)



Combating organized crime and terrorism

Twenty-two police dog handlers from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan participated in a four-month regional training course on combating organized crime and terrorism organized by the Project Co-ordinator with support from the OSCE Centres in Astana, Bishkek and Ashgabad and in co-operation with the Uzbekistan State Customs Committee's National Dog Training Centre. Each participant received a German shepherd dog and equipment to be used at their duty stations. Instructors from Austria and Russia led the sessions.

conducted training sessions for judges and entrepreneurs in the regions of Uzbekistan to support the implementation of a newly adopted law on commercial arbitration.

The Project Co-ordinator launched a new multi-year project in support of social initiatives in Uzbekistan. This project provides training for social workers and contributes to increased awareness among the population of social protection activities in the country. The Project Co-ordinator also initiated a project to generate additional income in rural areas through the promotion of eco-tourism.

In the economic and environmental sphere, the Project Co-ordinator supported Uzbekistan's ongoing agricultural reform by assisting and training farmers on environmental protection and legal and financial matters. The Office developed a handbook on farming and distributed it to farmers throughout the country.

Environmental activities

The Project Co-ordinator trained school teachers and assisted in developing a school curriculum on environmental protection and water conservation issues.

As a follow-up to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, the Project Co-ordinator, with the support of the Spanish Chairmanship and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, facilitated a conference on combating land degradation and soil contamination in the Central Asian region. The event, held in Tashkent in October, aimed at achieving practical results in the field by means of technology transfer in the future.

Human dimension activities

Assistance to the ombudsman institution. The Project Co-ordinator continued to assist the ombudsman institution, helping to train personnel and raise public awareness of the institution. The Project Co-ordinator also facilitated a study tour to Spain and Russia to learn from international experiences and practices in this field.

Support for legal education. The Project Co-ordinator provided methodological and practical support to teachers and students of law. The Office organized a training course on OSCE and United Nations standards in the fields of human rights and the rule of law in May, paying special attention to OSCE principles and commitments. It also developed an Internet site on legal education in Uzbekistan.

Assistance to the National Association of Non-governmental and Non-Commercial Organizations. The Project Co-ordinator provided a series of training courses to the staff of the National Association of Non-Governmental and Non-Commercial Organizations of Uzbekistan, and organized a tour for the study of best practices in the development of non-governmental organizations in France and Slovakia. Together with the Association, the Project Co-ordinator examined the current state of the development of the non-governmental organization sector in Uzbekistan and considered its future perspectives. These efforts are part of the Project Co-ordinator's long-term strategy to support the development of civil society in Uzbekistan.

*Project Co-ordinator:
Ambassador Istvan Venczel from December 27,
succeeding Ambassador Miroslav Jenca whose mandate
ended on 15 September
Approved budget: € 1,611,500
www.osce.org/tashkent*



Assistance with Bilateral Agreements Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

The Representative continued to provide assistance in the implementation of the 1994 agreement between the Latvian and the Russian Governments on social guarantees for military pensioners of the Russian Federation and their families residing in Latvia.

In 2007, a total of 16,266 people were eligible under the Agreement, 473 fewer than in 2006. At the time of the Agreement in 1994, a total of 22,320 people were eligible.

Activities and developments

Housing problems. The Commission's discussions continued to centre on issues surrounding the potential eviction of military pensioners and their families from so-called "denationalized" accommodation. "Denationalization" means the return of property expropriated by "nationalization" under Soviet rule and given to, among others, servicemen of the Soviet Army. Following the adoption of a law regulating the return of nationalized property to the legitimate owners or descendants, Latvia stipulated a seven-year grace period for tenants in these properties and, when this period ended, followed up with additional special conditions for military pensioners and their families as well as others affected. These included financial support and priority access to social accommodation. Given the circumstances, these efforts to soften potential hardship situations have been a success. According to an update from the Embassy of Russia to Latvia in October, imminent eviction from denationalized houses currently does not constitute a major problem for military pensioners.

Resettlement programme continues. Under a Latvian-financed resettlement programme for military pensioners wishing to leave Latvia and to take up permanent residence outside the country, launched at the beginning of last year, 167 persons had received financial aid by December. It is expected that the successful programme will continue in 2008.

OSCE Representative:
Lt. Col. Helmut Napiontek
Approved budget: € 9,600

Institutions

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights spearheads the OSCE's work in the human dimension. It acts to protect human rights, develop democratic societies with an emphasis on elections, strengthen the rule of law and promote genuine respect and mutual understanding among individuals as well as states.

Monitoring commitments

One of the fundamental elements of ODIHR's mandate is to monitor the compliance of participating States with their human dimension commitments. While the Office's most visible monitoring activity is election observation, it also pays close attention to how States are living up to other commitments.

In 2007, ODIHR deployed some 3,000 observers from 49 participating States to 16 election missions, including more than 20 long- and nearly 90 short-term observers financed through ODIHR's Fund for Enhancing the Diversification of Election Observation Missions.

Monitoring elections is not an end in itself. Follow-up to observation missions and to the

recommendations made in reports is the essential objective. In an attempt to launch a discussion on the most efficient follow-up practices, including the possibility of regular reporting on the implementation of recommendations, ODIHR distributed a discussion paper among the participating States outlining a possible framework for follow-up activities.

ODIHR also tackled torture and ill-treatment in criminal justice systems. It sent a survey to all field operations to document experiences in combating these phenomena, to identify systemic obstacles to torture prevention, to pinpoint areas where ODIHR could support field operations in anti-torture activities and to collect information on other initiatives in this field. The results will be used for a future publication. ODIHR's anti-torture work emphasizes the promotion and implementation of the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture*, and it provides targeted support strengthening domestic monitoring programmes.

In 2007, ODIHR completed long-term projects monitoring criminal trials in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Final reports, including recommendations, were published and shared with the relevant authorities and the public. Under another trial-monitoring project initiated in 2006, more than 30 jury trials were observed throughout Kazakhstan in 2007.



Election observation and assessment missions

Country	Type of Election	Date	Type of Mission
Serbia	parliamentary	21 January	observation
Albania	local	18 February	observation
Estonia	parliamentary	4 March	assessment
France	presidential	22 April and 6 May	assessment
Armenia	parliamentary	12 May	observation
Ireland	parliamentary	24 May	assessment
Moldova	local	3 and 17 June	observation
Belgium	parliamentary	10 June	assessment
Turkey	parliamentary	22 July	assessment
Kazakhstan	parliamentary	18 August	observation
Ukraine	parliamentary	30 September	observation
Poland	parliamentary	21 October	assessment
Switzerland	parliamentary	21 October	assessment
Croatia	parliamentary	25 November	limited observation
Kyrgyzstan	parliamentary	16 December	observation
Uzbekistan	presidential	23 December	limited observation



↑ Women participate in the ODIHR training workshop on promoting women's leadership and increased role in decision-making at the local level. The workshop for a women's network from regions in Azerbaijan and a women's network from regions in Kyrgyzstan took place in Bishkek from 12 to 18 April. (Eric Gourlan)

← Polling-station officials count ballot papers in the 22 July parliamentary elections in Turkey. (OSCE/Jonathan Stonestreet)

↓ Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly publication cover (OSCE)

ODIHR monitored the situation of human rights defenders and advocates throughout the OSCE area and published a report in December. The report identifies four areas of particular concern: physical attacks on human rights defenders; the curtailment of the freedom of association; the failure to respect and protect freedom of assembly; and restrictions placed on the right to liberty and freedom of movement.

Providing training and expertise

Throughout the OSCE area, there are individuals working in governments and non-governmental organizations or simply as private citizens dedicated to the Organization's goals. ODIHR supports such groups and individuals by providing expertise and training to build their skills as they visit prisons, observe elections, monitor human rights abuses, combat domestic violence, man hotlines for victims of trafficking, support political pluralism or fight for the freedom to express their opinions.

ODIHR conducted three regional courses for short-term election observers at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, and provided support to national efforts by training Austrian, German, Norwegian and Russian observers to participate in election missions.

In order to develop strategies for ensuring that human rights are respected in the fight against terrorism, ODIHR conducted training courses for government officials in Ashgabad, Baku and London.

In Kazakhstan, ODIHR trained government officials on national referral mechanisms, an interagency framework aimed at protecting victims of trafficking. Also in Kazakhstan, ODIHR and the Union of Advocates selected 26 criminal lawyers to participate in a training course to improve their skills.

ODIHR conducted training in Armenia and Tajikistan that was aimed at improving the ability of human rights defenders to monitor and report on human rights issues, and carried out training courses for ombudsperson institutions in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

ODIHR implemented a programme of activities requested by Georgia's six main political parties to follow up a 2005-2006 pilot of a methodology for the parties' self-assessment. The programme included workshops on local party leadership, strategic planning, party funding and training for a cross-party cadre of trainers.

In co-operation with the Presence in Albania, ODIHR assisted the Albanian Government with its planning of the modernization of its population registration and address systems.

ODIHR continues to assist the Women's Non-governmental Organization Coalition in Georgia in developing its capacity to advance women's political participation and foster policy measures for equality of rights and opportunities among women and men. In 2007, ODIHR conducted workshops for the Coalition on strategies for developing public information and media campaigns on gender equality.

ODIHR, the Office of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and experts from the Austrian Federal Police conducted the first training workshop on the role of police in preventing and combating domestic violence for the heads of precinct police from all 27 regions of Ukraine.

ODIHR has been training police officers to recognize and combat hate crime for several years. In 2007, ODIHR trained officers from Ukraine, Poland and Serbia. It also organized a train-the-trainers seminar for police experts from 13 countries, which concluded with the first annual meeting of the Regional Law Enforcement Network on Hate Crime Prevention and Investigation. In addition, ODIHR and a board of experts from throughout the OSCE region developed a training curriculum and a guide for non-governmental organizations on monitoring and reporting on hate-motivated incidents.

ODIHR began co-operating with Azerbaijan's Education Ministry on teacher training and curriculum development regarding education in human rights and promoting mutual respect and understanding.

Legislative support

ODIHR provides expertise and assistance to participating States in developing legislation that complies with OSCE commitments. In 2007, ODIHR commented on legislative acts concerning freedom of assembly, freedom of association, political parties, public opinion polling, migration and constitutional amendments.

ODIHR's legislative database (www.legislationline.org) was overhauled with a comprehensive update on various topics, including trafficking in human beings, terrorism, freedom of information and non-governmental organizations.

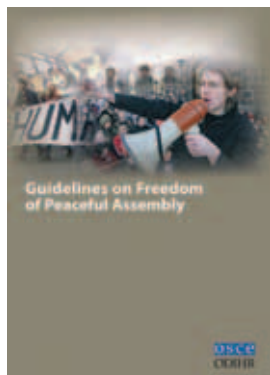
ODIHR and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission published six legal reviews of electoral legislation.

ODIHR also extended legislative support through its Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and by offering comprehensive analysis of legislative processes.

Publications

The Office publishes numerous reports in order to provide states and their citizens with information about the Office's activities, as well as about state compliance with OSCE commitments. In addition, ODIHR publishes handbooks, manuals and guidelines on specific issues in a variety of languages.

In 2007, ODIHR published a *Handbook for Long-term Election Observers*, providing an overview of the role and responsibilities of long-term observers in observation missions. ODIHR published its first annual report on hate crime, which provides an overview of patterns pertaining to hate-motivated incidents and examples of effective state responses. The Office published a manual called *Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools* in order to assist participating States whenever they promote the study of religion and belief in schools. ODIHR co-operated with a number of organizations in publishing guidelines on teaching about anti-Semitism and commemorating Holocaust memorial days, and it also supported the development of a resource book aimed at increasing awareness about Muslim communities in Spain. The Office published *Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly*, and ODIHR's Panel on Freedom of Assembly,



which drafted the guidelines, provided assistance to participating States wishing to introduce or improve legislation in this area.

Several other books were completed and will be published in 2008, including a manual on human rights and counter-terrorism; a handbook on the human rights of armed forces personnel, which was produced with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces; and a trial-monitoring reference manual based on the experience of ODIHR and the OSCE's field operations in South-eastern Europe.

Conferences and meetings

ODIHR organizes numerous conferences, meetings and roundtables every year. While some of these are mandated human dimension events, others take a variety of formats, including bilateral meetings with government officials, working group sessions, roundtables for government officials and non-governmental organizations, regional seminars or high-level OSCE-wide conferences. Regardless of the format, these meetings provide governments, as well as interested groups and individuals, with invaluable opportunities to share information, raise important questions and make decisions.

In 2007, human dimension meetings were dedicated to the following issues: freedom of assembly, association and expression; promoting and protecting human rights; combating the sexual exploitation of children; and effective participation and representation in democratic societies.

The latter is a particularly important subject among Roma and Sinti communities, which have a limited record of participation in public life. To consider this issue in more depth, a special day on the political participation of Roma and Sinti was held at the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*. Recommendations were formulated to address issues such as low voter turnout and political parties' lack of interest in reaching out to this constituency.

ODIHR also facilitated roundtable discussions between state authorities and Roma representatives to assist States in implementing the *Roma and Sinti Action Plan*. At an OSCE conference in Bucharest on combating discrimination, ODIHR organized a side event on forced evictions of Roma. ODIHR staff held meetings in Italy with non-governmental organizations working with Roma and Sinti children vulnerable to exploitation. In response to reports of police brutality, staff from ODIHR, the Office of the High Commissioner for National Minorities and the Strategic Police Matters Unit visited Romania to raise awareness of the issue and encourage measures to eradicate this practice.

ODIHR has been working with participating States for several years to promote the development of national strategies to protect victims of trafficking. ODIHR staff made visits to Belarus, Turkey, Russia and the United Kingdom in 2007 in this regard. The Office also organized a workshop in Barcelona in December that addressed the question of compensation for trafficked persons.

ODIHR was one of the organizers of three workshops in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on

the implementation of United Nations *Security Council Resolution 1325* on women, peace and security.

Together with the Spanish Chairmanship, ODIHR organized a conference on victims of terrorism in September in Vienna, addressing such topics as the definition of a terrorist victim, support, issues of justice and how the international community can co-operate to improve the situation of victims.

Also in support of the Chairmanship, the ODIHR helped prepare the *High-level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding* in Bucharest in June and the conference *Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims* in Cordoba in October.

Head of Office:

Ambassador Christian Strohal

Approved budget: €14,939,900

www.osce.org/odihhr

➤ High Commissioner Knut Vollebaek talks to teachers in a minority-language school in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, on 12 October. (OSCE/Dmitri Alechkevitch)

→ The High Commissioner on National Minorities supported the translation and re-broadcasting of Georgian national news into Armenian to better inform ethnic Armenians in Javakheti about social, economic and political developments in the country. (OSCE/Gia Chkhatarashvili)

High Commissioner on National Minorities

Ethnic tension has proven to be a major source of conflict in the OSCE region. To address ethnic tensions and to prevent the conflagration of inter-state conflicts over national minority issues, the post of the High Commissioner on National Minorities was established at the Helsinki Summit of the CSCE, the forerunner of the OSCE, in 1992.

Since taking up his post on 5 July, the High Commissioner has visited the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia, signaling his priorities and concerns.

The High Commissioner has always paid particular attention to relations between states and their so-called ethnic kin abroad. Tensions often arise when states take unilateral steps to protect or support their ethnic kin outside their sovereign jurisdiction. With this in mind, the High Commissioner decided to elaborate a set of recommendations aimed at clarifying how states can support and extend benefits to people sharing the same culture and ethnicity, who are citizens of another country, in ways that do not strain inter-ethnic or bilateral relations. The recommendations are expected to be published in 2008.

Throughout the year, the High Commissioner took note of the intensified debate on the subject of integration. Following up on last year's study of integration policies in diverse societies, the High Commissioner carried on his examination of how all participating States can benefit from the existing experience of integration of national minorities.

The High Commissioner also followed up on the initiative of his predecessor to organize discussions in Central Asia on regional co-operation on national minority education. Experts discussed teacher training in Astana in February, language teaching in Bishkek in June and textbooks and curricula in Tashkent in November.

Country reports

Croatia. The High Commissioner continued to follow the implementation of the *Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities* closely and focused on the issue of proportional representation in the state administration and the judiciary. The High Commissioner also followed the re-integration of students

from different ethnic backgrounds in a number of eastern Slavonian schools.

Estonia and Latvia. Meeting with authorities during several visits, the High Commissioner's political and legal advisers discussed ways to promote the further integration of minorities into public life and provided legal advice on naturalization and the implementation of education reforms.

Georgia. During a visit to Georgia in November, the High Commissioner confirmed the success of two programmes developed by his predecessor in the Armenian-populated Samtskhe-Javakheti region and the Azerbaijani-populated Kvemo-Kartli region promoting the integration of the Armenian and Azerbaijani minorities into Georgian political, social and cultural life. He decided to continue their implementation.

The High Commissioner supported the mainstreaming of inter-ethnic issues into Georgia's community police training curriculum and the drafting of a syllabus for the Tbilisi-based Police Academy on policing in multi-ethnic societies.

He welcomed the adoption of the *Law on Meskhetian Repatriation* in July and expressed his readiness to assist the Georgian Government in its implementation.

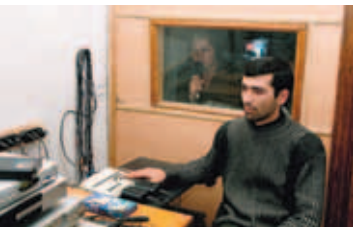
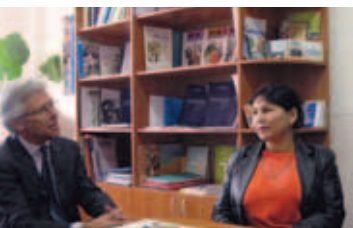
In Abkhazia, the High Commissioner launched the second phase of a project that trains Georgian- and Abkhaz-language teachers in modern, interactive teaching methods.

Kazakhstan. The High Commissioner assisted Kazakhstan in striking a balance between advancing knowledge of the state language and ensuring the linguistic rights of national minorities. To do so, he organized two training courses on modern methods of training adults in the state language and teaching minority mother tongues and he supported an in-service teacher training facility for language teachers in minority schools in south Kazakhstan. During his visit to Kazakhstan in October, the High Commissioner agreed to expand upon these initiatives and also spoke with the authorities about ways to improve national minority participation in electoral processes.

Kyrgyzstan. The High Commissioner assisted Kyrgyzstan in promoting the integration of minorities in the fields of education, language, policing and broadcasting. On a visit to Kyrgyzstan in October, the High Commissioner welcomed the amendments to the election law introducing multi-ethnic party lists.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. During a visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in May, the High Commissioner discussed concerns about the implementation of the *Ohrid Framework Agreement*, including the issue of equitable representation of all communities in public services. In a public address at the multilingual South East European University in Tetovo, the High Commissioner raised issues surrounding education in a multi-ethnic society. He planned a winter camp for secondary school students belonging to different ethnic groups.

Moldova. The High Commissioner supported efforts by the Moldovan authorities to promote the teaching of the state language to national minorities, since this is essential for their integration into wider Moldovan society. A project offering lessons in the state language free of charge to civil servants in areas such as Gagauzia and northern Moldova, populated



predominantly by persons belonging to national minorities, continued this year. The project is fully supported by the regional authorities. The High Commissioner also assisted professors of journalism to develop a course curriculum in diversity reporting.

Montenegro. During the long process of drafting the new Constitution, which was beginning as the High Commissioner visited Montenegro in April, the High Commissioner provided assistance and expertise on issues relevant to national minorities. He has now started advising the Montenegrin Government on the Constitution's implementation.

Romania. The High Commissioner continued to follow developments concerning the draft laws on the status of national minorities and the draft law on Romanians abroad. He reaffirmed his commitment to helping the parties engaged in fostering academic excellence in a multicultural environment at the multi-lingual Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca.

The High Commissioner appointed two members of his staff to assist with the Romanian-Ukrainian initiative to jointly monitor the situation of the Romanian minority in Ukraine and the Ukrainian minority in Romania. The second round of monitoring missions covering different regions took place in May and June.

Serbia. The High Commissioner visited both Belgrade and Pristina in September. He focused attention on the need to integrate minorities more fully into the judiciary, police and education sector in Vojvodina and southern Serbia. The High Commissioner called for constructive engagement from all sides to put conditions in place for a significant return of Serbs to Kosovo. He also raised the issue of Kosovo's smaller ethnic communities.

The High Commissioner paid considerable attention to building reconciliation between the two largest communities in Kosovo. He was involved with the promotion of transitional justice in Kosovo in close co-operation with the International Centre on Transitional Justice. Local politicians, policy-makers and opinion leaders from both the Kosovo Albanian and the Kosovo Serb communities met for a second round of confidential talks in Stockholm in February, following up on a first meeting also in Stockholm last year. Participants agreed that the process of reconciliation was closely linked to the question of the status of Kosovo, and where possible, the process should be taken closer to the region and ideally within Kosovo itself. The High Commissioner continued efforts to build support to push forward this process, both through Kosovo's institutional structure as well as by generating public discussion.

Tajikistan. The High Commissioner traveled to Dushanbe and, for the first time in the history of the institution, to the northern region of Soghd in May. He visited minority-language schools and met national minority leaders. He also sought the views of Tajikistan's leadership on the situation of Tajik-speaking minorities outside Tajikistan.

Turkey. The High Commissioner continued to develop contacts with the Turkish Foreign Ministry with the aim of creating a dialogue with the Turkish authorities.

Turkmenistan. The High Commissioner paid a visit to Turkmenistan in April and continued his dialogue with the Turkmenistan authorities on minority-language education, population resettlement and freedom of association.

Ukraine. In Ukraine, inter-ethnic relations in Crimea and the integration of Crimean Tatars into Ukrainian society remained a priority for the High Commissioner, including problems of housing, infrastructure, employment, education and land property rights. The High Commissioner also encouraged the amendment of Ukrainian minority-related legislation to bring it into line with OSCE commitments and Council of Europe standards.

In the continuation of the training project launched by the High Commissioner last year to sensitize Crimean civil servants and representatives of ethnic communities to questions of inter-ethnic tolerance, a second round of in-depth workshops was held.

Following a visit to Ukraine in May by an independent expert from Latvia who accompanied a delegation from the Office at the High Commissioner's request to study the situation of mother-tongue and state language education for national minorities in Crimea, the High Commissioner explored ways to help address this complex issue. He sought to initiate a dialogue in Crimea on international standards and best practices in the area of policing.

*High Commissioner:
Knut Vollebaek from 5 July,
succeeding Rolf Ekeus, whose mandate ended on 30 June
Approved budget: €2,852,800
www.osce.org/hcnm*

↓ Delegates of the Romanian-Ukrainian Commission are greeted by students from a Ukrainian-language school in Romania's Maramures region on 4 June. (OSCE/Klemens Buescher)



Representative on Freedom of the Media



↑ Nuriddin Karshiboyev (left) of the National Association of Independent Mass Media, Tajikistan; Oleg Panfilov (centre) of the Centre for Journalists in Extreme Situations, Russia; and Tamara Kaleeva (right) of the Foundation for the Protection of Freedom of Speech Adil Soz, Kazakhstan, at the Central Asia Media Conference in Dushanbe on 1 November (Nozim Qalandarov)

The task of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is to observe media developments in the 56 participating States relevant to the OSCE's commitments on freedom of expression and free media.

In 2007, the Representative intervened with Governments of OSCE participating States on more than 100 occasions and issued more than 50 public statements. The Office organized two regional conferences, conducted four training sessions and published close to a dozen books and special reports.

Some of the more notable themes and activities in the work of the Office are outlined below.

Regional conferences: focus on media self-regulation

The Office continued to provide support to regional journalism by organizing the South Caucasus and the Central Asia Media Conferences in October and November, respectively. Regional journalists, media professionals and representatives of non-governmental organizations, as well as international and regional experts, gathered to discuss the current media situation in their countries.

The focus of this year's conferences was media self-regulation. The participants of both conferences assessed the effectiveness of various self-regulatory mechanisms – such as ethics codes, press councils and ombudspersons – and adopted declarations on media self-regulation. They also discussed how self-regulation can enhance journalistic professionalism and reduce the number of law suits filed against the media for committing professional mistakes. The events would not have been possible without contributions from the Governments of Austria, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the United States (U.S.).

Legal assistance

The Office continued to provide legal assistance to the OSCE participating States in order to improve their

media and information legislation in line with OSCE commitments.

In Kazakhstan, the Office reviewed the draft Law on Mass Media and the *Law on Publishing*.

The Office reviewed the Croatian draft Law on Data Secrecy, resulting in the adoption of an improved version of the law in accordance with some recommendations made by the Office.

The Office also made comments on the Belarusian draft Law on Information, Informatization and Protection of Information, which the Representative presented to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, Ethnic Relations and the Media during his visit to Belarus.

The Office submitted to the Speaker of Moldova's Parliament a review of the country's new *Audiovisual Code* and the *Regulation on Broadcasting Licenses*.

Finally, co-hosting a seminar at the European Parliament in Brussels, the Office was consulted in the drafting of the European Union *Directive on Audiovisual Media Services*.

Country visits

During a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in February, the Representative met with then High Representative and European Union Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina Christian Schwarz-Schilling, Chairman of the country's Council of Ministers Nikola Spiric, Prime Minister of Republika Srpska Milorad Dodik and President of the Republika Srpska National Assembly Igor Radojicic, as well as with members of the Communications Regulatory Agency, the Press Council, the Association of Electronic Media and the country's Association of Journalists. Following the visit, the Representative presented a report entitled *The State of Media Freedom in Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Public Service Broadcasting*.

During an April visit to Azerbaijan, the Representative met with President Ilham Aliyev to discuss the situation of media freedom in the country. He also met with Nushiravan Mahharamli, Chairman of the National Television and Radio Council, to address the suspension of the licence of the private television and radio broadcaster ANS.

During his visit to Kazakhstan to attend the *Eurasia Media Forum*, where he spoke out against media monopolization and criminalization of journalism, the Representative met with Dariga Nazarbayeva, member of Kazakhstan's Parliament and Head of the country's Congress of Journalists, to discuss a draft media law prepared by journalists' organizations.

Publications

The Office produced several publications during the year:

Media as a Business documents results of the regional conferences conducted by the Office in Central Asia and the South Caucasus;

Governing the Internet: Freedom and Regulation in the OSCE Region, published in July, provides an overview of Internet governance in the OSCE region and a compilation of reports on the subject from some OSCE participating States. The publication was made possible by contributions from France and Germany;

“Media self-regulation is [...] a civil-society endeavour developed by media professionals. Public authorities can best support the development of media self-regulation by guaranteeing freedom of expression and pluralism while refraining from regulating media content.”

—Dushanbe Declaration on Media Self-Regulation, Tajikistan, 1 and 2 November.

Freedom and Responsibility- Yearbook No. 8 chronicles activities undertaken by the Office during the year 2006.

In addition, the Office compiled six special reports on a wide range of subjects and presented them to the Permanent Council. Among the themes covered were: accreditation of journalists; registration of media outlets; handling of journalists during political demonstrations; access to information in the OSCE area; and support of professional media through peer-to-peer exchanges. The latter report was compiled in response to a request by the Brussels Ministerial Council in December 2006 regarding "media twinning".

Violence against journalists

Tragic events throughout 2007 in the OSCE region showed that violence against journalists was a recurring challenge to media freedom worldwide. On top of numerous incidents of threats, harassment and beatings of media professionals, the year saw the murders of journalists Alisher Saipov in Kyrgyzstan, Hrant Dink in Turkey and Chauncey Bailey in the U.S.

The Representative took note with satisfaction of the international community's efforts against this dangerous trend. The United Nations adopted *Security Council Resolution 1738* condemning attacks on journalists in conflict situations in December 2006. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe promptly followed up by passing *Resolution 1535, Threats to the lives and freedom of expression of journalists*. The Office endorsed both documents.

Libel and insult

The Office continued to promote decriminalization of defamation and its complete transfer to civil courts.

To date, seven OSCE participating States do not have criminal sanctions for libel and insult: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Estonia, Moldova, Ukraine and the U.S. (at the federal level). Several participating States have abolished imprisonment as a form of punishment for defamation. However, prosecutions of journalists for libel and insult continued in a number of participating States throughout the year.

In 2007, the Office supported efforts to decriminalize defamation in Albania, and requested the Irish Government remove the remaining criminal provision from the draft Defamation Bill.

Internet

The Office of the Representative participated in the UN-led *Internet Governance Forum* in Rio de Janeiro, where it held a workshop on *Freedom of Expression as a Security Issue*, organized with the Council of Europe and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Office also attended the *Computers, Freedom and Privacy* conference in Montreal, where it made a presentation on Internet content regulation in Europe.

In 2007, the Office became one of the founding members of the UN's Dynamic Coalition on Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media on the Internet. The 2007 Internet project was funded by Ireland and Germany.

Tolerance and non-discrimination

The Office continued to campaign against the silencing of media coverage of sensitive issues in the name of tolerance in democratic societies. The Representative addressed this issue in several speeches, notably in Moscow at the *World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists*, in Baku at the Organization of the Islamic Conference's meeting on *The Role of Media in the Development of Tolerance and Mutual Understanding* and in Warsaw at the *OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*.

Access to information

On the eve of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May, the Representative announced the completion of a survey on media access to information in the participating States. The survey examined freedom of information laws, rules on classification of information, punitive laws on breaching secrecy, and the protection of journalists' confidential sources. The survey showed that, although most governments have become more open in recent years, many of them still define state secrets too broadly, punish journalists for publishing leaked secrets and do not offer adequate protection to anonymous sources. This leads to inaccessibility of important information to the public. The results of the survey were the basis for the Office's contribution to the process of drafting the European Convention on Access to Official Documents, which was under debate at the end of the year by the Council of Europe's Committee on Human Rights.

Training projects

Training courses aimed at developing better relations between the state and the media and increasing the access of journalists to information held by government bodies have become a trademark of the Office. This year, it held such training courses in Belarus on 4 and 5 June, in Ukraine on 12 September, in Armenia on 19 and 20 September and in Tajikistan on 11 and 12 December. The events were aimed at increasing the level of trust between public officials and journalists and at combating challenges to professional journalism such as corruption.

In addition, the Office organized a training seminar for Moldovan judges on libel and insult legislation, held on 8 and 11 October. Participants improved their knowledge of Moldovan defamation legislation and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Representative:
Miklos Haraszti
Approved budget: €1,260,200
www.osce.org/fom



Participants in the seventh Central Asia Media Conference view publications of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. (Nozim Qalandarov)

Secretariat

Secretariat

King Juan Carlos I of Spain (right) meets OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (left), in Vienna on 21 November. The King took part in the inauguration ceremony of the new premises. (OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)

The new OSCE Secretariat headquarters in Vienna's historic Palais Palfy-Erdody. (Ulf Harr)

The Secretariat, located in Vienna, assists the Chairmanship-in-Office in its activities, offering expertise, providing analysis, drafting decisions, publicizing OSCE policy and practices and maintaining contacts with Partners for Co-operation and other international organizations. The Secretariat assists the participating States in implementing their decisions and supports the process of political dialogue and negotiations among participating States. The Secretariat supports all other OSCE structures in the implementation of the mandates and policy guidance received from the participating States, in the proper application of the Common Regulatory Management System and in programmatic co-ordination.

The Secretary General derives his authority from the collective decisions of the participating States and acts under the guidance of the Chairmanship-in-Office, supporting it in all activities aimed at fulfilling the goals of the OSCE. The Secretary General ensures implementation of OSCE decisions, and acts as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization and Head of the OSCE Secretariat. In 2007, the Secretary General continued to ensure effective and efficient implementation of his mandate, as well as all other tasks set by the participating States for the year.



The Secretariat comprises the Office of the Secretary General, the Conflict Prevention Centre, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the Department of Management and Finance, the Department of Human Resources and the Office of Internal Oversight. 2007 saw the move of the Secretariat to the historic and newly renovated Palais Palfy-Erdody at Wallnerstrasse 6, inaugurated by King Juan Carlos I of Spain and Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fischer.

Approved budget: €30,868,600

Office of the Secretary General

*The Office of the Secretary General includes the Executive Management team and the-
matic as well as operational units. These are
the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Ac-
tion against Terrorism Unit, the Office of the
Special Representative and Co-ordinator for
Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the
External Co-operation Section, the Gender
Section, the Press and Public Information Sec-
tion, Legal Services and Security Management.*

Executive Management

*Executive Management continued to support
the Secretary General in the effective imple-
mentation of his mandate. The team served
as the focal point for internal co-ordination
within the Secretariat. It facilitated the provi-
sion of expert and advisory support to the
Secretary General, the Chairmanship and the
participating States; assisted the Secretary
General in providing overall guidance and
specific directives on management issues;
supported him with regard to strategic policy
and issues that cut across dimensions relevant
to the whole Organization, including those
requiring coherent and concerted action by
several executive structures.*

In 2007, Executive Management, in close co-ordina-
tion with other parts of the Secretariat, took the lead
in the expansion of Performance-Based Programme
Budgeting throughout the Organization. For the first
time, the Organization applied Programme Budgeting
in all OSCE Funds in preparation for the 2008 budget
year. In another first, the Secretary General presented
the Programme Outline and the Unified Budget Pro-
posal in the Permanent Council. In May, the Secre-
tary General reported to the Permanent Council on

progress made on a task set by the 2006 Ministerial
Council to further strengthen the effectiveness of the
OSCE and its executive structures. Later in the year,
the Secretary General reported to the participating
States on a revised table of posts of the OSCE Secre-
tariat and on the mandates of the OSCE Secretariat.

Throughout the year, Executive Management
co-ordinated day-to-day work between the Sec-
retariat and the Chairmanship. Together with the
Spanish Chairmanship, it established and maintained
co-operation between the two, with clear distribution
of responsibilities and channels of communication.
It ensured that the Chairmanship received timely
advisory support, background information, draft deci-
sions, speaking points and other support as necessary.
Executive Management co-ordinated and compiled
contributions from all OSCE executive structures to
the Chairmanship's work on issues high on the year's
agenda. It also provided co-ordinated preparatory as-
sistance to the incoming 2008 Chairmanship.

In close co-ordination with all relevant parts of
the Secretariat and other executive structures, Execu-
tive Management ensured the provision of necessary
support to the Secretary General in contributing to
the work of OSCE decision-making and informal bod-
ies and consulting with participating States, including
bilateral meetings and visits to participating States,
Partners for Co-operation and other international
organizations, as well as regular or *ad hoc* reports to
the participating States. Executive Management pre-
pared co-ordinated weekly reports by the Secretary
General to the Permanent Council, an annual report
to the Ministerial Council, annual reports on thematic
issues, contributions to regular or *ad hoc* OSCE meet-
ings and other conferences, and other specific reports
and contributions, such as on organized crime and on
the United Nation's *Alliance of Civilizations*. Executive
Management, in close co-ordination with the Press
and Public Information Section and the External Co-
operation Section, supported the Secretary General's
and Chairmanship's concerted efforts to publicize
OSCE activities and increase the visibility of the
Organization.

Strategic Police Matters Unit

*The Unit implemented a number of success-
ful activities this year, with highlights ranging
from bolstering co-operation to tackle cross-
border organized crime in the OSCE area
to working on police training and reform in
Central Asia and the South Caucasus.*

To respond to participating States' concerns about the
continuing spread of illicit trafficking in drugs such
as opiates from Afghanistan, the Unit and the UN
Office on Drugs and Crime organized OSCE-wide and
regional expert conferences addressing the need for
enhanced law enforcement and judiciary co-operation
and intelligence sharing. Following a Permanent

Council Decision last year, practitioners from participating States, Partners for Co-operation and representatives of international organizations met at a Drugs Experts Conference in Vienna in June.

The Unit facilitated and financed the training of 10 Afghani Police Officers on counter narcotic matters at the Russian Advanced Police Academy in Domodedovo, complementing ongoing international assistance to Afghanistan.

To assist in the fight against organized crime, the Unit managed an extra-budgetary project funded by Belgium to help implement relevant Ministerial Council decisions.

Another successful extra-budgetary project, funded by the Spanish Chairmanship, enhanced co-operation among police, prosecutors and judges in the investigation of cross-border organized crime. Implemented in Albania and Montenegro, the project focused on the interaction of these three institutions in the investigation of organized crime, particularly human trafficking.

The Unit also supported field operations, with a special emphasis this year on those based in Central Asia and South Caucasus. It assisted the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, for example, in conceptualizing a project to help the Uzbek Police Academy and provided expertise during its implementation. Another highlight of the year was forming and organizing a fact-finding mission to Tajikistan in December, aimed at assisting the national authorities in identifying needs for police reform.

One of the core activities of the Unit was the promotion of police-public partnerships through community policing, which is based on the principles of democratic policing. It organized three regional police experts meetings in this field. The Unit embarked on drafting a document on good practices in building police-public partnerships, as discussed at the meeting. Due to be finalized in February 2008, the document is expected to provide a common basis for all OSCE activities related to community safety.

To aid field operations in delivering basic police training, the Unit has conducted thorough research and analysis and drafted a guide, *Good Practices in Basic Police Training – Curricula Aspect*. The document, to be finalized in February 2008, aims at assisting police services in making their basic police training models more effective, professional and society-oriented.

The Policing OnLine Information System reached maturity in 2007. As a result, the number of registered users increased more than 4.5 times, while the number of experts entered into the Policing Experts Database tripled. The Unit also launched a user-friendly online event registration system which allowed users to register for events in a simple manner.

Action against Terrorism Unit

The Action against Terrorism Unit, the focal point for OSCE counter-terrorism co-ordination and activities, prepared more than 20 food-for-thought and concept papers in 2007 on emerging new anti-terrorism strategies in response to requests by the Chairman-in-Office, participating States and the Secretary General. Many of these ideas were subsequently developed into concrete OSCE initiatives, such as on combating terrorist use of the Internet or on enhancing public-private partnerships in combating terrorism.

The Unit organized, supported, or otherwise facilitated 16 capacity-building activities at the OSCE-wide, regional and national level. Among the most important were:

- A political conference on *Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism* in Vienna, a joint initiative of the Russian Federation and the United States (U.S.) funded by Spain and the U.S. – resulting in a Ministerial Council commitment to actively involve the business sector and civil society in the fight against terrorism.
- One OSCE-wide workshop in Vienna and two regional ones on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism held in Antalya, funded by Spain, and in Helsinki, funded by Finland and Spain – reinforcing knowledge of the international legal framework and the relevant technical tools for such co-operation.
- An OSCE-wide workshop in Vienna, a regional one in Madrid and a national event in Tashkent on travel document security funded by Spain and the U.S. – increasing expertise on the International Civil Aviation Organization standards for machine-readable and electronic travel documents, handling and issuance and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) databases; an intensive training course on forged document detection in Skopje – improving Border Police capacity to identify and control forged documents; as well as a needs assessment/planning mission to Moldova to determine the feasibility of real-time connection to Interpol's databases at border controls.
- An OSCE-wide workshop in Vienna on combating incitement to terrorism on the Internet funded by Spain and Germany – continuing and expanding the OSCE's pioneering work on combating terrorist use of the Internet.
- Two events related to container/supply chain security in Astana and Belgrade – resulting in



Experts from the OSCE and Germany examine an Uzbek passport during a workshop on travel documents security in Tashkent on 1 March. (OSCE)

more effective implementation of the World Customs Organization's Framework of Standards.

The Unit further expanded the scope and enhanced the substance of the *Counter-Terrorism Network*. It also conducted formal and informal consultations with other OSCE structures and many key international bodies, in particular the United Nations, resulting in several joint activities. A significant achievement of the Unit was the second roundtable of counter-terrorism practitioners of major regional and sub-regional organizations, held in Vilnius.

www.osce.org/atu



"I kidnap girls from the traffickers," says Iana Matei on 6 June as she heads towards the shelter for trafficking victims that she directs in the outskirts of Bucharest. (OSCE/Blanca Tapia)

Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The Special Representative catalyses action against trafficking in human beings. In 2007, progress was achieved through advocacy, in bilateral meetings with government and other political decision makers, in media and through concerted efforts to support and assist participating States.

The Special Representative engaged in a permanent consultative process within the OSCE Institutions, with participating States and with other international organizations and non-governmental organizations to formulate the thrust of the year's priorities. The Office, under the umbrella of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, organized two major conferences:

The sixth Alliance conference, entitled *National Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms to Address Trafficking in Human Beings*, was the first ever to analyse how to identify the scope of trafficking. It examined the tasks of gathering and analysing information, the role played by reporting mechanisms and the challenges at the national level. The event, held in Vienna on 21 May, showcased for the more than 200 attendees the existing practices in the few participating States that have set up such mechanisms.

The seventh Alliance conference, *Assistance to Trafficked Persons: We Can Do Better*, brought together more than 270 experts in Vienna on 10 and 11 September. The participants called for more investment in evidence-based research on trafficking to permit more targeted policies for identifying and assisting victims of trafficking.

In order to raise the visibility of the OSCE's anti-trafficking work, the Special Representative and her Office participated in more than 40 conferences

and public events and devoted particular attention to working with the media and Internet to enhance coverage of the OSCE's work and to raise the profile of the fight against trafficking in an accurate and challenging way. Within the OSCE, she participated in the Permanent Council's new Human Dimension Committee and met directly with senior government officials.

"[The Office of the Special Representative] has made great efforts to understand the problems of human trafficking and their underlying causes, seeking the appropriate policy response in a co-ordinated fashion."

— Roger Plant, Head of the International Labour Organization's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour

Promoting regional co-operation

The Special Representative launched several initiatives to promote regional responses to trafficking in human beings:

Baltic and Nordic States. Her main regional focus was the Baltic States, which have developed substantial experience in combating trafficking for sexual exploitation and child trafficking. She spoke at a number of Nordic-Baltic events, including the 2007 annual meeting of the Council of the Baltic Sea States' contact points on combating child trafficking in Warsaw. She addressed the innovative topic of engaging the media and business community in anti-trafficking work at a conference in October in Vilnius, which was jointly organized by the Republic of Lithuania, the OSCE and the United Nations (UN) Office on Drugs and Crime within the framework of the UN *Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking*. The conference looked at decreasing the demand for unreasonably cheap labour and services and explored ethical considerations for the media covering this topic.

Central Asia. The OSCE organized a roundtable in Bishkek in December in co-operation with the Kyrgyz authorities. The meeting focused on the implementation of conclusions and recommendations made at the 2006 Astana anti-trafficking conference, which the OSCE published in 2007 and distributed to regional stakeholders. The roundtable spurred co-operation with the region's anti-trafficking structures and its non-governmental organizations.

Special Representative:
Eva Biaudet

Human trafficking priority areas:

- acting to establish national anti-trafficking structures;
- promoting evidence-based policies and programmes;
- stepping up efforts to prevent trafficking in human beings;
- prioritizing action against child trafficking;
- addressing all forms of trafficking in human beings; and
- promoting effective assistance and access to justice for all victims.

Gender Section

The Gender Section assisted the OSCE in including a gender perspective in its activities, policies, programmes and projects as stipulated in the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

The Section provided support to all OSCE gender focal points. It organized frequent co-ordination sessions and gave technical assistance on how to better take into account the specific needs and contributions of both women and men when developing programme activities.

Close co-operation took place with the Strategic Police Matters Unit in organizing a seminar in Madrid that promoted women’s participation at all levels of police management. The Section also supported the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in its efforts to take into account the link between gender considerations, migration policies and water management in its conferences.

The Gender Section assisted the Department of Human Resources in developing a series of gender training sessions. Furthermore, the Section contributed to the gender session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s *Annual Meeting* and also provided data for the development of the *Gender Balance Report* of the Parliamentary Assembly.

In March, the Gender Section organized the annual gender focal points meeting in Vienna. In response to meeting recommendations, the Section prepared a compilation of the field operations’ extra-budgetary project proposals for the promotion of women’s rights in order to highlight planned projects that need funding. The Section also prepared a compilation of the field operations’ projects for the promotion of women’s rights within the priority areas of the *Action Plan*.

Additionally, the Gender Section organized a working session for the gender focal points attending the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* in Warsaw. This initiative aimed at highlighting gender aspects of security. This year, the Gender Section visited the field operations in Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Skopje, Albania and Ashgabad, assisting them in their

effort to meet the requirements of the *Action Plan*. It also contributed to the regional meetings of the heads of field operations in Central Asia and in South-eastern Europe.

In July, the Gender Section evaluated progress on the *Action Plan*. The report, which the Secretary General presented to the Permanent Council, highlighted how few women have reached management positions in the OSCE. To address this, the Section co-operated with the Department of Human Resources to broaden and intensify the distribution of vacancy notices for management positions in order for the information to reach a maximum number of highly qualified female professionals.

The Section helped both to propose improvements to maternity and paternity leave entitlements and to develop a system for flexible working arrangements in the Secretariat.

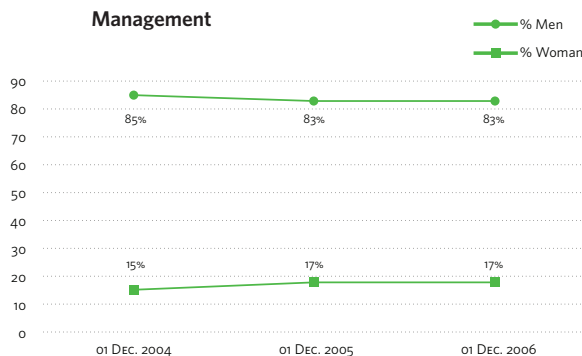
The Gender Section developed and distributed to all OSCE staff a *Guide on the OSCE Policy against Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination* in English and Russian. It also updated the indicators on gender equality in the annex to the gender mainstreaming tool *Filling the GAPS*.

Press and Public Information Section

In February, the Secretary General endorsed the section’s Communication Strategy, the first of its kind for the Organization. Given the OSCE’s decentralized structure, the Strategy primarily covers the Secretariat, but other parts of the Organization have adopted elements. The Strategy includes a 10-point 2007 Action Plan covering all aspects of work with the media, general public and academia.

The Section has implemented some key aspects of the *Action Plan*. It has:

- launched a new electronic newsletter aimed at journalists, called *OSCE Highlights*;
- published new-look fact sheets in all six official languages, a revamped *OSCE Handbook* and a redesigned *Annual Report*;
- produced an interactive presentation on Compact Disc and online that explains the OSCE in simple terms in all six official languages. *The OSCE at work* was an extra-budgetary project funded by Austria, France, Italy and Spain;



- introduced multimedia services on the OSCE website, including a database built entirely with existing resources. More than 60 video and audio clips are already available, covering the Ministerial Council and topics such as recycling *Melange*;
- added more than 2,100 new documents, 1,600 photos and 70 feature stories as well as hundreds of new pages to the website, including 24 conference sites;
- published four issues of the *OSCE Magazine* and expanded distribution to boost its role as a public diplomacy tool;
- co-ordinated dozens of interviews, articles and opinion pieces involving the Chairman-in-Office, Secretary General and others;
- given presentations on the OSCE to more than 60 visitor groups - nearly 1,700 people from 21 countries.

The section launched an extra-budgetary project, funded in part by the United States, for a multi-language version of the website. This is a crucial part of efforts to raise OSCE visibility by reaching out in other languages, not least Russian, the second most widely spoken OSCE language.

The section also planned and embarked on another extra-budgetary project for a role-playing event for young people aged 16 to 20. The Model OSCE, scheduled to be held for the first time in summer 2008, will give students the chance to learn about diplomacy and international relations - and the role of the OSCE - through action as well as study.

Legal Services

As mandated by the Ministerial Council, discussions concerning the draft Convention on Legal Personality and Privileges and Immunities continued. Legal Services provided support to the working group, which addressed the implications of the OSCE's lack of international legal status and uniform privileges and immunities. In the absence of a Convention addressing these issues, problems related to the lack of legal status and protection for the Organization and its staff continued to impede the smooth operation of OSCE activities, especially larger projects in the field. Following extensive negotiations in the legal experts working group, a draft text for a Convention was provided to the Chairmanship.

Legal Services also took part in the negotiations of the Contribution and User Agreements required for the Secretariat's move to the new Wallnerstrasse premises. Legal Services continued to provide advice to the various OSCE actors, especially with respect to the drafting, revision and interpretation of OSCE documents and agreements, including the financial and staff regulations. It was also instrumental in the settlement of disputes.

Conflict Prevention Centre

The Conflict Prevention Centre co-ordinates the activities of the OSCE's field operations and assists them in the implementation of their mandates. It is also the focal point in the Secretariat for developing the OSCE's role in the politico-military dimension, with a particular focus on areas such as early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

Policy Support Service

The **South-eastern Europe Desk** assisted the Chairmanship in guiding the Organization's involvement in Kosovo. It co-ordinated closely with partner organizations and kept them abreast of the Organization's programmes.

The Desk continued to contribute to facilitating the two regional co-operation processes: the so-called *Palic Process* of inter-State judicial co-operation on war crimes proceedings and the *Sarajevo Process* of regional refugee returns, providing expert assistance in preparation for future high-level conferences and facilitating dialogue among the interested participating States, including by providing input and guidance to the field operations concerned.

The **Eastern Europe Desk** supported OSCE efforts to initiate negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the Transnistria issue, following their breakdown in spring 2007. The Desk further assisted field operations in Ukraine and Minsk in satisfying the demand for projects from host State authorities.

The **Caucasus Desk** assisted the field operations in activities related to the settlement of unresolved conflicts, in particular the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference or the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Desk contributed to the preparation, conduct and follow-up of high-level visits by the Chairmanship to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In Georgia, the Desk supported the implementation of a large-scale *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and adjacent areas. The Desk was also closely involved in the follow-up to the 6 August missile incident in Georgia.

The **Central Asia Desk**, together with the Centre in Dushanbe and the Government of Tajikistan, launched

a task force to intensify co-ordination of the Organization's activities with the host country. A March meeting in Dushanbe, the task force's third, improved the working relationship between the host country and the field operation. The Desk also helped the field presence in Kazakhstan to move its operation to Astana from Almaty and provided assistance to the Chairmanship and the host country in their negotiation of a new mandate for the Centre. The Central Asia Desk also helped train Kazakhstani civil servants in OSCE issues in preparation for the 2010 Kazakhstani Chairmanship. The Desk provided support to a group of OSCE Ambassadors visiting Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and to the OSCE Border Assessment Mission to Kyrgyzstan.

Programming and Evaluation Support Unit

The Programming and Evaluation Support Unit spearheaded the roll-out across the Organization of Performance-Based Programme Budgeting, which places a stronger emphasis on the planning, communication and gauging of targeted results. Since 2006, when the approach was conceptualized, the Unit has been helping all field operations to apply it to their 2008 programmes. It developed an *Orientation Guide* and provided in-Mission training on a variety of working tools.

The Unit continued to develop and refine existing tools and templates for the use of project management staff in the field. It also provided project management staff with daily support on all aspects of the project cycle designed to improve the effectiveness and quality of OSCE projects.

Finally, the Unit co-ordinated the assessment of 137 extra-budgetary projects planned by the Organization's field operations amounting to more than €37.5 million.

Operations Service

Operational planning and analysis. Acting as the primary point of co-ordination for operational planning and operational analysis within the Secretariat, the Service helped in 2007 with planning the closure of the Office of the Organization's Representative to the Estonian Commission on Military Pensioners, the future involvement of the Organization in Kosovo and the restructuring of the field presence in Croatia. It organized and took part in relevant task force meetings,

Gender projects

The Unit delivered a train-the-trainer course on gender-mainstreaming projects from 4 through 10 February for field mission staff. It provided a similar training session, with a particular focus on politico-military activities, at the annual meeting of the Organization's Gender Focal Points on 27 and 28 March. The Unit strives to ensure that references to OSCE commitments for the promotion of gender equality are included in training material related to Project Management and to Performance-Based Programme Budgeting.

→ Training on using radio-controlled initiation systems to destroy unexploded ammunition at Novobohdanivka, Ukraine. The OSCE provided equipment and training to the Ministry of Emergency Situations. (OSCE/Alexander Savelyev)

↓ The Kyrgyz border with Uzbekistan in the Ferghana valley. CPC border assessment visit to Kyrgyzstan in September (OSCE/Markus Karlsen)



needs-assessment visits and follow-up activities.

Concerning operational analysis, the Service focused on developing a systematic approach to lessons learning and on preparing useful best practices reports. In particular, the Service developed and introduced a system of structured debriefings for outgoing senior officials from field operations. In co-operation with the United Nations (UN) Department of Political Affairs and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Service organized high-level consultations to draw key lessons from mediation and conflict resolution experiences in the Organization's area.

As in previous years, the Service supported the Chairmanship in the organization of the *Annual Security Review Conference*. As a follow-up to a request by participating States, the Service prepared a review of existing OSCE mechanisms and procedures for early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management. Support was also provided to the new Security Committee of the Permanent Council.

24 hours/7 days a week operational link. Through its Situation/Communication Room, the Service provided a round-the-clock operational link and focal point of contact among the Troika, delegations, the Secretary General, Institutions and field operations, especially outside working hours. The Service constantly monitored events in the OSCE area, providing real-time reporting with a particular focus on emerging crisis situations. The Service produced daily briefs, special briefings, bi-weekly regional summaries and calendars of upcoming events. It also provided operational assistance for emergency cases in the field, including security incidents and medical evacuations.

Border security and management. In 2007, through its Borders Team, the Operations Service assumed responsibility for maintaining the efficient functioning of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network. The Service prepared and disseminated regular newsletters to the Network summarizing major events and plans for future activities. Furthermore, it organized the Network's first meeting in Vienna in November back-to-back with a co-ordination meeting with representatives of field operations.

Following the field assessment visit to Tajikistan last year, the Service worked with the Centre in Dushanbe and the Tajikistan authorities on the development of border-related projects aimed at strengthening Tajikistan's borders. A comprehensive border assessment in Kyrgyzstan was also conducted. Support on border-related issues was also provided to a variety of events conducted by the Action against Terrorism Unit and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. Finally, the Service continued to work with international partners within the framework of the *Ohrid Border Process*.

Forum for Security Co-operation Support Section

The Section supported the Forum for Security Co-operation's monitoring of the implementation of the confidence- and security-building measures agreed in the *Vienna Document 1999* and other commitments in the politico-military sphere. It provided a summary report on recent trends in the implementation of the *Vienna Document 1999* and other measures to the *Annual*

Implementation Assessment Meeting. It also chaired a meeting of the heads of verification units, held for the first time during the *Assessment Meeting*, providing an opportunity for the meeting's participants to contribute practical thoughts and lessons learned on implementation of confidence- and security-building measures.

Responding to a request from Kyrgyzstan, the Section organized a training course in Bishkek from 4 to 7 September on preparing national data for Forum information exchanges and using the Organization's Communication Network.

The Section produced a survey of suggestions made during a special Forum meeting on identifying practical measures to prevent illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons by air, held on 21 March further to a 2006 Ministerial Council decision.

The Section also assisted participating States with the preparation, conduct and follow-up of the special meeting of the Forum's Working Group A to assess the implementation of the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*. Together with Switzerland and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Section organized a seminar on *Democratic Control of Armed Forces* for parliamentarians and government officials from Montenegro on 27 and 28 September in Podgorica. The Section also provided input to national *Code of Conduct* workshops organized by the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Section helped bring two projects in the field to a successful conclusion: the disposal of the toxic rocket fuel component *Melange* in Armenia and the clean-up after the explosion at an ammunition storage site in Novobohdanivka, Ukraine.

In May, the Section participated in assessment visits to Georgia and Moldova in order to plan project activities on small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition and to assist the field operations in these countries. According to the project plan agreed with Moldova, the Section and the Mission to Georgia organized and conducted a workshop on the OSCE mechanism for assistance to improve stockpile management of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition and to destroy surpluses.

Based on the memorandum of understanding signed with the UN Development Programme for technical co-operation in implementing projects, the Section helped launch a joint project on *Capacity Building in Stockpile Management and Security of SALW* in Belarus and a *Demilitarization Programme* in Montenegro. The Section also developed and negotiated a memorandum of understanding for *Melange* elimination projects in Ukraine.

The Section prepared the Forum Chair's progress reports on small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition to the 2007 Ministerial Council in Madrid and organized a press event and a photo exhibition there. Updated information leaflets and a documentary film on project activities were also prepared and distributed among participants.

www.osce.org/cpc

Managing the OSCE Communication Network

The Centre continued to manage the OSCE Communication Network. This network facilitates the exchange of important information to further openness and transparency in military affairs. The Section provided assistance to Montenegro and Kyrgyzstan to facilitate their accession to the Network. Thanks to the Section's support, the Communication Network was set up for the purposes of the Dayton Peace Agreement in July. It has enabled the exchange of approximately 250,000 messages between participating States on confidence- and security-building measures, the CFE Treaty and the Treaty on Open Skies. The Section chairs the OSCE Communications Group, which provides valuable oversight by and for delegations.



Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Among the Spanish Chairmanship's key priorities in 2007 was the environmental aspect of security. This was reflected in the choice of theme of the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum: *Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management*. The focus on environmental concerns also resulted in the adoption of two documents at the Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid in November: the *Declaration on Environment and Security* and the *Decision on Water Management*. The Ministerial Council meeting and the Economic and Environmental Forum held in Prague earlier in the year represented the Organization's first carbon-neutral events. In November, participating States also adopted the Permanent Council Decision on the Development of an Internal Environmental Policy for the Operation of OSCE Executive Structures, which was an important accomplishment to mitigate the OSCE's environmental impact and long-term costs.

Among other awareness-raising events in the environmental sphere, the Office organized the *Intensive Course in Environmental Diplomacy* for delegates of the Economic and Environmental Committee in co-operation with the University of Geneva, a study trip for OSCE delegations to the European Centre for Renewable Energy in Guessing, Austria, a screening of Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* in Vienna, as well as an OSCE photo contest with the theme *Land and water, protecting our fragile environment*, in which more than 1,000 photographs competed.

The Office continued and expanded its participation in the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative. The Initiative, which is run in close co-operation with other international partners, has a portfolio of more than 50 projects and an overall budget of \$11.3 million. In line with the objective of highlighting the impact of environmental issues on security, ENVSEC partners began new assessment activities this year with national partners in Eastern Europe, as well as in the Amu Darya and East Caspian regions.

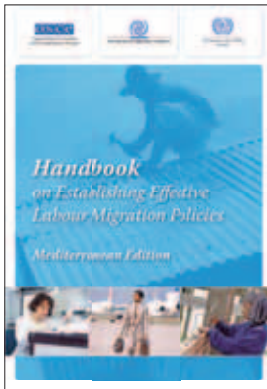
As a follow-up to the 15th Economic and Environmental Forum, the Office facilitated a technology transfer workshop for the Central Asian water sector in Tashkent, which brought together representatives from the private sector, international organizations and non-governmental organizations from the region to promote linkages between private investment, good governance and sustainable development. The Office, in co-operation with the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, also organized a workshop to set up regional drought management centres for Central Asian countries.

In 2007, the Office continued to work very closely with the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, in particular in the area of migration management. In close co-operation with the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization, it published the Mediterranean version of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies*. The *Handbook* was officially launched at a regional workshop in Rabat in December.

In an effort to foster regional co-operation in Central Asia and to assist rural economic development, the Office worked with field operations to launch a project to develop community-based tourism in Central Asia. The initiative seeks to

➤ The cover of the Mediterranean edition of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies* (OSCE)

→ Shamil Zhumatov's photo is part of a series about the Aral Sea which won first prize in the 2007 OSCE Photo Contest. The photos were taken in the villages of Karateren and Zhalanash, and the regional centre Aralsk, in Kazakhstan. (Shamil Zhumatov)



strengthen networking and co-operation among tourist operators and border communities as well as to establish a regional association with a website to better market the region internationally.

In 2007, the Office continued its transport-related activities, following the recommendations of the 14th Economic Forum and the Brussels Ministerial Decision on Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE. Activities were conducted in the areas of cross-border facilitation, the promotion of good governance in customs and the specific challenges of landlocked countries. In this context, the OSCE organized a conference on the prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015, which was held in Dushanbe in October.

Together with the incoming Finnish Chairmanship, the Office initiated the preparatory process for the 16th Economic and Environmental Forum. A first Preparatory Conference on *Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment* was held in Helsinki in September.

The Office stepped up its activities in the areas of combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism and corruption with numerous national and regional activities in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, Eastern and South-eastern Europe. Among the regional activities carried out in close co-operation with OSCE field operations, the United Nations (UN) Office on Drugs and Crime, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and other partners was a regional conference in South-eastern Europe

on best practices and initiatives in the fight against corruption, under the framework of the *UN Convention against Corruption*. The event drew participants from Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia and the UN Mission in Kosovo, and was held in Tirana in April. The Office also organized a regional conference on combating money laundering and terrorist financing for the countries of South-eastern Europe. The event, which was held in Montenegro in September, attracted huge interest from across the region. Both events were designed to inform regional decision makers about the main international standards, the role of international organizations in fighting these challenges, as well as the promotion of regional co-operation and better co-ordination among national agencies such as financial, law enforcement and prosecution services.



Department of Management and Finance

The Department of Management and Finance provides financial and administrative services and support to OSCE participating States, the Secretariat, Institutions and field operations.

In 2007, the Department consolidated information and procedures stemming from the earlier roll-out of the OSCE's integrated resource management system, reviewed and updated relevant Financial/Administrative Instructions and provided extensive support and functional training to Fund Administration Units in the field.

Key achievements:

- supported the Chairmanship and participating States of the OSCE, the Joint Consultative Group and the Open Skies Consultative Commission by conducting meetings and conferences;
- co-organized events outside Vienna, such as the *Economic and Environmental Forum Meeting* in Prague, the *Bucharest High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination*, and the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Madrid;
- formed a new Financial Controls, Systems and Support programme to better co-ordinate the Department's systems, procedural support and training to the Fund Administration Units in the field, and develop a consistent integrated internal control framework throughout the Organization;
- received an unqualified (positive) external audit opinion on the 2006 Financial Statements;
- met statutory reporting requirements to the participating States in a timely fashion – including budget cycle documents;
- supported the OSCE-wide introduction of Performance-Based Programme Budgeting – an approach designed to improve programming and budgeting by focusing on results rather than just on resources needed and activities undertaken;

- rolled out a new corporate window contract with Carlson Wagonlit, thus ensuring a co-ordinated approach to the management of travel OSCE-wide, better use of corporate purchasing power and availability of reliable travel statistics;

- concluded an agreement with the Host Country and ensured a smooth move to the new premises of the Secretariat on Wallnerstrasse;

- further integrated and improved on-line reports available to participating States, programme managers and support staff across the OSCE through the dashboards and delegates' website.

Prague Office

As the initial seat of the CSCE Secretariat, the Prague Office inherited the historical collections of CSCE conference documents and has since been maintaining the OSCE paper archive. The *Researcher-in-Residence* programme, launched by the Prague Office in 1998, has served more than 150 long- and short-term researchers of academic and professional background from 38 countries of the OSCE area, including Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation.

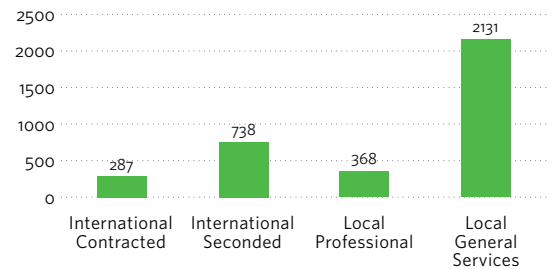
The Office worked hand-in-hand with counterparts in Conference Services and Information Management on the digitalization of historical conference documents. It also disseminated the *OSCE Magazine* and other major publications, such as this *Annual Report*, to nearly 3,500 subscribers and 70 OSCE depositary libraries throughout the world.

New Premises on Wallnerstrasse

In December, the OSCE Secretariat and the Representative on Freedom of the Media moved to new premises at Wallnerstrasse 6 – an historic building in the heart of Vienna provided by the Austrian Government. The new building combines understated elegance, historical continuity and modern flexibility, providing the OSCE with a more compelling public face and consolidating the Vienna-based offices in one representative building.

Department of Human Resources

2007 OSCE Post Table



The Department of Human Resources continued to focus its efforts in 2007 on providing and improving fair working conditions for all categories of the Organization’s staff throughout the OSCE area.

The Department provided support to 3,524 staff and mission members in the nineteen field operations, the Institutions and the Secretariat. Its activities spanned a wide range of issues including: continued efforts to align local staff salary scales to the respective UN salary scales; intensive training efforts introducing Performance-Based Programme Budgeting across all OSCE funds; and the co-ordinating of OSCE Mediators, who provide informal structured mediation in the case of inter-personal conflicts. Ensuring the consistent implementation and updating of OSCE Staff Regulations, Rules and Instructions was a central function of the Department in 2007.



The General Orientation Programme is held monthly in the Hofburg in Vienna. (OSCE/Randa Chammas)

Key achievements in 2007 were:

- strengthening co-ordination among the OSCE human resources community through the Human Resources roundtable meeting in March;
- negotiating improved coverage of OSCE Health and Life and Accident Disability Insurance schemes for staff and mission members;
- re-assessing the status of field operations with respect to the admissibility of mission members’ families and the introduction of a one-year secondment period;
- responding to calls from the participating States to improve work-life balance, and creating a family friendly working environment by developing more flexible working arrangements, which will be introduced in 2008;

- adopting an amendment package to streamline Staff Regulations and Rules and the Staff Instruction on Classification;
- working to establish fair and consistent salary scales for local mission members;
- consulting with host countries on the possibility of exemption from income tax assessed on OSCE local staff salaries;
- completing the pilot phase of the Junior Professional Officer programme and launching the second cycle;
- increasing training activities by 20 per cent over the previous year;
- training 1,300 participants in 130 training activities to respond to managerial and operational needs of staff;
- facilitating the introduction of Performance-Based Programme Budgeting throughout the organization by providing more than 30 training events for approximately 350 staff;
- attracting 7,932 job applications in response to 114 vacancy notices for contracted positions;
- holding 78 interview boards at the Secretariat and interviewing 365 candidates, with due respect to geographical and gender balance in the boards and among the candidates;
- processing 1,797 nominations for seconded positions, resulting in the deployment of 162 staff/mission members;
- focusing on the recruitment and appointment of qualified women candidates, particularly to higher-level positions where they are underrepresented, to improve the Organization’s gender balance.

Office of Internal Oversight

The Office of Internal Oversight enhanced its oversight work this year through a greater focus on audits in the field. Though the bulk of the Office's annual oversight work plan in 2007 focused on audit work for adequacy of controls and compliance with regulations, the Office has been moving increasingly toward the examination of programmatic areas.

The Office issued 20 reports with more than 230 recommendations for the Secretariat and field operations during the year. It carried out audits of extra-budgetary contributions in a number of field operations, offices and Institutions. Other areas audited included financial and human resources management, procurement, operations management and Information Technology governance.

Field audits revealed that procurement posed challenges; in some places it was difficult to generate true competition for certain types of goods or services. Specific problems found included: low response to tenders and requests for quotation, weak bid evaluation, multiple bids from related parties and non-competitive or sole source procurement. The Office also identified a number of areas where controls over relationships with implementing partners should be enhanced. An improved regulatory framework is needed to provide clear guidance over such areas as the selection of implementing partners, budget formulation and approval of financial accounting and reporting.

A number of other oversight-related activities, such as investigations, were carried out in 2007. The Office followed up on previous years' audit recommendations to ensure that management had addressed them effectively. More than 90 per cent of the recommendations of the past two years were accepted, and more than 80 per cent were implemented. Management was making good progress toward implementation of the remainder.

As a result of recommendations made in its 2006 review of the OSCE's *Ethical Framework*, the Office spearheaded two major initiatives. In February, the *Fraud Prevention and Detection Policy* including *Fraud Awareness Guidelines* was issued as *Financial Administrative Instruction Fourteen*. The Policy reminds all OSCE officials of their duty to report fraud or suspected fraud, and stresses that management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a culture of integrity, honesty and high ethics and for evaluating the risks of fraud and implementing the processes. Secondly, the Office published the *Code of Conduct Reference Booklet*, as part of an organization-wide ethical awareness programme.

Partnerships for Security and Co-operation

Interaction with organizations and institutions in the OSCE area

Interaction with other organizations and institutions constituted an important part of OSCE activities aimed at promoting comprehensive security and stability in the region.

Under the guidance of the Spanish Chairmanship and in accordance with relevant Ministerial and Permanent Council Decisions, the OSCE Institutions, field operations and Secretariat co-operated closely with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives to increase synergies and enhance efficiency. The co-operation developed both at headquarters and in the field, with the Section for External Co-operation taking the lead in supporting the institutional contacts.

At headquarters level, the OSCE hosted the annual *Tripartite Meeting* in Vienna on 13 and 14 February. In addition to the United Nations (UN) and the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Union (EU), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), International Organization for Immigration (IOM), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) discussed the role of regional organizations in supporting the implementation of the *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* and the importance of human rights in the fight against terrorism.

The 2007 *Annual Security Review Conference* was attended by representatives from CIS, CoE, the European Commission, NATO, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (Stability Pact) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Partner organizations were regularly invited to relevant OSCE events, while the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other senior officials represented the Organization, upon invitation, in the Summit, Ministerial and relevant meetings of other organizations.

In the field, representatives of various international actors operating in Central Asia and the South Caucasus were invited to co-ordination meetings held in the margins of the Regional Heads of Mission meetings organized by the Conflict Prevention Centre in Tashkent in May and in Baku in October, respectively. Participants at the Tashkent meeting included representatives of the ICRC, NATO, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Bank (WB), Asian Development

Bank (ADB) and the Regional Anti-terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Participants at the Baku meeting included representatives of UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, CoE, ICRC, NATO, EU, UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA), UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO), UN Observer Mission in Georgia and the EU Special Representative for South Caucasus.

Fostering co-operation on operational issues, the Conflict Prevention Centre exchanged best practices and lessons learned with other international organizations, particularly the UN and the EU. The Centre participated in a meeting with the representatives of situation/operation centres from various international organizations, including the African Union, EU, NATO, UNDPKO, UN Department of Safety and Security and the World Food Programme in October in Rome.

Throughout the year, the Action against Terrorism Unit pursued co-operation and interaction with more than 20 UN structures, international, regional and sub-regional organizations and specialized agencies to support and assist their counter-terrorism related activities, share experiences and facilitate contacts between national authorities and international organizations. With Lithuanian support, the Unit organized the second *Roundtable of Counter-terrorism Practitioners from Regional Organizations* on 19 and 20 June in Vilnius, gathering experts from 16 international, regional and sub-regional organizations to discuss ways of improving their contribution to counter terrorism.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities continued its participation in the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), in co-operation with UNDP, UNEP, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, as well as NATO.

The promotion of gender equality in international forums was the focus of the Gender Section in collaborating and interacting with other international organizations and institutions. Together with gender and diversity advisers from the UN system, the WB and the International Monetary Fund, the Gender Section participated in the Organizational and Institutional Gender Information Network aiming at sharing knowledge and policies with regard to gender mainstreaming and the promotion of gender balance in the workplace.

OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (left), meets the European Union (EU) High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, in Brussels on 20 November. (Council of the EU)



The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media co-operated closely with the Council of Europe (CoE) and UNESCO. It strengthened its contacts with the EC's Directorate General Information Society and Media and participated in the second UN *Internet Governance Forum*. The Representative also co-signed a joint statement addressing diversity in broadcasting with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly fostered contacts and co-operation with other international inter-parliamentary bodies, including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS. The Assembly worked particularly closely with PACE during the six election observation missions in which it took part. In 2007, the Assembly chaired the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact. In this role, the Assembly organized two major events with parliamentary representatives of the CoE and the EU as well as representatives of the Stability Pact, a seminar on *Parliamentary Oversight over the Budget* in Belgrade, Serbia, and a Conference on *Security Co-operation in the Region* in Portoroz, Slovenia.

United Nations

As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE paid considerable attention to developing co-operation with the UN.

The Chairman-in-Office presented the OSCE's priorities and activities to the UN Security Council on 28 September, highlighting how the OSCE concept of multi-dimensional and co-operative security and its varied instruments can positively contribute to UN work. The Chairmanship also represented the OSCE at the Security Council open debate on the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security on 6 November.

During his visit to UN headquarters on 21 August, the Secretary General, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and a number of high-level UN officials discussed the OSCE's contribution to peacekeeping and peace building, as well as its role in promoting tolerance.

The OSCE hosted the regular *UN-OSCE Staff-level Meeting*, which reviewed regional issues of common interest and co-operation in Vienna on 16 October. EU representatives attended the part of the meeting devoted to the situation in Kosovo.

The OSCE Secretary General and the UNODC Executive Director continued to meet regularly, providing a basis for reciprocal updates and co-ordination of activities related to counter-terrorism, the fight against trafficking and organized crime and police and border matters. Regular consultations also took place at the working level.

The OSCE Secretary General met with the UNHCR High Commissioner in Vienna in August, discussing how to strengthen co-operation and create operational synergies.

On border management issues, the Conflict Prevention Centre co-operated with the UN Counter-

Terrorism Committee in relation to activities in South-eastern Europe and on the implementation of UN *Resolution 1373*, a wide-ranging counter-terrorism measure. Close collaboration continued with UNODC on border-related activities in Central Asia and within the Paris Pact Initiative framework.

The Centre also provided input on OSCE activities to the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms Mechanism's database. On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the OSCE and UNDP, the OSCE started the joint implementation of a project on small arms and light weapons stockpile security in Belarus, and another on the destruction of ammunition, heavy weapons and toxic chemicals in Montenegro.

The OSCE contributed to the work of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) on issues related to enhancing controls over transfers of conventional arms and sharing of experiences on disarmament and non-proliferation among relevant international actors, also presenting its achievements and activities in the area of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition and the OSCE *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* and non-proliferation.

In order to draw key lessons, identify gaps and develop best practices through discussion on experiences in mediation, focusing on Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, Central Asia and South-eastern Europe, the Conflict Prevention Centre and the UNDP co-organized high-level consultations on *Operationalizing Mediation Support: Lessons from Mediation Experience in the OSCE Area* in Mont-Pelerin, Switzerland, on 22 and 23 May.

The Action against Terrorism Unit supported the UN in its implementation of the international legal framework for combating terrorism. The OSCE and UNODC organized joint events to promote international co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism. The Unit also participated in the Counter-Terrorism Committee's Executive Directorate on-site visits to Turkey and to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The OSCE promoted the UN sanctions regime against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban through the OSCE Counter-terrorism Network and various other activities.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities worked closely with UNODC's *Global Programme against Money Laundering* and the *Global Programme against Corruption*, holding regional and national events. Other joint activities included preparations for an up-to-date technical guide for the implementation of the *UN Convention against Corruption*, to be published in 2008.

The OSCE organized in close co-operation with the UNECE a *Conference on prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian Transit Transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015*, which took place in Dushanbe in October. Additionally, a *Roundtable on Border Crossing Facilitation and Good Governance in Customs* was jointly organized in Kyiv in December, also with the support of the International Road Transport Union. Joint projects fostering co-operation between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan were developed within the framework of the UNECE *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes*. Co-operation with the UNECE, as well as UNDP, was also furthered

within the framework of the UNECE's *Capacity for Water Co-operation Project* in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

The OSCE, UNECE and the European Forum of Judges for the Environment organized a high-level judicial seminar *Access to Justice in Environmental Matters* in Kyiv in June, allowing for an innovative exchange of experience among Supreme Court judges and judicial training centres. The Office of the Co-ordinator also initiated collaboration with the UN *Convention to Combat Desertification*, in particular in the Central Asian and Mediterranean regions. A technical workshop took place in Tashkent in November.

The UNODA and the Gender Section shared best practices on gender mainstreaming in military affairs focusing on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The Gender Section also participated in a UNDPKO training event on gender mainstreaming in police and peace-keeping operations. Together with the UN Office in Vienna, the Section organized a concert celebrating women's as well as water international days to highlight the gender perspective in environmental affairs.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights co-operated with the UN in promoting the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation* and participated in the UN's *7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government*.

European Union

Relations between the OSCE and the EU were significantly enhanced in 2007, in terms of the level and intensity of dialogue and co-operation and of the range of substantive issues covered.

The German Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council highlighted the OSCE's key role in European integration and the potential of its confidence-building measures as a model for other regions in an address to the OSCE Permanent Council on 18 January. Addressing the Permanent Council in July, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, representing the EU Presidency, underscored the value of the EU and the OSCE taking a complementary approach to global challenges such as migration. The EU Special Representatives for South Caucasus, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova also briefed the Permanent Council.

The Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General participated in the OSCE-EU Ministerial Troika meetings held in January and November. Meetings of the Ambassadorial Troikas took place in May and October. Themes covered included co-operation in Central Asia, the situation in Kosovo and protracted conflicts. The OSCE Secretary General addressed the Political and Security Committee in May and November, under the respective EU Presidencies, and in the margins held a number of bilateral meetings with representatives of the EC and of the EU Council Secretariat.

The OSCE Secretary General and the Europe-Aid Director General signed a technical agreement in July streamlining the approval procedure for EC grants to eliminate the need for bilateral negotiation on a case-by-case basis.

The fifth *EU-OSCE Staff-level Meeting* was hosted by the OSCE in Vienna on 15 June, allowing for constructive exchanges of views and expertise on topics including Kosovo, Central Asia, combating trafficking in human beings and the EC financing framework.

The Conflict Prevention Centre exchanged information regularly with and maintained close co-operation with the EU on border issues. In particular, the Centre consulted regularly with representatives of the EU's Border Management for Central Asia (BOMCA) programme regarding forthcoming projects. The Centre participated in a meeting of the EU Security Policy Directors in Muenster, Germany, on 15 and 16 March, in a meeting of the Council of the European Union Group on the OSCE in May and in a joint meeting of the Group on the OSCE and the Group on Eastern Europe and Central Asia on 7 December.

In the framework of practitioner-level co-operation, the Action against Terrorism Unit briefed EU counterparts of the Council Secretariat, the EC and the Committee of the Regions on its work, with a view towards identifying potential synergies with existing and planned EU counter-terrorism activities. The Unit participated in a number of EU meetings and supported the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy while the EU participated in several of the Unit's events.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights co-operated with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. It regularly collaborated with the European Parliament during election observation missions and took part in seminars on election observation organized by the EC and the European Parliament.

On minority issues, the High Commissioner on National Minorities worked closely with the EC, in particular the Commissioners for Enlargement and for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy. This work focused on the protection of minority rights in EU candidate and pre-candidate countries as well as on the integration of minority groups.

Council of Europe

Co-operation with the CoE developed, particularly in the four priority areas: action against terrorism, protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, combating trafficking in human beings and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. The focal points presented joint reports on the achievements and plans in each area at the fifth and sixth meetings of the Co-ordination Group, held in March and October. The Co-ordination Group welcomed the progress achieved and encouraged further synergies, taking into account the different mandates and memberships of the two organizations.

At the invitation of the CoE San Marino Chairmanship, the *17th CoE-OSCE High-Level Meeting* took place in Madrid on 3 May in a '2+2' format. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing co-operation between the two organizations and discussed ways to consolidate synergies in the field and tackle regional issues.

The Secretary General of the CoE addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 5 July and held a bilateral meeting with the OSCE Secretary General.

In the framework of the *Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in South East Europe*, the OSCE and the CoE met in Strasbourg on 25 October to take stock of progress and discuss opportunities for additional joint projects and synergies.

The CoE participated in a number of Action against Terrorism Unit events dealing with counter-terrorism issues such as public-private partnerships and international legal co-operation, several times in the capacity of expert presenter, and moderated a session at the Unit's expert workshop on combating terrorist use of the Internet. The OSCE provided a moderator to a CoE international conference on addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, while the CoE contributed to the OSCE Counter-terrorism Network Newsletter.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities interacted with the Council of Europe on issues of migration, good governance, combating money laundering, financing of terrorism and corruption, including through cross-representation at events.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights continued its co-operation on election-related matters with the CoE's Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Venice Commission. Co-operation with the Venice Commission continued to prove invaluable in conveying consistent messages on legislation addressing constitutional matters. The two prepared joint or co-ordinated reviews and co-sponsored follow-up events to present comments and to engage in public discussions on the legislation in question. A mechanism aimed at ensuring the complementarity of their recommendations was established by the Office and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance.

The Office funded a website on Roma and Sinti and the Holocaust in 2007, a further step in the Office's long-standing co-operation with the CoE on Roma issues. The CoE Human Rights Commissioner made the keynote address during the special day on Roma at the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*. Co-operation with the Commissioner covered all areas of the Office's mandate. The Office participated throughout the year in the high-level group on social inclusion of ethnic minorities.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities launched the first joint publication with the CoE, *National Minority Standards. A Compilation of OSCE and CoE Texts*, and maintained his regular contacts and joint ventures with CoE national minority bodies.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

During the year, OSCE-NATO relations encompassed both practical co-operation and more intense political dialogue. Regular contacts took place at senior political and expert level.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed the North Atlantic Council on 19 November, commenting on OSCE involvement in election monitoring, Kosovo, the protracted conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union, counter-terrorism and Afghanistan.

On 11 July, the OSCE Secretary General delivered a speech to the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council providing an overview of the Organization and highlighting the values and commitments it enshrines. On that occasion, he also met with the Secretary General of NATO and other high officials.

Regular OSCE-NATO staff meetings took place in March and September where issues including regional matters and politico-military activities were discussed.

The Conflict Prevention Centre participated in the *NATO Partnership for Peace Trust Fund Workshop* in Washington D.C. in February, in order to share OSCE experiences in providing assistance. The Centre also maintained regular information exchange on project activities on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition as well as border-related activities within the *Ohrid Border Process* framework for the western Balkans.

Representatives from NATO attended a number of Action against Terrorism Unit events in 2007, including the Vilnius roundtable and the conference on enhancing public-private partnerships in combating terrorism. Additionally, NATO contributed to the OSCE Counter-terrorism Network Newsletter.

The Spanish OSCE Chairmanship, NATO and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities organized a workshop on environmental and security aspects of water scarcity, land degradation and desertification in the Mediterranean region in Valencia, Spain, in December. The conference produced a set of recommendations to international organizations for fostering environmental security in the region.

Other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives

The Secretary General participated in the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) and in the *Tenth SEEC Summit of Heads of State and Government*, both in Zagreb in March and May, respectively, as well as in the meetings of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and of the Council of Collective Security of the CSTO in Dushanbe in October. Other senior officials represented the OSCE at the Summits of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova) that took place in Baku in June, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organization (BSEC) in Istanbul in June, and the Central European Initiative (CEI) in Sofia in November, as well as at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of BSEC in Istanbul in October, and the Stability Pact Regional Table meeting in Zagreb in May.

The Secretaries General of the CSTO and the Eurasian Economic Community addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in February and July, respectively. Representatives of a number of international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives attended the OSCE Ministerial Council in Madrid on 29 and 30 November, while the Secretaries General of the CSTO and GUAM, as well as the Executive Secretary of the CIS, held bilateral meetings with the OSCE Secretary General in the margins of the

Madrid Ministerial. The CSTO Secretary General and the CIS Executive Secretary participated in this year's *Tripartite High-level Meeting*, while the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre participated in the CSTO conference in Moscow in February. Representatives of the Action against Terrorism Unit and the Department of Human Resources visited the CIS Executive Committee in Minsk.

The OSCE continued in 2007 the fruitful co-operation developed with the IOM, in particular with the IOM Liaison Office in Vienna. Representatives of each attended the other's relevant events.

Institutional contacts with the ICRC were maintained with the visit to the OSCE Secretariat by the Diplomatic Adviser of the Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit in February.

The Conflict Prevention Centre worked together with the Stability Pact on border-related activities within the *Ohrid Border Process* framework. It also co-operated with the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearing House for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in developing related projects. The Centre maintained staff-level relations with the Wasensaar Arrangement and provided a presentation on recent OSCE action on small arms and light weapons at the meeting of its General Working Group on 18 October.

The Action against Terrorism Unit supported the work of specialized international bodies on container/supply-chain security, in particular the implementation of the World Customs Organization Framework of Standards as well as relevant efforts by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization. Joint OSCE and World Customs Organization workshops on the implementation of the Framework took place in Serbia and Kazakhstan.

In liaison with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Organization for Standardization, the Unit provided capacity-building measures on the implementation of electronic documents with biometric identifiers, as well as on government tender issues. This included the joint organization of an OSCE-wide event and a regional workshop focusing on the OSCE Mediterranean Partners. The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) was also one of the Unit's main partners in its programme on enhancing travel document security and contributed to several OSCE events.

Throughout the year, the Unit furthered its relations with the CIS's Anti-terrorism Centre. The Centre participated in a variety of the Unit's events on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism and on combating terrorist use of the Internet.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities maintained its good working relationships with the ILO, particularly with its International Migration Programme, and the IOM, jointly producing and launching the Mediterranean edition of the *Labour Migration Handbook* in Arabic and English. It also contributed to the Vienna Migration Group meetings organized by the IOM.

The Office of the Co-ordinator co-operated with the OECD in the framework of the Anti-Corruption Network (*Istanbul Action Plan*), as well as

with the Stability Pact on combating corruption. The Office also continued its collaboration with the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism. The OECD contributed to the Regional Workshop on the *OSCE Investment and Business Guide*, organized in Albania in October. The OECD and the EBRD participated in the *OSCE Expert Workshop on the Systems of Indicators for Evaluation of State-supported SME Development Programmes* in Vienna in June.

International financial institutions

With support from the World Bank, the EBRD and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the OSCE held a conference on the *Main Challenges for Providing Environmental Security and Sustainable Development in the Region of Central Asia: Degradation of Land and Pollution of Soil* in Tashkent in October, focusing on technology transfer, the management of water and land resources.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities focused his ongoing dialogue with international financial institutions on the need for greater efforts to promote social integration in the countries where he is engaged. This topic and the practical co-operation between the two institutions in the field, dealing with assistance in developing textbooks, curricula and the teaching of languages, were discussed at the meeting with the Vice-President of the WB for Europe and Central Asia. Also, the ADB continued to be a partner for the High Commissioner within the framework of regional co-operation and individual country engagements.

Non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were invited and contributed to the main OSCE meetings and events. They also continued to co-operate with the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and field presences, frequently as project partners.

The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media maintained close contacts with media NGOs in the whole OSCE area, including Reporters Without Borders, the International Press Institute, Article 19, Privacy International and the World Press Freedom Committee.

Highlights of co-operation in the field

South-eastern Europe

The **Presence in Albania** worked with the EC and the CoE on electoral reform, including a civil registration project, and with the EC on police assistance. It co-operated with the UN and NATO in Kosovo/Serbia on joint cross-border co-operation matters.

The **Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** worked in co-operation with international agencies such as UNHCR, UNDP, NATO, the EU Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EC Delegation, the CoE and the Office of the High Representative in various areas related to its programmes.

The **Mission to Croatia** worked closely in consultation with the EC Delegation, UNHCR and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former

Yugoslavia (ICTY) on the rule of law and return and integration of refugees.

The **Mission to Montenegro** further increased its level of co-operation and co-ordination with other international organizations in all programme areas, as a key element in its diplomatic and programmatic work.

The **Mission to Serbia** co-operated with UN agencies, such as UNDP, UNHCR, ICTY, UNODC, EU, CoE, NATO, the WB, the EBRD and others, as well as with NGOs in its five programme areas: rule of law/human rights, democratization, law enforcement, media and economy and the environment.

The **Mission in Kosovo** maintained its commitment to strengthen its good co-operation with other international institutions on the ground and with the governments of the participating States.

In close co-operation with the ICTY, the **Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje** implemented a comprehensive training programme on international humanitarian law, which was designed to assist judges, prosecutors and investigators in handling war crimes and complex crimes cases.

Eastern Europe

The **Office in Minsk**, the UNDP and the Swiss Agency for Co-operation participated in the *Co-operation and Rehabilitation Programme* for Chernobyl-affected regions. It regularly consulted the UN, the European Union's *Technical Assistance to the CIS* programme (TACIS), and the WB on matters of mutual interest. The Office and the UN organized events celebrating the Human Rights Declaration and against domestic violence.

The **Mission to Moldova** co-operated closely with the UN, the CoE and the EU in promoting democracy, rule of law, freedom of the media and human rights as well as combating trafficking in human beings.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** enjoyed effective co-operation with UN agencies, IOM and La Strada.

The **Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference** continued its co-operation with UN agencies, in particular with UNHCR, on issues related to the conflict. In addition, the Office assisted in the release of prisoners of war in co-operation with ICRC.

South Caucasus

The **Office in Baku** worked with the CoE on Freedom of Assembly legislation and ways to improve relations between media and government, with UNICEF on juvenile justice, with ILO on enhancing anti-trafficking efforts and with UNDP on improving aid co-ordination.

The **Mission to Georgia** co-operated with the main OSCE partners: UN agencies, CoE, EU and NATO. The implementation the €2.5 million *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* for the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict with the EC, UNDP and UNHCR provides an example of concrete co-operation in the field.

The **Office in Yerevan** co-ordinated international activities by chairing working groups on elections, anti-corruption, ombudsman, media legislation, gender,

anti-trafficking and migration. Most joint projects were conducted with UNDP, CoE, EU, WB and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Central Asia

The **Centre in Ashgabad** co-operated with UN agencies, the EU/TACIS Programme and the U.S. Peace Corps to train civil servants, address health and environmental issues and assist farmers' associations. The Centre's work with institutions of higher education expanded.

The **Centre in Astana** closely co-operated with various international organizations: on parliamentary development with the UNDP; on border security and management with IOM, UNDP and the EU's BOMCA programme; on transboundary water management with UNECE and with the UN Development Fund for Women and UNDP on gender issues.

The **Centre in Bishkek** held a training course for future staff members of OSCE field operations with a trainer from the UNDP Tajikistan Mine Action Centre. It co-operated with the CoE Venice Commission in the area of constitutional reform. The Centre also held regular consultations with the EC and a number of other international organizations.

The **Centre in Dushanbe** regularly co-operated with a number of international organizations, such as UNDP, the UN Tajikistan Office for Peacebuilding, the EU's BOMCA programme, the EC and other international aid and development agencies.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** worked together with UNDP to implement a project in the economic and environmental dimension. Co-ordination of activities with other international organizations and financial institutions was a regular feature of the office's work in 2007.

Interaction with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE area

Interaction with Partners for Co-operation

Report of the OSCE Chairmanship

During its Chairmanship, Spain made it a matter of policy to improve relations with the Partners for Co-operation and address some of the main proposals they had raised over time.

As a Mediterranean country itself, Spain made relations with the Mediterranean Partners a priority for the year. The *OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims*, held in Cordoba on 9 and 10 October, was a significant landmark in the relations with the Mediterranean Partners. For the first time, also, the second part of the *Economic and Environmental Forum* devoted a plenary session to *Challenges to the Management of Water Resources and to Countering Desertification in the Mediterranean Region*, at which experts from many Mediterranean Partners spoke.

Spain entrenched the practice of regularly inviting the Partners for Co-operation to meetings of the Permanent Council, where they now join participating States at the main table. The Partners also participated ever more in the meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Foreign Ministers at the Madrid Ministerial Council reached consensus on two important documents with respect to Partners. The *Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation* reiterates the participating States' interest in strengthening relations with them. The *Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan* was also a significant landmark. The Strategic Police Matters Unit assisted Afghanistan's efforts toward increased security and stability with an anti-narcotics training course for 10 Afghan Police officers. The Ministerial Council also saw the traditional meetings of the OSCE Ministerial Troika with the Partners for Co-operation.

The Spanish Chairmanship successfully concluded negotiations on the establishment of a Partnership Fund, which was finally adopted on the margins of the Ministerial Council in Madrid, thanks also to the efforts of Belgium and Finland, chairs of the respective Contact Groups.

With the support of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group and of the Secretariat, Spain also sponsored various events with a Mediterranean focus: a workshop on travel document security in November, a workshop on water management and land degradation in the Mediterranean in

December and a seminar launching the Arabic-language edition of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies*, also in December.

At the initiative of Belgium and Finland, the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups held their first joint meeting. They took stock of the relations between the OSCE and the Partners, taking into account a background paper prepared by the Secretariat, and elaborated a number of important proposals to enhance relations. The 2008 Finnish Chairmanship will further encourage such joint meetings.

Report of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation

Work of the Asian Contact Group. The Belgian Chairmanship held five meetings of the Asian Contact Group, focussing on issues in all three dimensions that offered good prospects for an increased dialogue. These included border management and security, land degradation and soil contamination, combating trafficking in human beings and human security. The Contact Group also held an in-depth discussion on intensifying relations between the OSCE and the ASEAN Regional Forum, the principal forum for security dialogue in Asia.

OSCE-Mongolia Conference. The main event of the year was the *2007 OSCE-Mongolia Conference on Strengthening the Co-operative Security between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation*, which took place in Ulaanbaatar on 12 and 13 June, the first time Mongolia hosted the event. The agenda addressed issues such as voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments; the special needs of landlocked developing countries; transport development; land degradation and desertification; judicial reform, police assistance and border security and management, as well as democratization, human rights and fundamental freedoms as building blocks of security and stability.

Participants proposed enhancing opportunities for joint activities and result-oriented projects. They expressed wide support for the establishment of a Partnership Fund, which was achieved on the margins of the Ministerial Council, as a tool to realize those objectives. From the point of view of regional security, Central Asia was described as a linchpin between the OSCE and the Asian Partners. The meeting therefore highlighted the need to address landlocked countries' problems by fostering regional co-operation in transport and trade facilitation and by enhancing police capacity, border security and management.

Human security event. An informal workshop on promoting the concept of human security in the OSCE area was held in Vienna in May at the initiative of Japan and several other co-sponsoring countries. Some participants emphasized that the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative approach to security and the concept of human security have a great deal in common: they are both trans-national, multi-dimensional and serve to encourage action by both states and individuals to ensure security. Others wondered whether and how the human security concept would impact on activities already being pursued within the OSCE. A third group noted the lack of an agreed definition of what constitutes human security and the ensuing difficulties in relating the concept to the OSCE.

Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation:

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

Finland chaired the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2007.

Asian Partners for Co-operation:

Afghanistan, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

Belgium chaired the Asian Contact Group in 2007.

The workshop allowed for an intensive and enlightening debate where participating States and Partners for Co-operation had a real opportunity to share their sensitivities. It was agreed to continue the dialogue at a next suitable occasion.

Fourth Jeju Peace Forum. From 21 to 23 June Belgium, together with the Secretariat, represented the OSCE at the fourth *Jeju Peace Forum* in the Republic of Korea, co-organized by the Jeju Peace Institute in affiliation with the International Peace Foundation. The *Forum* included a special session on the theme *From Helsinki to Jeju: Designing the Jeju Process for a Multilateral Co-operation Mechanism in Northeast Asia*. In the discussion, participants expressed interest in the OSCE as a model for promoting peace and security in Northeast Asia. The *Jeju Declaration* said that, "Today's critical security issues in Northeast Asia [...] urgently require new measures to encourage multilateral security co-operation in the region." Belgium stands ready to support the organization of a follow-up seminar in Vienna in 2008 on *Sharing the CSCE/OSCE Experience in Multilateral Security Co-operation with Northeast Asia*.

Report of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Work of the Mediterranean Contact Group. The Mediterranean Contact Group, chaired by Finland, met seven times in 2007, further intensifying the exchange of ideas between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners. In addition, several Contact Point meetings were held during the year in order to prepare the Ambassadorial meetings and the agenda of the 2007 *Mediterranean Seminar*.

At Contact Group meetings, participants discussed human dimension and security matters, such as OSCE anti-trafficking and anti-terrorism activities, as well as tolerance and migration. The latter was discussed both in relation to the OSCE and to the follow-up meeting of the *Ministerial Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development*, which took place in Madrid on 21 June.

The Contact Group addressed OSCE-area developments and topics presented by the Mediterranean Partners relevant to their countries and the OSCE.

Furthermore, the Contact Group held focussed discussions before and after major OSCE events, such as the *High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding* and the *Annual Security Review Conference*.

The Spanish Chairmanship organized an informal meeting between the Partners and the three Personal Representatives in tolerance-related matters to discuss combating discrimination. To maintain momentum in this crucial area, Finland proposed tolerance as the theme of the 2007 *Mediterranean Seminar*, which all Mediterranean Partners welcomed.

As during previous years, the Special Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna briefed the Group on Partnership-relevant aspects of the *Annual Session* of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Towards the end of the year the Contact Group and Contact Points prepared intensively for the Madrid Ministerial Council Meeting and the meeting with the OSCE Ministerial Troika, which resulted in the Declaration as well as the establishment of a Partnership Fund. **OSCE Mediterranean Seminar.** The *Mediterranean*

Seminar, which took place in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 18 and 19 December, concentrated on the theme Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding. High-level speakers discussed tolerance issues, prompting an exchange of views. Unfortunately, the political situation in the eastern Mediterranean and in the Middle East hampered both participating States and Partners from enhancing relations as much as both would have liked. Nevertheless, Finland hopes that this will remain an exception in the OSCE dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners. Finland was encouraged by the non-governmental organization side event that was organized for the first time on the eve of the Seminar and supported the recommendation to organize more such side events in future.

Report of the Secretary General

The Secretariat helped strengthen relations with the Partners for Co-operation by advising and supporting the Chairs of the respective Contact Groups, organizing a number of events with the Mediterranean Partners, and organizing the annual *Mediterranean Seminar and the OSCE-Mongolia Conference*. In preparation for the first joint meeting of the Contact Groups, the Secretariat also prepared an extensive background paper on relations between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation.

Upon invitation by the Afghan Foreign Minister, the Secretary General visited Kabul in July, where he held consultations with President Hamid Karzai, as well as with high-level representatives of the Government of Afghanistan. He also held consultations with high-level representatives from the main international actors based in Kabul, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force and the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan.

At the meetings, representatives discussed opportunities to deepen co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan. They highlighted a number of such areas, including assistance in the training and development of junior diplomats through sponsorships for exchanges with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek or OSCE internships. They particularly emphasized support to enhance Afghanistan's capacity to manage the border between its Northern provinces and Tajikistan, and additional training for Afghan police experts on counter-narcotics at the Domodedovo Academy in Russia.



Ambassadors of the six OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (OSCE/ Susanna Loof)

As a follow-up to the Secretary General's visit, a representative from the Section for External Co-operation attended, upon special invitation by the Co-Chairs, the sixth meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, which took place in Kabul on 3 October. A representative of the Secretariat's Border Unit participated in a Paris Pact Expert Roundtable meeting that took place from 29 October to 2 November in Kabul.

As a follow-up to the 2006 *OSCE Mediterranean Seminar*, the Action against Terrorism Unit organized a travel document security workshop for the Mediterranean Region from 13 to 15 November in Madrid, Spain.

The OSCE Mediterranean partnership "encourages both participating States and Partners to pursue common objectives as we tackle problems of a cross-border nature, including terrorism, trafficking in arms and drugs, organized crime, illegal migration, intolerance and environmental degradation."

— Algeria's Ambassador Taous Feroukhi

Also as a follow-up, a seminar was held to launch the Arabic translation of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies*, a policy tool for government and social partner practitioners. The event was organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities under the auspices of the OSCE Spanish Chairmanship and the Kingdom of Morocco, and in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization. Discussion touched on various aspects related to the management of migration flows. It led to a number of recommendations for further OSCE action, including developing specific training modules for policy-makers as well as social partners, media and diplomatic staff; organizing thematic workshops based on certain chapters of the *Handbook*; and supporting further activities on gender sensitive labour migration policies. The Seminar took place in Rabat, Morocco, on 12 and 13 December.

The OSCE's dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners "has the potential of contributing to regional stability through greater harmony in the way we confront shared challenges relating to peace, security, human rights, democracy, governance and regional development."

— Jordan's Ambassador Shehab A. Madi

Following discussions at the second part of the *Economic and Environmental Forum* on challenges to the management of water resources and to counteracting desertification in the Mediterranean region, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities organized, together with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), an OSCE Chairmanship/NATO Workshop on *Water Scarcity, Land Degradation and Desertification in the Mediterranean Region - Environment and Security Linkages*. The workshop assessed the linkages between water scarcity, land degradation and desertification, on the one

hand, and security on the other. Participants discussed the appropriate policy response and the specific role the OSCE, NATO and other organizations could play in fostering environmental security in the region.

Participants stressed the need to raise awareness of the issue and increase dialogue among Mediterranean basin countries. Many underlined the importance of implementing a regional survey or assessment on water scarcity, land degradation, desertification and security. The keynote presentations, recommendations and conclusions of the working groups and written contributions will be published in 2008.

Interaction with organizations outside the OSCE area

The OSCE further developed dialogue and co-operation at all levels with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE area. The Organization invited them to participate in relevant OSCE events, including the Madrid Ministerial Council.

In November, the Secretary General visited the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), where he held consultations with Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza and other OAS officials. The Chairman of the Permanent Council, together with the OSCE Secretary General, participated in a meeting in May of the Group of Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Vienna, held under the aegis of Azerbaijan. Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS), delivered a keynote statement at the Cordoba conference on intolerance against Muslims.

The Head of External Co-operation, upon invitation by Finland, made a presentation on the OSCE's experience in preventive diplomacy and confidence- and security-building measures at a meeting of the Inter-sessional Support Group of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Helsinki on 29 and 30 March. On the margins, contacts were established with the ARF Secretariat. Representatives of the Conference on Interaction and Security-building Measures in Central Asia and of the ARF participated in the *OSCE-Mongolia Conference*.

The LAS, the OIC and the OAS were involved in a number of events organized by the Action against Terrorism Unit, dealing with issues such as public-private partnerships in combating terrorism, enhancing travel document security and combating incitement to terrorism on the Internet. The OAS also actively contributed to the *OSCE Counter-terrorism Network Newsletter* and promoted the relevant work of the OSCE in its own counter-terrorism newsletter.

The Conflict Prevention Centre participated in a symposium LAS organized in Cairo in June on *The Road Ahead after the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons 2006 Review Conference: the Present and the Future*. The ODIHR participated in the *2nd Implementation Meeting on the Declaration of Principles for Election Observation*, organized by the OAS.

Annexes

Acronyms

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	EU	European Union	ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
ATU	Action against Terrorism Unit	FSC	Forum for Security Co-operation	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CFE TREATY	Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty	ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	OSCE PA	OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia	PACE	Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly
CPC	Conflict Prevention Centre	ILO	International Labour Organization	PISG	Kosovo's Provisional Institutions of Self-Government
CSCE	Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe	IOM	International Organization for Migration	SALW	small arms and light weapons
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization	JCC	Joint Control Commission	SMEs	small- and medium-sized enterprises
EC	European Commission	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation	TACIS	Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States <i>(a programme sponsored by the European Union)</i>
ENVSEC	OSCE-UNDP-UNEP Environment and Security Initiative	OCEEA	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities		

OSCE budget 2007 by fund (Permanent Council Decision 780 c.1)

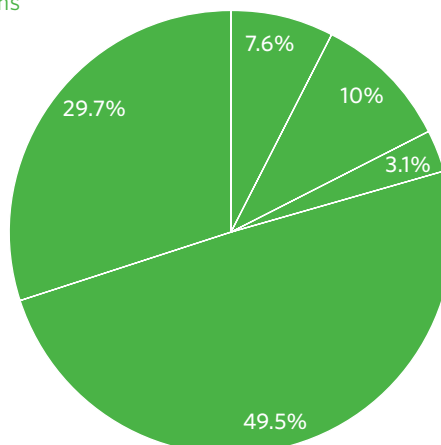
Fund	Euros	% of Total
The Secretariat	30,868,600	18.35%
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)	14,939,900	8.88%
High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)	2,852,800	1.70%
Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM)	1,260,200	0.75%
Mission in Kosovo*	34,638,400	20.59%
Tasks in Bosnia and Herzegovina	17,944,200	10.67%
Mission to Croatia*	7,324,000	4.35%
Mission to Serbia	7,507,500	4.46%
Presence in Albania	3,726,600	2.22%
Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje	9,948,700	5.91%
Mission to Montenegro	2,200,900	1.31%
Mission to Moldova	1,868,800	1.11%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	2,467,800	1.47%
Office in Minsk	897,500	0.53%
Rep. to the Latvian-Russian JC on Military Pensioners	9,600	0.01%
Mission to Georgia	10,106,200	6.01%
Office in Yerevan	2,315,800	1.38%
Office in Baku	2,476,500	1.47%
High-Level Planning Group	179,600	0.11%
The Minsk Process	791,300	0.47%
Personal Representative of the CiO - Minsk Conference	1,030,000	0.61%
Centre in Almaty**	1,981,800	1.18%
Centre in Ashgabad	1,228,400	0.73%
Centre in Bishkek	4,085,800	2.43%
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	1,611,500	0.96%
Centre in Dushanbe	3,937,600	2.34%
GRAND TOTAL	168,200,000	100.00%

* ref. Permanent Council Decision 828 on 2007 Unified Budget Revision for the Mission to Croatia and Mission in Kosovo

** Renamed Centre in Astana by Permanent Council Decision 797 on 21 June

Budget 2007 by Institutions and regions

Central Asia	7.6%
Caucasus	10%
Eastern Europe	3.1%
South-eastern Europe	49.5%
The Secretariat and Institutions	29.7%



Staff statistics

Internationally Recruited Staff

Nationality

	Mission in Kosovo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Croatia	Georgia	Skopje	Serbia	Montenegro	Moldova	Albania	Ashgabad	Astana	Bishkek	Dushanbe	Uzbekistan	Baku	Minsk	Yerevan	Personal Rep. Minsk Conference	Ukraine	Total for Field Operations	Secretariat	RFOM	HCNM	ODIHR	Total for Secretariat and Institutions	Grand Total	
Albania																				0	0			0	0		
Andorra																				0	0			0	0		
Armenia	3	1														1				5	1			2	3	8	
Austria	14	5	1	1	4	1	1		3											30	9	1	2	3	15	45	
Azerbaijan	2	1			1															4	2			2	2	6	
Belarus				1	3															4	1	1		2	5	9	
Belgium	4																			4	2		1	3	3	7	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8			1	1	1				1										12	1		1	1	3	15	
Bulgaria	5	2		4	1		3	1	2				1				1			19	6			1	7	26	
Canada	6	1		1	1	1						1								11	7			6	13	24	
Croatia	3	1			1	1														6	2			2	2	8	
Cyprus																					1				1	1	1
Czech Republic	1	1	2	3		1		1	1									1		11	3			3	3	14	
Denmark	1												1							2	2			2	4	6	
Estonia	1		1	1		1		1												5				1	1	6	
Finland	3	2	1	1					1					1						9	7		1	2	10	19	
France	9	8	1	4	2			2	2	2		1		1	1	1	1			35	8	2		4	14	49	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3																			3						3	
Georgia					2	1														3	1		1	2	4	7	
Germany	26	4	1	5	3	2	1	2	1		1	1	1		1	1		1		51	14	1	1	3	19	70	
Greece	6	1																		7	2				2	9	
Hungary	2	1		3	2							1			1			2	1	13		1			1	14	
Holy See																										0	
Iceland																								1	1	1	
Ireland	4	2			1	2														9	5		1		6	15	
Italy	19	10	1		9	5	1		3		1		3		1					53	9		1	4	14	67	
Japan					1															1						1	
Kazakhstan																		1		1	1			3	4	5	
Kyrgyzstan		1																		1	1			1	1	2	
Latvia									1											1	2			1	3	4	
Liechtenstein	2																			2						2	
Lithuania									1				1	1						3						3	
Luxemburg																						1				1	1
Malta																					1					1	1
Moldova	2					1					1	1					1			6	2		1	1	4	10	
Monaco																										0	
Montenegro	1																			1						1	
Netherlands	6	3				1			4											15	3		3	3	9	24	
Norway	2	1			1	4	1	1			1		1		1					13	2		3	1	6	19	
Poland	7		1	3				2	1											15	2		1	8	11	26	
Portugal	3				1	1														5	1				1	6	
Romania	8	2		1	2		1		2				1							17	3			1	4	21	
Russian Federation	2	4		1	3							1	2				1			14	12	1		2	15	29	
San Marino																										0	
Serbia															1					1	2				2	3	
Slovakia	1	2	1	1																5	2				2	7	
Slovenia		1			2	1	1													5						5	
Spain	17	2	3	1	6				1						1					31	15			1	16	47	
Sweden	8	3			2	2	1				1	2					1			20	7			1	8	28	
Switzerland	2	1										1								4	1	1			2	6	
Tajikistan	2	2																		4	1				1	5	
Turkey	3	1			6	3	1		1											15	6				6	21	
Turkmenistan																					1				1	1	1
Ukraine	1			2	3						1		2				1			11	3		1		4	15	
United Kingdom	9	2		3	5	6	1	1	4				2				1	1		35	12			9	21	56	
United States	28	14	3	2	6	5	2	2	4			1	2					1		71	15		1	4	20	91	
Uzbekistan	2																			3				2	2	5	
Internationally Recruited Staff	226	79	16	39	68	40	14	13	32	5	6	12	16	3	6	4	8	6	3	596	179	8	20	71	278	874	
Locally Recruited Staff	688	507	94	154	183	138	32	34	84	16	19	57	74	13	18	9	31	11	18	2180	186	3	9	61	259	2439	

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