

Annual Report 2008



Published by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
Press and Public Information Section
Office of the Secretary General
OSCE Secretariat
Wallnerstrasse 6
A-1010 Vienna, Austria
www.osce.org

© OSCE 2009

All rights reserved. The contents of this publication may be freely used and copied for educational and other non-commercial purposes, provided that any such reproduction is accompanied by an acknowledgement of the OSCE as the source.

ISBN 978-92-9235-000-0

Edited by Sharman Esarey, Ursula Froese
Designed by Nona Reuter
Maps by Nona Reuter

Printed in Sweden by Elanders Sverige AB

Contents

Message from the Secretary General	4	Institutions	71
Executive Summary	6	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	72
Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office	8	High Commissioner on National Minorities	75
Conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation	10	Representative on Freedom of the Media	78
Chairmanship work throughout the year	13	Secretariat	80
Shaping the future of the OSCE	20	Office of the Secretary General	82
Permanent Council	21	Executive Management	82
Forum for Security Co-operation	23	Press and Public Information Section	82
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly	25	Section for External Co-operation	83
Field Operations	29	Legal Services	83
South-eastern Europe		Gender Section	84
Presence in Albania	30	Security Management	84
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	32	Strategic Police Matters Unit	85
Mission in Kosovo	35	Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings	86
Mission to Montenegro	38	Action against Terrorism Unit	86
Mission to Serbia	40	Office of Internal Oversight	87
Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje	42	Conflict Prevention Centre	88
Office in Zagreb	44	Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities	91
Eastern Europe		Department of Management and Finance	93
Office in Minsk	46	Department of Human Resources	94
Mission to Moldova	48	Partnerships for Security and Co-operation	95
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	50	Interaction with organizations and institutions in the OSCE area	96
South Caucasus		Interaction with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE area	102
Office in Baku	52	Annexes	107
Mission to Georgia	54	The OSCE at a glance	108
Office in Yerevan	57	OSCE organigram	109
Central Asia		OSCE budget 2008 by fund	110
Centre in Ashgabad	59	Staff statistics	111
Centre in Astana	61	Contact information	112
Centre in Bishkek	63		
Office in Tajikistan	65		
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	67		
Assistance with Bilateral Agreements			
Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners	69		

Message from the Secretary General



Secretary General
Marc Perrin de Brichambaut

A shared vision binds together the multi-faceted diversity of the OSCE and its activities.

This vision is of a territory, stretching across 56 countries, that is united and at peace. It is a vision that is founded on a Decalogue of principles and shared values starting, as the *Helsinki Final Act* declared, with the need to promote the “inherent dignity of the human being”. This singular vision, born in Helsinki, still inspires the work of the OSCE in all its aspects.

The Finnish Chairmanship paid fitting tribute to this vision. The determination of the Chairman-in-Office and his team throughout this particularly challenging year was remarkable. The crisis in Georgia in August was shocking. The war was also a reminder of our core mandate: to build a space of co-operative security and to work toward overcoming our — often serious — differences by peaceful means.

The OSCE’s efforts in Georgia throughout the year embodied this complex effort. In the spring, OSCE crisis management mechanisms and procedures were invoked, allowing for in-depth debate among the participating States. In early July, a group of OSCE Ambassadors travelled to the conflict zone to make a first-hand assessment of the situation. The Mission to

Georgia performed essential monitoring activities in the zone of conflict and promoted confidence-building through economic rehabilitation. Indications of rising tensions were ample and regular.

Once hostilities erupted, the OSCE reacted very quickly, led by the personal shuttle diplomacy of the Chairman-in-Office and his Special Envoy. Within days, an additional twenty Military Monitoring Officers were dispatched to help restore confidence and stability. In early October, the OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities undertook with the United Nations Environment Programme a joint mission to assess the environmental impact of the conflict. A joint report was prepared to serve as the basis for future action.

At the request of the Chairman-in-Office, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the High Commissioner on National Minorities sent an expert team to assess the human rights and minority situation in the areas affected by the armed conflict. The joint Assessment Report was circulated to the participating States.

At the political level, the OSCE worked as a co-chair of the Geneva discussions, together with the European

A refugee describes her ordeal during the Georgian crisis to the Secretary General (right).



REUTERS/WASILY FEDOSENIKO

Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (left) talks with French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner (centre) and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Finnish Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb at the 16th Ministerial Council in Helsinki, 4 December.



PETRI KROOK

Union and the United Nations. The discussions, which opened on October 15th, focused on issues of security and stability as well as those related to refugees and internally displaced persons.

The Representative on Freedom of the Media observed the unfolding events with unceasing vigilance. In November, his office organized its fifth OSCE Media Conference in Tbilisi, attended by journalists from across the South Caucasus.

And throughout all of this, the OSCE Mission to Georgia worked ceaselessly to implement its multi-dimensional mandate with the Georgian government and society.

All of this highlights the rich role of the OSCE — its institutions, field operations and the Secretariat — in carrying out concrete practical work as a complement to the OSCE's political dialogue. At the same time, it raises the obvious question of how we might make our conflict prevention mechanisms even stronger, in the hope of avoiding such conflicts entirely.

Throughout the year, the OSCE continued with its deep engagement on the ground, including in South-eastern Europe, where the OSCE has retained a unique role in international efforts to promote stability and reconciliation in Kosovo.

2008 saw both continuity and change in the Organization. We celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, a unique institution for promoting media freedom throughout the OSCE area. Strong new leadership arrived at the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in the person of Janez Lenarčič. Goran Svilanovic was appointed Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities on 1 December.

The OSCE also witnessed the opening of a new Office in Zagreb, replacing the Mission to Croatia. The Organization's role in Tajikistan was strengthened and its budget increased, with the Office in Tajikistan

replacing the former Centre in Dushanbe.

The Organization stepped up its efforts to engage with Afghanistan, an Asian Partner for Co-operation since 2003, whose security is seen as vital to that of the OSCE participating States. At the end of the year, the Organization launched the establishment of a new Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and a Customs Training Facility in Bishkek, and a number of other proposals are under consideration.

2008 also confirmed the OSCE's unique role as a network for innovative co-operation, whether in the field of public-private partnership in anti-terrorism or in the fight against trafficking in human beings. The OSCE also looked to the future this year in a new way. In early July, for some 48 hours, 140 students from 30 OSCE countries filled the corridors and meeting rooms of the OSCE in the Vienna Hofburg. The *Model OSCE Conference* was a new way to share the Organization's values and vision with a younger generation.

The event was a great success, because the students grasped something of the spirit that lies at the heart of this Organization — the same spirit that guided the participating States when they first met in Helsinki and that still guides co-operation today, despite all of the challenges we face.

*Secretary General
Marc Perrin de Brichambaut*

Executive Summary

The OSCE in 2008 took concrete steps to enhance the security of its participating States and Partners for Co-operation, while also providing an important forum for dialogue. The following summary offers brief highlights of some of its successes, in chronological order:

Maritime and inland waterways co-operation. The 16th *Economic and Environmental Forum* focused on maritime and inland waterways co-operation. The *Forum*, which was held in two parts — in Vienna in **January** and in Prague in May — looked specifically at increasing security and safeguarding the environment. The *Forum's* recommendations led to the adoption of a follow-up Helsinki *Ministerial Council Decision* and a number of activities, including a *Conference on the Safety of Navigation and Environmental Security in a Transboundary Context in the Black Sea Basin* in Odessa, Ukraine, in June.

Long-range planning. OSCE Chairmanships were set for three years in advance for the first time at the 2007 Madrid *Ministerial Council*, allowing the Finnish Chairmanship to initiate in **January** a new format for informal consultations to improve longer-term planning and continuity. A quintet of participating States holding Chairmanships between 2007 and 2011 supplemented the existing Troika format for co-ordination and consultation on current OSCE business. Apart from periodic informal consultations in Vienna, the five — Spain, Finland, Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania — held three meetings at the ministerial level: on 1 and 2 June in Helsinki, where they discussed long-term priorities to foster long-range planning, as well as meetings on the margins of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly session in New York on 23 September and the OSCE *Ministerial Council Meeting* in Helsinki on 3 December.

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media celebrates 10th anniversary. The Representative held an experts meeting in

Vienna in **February** to celebrate its first decade of existence. Over 80 participants looked at present and future challenges to media freedom and free expression in the OSCE region.

Oil spills remediation. The Caspian Sea littoral countries expressed their concerns on the pollution of the land and seas by oil spills during a Technical Workshop in Turkmenistan on **10 and 11 March**. The workshop aimed at identifying the best oil spills remediation technologies and setting up a framework for co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations in oil spills-related activities. The OSCE prepared a project aimed at developing, updating and implementing national oil spill response capacity in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

Activation of OSCE risk reduction and crisis management mechanisms. After the **20 April** incident involving an unarmed aerial vehicle over Abkhaz-controlled territory, the Chairmanship, acting upon a request from Georgia, requested expert advice from the Forum for Security Co-operation as per Bucharest *Ministerial Council Decision* No. 3 on fostering the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue. The *Decision* allows for the Permanent Council to seek politico-military advice from the Forum. Additionally, Georgia and the Russian Federation activated Chapter III of the *Vienna Document 1999*, which provides a mechanism for consultation and co-operation on unusual military activities. In response, the Chairmanship provided the necessary framework for consultations to take place between the parties involved. The Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation also served as political forums allowing participating States to make relevant recommendations.

Anti-trafficking. The Secretariat's Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings held two high-level conferences within the framework of the

Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons, the first on child trafficking on **26 and 27 May** in Vienna, and the second on successful prosecution of trafficking on 10 and 11 September in Helsinki, as well as a technical seminar.

Human dimension events. The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights organized three *Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings*: on combating racism and xenophobia in Vienna on **29 and 30 May**; on sustainable policies for Roma and Sinti integration in Vienna on 10 and 11 July; and on democratic lawmaking in Vienna on 6 and 7 November. It also held a seminar on constitutional justice in Warsaw from 14 through 16 May. The Chairmanship organized a *Seminar on Election-related Issues* in Vienna on 21 and 22 July. The signature event of the year in the human dimension, the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*, took place in Warsaw from 29 September to 10 October.

Performance-Based Programme Budgeting. 2008 was the first year in which the Organization applied Performance-Based Programme Budgeting, a results-based management methodology, to all its executive structures. The methodology is still under development and will be further elaborated by participating States. The *2009 Programme Outline*, the main document for strategic planning submitted by the Secretary General to the participating States each year in **May**, for the first time featured a message outlining the quintet of Chairmanships' views on strategic priorities for the coming years.

Border management. Following a 2007 *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*, the Secretary General presented a programme of activities on **6 June** to foster, among other matters, cross-border co-operation on border security and management between the Central Asian participating States and Afghanistan. Discussions on the programme continued at year-end. In

addition, Afghan officials will be invited to participate in the activities of an OSCE-wide Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and a national level Customs Training Facility in Bishkek as well as in the training activities co-organized with the Customs Service of Turkmenistan.

OSCE mandate in Tajikistan. The OSCE bolstered the mandate of its Tajikistan field operation on **19 June** in recognition of the country's transition from a post-conflict country to one on the path of economic and political development. Strengthened co-operation agreed by Tajik authorities and the Organization meant the Centre in Dushanbe was re-inaugurated as the Office in Tajikistan, with new tasks specified in each of the OSCE's three security dimensions. The budget and staff were increased and the Office moved into more spacious and central premises.

17th Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held its 17th *Annual Session* in Astana, Kazakhstan, from **29 June to 3 July** under the main theme of OSCE transparency, adopting a number of resolutions in the form of the *Astana Declaration* and also a resolution on the events in Georgia, and electing Joao Soares from Portugal as its new President.

Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC). The ASRC on **1 and 2 July** focused on trans-national challenges to security; the present state of arms control arrangements, confidence- and security-building measures; the Security Dialogue; as well as issues related to early warning, conflict prevention/resolution and crisis management. Six keynote speakers provided thought-provoking presentations that formed the basis for a lively debate in the working sessions that assisted participating States in taking stock of the security situation in the OSCE area. In his address to the *Conference*, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Supreme Allied Commander Europe General John Craddock stressed among other security issues that the OSCE could play an important role in efforts to secure and stabilize Afghanistan.

Model OSCE. More than 140 young people from 30 OSCE participating States took part in the first-ever *Model OSCE* from **5 to 7 July**. High school and university students, who played the roles of national delegations other than their own, discussed and debated three security challenges: terrorism and the use of the Internet;

water management in Central Asia; and trafficking of Roma children. Three documents were adopted by consensus.

Election observation. Discussions continued in 2008 on refining and deepening OSCE election-related commitments. The OSCE exchanged views and experience throughout the year. A particular highlight was an election seminar in Vienna on **21 and 22 July**. The seminar focused on the Organization's role in assisting the development of electoral processes, including through election observation. The dialogue triggered by this event was conducive to increasing the confidence of the participating States in OSCE election-related activities.

Military Monitoring Officers in Georgia. On **19 August**, the Permanent Council decided to immediately deploy, to areas adjacent to South Ossetia, twenty additional unarmed OSCE Military Monitoring Officers in the OSCE Mission to Georgia. Together with eight initial Military Monitoring Officers, they observed and reported on the implementation of the 12 August six-point agreement.

Online policing seminar. The OSCE's first exclusively online conference focused on how to protect children from sexual exploitation on the Internet and how to better apprehend criminals. From **13 to 24 October**, some 80 participants listened to six presentations and through regular chats and correspondence moderated by the OSCE considered issues such as the need for a legal framework, international co-operation on analysis and investigations as well as enhanced co-operation between civil society and criminal investigators. They also discussed the role of education and technology to combat the crime.

Geneva discussions. The first round of the Geneva discussions, foreseen in the 12 August six-point agreement, began on **15 October**. The OSCE, together with the United Nations and the European Union, co-facilitated the talks, which involved Georgia, Russia and the United States as well as South Ossetian and Abkhaz representatives. Special Envoy Heikki Talvitie represented the OSCE and Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut also attended. At the second and third rounds of talks, held on 18 and 19 November and 17 and 18 December, participants agreed on most of the elements proposed for establishing mechanisms to handle incidents

on the ground. Further talks to resolve remaining differences were scheduled for February 2009.

OSCE Mediterranean Conference. On **27 and 28 October**, the annual meeting with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation was held in Amman. To mark the Mediterranean Partners' deeper and more systematic engagement in the OSCE's work, and to align practices with the Asian Partners' traditional yearly conference, this annual event was held in the format of a conference, rather than a seminar.

OSCE-Afghanistan Conference. On **9 and 10 November**, the OSCE's annual conference with its Asian Partners was hosted for the first time by Afghanistan. The venue helped symbolize both the OSCE's willingness to engage with Afghanistan and Afghanistan's own commitment to co-operating with the OSCE in promoting security and stability.

High Commissioner on National Minorities celebrates 15th anniversary. The Office of the High Commissioner celebrated its 15th anniversary in **November**, paying tribute to a legacy of quiet diplomacy that time and time again has helped reduce tensions related to minority issues in the region.

Combating money laundering. In **December**, the OSCE became an observer to the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures (MONEYVAL). The OSCE strongly reinforced its involvement in combating money laundering, terrorist financing and corruption, co-operating more closely with MONEYVAL and other organizations, hosting events and providing technical assistance to participating States.

Partnership Fund

To strengthen work with the Partners for Co-operation, a Partnership fund was launched in 2008. It received contributions of more than €500,000. Five projects were introduced and implemented under its umbrella, in areas including multilateral diplomacy, elections and civil society participation.

Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office



PETRI KROOK





Chairman-in-Office
Alexander Stubb

When I assumed my responsibilities as Chairman-in-Office on 4 April, I found a solid foundation upon which to build. My predecessor, Minister Ilkka Kanerva, had steered the Organization with commitment and engagement during the first three months of the year, as had the previous year's Spanish Chairmanship. Together with the Secretariat, institutions and field operations, I worked to enhance the OSCE's strengths as a forum for dialogue and a platform for action across Europe. I set out to prove that the OSCE can bring concrete results that make a difference.

I would like to highlight three areas in which I think the OSCE performed especially well in the course of 2008:

- To manage crises and prevent conflict, the OSCE acted rapidly before and during the crisis in Georgia. It contributed to the ceasefire agreement and international monitoring efforts.
- To consolidate democracies, the OSCE fostered increased interest in electoral reforms and the development of democratic institutions and observed 12 elections in its area.
- To strengthen co-operative security, the OSCE served as a venue for real political dialogue and a frank exchange of views on controversial issues such as the proclamation of independence by the Assembly of Kosovo and the crisis in Georgia.

Throughout the year, we worked to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization, particularly by paying attention to continuity and long-term planning. I am confident that the strengthened co-operation we enjoyed among the five successive Chairmanships — Spain, Finland, Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania — will prove its merits in the long run by ensuring the sustainability of OSCE activities.

The year was full of challenges and hard work for the Chairmanship and the Organization. But it was also a successful year. The record attendance of nearly 50 foreign ministers at the Helsinki *Ministerial Council Meeting* in December illustrated the OSCE's increased standing in international relations.

2008
Chairman-in-Office
Alexander Stubb

Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office

The Spirit of Helsinki

Finland assumed the Chairmanship of the OSCE aiming to revive the spirit of Helsinki, where, more than 30 years ago, a durable consensus on European security was forged and the groundwork was laid to establish the OSCE.

As 2008 began, the OSCE faced fresh challenges to the shared commitments and values that sprang from that work. Finland knew its Chairmanship could be dominated by a number of security issues, both old and new, the question of OSCE work in Kosovo and protracted conflicts among them.

Drawing inspiration from Helsinki, the Chairmanship chose as its watchwords “continuity”, “coherence” and “co-operation”.

This meant squarely tackling threats to

security, no matter how stubborn or controversial. It meant advancing existing commitments and work already undertaken. It also meant re-imagining the Organization, its long-term role and status, and streamlining its efforts to best meet these threats to security.

Conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation

Finland determined to refocus attention on protracted conflicts. At the start of the year, the Chairman-in-Office embarked on a series of visits to key capitals. He also issued a strong signal in appointing as his Special Envoy the experienced diplomat Heikki Talvitie, who once served as the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and as Co-Chairman of the Minsk Group,

which deals with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Fresh initiatives were taken regarding the Transnistrian settlement process in Moldova and the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, or the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In Georgia, despite considerable work to prevent conflict in the first half of the year, hostilities broke out in August.

Georgia. Despite intense diplomatic efforts, open conflict erupted in early August in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. The implications have been profound — not only for the parties immediately involved but for the very concept of common and co-operative security.

The crisis swiftly became the prime focus of the Finnish Chairmanship. The summary below is far from comprehensive, but it reflects the highlights of the Chairmanship’s diplomatic and political activity in the months before and after the August events, much of it conducted behind the scenes.

Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office Heikki Talvitie at a news conference in Vienna, 14 August



Chairman-in-Office Alexander Stubb during an interview in Georgia, 21 August

Diplomatic journal

Georgian crisis dominates agenda of Finnish Chairmanship

The following diplomatic journal summarizes the Chairmanship’s intense diplomatic activity in the months before and after the conflict erupted in Georgia in August. It tells a story of repeated early warning action and attempts to de-escalate tensions, followed by intensive work to halt the war, resolve the conflict and alleviate its human and economic consequences. We join the story in late April:

30 April, Helsinki

The Chairman-in-Office, Finnish Foreign Minister Alexander Stubb, states that recent developments in the zones of conflict, including a military build-up, have considerably increased tension in the region. He speaks on the phone with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, urging them to defuse tensions through dialogue and confidence-building measures. “All parties should refrain from unilateral measures and threats to use military force,” he says.

2 May, Vienna

The Chairmanship asks for expert advice from the Forum for Security Co-operation as per Bucharest *Ministerial Council Decision* No. 3 following the 20 April incident involving an unarmed aerial vehicle over Abkhazia.



Former OSCE envoy Martti Ahtisaari

Former OSCE envoy, Finn Martti Ahtisaari, wins Nobel Peace Prize

Finland played a formative role in shaping the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and has led diplomatic efforts in the region, and around the world, to bring conflict to an end.

In 2008, Martti Ahtisaari, a Finn and former OSCE envoy, won the Nobel Peace Prize for his success in bringing peace to troubled areas globally, including Central Asia, Northern Ireland and South-eastern Europe. The former Finnish President was particularly instrumental to peace-making work in Namibia and Indonesia and he led the United Nations' negotiations in Kosovo.

In March 2003, Ahtisaari was appointed the OSCE Chairman-in-Office's personal envoy for Central Asia by Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, then the OSCE Chairman. He remained personal envoy for Central Asia the following year.

Moldova. The Chairman-in-Office visited Moldova and held talks with the leaderships in both Chisinau and Tiraspol in January, determined to use the start of the Finnish Chairmanship to reinvigorate the Transnistrian settlement process.

Special Envoy Talvitie made several follow-up visits to Moldova in the course of the year. Under his leadership, the mediators — the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE — and the observers — the EU and the U.S. — held several rounds of consultations in the “3+2” format in Vienna, Helsinki and in the region. Throughout the year, Special Envoy Talvitie maintained close contact with all stakeholders in Moscow, Kyiv, Brussels and Washington.

In April, the mediators and observers held consultations with the parties to the conflict – in the “5+2” format. These consultations took place on the margins of a productive seminar on confidence-

building measures in Odessa, arranged by the OSCE Mission to Moldova. In July, the mediators and observers travelled jointly to Chisinau and Tiraspol to meet with the leaderships and to hold another round of informal consultations with participants in the “5+2” format. Two further rounds of informal consultations in the “5+2” format were held in autumn: the first on the margins of the Wilton Park Conference on Moldova in October and the second on the margins of a seminar organized by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in Odessa in November.

At the Helsinki *Ministerial Council*, Special Envoy Talvitie engaged in discussions on the drafting of a regional statement on Moldova. Although the attempt to reach consensus on a statement did not bear fruit, the exchanges among all stakeholders proved useful and common ground was reached in many areas.

Following the Helsinki *Ministerial*

Council, efforts to move the process forward continued with another round of informal consultations in the “5+2” format. These consultations, which took place in Vienna and were attended by the incoming Greek Chairmanship, provided an opportunity to exchange views on the possibilities for expanding the scope of the joint Moldovan and Transnistrian expert working groups on confidence-building measures and to discuss issues related to the free movement of people and goods between the banks of the Nistru/Dniestr. Both issues were also discussed during a meeting between Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin and Transnistrian leader Igor Smirnov on 24 December, the second meeting between the two leaders in 2008.

The conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference or the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Presidents of Azerbaijan

28-30 May, Vienna

Georgia and the Russian Federation activate Chapter III of the *Vienna Document 1999*, which provides a mechanism for consultation and co-operation on unusual military activities. The Chairmanship provides the necessary framework for consultations between the parties.

30 May, Helsinki

The Chairman-in-Office meets Georgian Foreign Minister Ekaterine Tkeshelashvili regarding the situation in Georgia's breakaway regions. “It is time to explore new negotiating formats acceptable to the parties to the conflict,” he says.

2 July, Astana

The Chairman-in-Office draws attention to the worrying situation in the South Caucasus in an address to the *Annual Session* of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Roki tunnel connecting South Ossetia and North Ossetia



and Armenia met twice during the year. Their respective Foreign Ministers also continued their meetings and negotiations towards reaching an agreement on the basic principles for a peaceful settlement to the conflict proposed by the Co-chairs of the Minsk Group in Madrid in November 2007. The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk assisted the Co-chairs in the negotiations and kept them and the Chairmanship informed of developments on the ground.

In March, the most serious clash in many years occurred on the line of contact and threatened to escalate. The Personal Representative directly intervened at the highest military and political levels, as on other occasions, to facilitate the handover of bodies and foster a return to calm.

The Personal Representative worked alongside the International Committee of the Red Cross to facilitate the handover of prisoners of war and people detained, and with other organizations on problems of internally displaced persons and refugees, missing persons and mine clearance.

On 2 November, the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation signed in Moscow a *Declaration*, committing themselves to facilitating improvement of the situation in the South Caucasus and establishing stability and security in the region through political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based on the principles of international law and the decisions and documents approved within this framework, thus creating favourable conditions for economic growth and all-round co-operation in the region. The Presidents also reiterated the importance of continuing the mediation efforts by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, taking into account their meeting with the sides

High-Level Planning Group (HLPG)

The HLPG advised the Chairman-in-Office throughout the year on the military aspects of planning a possible peacekeeping operation in relation to the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference. Over the years, the Group has produced four options for the possible deployment of a peacekeeping force and repeatedly revised them.

This year the Group reviewed the concept of operations for the heaviest military option, in line with developments in military planning techniques and terminology, although the essential elements of the option plans, based on guidance from the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in 1996, remained the same.

The Group also prepared an estimate of the costs involved in the establishment and conduct of two selected option plans — the heaviest military peacekeeping option and the lightest unarmed observer option — on the basis of the UN system of reimbursement.

During the year, the HLPG briefed 35 delegations on its premises.

in Madrid on 29 November, 2007, and the subsequent talks to further develop the basic principles of the political settlement.

At the Helsinki *Ministerial Council*, the Chairman-in-Office drew the Council's attention to the *Declaration* signed in Moscow.

The Helsinki *Ministerial Council* also adopted a *Statement*, in which the Ministers welcomed the constructive and positive momentum in the peace process for the political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict established after the two meetings of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2008, in St. Petersburg on 6 June and in Moscow on 2 November.

After the conflict: fulfilling agreements, building confidence

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for *Article IV, Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords*, under which the *Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement* was elaborated, is mandated to assist the four Parties, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia, in

fulfilling the terms of the *Agreement*, such as mutual inspections of military assets.

In 2008, the Parties conducted 19 scheduled inspections and one export observation on a voluntary basis, each supported by OSCE assistants. As in past years, inspections were conducted in an environment of trust and transparency, without any problems.

Another achievement was that the Parties continued to significantly downsize their military manpower. In addition, with notification of reductions of heavy weapons, the Parties provided opportunities to observe and verify the disposal even when not required after the official end of the reduction period.

This year, the 6th *Review Conference* on the *Agreement's* implementation took place in Vienna in July and the Parties confirmed their readiness:

- to continue the implementation of the *Agreement* with the assistance of the Personal Representative;
- to explore, with the assistance of the Personal Representative, how to move gradually toward full autonomy in the *Agreement*;

7-9 July, Tbilisi and Tskhinvali

Led by Finnish Ambassador Antti Turunen, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council, ambassadors and representatives of 21 OSCE participating States travel to Georgia, including in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict where they meet Georgian authorities, de facto leaders from the South Ossetian side, the Commander of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces, and the Military Monitoring Officers in the Mission's Tskhinvali field office. They also visit projects of the OSCE-led *Economic Rehabilitation Programme*, which was designed to build confidence among communities in the zone of conflict.

7 July, Moscow

Special Envoy Heikki Talvitie meets Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko to discuss the situation in Georgia's breakaway regions.



OSCE/DAVID KHIZANISHVILI

10-11 July, Tbilisi and Tskhinvali

Special Envoy Talvitie holds talks with the parties and the Commander of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces. On 14 July, Special Envoy Talvitie reports to the Permanent Council on his consultations.

7 July, Tbilisi. Representatives of OSCE participating States exchange views with Prime Minister Lado Gurgenzidze

- to initiate an exchange of opinions on considering the Adapted *Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty* as a possible long-term alternative for the future.

In the course of the 41st meeting of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission which took place in Pržno, Montenegro from 14 to 16 October, the Parties signed legally binding amendments to the *Agreement* confirming the participation of Montenegro as a full-fledged Party. Montenegro had already taken part in the inspection regime as an independent State since May 2007, but the signatures of all State Parties and for the OSCE by the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Brigadier General Costanzo Periotto, marked its formal accession to the *Agreement*.

The inspections conducted by the Parties' military representatives over the years have not only fulfilled the *Agreement* but also helped build confidence and develop transparency among the Parties and their military representatives. Similarly, meetings at the political level have provided the Parties with opportunities to strengthen their mutual relations.

Chairmanship work throughout the year

The following report highlights, in chronological order, important work accomplished by the Chairmanship throughout the year on its main priorities, whether galvanizing political will or getting things done in the field. Much of the work undertaken involved two or even all three of the OSCE's traditional dimensions of security: the politico-military, the economic and environmental and the human.

January. The Chairmanship made **maritime and inland waterways co-operation**



The 16th OSCE *Economic and Environmental Forum* in Vienna, 28 January

OSCE/MIKHAIL EVSTAFIEV

One of a photo series about birds and wildlife in Georgia, a winner in the 2008 OSCE photo contest "Waterways of Life" held to mark the 16th OSCE *Economic and Environmental Forum*



GEORGI DMRCHIASHVILI

the theme of the 16th OSCE *Economic and Environmental Forum*, which was held in two parts — in Vienna in January and in Prague in May. Increasing traffic on all waterways is leading to cross-border and cross-regional economic growth that contributes to regional stability and security, but also to other less desirable consequences. In addition to discussing issues of waterways security, the *Forum* also paid special attention to the challenges of landlocked countries.

February. The proclamation of independence by the Assembly of **Kosovo** on 17 February exacerbated the political fault lines already besetting the participating States' views of OSCE operations in Kosovo.

Participating States agreed late last year to put the Mission in Kosovo, the OSCE's biggest field operation and the largest civilian field presence in Kosovo, on a one-month renewal basis, a compromise designed to prevent it from being shut

17 July, Washington, D.C.

The Chairman-in-Office meets United States (U.S.) Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Georgia's protracted conflicts are at the top of their discussion agenda.

2 August, Helsinki

The Chairman-in-Office deplores and condemns the escalation of violence in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict including a fatal night-time shooting.

7 August, Helsinki

The Chairman-in-Office deplores the failure of a planned meeting of Georgian and South Ossetian representatives to take place. Once again, he extends an invitation to the parties to meet in Helsinki as soon as possible. "The situation in the conflict zone is extremely tense and requires immediate de-escalation," he says, urging them to stop all military action and re-establish direct contacts.

7-8 August, zone of conflict, Georgia

Hostilities break out.

A Tajik border guard keeps watch on a bridge over the river Piandj on the Tajik-Afghan border, 29 February.



OSCE/MIKHAEL ESTARIEV

down. Other field operations are reappraised annually.

The Chairmanship worked throughout the year to keep the OSCE active in Kosovo. With the downsizing of the UN's Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the OSCE, which fields 800 staff, had a crucial role to play in promoting stability and democratic development.

"The OSCE is uniquely placed to work with all communities in promoting stability and democratic development and its contribution is very much needed also now. I call on the participating States and the international community to help ensure that the Organization will continue its valuable work in Kosovo for the benefit of all its inhabitants," the Chairman-in-Office said in February.

February. The Chairmanship put particular emphasis on **border management and security activities**, envisaging an enhanced role for the OSCE in this area in future, particularly in Central Asia.

By early February, the Finnish government had already contributed more than €500,000 to enhance border management between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Later that month, in the margins of a joint *OSCE-Tajikistan Taskforce Meeting* in Dushanbe, the OSCE and Tajik authorities convened to begin the development of a national border strategy and related projects, having worked together on border assistance activities since 2006.

At the meeting, the Chairmanship's vision of an expanded OSCE role in border management began to take shape. The OSCE and Tajikistan discussed establishing a Border Management Staff College in the country, an OSCE centre that would focus on regional border management,

as well as projects to train tactical border patrol and surveillance groups and ways to assist customs services in combating the illegal trade in arms, drugs and precursors. As a follow-up, three Finnish experts travelled to Tajikistan the following month to work on some €2.8 million of border security projects, sponsored principally by Finland and Norway.

There was much discussion during the year on the implementation of the Madrid *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*. The Secretary General prepared a package of proposals, including on border-related assistance, the implementation of some of which began in several Central Asian countries.

March. The Chairman-in-Office made a serious effort to pave the way for the **observation** of the Russian presidential election by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Despite intensive negotiations between Russian Federation authorities and ODIHR, no agreement was reached.

March. The *Second Preparatory Conference for the 16th Economic and Environmental Forum*, which took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 6 and 7 March, focused on **maritime co-operation** in the Caspian and Mediterranean seas, environmental governance and co-operation on waterways and other means of transport in the context of landlocked countries. A technical workshop on *Oil Spills Response and Remediation* followed immediately afterwards in Turkmenbashi.

May. A number of recommendations for future OSCE involvement in **maritime and inland waterways** co-operation

8 August, Helsinki

The Chairman-in-Office remains in contact with Tbilisi, Moscow, and all international actors involved in resolving the conflict. He announces that Special Envoy Talvitie will travel to Georgia immediately. Condemning the shelling of the OSCE Mission premises in Tskhinvali, he "urges the Georgians, South Ossetians and Russians to cease fire, end military action and stop further escalation."

8 August, Vienna

The OSCE Permanent Council convenes a special meeting on the situation in Georgia.

9 August, Tbilisi

Special Envoy Talvitie holds a series of consultations with key actors.

An OSCE plough bought for the Economic Rehabilitation Programme survives an airstrike in August in Khvemo Khviti village in October.



OSCE/DAVID KIZANSHVILI

were made at the second part of the 16th *Economic and Environmental Forum* in Prague. Participants stressed the importance of regional co-operation, integrated coastal zone or water management and the effective implementation of relevant international conventions.

May. The Chairmanship brought fresh impetus to the OSCE's work to address the proliferation and illicit trade and use of **small arms and light weapons (SALW)**.

The conference on SALW held in Brussels for regional organizations, the first-ever such gathering, helped participants to more effectively co-ordinate responses to the trans-national threat.

Co-organized with the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council countries and supported by the UN, the conference discussed such topics as regional instruments to combat and root out illicit trade in SALW, physical security and stockpile management and weapons collection and destruction programmes.

A *Ministerial Council Decision* on the matter followed up five Permanent Council *Decisions*.

May. The Chairmanship, concerned by the rise in intolerant and discriminatory acts in the region in recent years, promoted a tolerance-related meeting organized together with the OSCE's ODIHR in Vienna in May. The meeting focused on the role of national institutions in fighting discrimination against migrants and persons belonging to national minorities.

The Chairman-in-Office said he valued the work the Institutions, the Parliamentary Assembly and the three Personal Representatives do in support of the OSCE participating States in **combating all forms of intolerance and discrimination**. Anastasia Crickley, the

NATO Supreme Allied Commander in Europe General John Craddock speaks to journalists before the *Annual Security Review Conference* in Vienna, 2 July.

OSCE/MINHAI ESTAFIEV



Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focuses on intolerance against Christians and members of other religions. Gert Weisskirchen is the Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism. Ambassador Omur Orhun is the Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims.

Participants encouraged governments to establish such bodies if they have not already done so, and to ensure that they are fully independent of government and adequately resourced.

June. The Chairmanship hosted a gathering of national **hate crime** focal points in Helsinki in June. The focal points were set up by participating States to provide ODIHR with national data and information on efforts of governmental authorities to strengthen their response to hate-motivated incidents. The meeting was attended by the three Personal Representatives of the

Chairmanship, and served to discuss good practices in data collection and hate crime legislation, as well as the OSCE educational, police training and legislative support programmes that are available to assist participating States in their efforts to combat hate crimes.

June. One of the Chairmanship's major successes was an agreement reached with **Tajikistan** to strengthen the work of the OSCE in the country. As a result, the Permanent Council bolstered the mandate of the OSCE's Tajikistan field operation on 19 June. The Centre in Dushanbe was re-inaugurated as the Office in Tajikistan.

The robust new mandate spells out expanded tasks in all three OSCE security dimensions. To fulfil the new tasks, the Permanent Council raised the budget to €4,724,900 for 2008, up from €3,937,600 the previous year.

An important result of the Chairman-in-Office's ongoing talks with the Tajikistani authorities was the agreement

10-11 August, Tbilisi and Gori

The Chairman-in-Office travels with French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, whose country holds the European Union (EU) presidency, and says, "The overriding priority of the OSCE and the EU is to broker a ceasefire as soon as possible. After that, we need to launch a humanitarian effort, given the number of civilians who have suffered in this needless fighting." He says that additional Military Monitoring Officers are needed to supplement the eight already on the ground. The two Ministers meet Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili with an OSCE/EU-drafted ceasefire plan.

12 August, Moscow

The Chairman-in-Office presents the proposed agreement to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. He welcomes the decision by Russian President Dmitri Medvedev to halt the military operation in Georgia, saying that the OSCE stands ready to help monitor a ceasefire and assist in humanitarian relief efforts. Russia endorses the 12 August six-point agreement. Georgia also later accepts.

13 August, Brussels

The Chairman-in-Office takes part in an emergency meeting of EU foreign ministers focusing on the agreed plan.

13 August, Helsinki

The Chairman-in-Office expresses "grave concern" about the continuing violence and the safety of civilians in and around the conflict area.

ODIHR Director Janez Lenaric (right) launches a report on the situation of Roma and Sinti during the OSCE's human rights and democracy conference in Warsaw, 2 October.



OSCE/LENS BSCHEINBECHER

to establish a border management staff college in Dushanbe for the training of border staff from all countries, which will benefit the entire OSCE region.

Other initiatives may also be in the offing, such as a training centre for the preparation and professional development of law enforcement officers of Tajikistan and Afghanistan in Dushanbe.

June. To follow up on its **maritime and inland waterways** work, the Chairmanship and the Government of Ukraine organized an expert conference on navigation safety and environmental security in the Black Sea basin. The 150 attendees looked at the implementation of legal instruments to improve navigation safety and environmental protection as well as to ways to strengthen regional co-operation in the Black Sea in areas such as shipping surveillance and monitoring, control of ships' ballast water and sediments, pollution prevention and preparedness and response.

Together with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the Chairmanship came up with other potential follow-up activities, such as building up national oil spills response capacities in the countries of the Caspian Sea region.

July. Participating States showed strong engagement on the topic of regional security, with lively and frank exchanges

during the sixth **Annual Security Review Conference**, jointly held by the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council on 1 and 2 July in Vienna. The Conference focused in particular on trans-national challenges to security; the present state of arms control arrangements, confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) and Security Dialogue; as well as on issues related to early warning, conflict prevention/resolution and crisis management.

Six keynote speakers provided thought-provoking presentations that formed the basis for debates in the working sessions. In particular, General John Craddock, the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, stressed that the OSCE could play an important role in efforts aimed at securing and stabilizing Afghanistan. Delegations strongly supported further OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. Many felt the OSCE could particularly assist by investing in border security and management.

Participating States noted the lack of

meaningful progress with regard to the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area and agreed that the OSCE should continue its efforts to promote their peaceful resolution. Among others, proposals were made to establish new negotiation formats related to the Georgian-Abkhaz and the Georgian-Ossetian conflicts.

Many delegations expressed concern about the *Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty)*. The Russian Federation, a treaty signatory, suspended its participation in the *CFE Treaty* in 2007 after an extraordinary meeting it called failed to resolve differences among the Parties.

July. The OSCE stepped up efforts to tackle the problems faced by Roma and Sinti minorities five years ago with the *OSCE Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Region*, a milestone that contributed to far-reaching change in institutional and legal frameworks necessary for the integration of minorities. But the *Action Plan's* overall

18-19 August, Brussels

The Chairman-in-Office has talks with Belgian Foreign Minister Karel de Gucht, whose country holds the presidency of the UN Security Council, and meets U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He takes part in a meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) foreign ministers with the OSCE Ministerial Troika (Spain, Finland and Greece). He also meets EU officials to co-ordinate efforts in Georgia.



19 August. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (left), French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner (centre) and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Alexander Stubb in Brussels

FREDDY MORISLUS, MISSION TO NATO

19 August, Vienna

After intense negotiations at a special meeting of the Permanent Council, the 56 OSCE participating States agree to increase the number of OSCE monitors in the Mission to Georgia by up to 100. The *Decision* calls for 20 unarmed Military Monitoring Officers to be deployed immediately to "areas adjacent to South Ossetia", with the specific details for the additional monitors still to be discussed further.



19 August. The OSCE rapidly responded to the August events by deploying 20 additional military monitors.

OSCE/DAVID KHIZANISHVILI

Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Limited Election Observation Mission to the U.S. presidential election speaks to journalists in Washington, D.C., 5 November.



PHOTO COURTESY YURI GERBAS

goal — to eradicate discrimination against the groups and ensure that they can play a full and equal part in their societies — has remained elusive.

The Finnish Chairmanship determined to turn rhetoric into action. Together with ODIHR, it organized a meeting to review existing initiatives and recommend measures to ensure the *Action Plan's* implementation. A meeting, held in Vienna on 10 and 11 July, put the spotlight on what could be done at the local level, with a special focus on ways to ensure equal access of Roma to education and social services.

The work culminated in a *Ministerial Council Decision* laying out a series of steps and recommendations to enhance OSCE efforts to implement the *Action Plan*.

July. Some participating States have expressed concerns on **election observation**,

saying that there is bias in this signature OSCE activity: that observation takes place predominantly in one particular sub-region of the OSCE, or that missions are dominated by observers from another area.

ODIHR, the OSCE Institution mandated to monitor elections, noted that it had observed elections across the entire OSCE area, and that on average, citizens of 43 participating States took part in each observation mission in 2007.

To emphasize its commitment to election-related work, the Chairmanship appointed a Special Envoy, Kimmo Kiljunen, a Finnish member of parliament who has led several OSCE election observation missions, in March to tackle the topic.

The Finnish Chairmanship sponsored a seminar in Vienna in July to open a dialogue on this issue.

July. The Chairman-in-Office spoke at the *Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly*, hosted by Kazakhstan in its capital, Astana. He emphasized the need to continue strengthening stability, security and democracy in the region. He also looked forward to a dialogue on cooperative security.

September. The Chairman-in-Office addressed the **UN Security Council**, describing the revitalization of the Organization's work on conflict resolution and crisis management. "It is time to banish it (the term 'frozen conflict') from the political lexicon and act quickly to settle outstanding conflicts in our region," he said.

September. The Chairmanship, together with the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in

19 August, Brussels

"I hope that today's decision by the OSCE will contribute to the full implementation of the six-point agreement and facilitate the prompt opening of humanitarian corridors to assist the civilian population and prepare for a return of refugees and internally displaced persons," the Chairman-in-Office says. "I also hope that the OSCE Military Monitoring Officers will very soon be ensured safe and free movement throughout Georgia."

Chairman-in-Office Alexander Stubb (right) talks to families displaced from Gori and other villages.

21-22 August, Tbilisi and Gori

The Chairman-in-Office assesses the security and humanitarian situation in Tbilisi and Gori where he talks with displaced persons.



OSCE/GERMAN ZAVASYAN

26 August, Helsinki

The Chairman-in-Office condemns Russia's decision to recognize the independence of the breakaway Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as violating fundamental OSCE principles.

28 August, Helsinki

The Chairman-in-Office sends a letter to all OSCE foreign ministers proposing a new international platform to deal with the conflicts in Georgia.

Human Beings, Eva Biaudet, rolled up their sleeves to move the agenda forward on combating **trafficking in human beings**.

Many participating States, alarmed by the spread of trafficking in human beings in the OSCE region and its links to transnational organized crime, have taken the steps at the national level recommended in the 2003 *OSCE Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking*. Despite considerable efforts to combat this crime, few victims have been identified and even fewer traffickers brought to justice.

At the *Conference on Successful Prosecution of Human Trafficking – Challenges and Good Practices* held in Helsinki on 10 and 11 September, participants highlighted the importance of providing victims with adequate protection and assistance and improving victim identification as prerequisites to an effective criminal justice response. Taking into consideration the work of this conference, Ministers at the *Ministerial Council* in Helsinki in December agreed a *Decision* to bolster the response of the criminal justice system to these crimes.

October. Building on its **border management** work, the Chairmanship, together with the OSCE Secretariat and the Central Asian field operations, ran a five-day training course to promote constructive inter-agency co-operation. The course, delivered in Helsinki by experts of the Finnish Border Guards, Customs and Ministry of Interior, brought together senior officials from the five countries' border and law enforcement agencies.

A Central Asian border management and drug control ministerial conference held in Dushanbe on 21 and 22 October resulted in a practical *Partnership Declaration*. In it, participants agreed on

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon (centre) and Foreign Minister Khamrokhon Zarifi (right) listen to EU Special Representative for Central Asia Pierre Morel address a conference on border management and drug control in Dushanbe, 22 October.



OSCE/PF/IZIA GULOMASENOVA

the importance of strengthening cross-border co-operation and developing and implementing national border management and national drug control strategies. The event was hosted by the Government of Tajikistan and co-organized by the EU/European Commission, Finland, the French Presidency of the EU, Germany, the OSCE, the UN Development Programme and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

October. The OSCE 2008 *Mediterranean Conference* on *The OSCE approach to regional security – a model for the Mediterranean* analysed Mediterranean security issues through the prism of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, focusing on politico-military aspects of security, linkages between the environment and security in the region and the OSCE's human rights and tolerance commitments and their relevance to the region.

October. The Chairmanship put the spotlight on **gender mainstreaming** as foreseen in the 2004 *OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*. It emphasized that gender mainstreaming should be an integral part of all OSCE policies,

programmes, projects and activities: both across the three dimensions and within the Organization itself.

To promote gender equality, the Chairman-in-Office provided political and financial support to the organization of an OSCE expert seminar on combating violence against women held in Dushanbe from 20 to 22 October, jointly organized by the Gender Section, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and the Tajik Government.

The Chairmanship also supported an OSCE project raising awareness of the need for gender-sensitive labour migration policies and organized a border security and management seminar that highlighted the role, importance and feasibility of integrating gender concerns in border management programmes and activities.

November. Participants in a meeting on **democratic lawmaking** organized with ODIHR in Vienna in early November examined the lawmaking process as an essential element of democratic governance. They called on participating States to ensure greater public participation and transparency in the lawmaking process. The Chairmanship representative at the meeting said that while the aim of

1 September, Brussels

The Chairman-in-Office attends a special EU summit to discuss the Georgian crisis.

17 September, Vienna

Further negotiations led by the Chairmanship on modalities for the deployment of the additional Military Monitoring Officers in the OSCE Mission to Georgia fail.

26 September, New York. Chairman-in-Office Alexander Stubb takes questions from journalists after his address to the UN Security Council. He said the OSCE was re-energizing its work on conflict resolution and crisis management.



14 October, Geneva

The Chairman-in-Office, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and EU representatives Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, High Representative Javier Solana and Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner meet on the eve of the launch of Geneva discussions designed to advance regional peace and stability and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF FINLAND (NEW YORK)/MAGDALENA HERRIGARD

Helsinki Ministerial Council Meeting Documents

Decision No. 1: on the Appointment of the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Decision No. 2: on the Reappointment of the OSCE Secretary General

Decision No. 3: Periods of Service of the OSCE Secretary General

Decision No. 4: Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE

Decision No. 5: Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Human Beings through a comprehensive approach

Decision No. 6: Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Implement the Action Plan on improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area

Decision No. 7: Further Strengthening the Rule of Law in the OSCE Area

Decision No. 8: OSCE contribution to the Implementation Phase of the Alliance of Civilizations Initiative

Decision No. 9: Follow-up to the 16th Economic and Environmental Forum on Maritime and Inland Waterways Co-operation

Decision No. 10: Further promoting the OSCE's Action in countering Terrorism

Decision No. 11: Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition

Decision No. 12: Time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council

Decision No. 13: Issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation

Ministerial Statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

Ministerial Declaration on the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Ministerial Declaration on the 60th Anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

democratic lawmaking was to achieve justice, the quality of laws depended on the process through which they were prepared and developed.

November. The OSCE-Afghanistan Conference on Strengthening Co-operation between the OSCE and its Asian Partners for Co-operation to Address Challenges to Security marked the first time the annual conference with the Asian Partners was held in Afghanistan. Support for an OSCE engagement with Afghanistan and for OSCE assistance to the country's efforts towards normalization and stability was reiterated. Possible OSCE assistance in the 2009 presidential election was also mentioned.

December. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with the Chairman-in-Office in Brussels on 2 December to discuss **priority OSCE issues.**

December. At the Helsinki Ministerial Council Meeting, the **debate on security in Europe**, based on the initiatives of the Russian Federation and France's Nicolas Sarkozy, in his capacity as rotating president of the EU, proved to be one of the high points of the discussions. Russian Federation Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, addressed the meeting.

The Chairman-in-Office said, "It was refreshing, it was frank, it was open, and it was analytical. For me, those qualities harked back to the spirit of Helsinki."

The Chairman-in-Office summed up the discussion at the working lunch, concluding, among other things, that the concept of security covered both 'hard' and 'soft' security, with all three OSCE dimensions still relevant. The Ministers broadly agreed that there was a need to develop broader security concepts, but that the frozen conflicts must be addressed as well.

The Chairmanship worked hard to gain

agreement on an overarching political declaration, which would have been the first since 2002. The Chairmanship employed a fresh approach: the Chairman-in-Office led the ministerial-level debate, a higher-level debate than in recent years, and conferred with a number of capitals. Unfortunately, although the debate was vibrant, the differences of view on fundamental issues proved too wide to bridge.

A report on the human rights situation in the war-affected areas following the conflict in Georgia, prepared by ODIHR at the request of the Chairmanship, served as background for discussions on the aftermath of the August war.

Ministers took thirteen *Decisions*, including agreement on a *Ministerial Statement* on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. They agreed to enhance OSCE efforts to improve the situation of Roma and Sinti and to combat trafficking in human beings.

15 October, Geneva

The first round of the Geneva discussions, foreseen in the 12 August six-point agreement, begins. The OSCE, together with the UN and the EU co-facilitate the talks, which involve Georgia, Russia and the U.S. as well as South Ossetian and Abkhaz representatives. Special Envoy Talvitie represents the OSCE and Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut also attends.



19 November. Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office Ambassador Heikki Talvitie (right) with Ambassador Johan Verbeke of the UN (left) and Ambassador Pierre Morel of the EU after talks on the crisis in Georgia in Geneva.

18 and 19 November, Geneva

The second round of talks represents a step forward. There is general agreement at the two parallel working groups to focus on practical matters that help people on the ground, such as finding concrete ways to handle disputes, and to steer clear of contentious political matters.

“In 1975 in Helsinki we were able to agree on a document that still serves as the foundation of our work. We achieved a document in Helsinki in 1992 and I think we made some progress in 2008 as well,” the Chairman-in-Office said.

December. The Chairmanship celebrated the 60th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the cornerstone of all international **human rights** agreements, including commitments undertaken at the OSCE, at an event organized together with the EU Presidency in Vienna on 15 December. Participants discussed the role of the OSCE in ensuring the realization of human rights in conflict situations, supporting the promotion of human rights in its region by civil society and human rights defenders. The event gave participants an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the values enshrined in the *Declaration* as an integral part of the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security. ODIHR’s annual report on the situation of human rights defenders in the OSCE region was launched on the margins of the event.

Shaping the future of the OSCE

The Chairmanship addressed a number of concrete issues pertinent to the OSCE’s future. How should it plan for the long term? What will its legal status be? What is the future of the economic and environmental dimension? The Chairmanship’s efforts to build consensus on this shared future were a key thread of its work in 2008.

Long-range planning. The Chairmanship seized an opportunity opened by a 2007 Madrid *Ministerial Council Decision* to foster long-term priority setting and planning at the OSCE, enhancing the continuity and coherence of

The OSCE’s legal status

The Finnish Chairmanship spearheaded efforts to find agreement on the draft Convention on legal personality and uniform privileges and immunities. Significant work was carried out by interested participating States on this issue in 2007, but agreement on signature of the draft Convention did not find consensus among the participating States.

In June, the quintet agreed that such a change was a long-term priority. In October, the Finnish Chairmanship organized an informal meeting of participating States on the outstanding issues related to the draft Convention. At the *Ministerial Council*, Ministers adopted a *Decision on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE* and tasked the Chairman-in-Office to pursue dialogue on the issue and report to next year’s *Ministerial Council*.

activities. With OSCE Chairmanships set three years in advance for the first time, the Chairmanship expanded the Troika that had long managed the OSCE’s work into a quintet.

It enlisted the aid of five countries, the 2008 Troika and the future Chairmanships, namely Spain, Finland, Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania, to develop priorities, inviting the group to a debut meeting in June in Helsinki.

Quintet Ministers agreed on a number of priorities for their multi-year work: OSCE engagement with Afghanistan; border security and management; combating terrorism; efforts to cope with small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition stockpiles; tolerance and non-discrimination; gender mainstreaming; economic and environmental challenges; combating trafficking in human beings and strengthening dialogue with the Organization’s Partners for Co-operation. They also agreed on the importance of granting the OSCE legal personality.

They reaffirmed the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security, agreed on the importance of the OSCE role in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation and pledged to

intensify efforts to settle the protracted conflicts in the OSCE area.

The quintet Ministers also met in New York in September to discuss preparations for the Helsinki *Ministerial Council* meeting, and a third time in Helsinki just before the *Ministerial Council*.

Future of the economic and environmental dimension. The Finnish Chairmanship’s programme encouraged a strategic debate about the OSCE’s second dimension of security, economic and environmental, with several delegations picking up the call for a more structured approach to activities.

To ensure continuity, the Chairmanship sought the views of the quintet to set long-term priorities in this dimension. They felt migration, transport, the security aspects of the environment and co-operation on maritime and inland waterways, good governance and environment and security should top the list.

The Chairmanship suggested abandoning the current practice of rotating annual themes at the two-part *Economic and Environmental Forum* in favour of using the quintet’s newly distilled set of priorities and recommended combining the current dual format into one.

17 and 18 December, Geneva

The Chairman-in-Office expresses satisfaction with the December discussions on Georgia. “Practical and concrete matters were tackled with the aim of helping the people in the region. All invited parties participated in the discussions and were also able to address difficult issues,” he says. Participants agree on most of the elements proposed for establishing mechanisms to handle incidents on the ground. The co-facilitators plan to work with the other participants to tackle the few remaining differences with the aim of reaching an agreement at the next meeting, set for February 2009.

22 December, Vienna and Helsinki

Intensive negotiations led by the Chairmanship on the future of the OSCE Mission to Georgia do not achieve the expected results. The Chairman-in-Office deeply regrets that the 56 OSCE participating States failed to reach consensus on the issue.

The OSCE Mission to Georgia is one of the Organization’s oldest field operations.



OSCE/DAVID KUZANSHVILI

Permanent Council



OSCE/MIKHAIL EVSTAFEV

The Permanent Council is the OSCE's principle body for political consultation and decision-making. It meets weekly in the Hofburg and in 2008 was presided over by Finnish Ambassador Antti Turunen.

During the year, many senior officials from the participating States addressed the Permanent Council and contributed their views on the contentious topics of the day. For the first time, then Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern addressed the OSCE, at a joint Permanent Council -Forum for Security Co-operation meeting.

The three committees, reflecting the OSCE's three security dimensions, carried on their work. Created in 2007, the committees discussed a number of political

initiatives and drafted texts which were reflected in a number of Permanent Council and *Ministerial Council Decisions*.

The Security Committee, led by Ambassador György Molnár, the Permanent Representative of Hungary, worked on issues including policing, counter-terrorism and border management and on the implementation of the Madrid *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*.

The Economic and Environmental Committee, led by Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan, followed up on the 16th *Economic and Environmental Forum on Inland Waterways Co-operation*.

The Human Dimension Committee

was led by Ambassador Eoin O'Leary, the Permanent Representative of Ireland. It contributed to OSCE efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, focusing on enhancing the criminal justice response, as well as on work to implement the *Action Plan on improving the situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area* to integrate Roma and Sinti minorities into the European mainstream. It looked at strengthening the rule of law in the OSCE area and at how to contribute to the implementation phase of the United Nation's *Alliance of Civilizations* programme.



Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern speaking at a joint session of the OSCE Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation in Vienna, 27 February

OSCE/HERNIG PRAMMER



European Union External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner speaks at a news conference after delivering a speech to the OSCE Permanent Council, 31 January

OSCE/SUSANNA LOOF

Guest speakers at the Permanent Council in 2008

- 10 January:** Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland **Ilkka Kanerva**
- 24 January:** Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia **Dimitrij Rupel**
- 31 January (Special PC):** European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy **Benita Ferrero-Waldner**
- 19 February (Special PC):** Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia **Vuk Jeremić**
- 27 February (Joint Meeting with the Forum for Security Co-operation):** Prime Minister of Ireland **Bertie Ahern**
- 28 February:** Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia **Ján Kubiš**
- 13 March:** Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office **Heikki Talvitie**
- 10 April:** Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland **Alexander Stubb**
- 17 April:** Secretary General of the League of Arab States **Amre Moussa**
- 24 April:** Secretary General of the Council of Europe **Terry Davis**
- 4 June (Joint Meeting with the Forum for Security Co-operation):** Minister of Defence of Estonia **Jaak Aaviksoo**
- 5 June:** High Representative and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina **Miroslav Lajčák**
- 12 June:** Special Representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus **Peter Semneby**
- Head of the European Union Border Assistance Mission on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, Brigadier-General **Ferenc Banfi**
- 3 July:** Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States **Sergey Lebedev**
- 17 July:** Minister for Foreign Affairs of France **Bernard Kouchner**
- 14 August:** Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office **Heikki Talvitie**
- 28 August (Special PC):** Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia **Ekaterine Tkeshelashvili**
- 4 September:** Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo **Lamberto Zannier**
- 10 September (Special PC):** Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia **Vuk Jeremić**
- 16 October:** Former Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe **Erhard Busek**
- 29 October (Joint Meeting with the Forum for Security Co-operation):** Minister of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus **Costas Papacostas**
- 6 November:** Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania **Lulzim Basha**
- EU Special Representative for Central Asia and for the Crisis in Georgia **Pierre Morel**
- 20 November:** Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office **Heikki Talvitie**

Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC)



Training to operate a robot for improvised explosive device disposal

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), chaired successively in 2008 by Spain, Estonia and Finland, continued to focus on core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), and the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (CoC)*.

By December of the active and challenging year, delegations had put forward initiatives that led to the adoption of 17 new *Decisions*. Some of these were supplementary measures updating already existing commitments, while others introduced

new areas of work for the Forum. During the year, the Forum also provided significant contributions to such meetings as the *Helsinki Ministerial Council*, the *Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC)* and the *United Nations (UN) Third Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW*.

Intensified dialogue on CSBMs and arms control emphasized the Forum's importance as a platform to address European security issues.

Rising tensions and the outbreak of hostilities in Georgia triggered a number of Forum activities. Chief among them

was the use of the risk reduction measures of the *Vienna Document 1999 (VD99)* to address the incident of 20 April involving the unmanned aerial vehicle shot down over Abkhazia, Georgia. The Chairperson of the Permanent Council also requested politico-military advice from the Forum with reference to the provisions of *Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No.3* on fostering the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue, and a consultative and constructive dialogue ensued.

One of the most important annual Forum events, the 18th *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM)*, held in March, provided an opportunity for

Head of the Defence Policy Department at the Finnish Defence Ministry, Pauli Järvenpää (right), addresses the Forum for Security Co-operation, Vienna, 10 September. On the left is Finnish Forum Chairman Misa Kangaste



participating States to discuss the present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, and allowed experts to exchange experiences, make suggestions and assess the implementation of the OSCE commitments in this area. Immediately prior to this meeting, heads of verification centres met for the second time.

The Forum suggested topics for the *Annual Security Review Conference* that took place in Vienna in July. Discussions revealed the continuing relevance of the *Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE)*.

Discussions in Forum working groups and plenary meetings regarding the improvement of implementation of VD99 provisions led to a *Decision* on taking national holidays into account when planning verification activities.

In addition, the Forum adopted a *Decision* on organizing an *OSCE Workshop on a Comprehensive OSCE Approach to Enhancing Cyber Security*, to be held in 2009 in Vienna. The *Decision* was a follow-up to an initiative introduced by the Estonian Forum Chairmanship.

The OSCE *Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)* and on *Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA)* continued to receive considerable attention at the Forum. The Forum adopted new *Decisions* on updating OSCE principles for export controls of man-portable air defence systems; updating the reporting categories of weapon and equipment systems subject to the information exchange on conventional arms transfers;

introducing best practices to prevent destabilizing transfers of SALW through air transport and an associated questionnaire; exchanging information with regard to the sample formats of end-user certificates and relevant verification procedures; and the overview of disposal aspects of liquid rocket fuel in the OSCE area. The OSCE also published the *Handbook of Best Practices on Conventional Ammunition*.

Practical work to help participating States implement the SALW and SCA Documents remained a dynamic area of Forum engagement. During the year, the OSCE continued the implementation of two joint assistance programmes in Montenegro and Belarus with the UN Development Programme. The second phase of the comprehensive assistance programme on SALW and SCA in Tajikistan is nearing completion. The Forum also launched a comprehensive SALW and SCA programme. The Forum received three new requests for assistance on SALW and/or SCA.

In February, the Forum conducted a *Workshop on the Implications of Technical, Managerial and Financial Issues of Existing and Planned Projects on SALW and SCA*. The Forum adopted a new *Decision* to raise awareness and outreach of the CoC, which aims to enhance the norms of responsible and co-operative behaviour in the field of security and the responsibilities of States towards each other, as well as democratic control of armed forces in the OSCE region. In addition, support grew to update the related questionnaire.

Work also continued to support the implementation of *UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)* on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The participating States discussed the preparation of a best practices guide.

A special Working Group A meeting was held in January on a more active role for the OSCE in combating anti-personnel mines.

The three Forum Chairmanships in 2008 continued to strengthen co-operation between the Forum and the Permanent Council in the spirit of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. Three Joint and three Special Joint Meetings were held to address multi-dimensional issues relevant to the work of both.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Parliamentary Assembly President: **Joao Soares** from 3 July, succeeding **Goran Lennmarker**

www.oscepa.org

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, established by the Paris summit in 1990, includes 320 Members of Parliament and has as a primary role the promotion of dialogue among elected parliamentarians in the OSCE region on OSCE-related issues. The Parliamentary Assembly works to enhance security in all three OSCE dimensions. Through its annual *Declaration* adopted at its *Annual Session* in July, it provides recommendations to OSCE Institutions as well as to the governments and parliaments of the participating States.

2008 was a year full of activity for the Assembly and its International Secretariat in Copenhagen. The *Annual Session* took place in Astana, Kazakhstan in July, the *Winter Meeting* was in Vienna, Austria in February, and in September the Assembly had its *Fall Meetings* in Toronto, Canada. In addition, the Assembly's leaders carried out their political work with extremely busy schedules, and the Assembly's election observation programme, which this year included eight missions, continued to be an important asset within the OSCE.

Presidency

At the *Annual Session*, Goran Lennmarker of Sweden stepped down as Assembly President, having served the maximum two consecutive years. Joao Soares of Portugal was elected to succeed him. Upon being elected, President Soares expressed his intention to reinvigorate debate on the main security issues facing the OSCE region. He underlined that the Parliamentary Assembly's key priority was to play a leading role and provide political judgment in OSCE election observation missions. He announced his intention to strive for greater balance and transparency in the Organization's work.

The Crisis in Georgia

Since August, the crisis in Georgia stood at the forefront of Assembly activities. President Soares acted promptly by issuing a statement calling for restraint, and he appointed President Emeritus Lennmarker as Special Envoy in the

conflict. Soon thereafter, President Soares visited Moscow, while President Emeritus Lennmarker travelled to Georgia, visiting Tbilisi and Gori. At the *Fall Meetings*, the Assembly held a general debate about the situation in Georgia after presentations by the Georgian Foreign Minister and the Russian Ambassador to the United Nations. President Emeritus Lennmarker also delivered an initial report, calling for observers and the establishment of an independent catastrophe commission to investigate the events.

Parliamentary Dialogue

17th Annual Session, Astana, 29 June to 3 July. For the first time ever, the Assembly held its *Annual Session* in Central Asia, with 227 parliamentarians representing 49 countries gathering for the 17th *Annual Session* from 29 June to 3 July in Astana, Kazakhstan. President Nursultan Nazarbayev and the Speakers of the Senate and House of the Kazakh Parliament addressed the *Session*. The overall theme was transparency in the OSCE, and vigorous debates were held on the need to regulate private military contractors, the security situation in Georgia, Afghanistan, cyber security, environmental security and climate change, trade, water management, migration, violence against women, combating sexual exploitation of children and the importance of participating States granting greater access to their historical archives.

The Assembly adopted the *Astana Declaration*, calling on the participating States to "fully commit themselves, at the

highest political levels, to the full implementation of all of their OSCE commitments and to the future strengthening of the Organization". It also invited the OSCE and its participating States to regularly consider the Assembly's proposals and to make better use of the Assembly to promote democracy and human rights.

Fall Meetings, Toronto, 18 to 20 September.

The *Fall Meetings* focused on the topic of the OSCE in an open world: trade, security and migration. Apart from the seminar, the meetings also included the *Mediterranean Forum*, which this year focused on the theme integration and co-operation, as well as a meeting of the Standing Committee. The special debate on Georgia was one of the highlights of the meetings and reflected various opinions on the situation. The OSCE Secretary General briefed the Assembly's Standing Committee on the 2009 budget proposal and welcomed the interest of Members of Parliament in the OSCE. The *Mediterranean Forum* was the best attended ever and included high-level parliamentary delegations from the Partners for Co-operation. The Forum debated multilateral efforts to increase stability and unity in the Mediterranean, including the Union of the Mediterranean and the OSCE Mediterranean Dimension initiatives.

Winter Meeting, Vienna, 21 and 22 February.

The second-largest Assembly event of the year, the *Winter Meeting* provided a good opportunity for Members of Parliament to interact directly with senior OSCE officials and leaders and discuss follow-up to the



Chairman-in-Office Alexander Stubb (left) welcomes Joao Soares, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, at the 16th *Ministerial Council* in Helsinki, 4 December



Kimmo Kiljunen (left), the Chairman-in-Office's Special Envoy on election-related issues, speaks at a seminar on elections at the Hofburg in Vienna, 21 July. The OSCE's first Secretary General Wilhelm Höynck is on the right.

Assembly's 2007 *Kyiv Declaration*. At the *Winter Meeting*, the Assembly held two special debates; one on Kosovo and another on the *Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty* and missile defence.

Election Observation

In 2008, the Assembly participated in six OSCE election observation missions along with the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), in which designated members of the Parliamentary Assembly led the short-term observers, and deployed an observation mission of its own to the United States. In accordance with practice, the Chairman-in-Office appointed the following Special Co-ordinators:

- U.S. Congressman Alcee Hastings for the presidential election in Georgia, 5 January;
- Belgian Senator Anne-Marie Lizin for the presidential election in Armenia, 19 February, and the parliamentary elections in Belarus, 28 September;

- Slovenian Parliamentarian Roberto Battelli for the parliamentary elections in Serbia, 11 May;
- Portuguese Parliamentarian Joao Soares for the parliamentary elections in Georgia, 21 May and the U.S. general elections, 4 November, preceded by an election seminar in Washington D.C. on 22 and 23 September;
- Danish Parliamentarian Pia Christmas-Moeller for the parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 1 June and re-run 15 June.

In addition to the deployment of missions, the Assembly engaged in dialogue on election-related and particular observation matters. After the President's address to the Commonwealth of Independent States Assembly, an informal working group undertook dialogue on observation standards and transparency. Secretary General Spencer Oliver met in Copenhagen with the new Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The Secretary General also presented the Assembly's views to a seminar on election observation in Vienna in July.

Regional Focus, Field Work

Assembly Committees and Representatives work in the field with field operations to promote parliamentary dialogue on different political issues.

The Special Representative on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, President Emeritus Lennmarker, continued promoting parliamentary dialogue in Armenia and Azerbaijan in order to support the peace process of the Minsk Group. He visited both countries in September in order to discuss the new momentum for solving the conflict.

In February, the Assembly heard a report by the Parliamentary Team on Moldova on a visit to Moldova. The report encouraged resumption of negotiations on the status of Transnistria. In a meeting with the Moldovan Delegation at the *Winter Meeting*, the Team discussed prospects for institutionalizing parliamentary contacts between Chisinau and Tiraspol.



Anne-Marie Lizin (second right), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Vice President and Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers for the Armenian presidential election, talks to military voters at a polling station in Yerevan, 19 February.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Belarus continued its work to promote dialogue, democracy and free and fair election processes in Belarus. The Group had discussions with Belarusian parliamentarians at Assembly meetings. In addition, the Head of the Group, Uta Zapf, participated in meetings of the Parliamentary Troika, including representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in order to co-ordinate policy.

The Assembly's Special Representative for Central Asia, Vice-President Kimmo Kiljunen, continued to encourage active participation by Central Asian Members in the Assembly. He met with the Central Asian Delegations on the margins of Assembly meetings to discuss regional co-operation and other OSCE-related topics. In March, he visited Turkmenistan.

Late in the year, President Soares appointed Michel Voisin Special Representative on Afghanistan. Throughout 2008, the Assembly encouraged Afghan Members of Parliament to participate in the Assembly's meetings. The Assembly also participated in the 2008 OSCE-Afghanistan Conference, highlighting the role of parliamentarians in the OSCE.

The Assembly continued its long-term efforts to enhance dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean

Partners for Co-operation. Special Representative Alcee Hastings continued his work throughout 2008 to bring awareness to issues pertaining to security in the Mediterranean, visiting the area in December.

Assembly Vice-President and Special Representative on Guantánamo Anne-Marie Lizin visited the US detention facility at Guantánamo Bay for the third time on 26 March, continuing her analysis of the state of prisoners in the detention facility. She delivered her report to the *Annual Session*.

The Special Representative on Gender Issues, Vice-President Tone Tingsgaard, delivered her yearly report at the *Annual Session* and made a resolution calling for more women in leadership positions in the OSCE. In 2008, she particularly emphasized the issue of violence against women and attended the *Experts Seminar on Innovative Approaches to Combating Violence against Women* in Dushanbe on 20 October.

The Special Representative on the OSCE Budget, Petr Blondal, met with the OSCE Secretary General's Office and visited the OSCE/ODIHR as well as the OSCE External Auditors.

Roberto Battelli, OSCE Special Representative on South East Europe, visited his region several times in 2008, including as Special Co-ordinator of the Chairman-in-Office at the May elections in Serbia. He

also represented the Assembly at meetings on regional initiatives, including at the first meeting of the Regional Co-operation Council. In October, the Assembly, in co-operation with the OSCE Special Representative on Trafficking, organized a roundtable on trafficking in conjunction with a field visit to the OSCE Mission in Sarajevo.

The Special Representative for the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime, Carlo Vizzini, presented a report at the *Fall Meetings* calling for common European legislation and more co-operation among local authorities to fight organized crime.

Field Operations



OSCE/ERIC COURILAN

South-eastern Europe

Presence in Albania
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mission in Kosovo
Mission to Montenegro
Mission to Serbia
Spillover Monitor
Mission to Skopje
Office in Zagreb

Eastern Europe

Office in Minsk
Mission to Moldova
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

South Caucasus

Office in Baku
Mission to Georgia
Office in Yerevan

Central Asia

Centre in Ashgabad
Centre in Astana
Centre in Bishkek
Office in Tajikistan
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Assistance with Bilateral Agreements

Representative to the
Latvian-Russian Joint
Commission on Military
Pensioners

Presence in Albania

Head of Presence: **Ambassador Robert Bosch**

Budget: **€3,544,600**

www.osce.org/albania



The Presence in Albania supported the host country in consolidating its state institutions, focusing on judicial, legislative and electoral reform, parliamentary capacity-building, anti-trafficking, police training, anti-corruption and good governance, property and regional administration activities. It also supported media independence and worked to strengthen civil society. A milestone was reached in a major technical assistance project to modernize Albania's civil registry and address system.

Politico-military dimension activities

Assisting the border and state police.

The Presence supported the Border and Migration Police in implementing the *Integrated Border Management Strategy*, facilitating joint border co-operation meetings and cross-border agreements, through work at headquarters and in the field. To assist crime-fighting efforts, some 10 police and customs officers were trained to use vehicle search kits and detect forged documents. A regional workshop brought together 30 senior police officers to learn how to operate leadership assessment centres that support the implementation of the new *Law on Police Ranks* and *Law on State Police*. Fifteen senior police officers from the region and international police experts attended a *Balkan Police Training Leadership Conference* to identify available police training resources and create networks for police trainers. The Presence also set up second-language courses for 150 police officers.

Munitions disposal. The Presence supported the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation which offered Albania assistance in disposing of quantities of *Melange* rocket fuel. All such fuel has now been removed and neutralized from the original three sites in a project funded by Greece, Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Supporting property reform. The Presence helped develop a base map — the first layer of digitalized geographic information in a Geographical Information System — with the Property Restitution and Compensation Agency. The first property registration along Albania's southern coastline began as part of a project funded by the European Commission.

Supporting decentralization and regional reform. Twenty-seven judges were trained on access to justice in a regional event held in co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Together with the Council of

Europe, the Presence supported a project for mayors in five municipalities, aimed at promoting leadership, managing public services and citizen participation.

Promoting good governance. The Presence hosted a conference to ensure that national priorities in the fight against corruption were reflected in local plans, given local authorities' increased competencies. It supported training of 400 officials at the High Inspectorate for Declaration of Assets and Audit on the legal framework on conflicts of interest.

Supporting the protection and reintegration of victims of trafficking. The Presence supported the drafting and publication of the *National Anti-trafficking Strategy and Action Plan for 2008-2010* and held a national conference to introduce it.



Worn-out civil registers previously used in Civil Status Offices. The Presence assisted Albania in creating a new electronic National Register of Citizens.

OSCE/JONNA KARAPATAQI



The Presence assisted the Government of Albania in eliminating approximately 34 tons of the liquid rocket fuel components *Melange* and *Samin* stored in the suburbs of Tirana.

OSCE/JACK BELL

It produced two manuals for law enforcement and social service agencies to increase capacities for the identification, referral and protection of victims and those at risk of being trafficked. It provided training to police officers on trafficking issues and to social workers on the prevention of trafficking and protection of victims.

Promoting better environment management.

In line with *Aarhus Convention* recommendations on strengthening citizen participation, the Presence facilitated the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on drafting a law on public participation in environmental decision making. Government and NGO officials participated in study visits to Finland and Austria to examine best practices in environmental impact assessment and renewable energy systems.

Human dimension activities

Furthering electoral reform. The Presence assisted Albania in creating a new National Register of Citizens, finalized in December, a key step in the Government’s project to modernize its address and civil registration systems. The project is funded by the European Commission. The Presence supported the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee on Electoral Reform and successfully lobbied for a gender quota to be included in the recently passed *Electoral Code*. An event was facilitated with the participation of NGOs representing people with disabilities, the findings of which were later made available to the Ad Hoc Committee.

Strengthening the Parliamentary Assembly. The Presence held various regional events to increase communication between

Members of Parliament (MPs) and citizens. Female MPs were assisted in creating a Women’s Caucus. Along with other OSCE Missions in the region, the Presence held a regional conference for female MPs. With the support of the Parliament of the Netherlands, the Presence provided training to staff of the Parliamentary Library and Archives. The Presence also began to assist with the creation of an information technology network.

Strengthening the justice system. The Presence provided technical assistance to create a national Probation Service, whose role was discussed in a seminar for 40 judges and prosecutors. It conducted a training course for probation trainers. It provided support in drafting secondary legislation needed for the implementation of the *Law on the State Police*, and the *Law on the State Supreme Audit Institution*. It published a police manual on how to deal with minors who violate the law or fall victim to crime. With the Civil Service Commission, it trained 36 local government officials in Shkodra and Lezha on civil service legislation and dispute resolution. The Presence published a *Judicial Bench Book on Protection Orders* and a brochure on domestic violence. It provided funding for a study visit to Italy on witness protection for prosecutors of the Serious Crimes Court and members of the Albanian Witness Protection Directorate.

Human rights. With the Office of the People’s Advocate, the Presence installed some 70 sealed mailboxes in every detention site in the country, enabling detainees to file complaints addressed to the Office about perceived violations of their rights. It held a conference on how to combat discrimination against Roma and to increase understanding of Roma issues. The

Presence continued to chair donor/government co-ordination meetings on issues relating to Roma and to prison reform.

Media development. The Presence assisted the National Council of Radio and Television in producing a draft digital television strategy through a consultation process, with funding from Austria. The public broadcaster was also helped in producing policies for the implementation of their strategy. With support of the Representative for Freedom of the Media, the Presence promoted a transparent process of drafting a new law on radio and television. The Presence began a project, funded by the European Commission, to create a ‘Media Club’ that will act as a self-regulatory media body.

Promoting civil society and citizens’ rights. Civil Society Development Centres, helped by the Presence, continued supporting civil society in their respective communities. The Centres conducted hearings with local NGOs on a draft law on an Albanian Civil Society Development Fund.

Advancing gender equality and women’s rights. With assistance provided by the Presence, the Parliament passed a *Gender Equality Law*. The Presence continued to advise on the drafting of the sub-legal acts required for the implementation process. Women victims in the Kukes region continued to receive assistance through the Women’s Counselling Centre, with funding from Germany.

Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Gary Robbins** from 30 October, succeeding **Ambassador Douglas Davidson** whose mandate ended on 15 September

Budget: **€15,254,500**

www.oscebih.org



The Mission continued its work on strengthening democracy and good governance, successfully completing two local governance support projects with the participation of more than half of the country's municipalities. As part of its efforts to advance the rule of law, the Mission continued its strong involvement in the effective processing of war crimes and related legislative reforms. The Mission contributed to ongoing education reform, addressing access and discrimination issues, as well as sound management and quality community participation. Finally, the Mission supported Bosnia and Herzegovina's fulfilment of its politico-military commitments.

Politico-military dimension activities

Arms control. The Mission worked with authorities to improve the security of munitions stockpiles, promoting the destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons and ammunition and stricter state-level legislative controls of weapons and ammunition. Although related legislation was not adopted, the legislative effort promoted awareness of all aspects of this issue.

The Mission also assisted with the implementation of the *Sub-regional Arms Control* regime within the framework of *Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords*, providing technical, logistical and linguistic support to 17 events.

Compliance with commitments. The Ministry of Defence and the Mission conducted four seminars on the OSCE *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* for over 100 senior security sector officials of the State and the Entities. Inter-ministerial and inter-agency co-operation were also enhanced.

Parliamentary development. Through the organization of study visits, workshops and conferences for state parliamentary committees on defence, security, and intelligence, the Mission enhanced their understanding of parliamentary oversight.

Inter-agency co-operation was particularly evident at a regional conference for parliamentarians and ministry officials on co-operative responses to natural disasters.

Increased capacity. Together with the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Security, the Mission worked to implement the country's Security Policy. Three Security Policy courses, organized with financial assistance from Finland, brought together 70 senior members of State and local governments, civil society and media professionals.

Representatives of civilian and military security sector institutions attend a seminar on strategic politico-military decisions.





Filling out an application form at a job fair co-organized in Zvornik by the Mission

In co-operation with the Ministry of Security and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Mission conducted a top-level security policy seminar to discuss the country's contribution to improving the region's security.

Economic and environmental activities

Jobs and the economy. The Mission helped organize 12 job information fairs and 30 entrepreneurship seminars together with municipalities, employment bureaus, businesses, development agencies and civil society groups. Over 400 young people found jobs and 50 started businesses.

Human dimension activities

War crimes prosecution. As a top priority, the Mission provided national institutions with advice and assistance on the effective processing of war crimes. It also continued to monitor cases transferred by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), issuing 15 reports detailing problems and proposing solutions. The Mission advocated closer co-operation among the ICTY, the State and Entity jurisdictions. Through training and technical assistance, it strengthened judicial capacity for dealing with war crimes.

Judicial reform. To enhance ongoing institutional and legislative reforms, the Mission regularly presented key stakeholders with findings from its monitoring of the justice sector's ability to operate effectively and efficiently. It supported the adoption of a National Justice Sector Reform Strategy, legislative reform and improvements to the system of juvenile justice.

National human rights institutions. The Mission continued to assist the appointment process for the newly reformed ombudsman institution. The Mission monitored the functional capacity of legislative working groups and oversight procedures to remedy human rights violations.

Advancing the rights of Roma and national minorities. The Mission was instrumental in the host country's accession to the *Decade of Roma Inclusion*, supporting the development of the *Roma Action Plans* on housing, health and employment. It also undertook capacity-building activities with the councils of national minorities and Roma associations.

Supporting return. The Mission supported the work of the State Commission for Refugees and Displaced Persons, as well as the revision of the *Implementation Strategy*

of the Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Accords. Co-operating closely with OSCE Missions, the European Commission and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, the Mission helped to advance the implementation of the *Sarajevo Declaration* (the *3 x 4 Initiative*) aiming to facilitate either the return or the local integration of refugees and displaced persons in the region.

Gender equality and domestic violence.

The Mission continued to advocate the implementation of UN Security Council *Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security*, the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) and Bosnia and Herzegovina's *Law on Gender Equality*. The Mission monitored local authorities' response to domestic violence and supported local initiatives to improve communication among relevant actors.

Anti-trafficking. The Mission, together with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, organized a *Parliamentary Seminar*, which was hosted by the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina and attended by 30 parliamentarians from across the region.

DEMOCRATIZATION

Transparent and accountable government.

The Mission supported regional co-operation of Members of Parliament (MPs) and staff of the State Parliament on European Union integration, work with audit institutions and the participation of women in decision-making. It continued supporting information technology development, the introduction of a permanent parliamentary calendar and electronic processing of

parliamentary materials. Efforts continued to promote the adoption of a code of conduct and the opening of the Parliament to the public.

The Mission concluded two multi-year local governance projects: the *Municipal Administration Reform Programme*, which was successfully completed by 95 of the 102 implementing municipalities and *UGOVOR*, or *Contract*, completed by 70 of the 80 participating municipalities. Both projects aimed to improve the transparency and accountability of municipal administration, especially with regard to strategic planning, budget discipline and merit-based recruitment practices. In addition, it was agreed that responsibility for the *Beacon Scheme*, which recognizes and rewards excellence in municipal service delivery, will be transferred to domestic authorities in 2009.

The development and implementation of municipal communication strategies under the *Public Outreach Initiative* improved communication between municipalities and the public. Another initiative in 18 smaller municipalities strengthened the capacity of local media to link government with citizens and to address issues relevant to communities. The Mission also organized the first summer school for journalists.

Legislation and regulatory frameworks.

The Mission assisted over 95 per cent of the host country's municipalities with harmonizing their statutes and rules of procedure with the new *Law on Local Self-Government* and helped both Entities with their continuing local self-government reform.

Citizen participation. Some 650 young people participated in the *Open Parliament* project, which included 10 televised debates between MPs and youth and six educational visits to Parliament.

ELECTORAL ISSUES

At the request of the Central Election Commission, the Mission provided expert advice on electoral legislation, including political party financing and conflict of interest laws. Support was also provided to the implementation of changes to the *Election Law* that allow persons who were residents of Srebrenica in 1991 to vote in local elections in that town. This effort, resulting in higher voter turnout in Srebrenica (63 per cent as compared to 36 per cent in 2004), was financially supported by the United States, Sweden and the Netherlands.

EDUCATION

Promoting good governance and the rule of law. The Mission successfully completed a pilot effort to promote good governance in schools. Nearly 50 school boards throughout Zenica-Doboj Canton participated in the pilot, financed in part by Germany, and plans were made to duplicate this effort in other areas in 2009. The report on school catchment areas led to two pilot analyses on school network optimization options in Sanski Most and Banja Luka. Through a series of study visits, students, teachers and parents from other parts of the country were introduced to the Brčko District model of integrated education. To strengthen regional networks, school directors met their colleagues in Slovenia, while members of the host country's Parents Association met their Montenegrin counterparts and began developing cross-border initiatives.

Enhancing equal access and non-discrimination. Faced with a potentially destabilizing lack of equal access to schools, the Mission in 2008 supported the introduction of an *Index for Inclusion*, a school self-assessment tool containing action plans to

ensure that all children can attend appropriate and welcoming schools. Financed by the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Mission facilitated the development of a *Workbook on National Minorities* for primary school pupils. It also supported the introduction of a Culture of Religions course, financed by Germany and Norway. The Mission continued to provide logistical support to training events for history textbook authors, reviewers and teachers.

Supporting participation. The Mission organized public debates and two dozen radio shows in order to provide recommendations for the implementation of the *Framework Law on Pre-school Education*. It also organized more than 40 events as part of the *Towards a Culture of Tolerance* initiative, bringing together students, parents and teachers from both divided and mono-ethnic communities. It worked to foster mutual respect and understanding through workshops on themes such as identity, prejudice and stereotypes and visits to cultural heritage sites.



Primary school children participating in an OSCE event promoting tolerance and diversity in Ugljevik, northern Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mission in Kosovo

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Werner Almhöfer**
from 1 October, succeeding **Ambassador Tim Guldemann**,
whose mandate ended on 30 September
Budget: **€30,010,300**
www.osce.org/kosovo



The Mission in Kosovo continued to carry out its mandate, despite changes in the political context connected with the proclamation of independence by the Assembly of Kosovo on 17 February, by maintaining a status-neutral position under United Nations (UN) Security Council *Resolution* 1244, which defines the framework of the Mission's work. The Mission continued to fulfil its widely-acknowledged responsibilities in the areas of strengthening institutions¹, placing special emphasis on the respect for human rights and the rights of communities. The Mission is currently the only international civilian actor with an extensive field presence throughout Kosovo. The reconfiguration of the international civilian presence is making the role of the Mission even more important.

Human dimension activities

Human rights. The Mission continued to monitor the protection of human rights and the participation of communities in Kosovo, paying special attention to non-majority community protection, property-related issues, anti-trafficking, court and police monitoring and assisting the ombudsperson institution.

The Mission played a crucial role in preserving municipal-level offices for communities, which are essential for promoting the rights of non-majority communities, in particular by facilitating access to key services and making outreach efforts.

As a result of the support of the Mission in the last two years, human rights units are now established in most ministries and municipalities. The units give ministries and municipalities the capacity to ensure human rights compliance and issue their own human rights reports.

Good governance. A separate Kosovo Assembly committee on human rights was created with the Mission's encouragement. The new Committee on Human Rights, Gender Issues, Missing Persons and Petitions, which became functional in an outstandingly short period of time, has led the legislature to pay more attention to the human rights compliance of public



institutions, equal opportunities and dialogue with civil society. The Mission coached and advised the new Committee and the other Assembly committees, focusing on legislative assistance, executive oversight, outreach, transparency and the review of draft laws for compliance with human rights, rule of law, community rights and international standards.

Property rights. The protection of housing and property rights and cultural heritage was another Mission priority. The Mission monitored spatial planning processes,

OSCE municipal team member talks to a participant at a gender equality workshop organized by the Mission in Prishtinë/Pristina, 25 June.

¹ All references to Kosovo institutions/leaders refer to the Provisional Institutions of Self Government.



OSCE on the air

The Mission financed and co-produced a series of television debates reviewing the work of mayors in their first year in office that were among the most-watched programmes on Kosovo television. It also financed 10 television shows promoting the ombudsperson institutions. The shows focused on human rights issues such as the length of court procedures, property rights, the failure to investigate crimes, gender issues and domestic violence, social care and pensions and the impunity of public authorities.

advising authorities to make allowances for informal settlements in order to normalize activities in this sphere. This is an essential condition for the better integration of inhabitants of informal settlements, mostly members of the Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian and other vulnerable communities, into society. The Mission monitored different religious and cultural heritage sites, informing and advising municipalities of their obligations to protect this heritage in line with best international practices in this field.

Anti-trafficking support. The Mission placed special emphasis on combating trafficking in human beings. It trained those involved in the fight against trafficking, including trade, labour and sanitary inspectors, victim advocates, the police and Kosovo Force peacekeepers. A number of public information campaigns were organized to raise awareness of the issue. The largest of these, the campaign *Rock to Break the Silence: Report Human Trafficking*

promoted an anti-trafficking help line and culminated in a public rock concert on International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Justice system monitoring. The Mission continued to monitor the justice system, publishing quarterly court monitoring reports. It also published a series of more specialized reports on war crimes, anti-trafficking, property transactions, the privatization process and inter-ethnic incidents, including a follow-up report on the 2004 March riots. The Mission assisted the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates and the Kosovo Judicial Institute to adjust their programmes for the training of attorneys, judges and prosecutors to meet immediate training needs.

Rule of law. The Mission continued monitoring the police, assisting in the development of an accountable and human rights-compliant police service. In order to empower grassroots-level security bodies

(Local Public Safety Committees), mainly established in areas with non-majority communities, the Mission carried out a community safety project in eight villages.

The Mission improved communication between the police and the judiciary through a series of roundtable discussions throughout Kosovo. Representatives from the police and the judiciary participated in the discussions. Closer co-operation constitutes a significant step toward achieving human rights compliance by all judicial and police stakeholders.

Higher education. The Mission facilitated the participation of Kosovo's universities in key European higher education events, helping the University of Prishtinë/Priština and the University of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica to establish broad networks with educational partners. The Mission also helped to establish an Academic Development Office at the University of Prishtinë/Priština to evaluate curricula.

Media development. After the termination of the contract for the collection of the public broadcasting fee by the Kosovo Energy Corporation, the Mission led negotiations for its continuation. The mediation by the Mission helped the public broadcaster Radio Television of Kosovo



Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children pose for a photo at the renovated OSCE-funded centre for co-operation and integration Fidan Lahu in Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, 11 June.



OSCE/HASAN SOPA

A pupil tries on a firefighter's helmet during a fire protection education project being implemented by the Mission in five primary schools in the Pristine/Pristina region.



OSCE/HASAN SOPA

Press conference participants watch a television spot before the launch of a Mission-supported road traffic safety campaign, Pristine/Pristina, 25 July.

(RTK) to regain its financial and editorial autonomy, as the service contract was extended for another year. This gives all stakeholders time to find a long-term and sustainable financial solution for RTK.

The Mission advised and assisted the Independent Media Commission with drafting its re-licensing strategy for broadcast media in Kosovo. It helped to improve the functioning of the Press Council of Kosovo, advising its secretariat, talking to its donors and boosting its image by conducting an outreach campaign. In order to help the Kosovo Media Institute improve its mechanisms for financial sustainability, it carried out an audience survey of local Kosovo media participating in the Institute's media selling scheme to sell airtime to big advertisers.

Elections. The Mission has continued to provide support, advice and assistance to the Central Election Commission in its electoral planning activities.

Politico-military dimension activities

Public safety development. The Mission continued to support the local public safety sector, including the police, customs, corrections, fire and rescue brigades and the ambulance service. The Mission focused on specialized training, community safety development and public safety awareness. It provided personnel and facilities to the Kosovo Centre for Public Safety Education and Development and completed the establishment of the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, a civilian police oversight body in line with the highest international standards.

The Mission completed a comprehensive assessment of the various fire and rescue

stations and ambulance teams operating in Kosovo. It is now working to help these services to remedy the most urgent needs regarding equipment, staffing, training and working standards.

The Mission organized a Kosovo-wide survey of the public perception of the work of different public safety agencies, in an effort to help such agencies to improve their public image and their readiness to serve the public.

Crime prevention, for example through public information campaigns, and continued support to community safety were priorities of the Mission. The Mission facilitated municipal meetings between village representatives and different public safety agencies to discuss security issues that affect the population directly, regardless of their ethnic background.

Continued field presence

The downsizing of the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) increased the significance of the OSCE field presence, especially as regards the protection of the rights of communities. The Mission acts as the "eyes and ears" of the international community in Kosovo, with personnel present in every municipality, most ministries, the Kosovo Assembly and a number of independent public institutions. The OSCE municipal teams and specialized sections dealing with property, good governance, community, judicial and police issues keep the international community abreast of developments and assist in effecting positive change.

The Mission's proactive monitoring of the Kosovo courts, police stations and official municipal bodies, working groups and commissions consists not only of simple observation, but often leads to political interventions intended to improve the performance of the local authorities. After almost 10 years of work with local actors, the Mission has developed a reputation for competence and professionalism. The good working relations with all communities and local authorities remained unchanged despite the year's political developments.

Mission to Montenegro

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu**

Budget: **€2,309,500**

www.osce.org/montenegro



- Mission to Montenegro
- OSCE Police Training Centre Danilovgrad

The Mission to Montenegro continued engaging in active dialogue and partnership to assist its host country in strengthening existing and newly established institutions. Following the guiding principle of continuity and adaptability, the Mission has been responding to Montenegro's evolving needs as it progresses in its reform agenda. The year 2008 saw a number of achievements in partnership with the host country: the Mission helped mediate an end to a four-month parliamentary impasse, facilitated the safe removal of all *Melange* oxidizer and Tonka fuel from the Bay of Kotor, which is protected by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and a policing project was named the best community-oriented policing project in South-eastern Europe by the Swiss Development Agency. The Mission also played a leading role in the drafting, public discussion and adoption of the new legal framework for the Montenegrin public service broadcaster RTCG.

Politico-military dimension activities

Politico-military affairs programme. Under the €4.5 million joint Government, OSCE and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM)*, which runs from 2007 to 2009, the Mission facilitated the removal of all *Melange* oxidizer and Tonka fuel (TG-02), both highly polluting liquid propellants for

missiles, from the UNESCO-protected Bay of Kotor. It also facilitated the removal of napalm thickener, a key component for the flammable liquid used in warfare, from Podgorica Airport and other storage sites. Everything was transferred to Sweden in November, and safely disposed of.

Police education. The Mission continued to support the Montenegrin Police Directorate and Academy by delivering

specialized training programmes on investigating organized crime, corruption and cybercrime and controlling precursors for narcotic drug production.

Border policing. Montenegro and Albania signed a *Bilateral Co-operation Agreement* in February, facilitated by the Mission. In addition to the *Agreement*, the parties signed protocols on joint patrols and regular exchange of information in line with the *Integrated Border Management Strategy* and within the context of the *Ohrid Border Process*.

Community-oriented policing. The Mission successfully completed a countrywide implementation of the project, with more than 100 contact police officers trained and deployed in all 21 municipalities. The Swiss Development Agency named it the year's best community policing project in South-eastern Europe.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Anti-money laundering. The Mission organized a number of workshops and roundtables, thereby enhancing the know-how, capacity and effectiveness of all relevant



Together with the Pedagogical Centre of Montenegro and the non-governmental organization coalition Roma Circle, the Mission implemented a web publishing project, *Children's Books*, promoting inter-cultural teaching in multi-ethnic schools in five Montenegrin municipalities.



Roundtable participants exchange experiences and international best practices in the broadcasting of parliamentary sessions, 7 July.



“Have Attitude – Say No to Corruption”: leaflet published jointly by the Mission, the Directorate for Anti-Corruption Initiative, the Police Directorate and the Civic Information and Education Centre on the occasion of Anti-Corruption Day, December 9

Montenegrin institutions in anti-money laundering.

Anti-corruption. The Mission supported Montenegro’s anti-corruption efforts by producing an instruction document on how to handle reports of corruption, for the use of public organizations and institutions.

Human dimension activities

Good governance. At the national level, the Mission continued to implement its four-year good governance project, funded by Austria, to increase the efficiency of the Parliament. At the local level, the Mission and the Council of Europe drafted a Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct for local civil servants to increase government transparency and combat corruption.

Civil society. The Mission continued to encourage democratic principles and strengthen civil society by promoting the implementation of the *Civic Education Strategy*, with the curriculum now taught in all Montenegrin public schools.

Gender equality. The Mission assisted Local Gender Equality Focal Points in several municipalities in accordance with the *Law on Gender Equality*.

Anti-trafficking. The Mission helped develop the *2009 Action Plan of the National Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*, as well as public relations training for employees of the National Co-ordinator’s Office.

Reform of the judiciary. The Mission assisted with the implementation of the *Programme for the Reform of the Judiciary* and the respective *Action Plan*, focusing on international and regional judicial co-operation, the development of a free legal aid system, enhanced co-operation with the International Criminal Court and the promotion of mediation as an alternative means to resolve conflict.

Reform of the criminal justice system. The Mission gave overall support to the drafting and adoption of the *Criminal Proceeding Code* and amendments to the *Criminal Code*. Within its *Court*

Monitoring Project, the Mission has been helping Montenegro to establish tools for reforming the criminal justice system.

Human rights. The Mission provided expert support to the ombudsperson institution and the Constitutional Court, as the latter assumed its responsibilities as the highest national human rights institution. The Mission also facilitated the adoption of the *National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture* and the ratification of the *Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture*.

Media development. The Mission provided expert advice on the draft Law on Public Service Broadcasting and the development and promotion of a new statute, code of conduct and procedures for the Media Self-Regulatory Body. It delivered a number of expert training programmes to improve professional journalistic standards in Montenegro.

Free access to information. The Mission updated and published a handbook for public servants on the newly adopted *Secret Information Act* and its bylaws and trained lawyers from central public bodies in its implementation.

Mission to Serbia

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Hans Ola Urstad**

Budget: **€8,200,400**

www.osce.org/serbia



© Mission to Serbia

The Mission to Serbia assisted 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. Key achievements included contributing to a fundamental reform of basic police education and judicial reform. The Mission became more active in south-western Serbia and continued to help maintain stability in south Serbia.

Politico-military dimension activities

Combating organized crime. The Mission assisted Serbian authorities in drafting and adopting new asset seizure legislation, in drafting a *National Strategy for Combating Organized Crime* and in developing a special imprisonment regime. It offered training to police, prosecutors and judges on special investigation and surveillance techniques, crime forensics and financial investigations and helped to equip regional police surveillance units. It enhanced domestic and international co-operation, working with the Italian Anti-Mafia Directorate and Financial Police. The Mission supported the upgrading of the Forensic Laboratory of the National Crime Technical Centre. It also launched a first extracurricular course on organized crime at Belgrade University.

War crimes. The Mission monitored 11 war crimes trials, including five new cases brought in 2008. Serbia capitalized on the achievements of the OSCE-initiated *Palic Process* on inter-state judicial co-operation to bolster co-operation between police and prosecutors. The Mission enhanced the capacity of the War Crimes Investigation Service and of the witness/victim support service in the Belgrade War Crimes Chamber. It supported the War Crimes Prosecutor's Office in a public information campaign on domestic war crimes trials.

Economic transparency and anti-corruption. The Mission continued to help Serbia implement its *National Anti-Corruption Strategy* and to support institutions established by related laws. It provided expertise for the drafting of new public procurement legislation. In south and south-western Serbia it

worked with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assist local government in running municipal anti-corruption councils as well as in raising awareness of corruption among young people.

Border management. The Mission continued to assist the border services in implementing the *Integrated Border Management* programme in support of cross-border co-operation.

Police reform. The Mission continued to help the Ministry of the Interior to improve strategic planning capacities and set up its Strategic Planning Commission. It engaged civil society in public debates on police reform and continued to help develop community policing, police training, internal oversight and complaint and commendation procedures. The Mission's



Strengthening the professional capacity of the independent public service broadcaster Radio Television Vojvodina (RTV)

A consultant trains a presenter in the newsroom as part of the Mission's RTV Development Project. Co-funded by the United Kingdom, the Project focused this year on raising the professionalism of TV news programmes and improving studio design. Training topics included presenting and directing news, political reporting, use of graphics and video journalism. Novi Sad, February

Introducing alternative sentencing

The opening of the Office of the Department for Treatment and Alternative Sanctions within the Ministry of Justice in Belgrade on 14 November marked an important step toward the introduction of alternative sentencing. The Mission assisted with finalizing the legal framework, training Alternative Sanctioning Commissioners and equipping their offices. It supported a public awareness campaign on the benefits of restorative justice launched in autumn.



efforts to transform basic police training came to fruition this year with the graduation of the first class of 129 cadets from the new Basic Police Training Centre.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Strategic environmental support. The Mission supported the authorities to create the Ministry for Environmental Protection and Spatial Planning and to link it with the Environmental Fund and the Environmental Agency. It also strengthened the capacity of environmental NGOs and promoted international and municipal co-operation.

Economic empowerment. Over the past five years, more than 1,200 young people in 20 municipalities have attended the Mission-supported *Young Entrepreneurs' Spirit* programmes. The Mission continued to promote best practices in corporate governance by assisting the Serbian Association of Corporate Directors and Business Incubators.

Human dimension activities

Democratic governance. The Mission assisted with drafting legislation to enhance the accountability, transparency and efficiency of local self-government. It also helped to strengthen contacts between elected representatives and citizens and assisted the Serbian Parliament and Assembly of Vojvodina with their public outreach activities. Together with other Missions, it supported events for parliamentary committees in the region, helped harmonize legislation with European standards and held simulations of parliamentary work in high schools.

Refugee return and integration. With Serbia still hosting the largest number of refugees and internally displaced persons in Europe, the Mission advised Serbia's authorities on ways to close the refugee file within the framework of the *Sarajevo Ministerial Declaration on Refugee Returns*.

Human rights and anti-trafficking. The Mission supported a public awareness campaign and public discussions on human rights issues. It continued work to improve authorities' response to the crime of human trafficking and its victims.

Equal opportunities. The Mission helped the authorities to implement the *Roma Action Plan* on education, health and housing and encouraged dialogue between the police and the Roma community. Together with the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and civil society, the Mission sought a legislative resolution for people without legal identity. It assisted the Ministry in developing a legal framework for the National Councils of National Minorities. It helped the Ministry of Youth and Sports to launch the *National Youth Strategy* and the subsequent *Action Plan*. The Mission also supported an assessment of municipal gender focal points and supported several free legal clinics in universities.

Judicial reform. The Mission assisted with drafting laws on judges and prosecutors, building the capacity of judges' and prosecutors' associations and setting up a Judicial Training Academy. It helped judicial officials to improve their legal drafting skills, raised awareness of the need to analyse the impact of legislation and supported public consultations.

Human rights institutions. The Mission raised citizens' awareness of the new Office of the Protector of Citizens and strengthened its capacity with the help of expertise from the deputy Catalan ombudsperson. It also continued assisting the Vojvodina provincial Ombudsperson.

Prison reform. The Mission helped the Ministry of Justice's Prison Administration to finalize an improved legal framework of 13 by-laws pertaining to labour conditions in prisons, special imprisonment regimes and alternative sanctions.

Media legislation. The Mission helped the Government to draft a Law on Prevention of Media Concentration and Ownership Transparency and to adopt the *Law on Private Data Protection*. It trained some 120 journalists and conducted public awareness campaigns on access to information. The Mission monitored the finalization of broadcaster licensing by the Republic Broadcasting Council.

Enhancing media skills. The Mission trained some 200 media professionals in reporting on elections, diversity, economics, politics and war crimes. It strengthened the self-sustainability of local outlets. Specialized lectures, study visits to the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and internships for the best journalism students were offered to academic institutions. The Mission also helped to build the capacity of journalists' associations.

Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Giorgio Radicati**

Budget: **€9,078,800**

www.osce.org/skopje



The Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje continued to work closely with its local counterparts on a variety of long-term reform processes, despite a turbulent year that included snap parliamentary elections and major international events affecting the country. In addition to undertaking substantial monitoring and confidence-building activities, the Mission helped bring about significant progress in the reform of the *Electoral Code* and in areas such as community policing and decentralization.

Politico-military dimension activities

Monitoring. The Mission’s confidence-building monitors closely followed community reactions following the proclamation of independence by the Assembly of Kosovo. Monitoring focused particularly on the former crisis area and the north-western border of the country, whose demarcation was completed this year. Regular visits to the field helped the Mission to design projects to improve inter- and intra-ethnic relations. Monitors intervened in several instances to defuse ethnic tensions that surfaced in schools and track progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

The monitors also followed the pre-election campaign, helping to ease tensions among activists of rival political parties. When pre-election violence erupted, the Mission acted quickly to assess the impact on the communities involved and mitigate its escalation. Following the elections, Mission members in the field closely tracked the political fallout from the elections as the new government coalition was built and political parties reshaped.

Decentralization. The Mission worked hard to assist with the final phases of government decentralization. Fiscal decentralization, including new requirements for multi-year budget planning, took centre stage. The Mission supported training for all municipalities in this area and in auditing budget execution. Because smaller municipalities have difficulty finding



Monitoring the situation in the mountain village of Malino near the Kosovo border on election day, 1 June

the resources to meet new decentralized responsibilities, the Mission this year decided to directly support inter-municipal co-operation with a small grants competition. Thirty-six municipalities competed and four grants were awarded to joint municipal projects in the areas of urban planning and local economic development.

The decentralization process also meant an increased role for municipalities in education. The Mission trained more than 70 municipal education officers on their legal role, education strategies, the role of inspectors, multiculturalism and other educational challenges. The provision of education often causes ethnic tension at the local level. To help municipalities deal with this and other culturally sensitive issues, the Mission supported the creation of Committees for Inter-cultural Relations as foreseen by law and worked to promote their role in local governance.

All 23 municipalities with a significantly multi-ethnic population now have such Committees as well as seven others whose minority populations are below the legally obligatory threshold.

Police reform. The Mission focused on assisting with the establishment of a sustainable police in-service training system and modern regional and local training facilities. Some 600 police trainers received training in combating organized crime, domestic violence, border management, the *Code of Ethics* and general management. They started training their colleagues across the country.

Furthering community policing remained a Mission and country priority. The Mission assisted with two major projects: the establishment of Local Prevention Councils and the provision of training for 83 Inspectors of Prevention. The Councils,



Mission-supported crime scene investigation training for Ministry of the Interior staff in Ankara, Turkey, 22 January

OSCE/FARUK ADEMI

of which 60 were established this year, act as mechanisms for inter-institutional co-operation on crime prevention. They have enjoyed wide success, encouraging the Mission to promote a Regional Prevention Council and the Ministry of the Interior to establish a National Prevention Council. The number of Citizens Advisory Groups countrywide also grew to 139 from 130 in 2007.

Human dimension activities

Electoral reform. The Mission supported the efforts of domestic institutions to incorporate the recommendations of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) report on the 2006 elections into the *Electoral Code*. Snap July parliamentary elections caused some delay, but work was resumed immediately afterwards, drawing also on ODIHR's report on those elections. The Mission, with expertise from ODIHR and the Venice Commission, worked with the Parliament, Ministry of Justice and non-governmental organizations on the preparation of draft amendments to the *Electoral Code*. The amendments were adopted in the autumn, in time to impact the elections in 2009.

Improving law making and regulation. Close co-operation with ODIHR, Parliament, the General Secretariat of the Government and the Ministry of Justice also continued regarding the recommendations developed

in 2007 for improving the law making processes and regulatory management, as well as enhancing parliamentary research and analysis.

Judicial reform. One of the Mission's main objectives for the year continued to be the proper implementation and further development of the *Judicial Reform Strategy*. The Mission facilitated numerous discussion forums and supported research on the new draft Law on Criminal Procedure. It conducted an analysis on the needs of the public prosecution office, focusing on its future investigative role. It also helped to establish an appraisal system for judges. The Mission continued to support topical training for legal professionals, working this year with the Bar Association to establish a system of continuous learning.

The Mission produced several thematic monitoring reports based on legal systems monitoring activities. It spent nine months analysing the work of selected Basic Courts throughout the country, recommending improvements to the judiciary. In addition, monitoring began on the four cases returned from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to domestic jurisdiction.

Anti-trafficking. Following up on its earlier work to develop the country's National Referral Mechanism for trafficking victims, the Mission supported the drafting and adoption of standard operating

procedures to help victims. Subsequently, the Mission organized, together with its domestic partners, training on the procedures for state agencies and NGOs dealing with victims. It also continued providing support to the SOS helpline and shelter for victims.

Human rights. With the Mission's support, national stakeholders developed a model and drafted legislative amendments aimed at creating an external oversight mechanism for law enforcement authorities.

Roma inclusion. The Mission supported the revision of the national action plans on the implementation of the *Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015*. The Mission helped create Citizens Advisory Groups in Roma communities and provided sensitivity training to non-Roma police officers to improve co-operation between the police and Roma communities. The Mission began supporting this year the provision of free legal advice to Roma, particularly on acquiring personal documents and gaining access to local institutions.

Media development. The Mission this year focused on policy making and legal changes required by the impending digitalization of broadcasting and the growth of the information society. The Mission organized workshops for local, national and regional broadcasters on digitalization and new electronic communications platforms designed to start them thinking about their sustainability in the new environment.

To support domestic monitoring and law enforcement in the broadcasting sector, the Mission upgraded the regulatory authorities' programme monitoring system. It continued monitoring the situation in the public service broadcaster and pluralism in the media market.

Freedom of the media. Working with various domestic stakeholders, the Mission supported the completion of draft amendments to the *Law on Free Access to Information of Public Character*, which drew from the experiences of users and implementers of the *Law* during its first two years in force. The Mission also followed up on cases of violence against journalists that occurred in the previous year.

Office in Zagreb

Head of Office: **Ambassador Jorge Fuentes**

Budget: **€2,748,800**

www.osce.org/zagreb



- Office in Zagreb
- Field Offices
- Field Office Detachments

The Office in Zagreb was established at the beginning of the year after the completion of the Mission to Croatia's mandate. The Office in Zagreb, in agreement with the Government of Croatia, was tasked to cover and advance some residual issues in mandated areas, war crimes accountability and housing care, via the Platform, a special negotiating framework that has been bringing together the Office and the main Government stakeholders in regularly scheduled ministerial level plenary meetings since 2005. As a result of these discussions, the Croatian authorities acknowledged the validity of a number of the Office's concerns related to war crimes accountability and proposed or adopted a number of reform measures. When fully implemented, these reforms will consolidate Croatia's commitment to impartial and effective investigation and prosecution of war crimes. The Office helped to promote housing care programmes by organizing and participating in high-level field verification visits of allocated housing facilities to eligible beneficiaries. In view of the reduced mandate, staff at the Office was consolidated, falling to 34 on 1 April from 110 in 2007.

Human dimension activities

War crimes accountability. The Office continued comprehensive monitoring of all national war crimes proceedings, with more than 100 cases involving over 200 individuals pending in 15 courts. This included two proceedings initiated by Croatian authorities after the referral of an indictment and evidence from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The Office also advocated for a systematic approach to handling suspected war crimes that are as yet unprosecuted.

The Office's monitoring observations guided its reform efforts. It intensified discussions with representatives of the judiciary, prosecution and police in the second half of the year after its regular plenary at the Ministry of Justice together with the Delegation of the European Commission and the ICTY Liaison Office. As a result, the Government proposed or adopted several reform measures, including enhancing the use of video link for inter-state witness testimony, improving the confidentiality of judicial investigations and improving the quality of court-appointed defence

counsel. In addition, discussions on the implementation of a mechanism for the review of final *in absentia* convictions and implementation of uniform standards for prosecutors and police for pending as well as unprosecuted war crimes advanced.

The Office continued to highlight the positive results of co-operation between

Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Development and Construction meet international community representatives in a Four Ministers Plenary chaired by the Office on 21 October.



Construction workers in Donji Lapac tile the roof of a new housing unit for former occupancy/tenancy rights holders, built through the Croatian Government Housing Care Programme, 21 December.

A 12-apartment building being reconstructed for former occupancy/tenancy holders in Vrhovine, 21 December



Croatian prosecutors and their counterparts in other States of the former Yugoslavia, in particular Serbia, emphasizing that while prosecutors had effectively taken ownership of this process, attention and engagement by the OSCE remained important. The Office also pointed to the open inter-state co-operation questions, the resolution of which is essential for addressing war crimes accountability as well as combating organized crime.

The Office focused attention on the key role of the police in investigations of war crimes as well as on the importance of ensuring a climate — both legal and political — in which those with information about crimes can come forward without fear.

Training and support projects. The Office continued financial assistance as well as staff support to non-governmental organizations to enhance their monitoring and advocacy activities in relation to war crimes accountability. In addition, the Office supported the upgrade of the Judicial Academy's website as well as the libraries of four regional Judicial Training Centres by providing computers and legal literature. Legal literature was also provided to local courts and state attorneys.

Access to housing. The Deputy Prime Minister for Regional Development, Reconstruction and Return and the Minister of Development, the main implementer of housing care in Croatia, attended plenary meetings on refugee return chaired first by the OSCE and then by the European Commission. The plenary meetings also involved other international stakeholders. The OSCE supported the Government's *Programme for Housing Care for Former Occupancy Tenancy Right*

(OTR) Holders in order to help it achieve its three annual benchmarks (2007-2009).

The Government has verified that 2,144 former OTR holders should receive housing care by the time the 2009 benchmark is reached. In sum, the 2007-2009 *Programmes* should provide housing care to as many as 5,000 former OTR holders.

To help monitor the *Programme* and verify these figures, the Office visited more than 1,000 recipients of housing care all over Croatia during the year. The visits not only verified the allocation to returnee families, they also assessed the housing conditions and whether recipients used to have tenancy rights over the socially owned flats. The OSCE found that the quality of housing care had risen in 2008 in comparison with the previous year, and noted that the great majority of beneficiaries were minority returnees to Croatia.

Upon the suggestion of the Minister of Development, the Office organized and participated in visits to housing care localities in war-affected areas together with top Croatian authorities, their respective operative management, local government representatives and other stakeholders. Representatives of other international organizations in Croatia were also invited to participate in these field meetings, which were of great help for the timely and effective resolution of housing care cases, especially in the most difficult and remote municipalities.

Office in Minsk

Head of Office: **Ambassador Hans-Jochen Schmidt** from 4 February, succeeding **Ambassador Ake Peterson** whose mandate ended on 21 August 2007

Budget: **€962,300**

www.osce.org/belarus



A regional experts' workshop on energy efficiency, expert sessions on improving the legal framework for foreign investments and a seminar on cybercrime were highlights of the year for the Office in Minsk in the economic and environmental arena. The Office also furthered institution building and the rule of law through a roundtable on Roma rights, a public lecture on legal aid and a training course on public commissions for monitoring penitentiaries.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Promoting renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency. The Office helped raise the awareness of students and teaching staff at the International Sakharov Environmental University (ISEU) based in Minsk. It organized a technical seminar on best practices for renewable energies with the participation of Austrian and German experts. In co-operation with the National Department for Energy Efficiency, the Office organized a regional experts' workshop on best practices for energy efficiency in Central and Eastern Europe.

Promoting international standards in governance. The Office, in co-operation with the judiciary and executive, organized a seminar on legislation to combat cybercrime based on the Council of Europe's 2004 *Convention on Cybercrime*. The Office also organized a workshop together with the International Finance Corporation on lowering barriers to foreign investment.

Assisting Belarus in its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol. The Office offered a training seminar on carbon registry for Belarusian experts in Minsk and in Bonn. The Office supported the Belarusian delegation to the *United Nations Climate Change Conference* in Poznan, Poland, in December.

Assisting Belarus in its commitment to the Aarhus Convention. The Office assisted with the preparation for and participation of Belarusian experts in the Third Meeting



of the Parties to the *Aarhus Convention* in Riga in May. It offered hands-on training in Armenia for the Manager of the Aarhus Centre in Minsk.

Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC). The Office continued promoting trans-border projects to manage the water of the Prypiat River bordering Ukraine and Drisviaty Lake bordering Lithuania and Latvia. It promoted the regional Student Olympiads held in Minsk at the ISEU, with teams from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Armenia.

Rehabilitation of Chernobyl-affected areas. As a founding member of the *Co-operation for Rehabilitation of living conditions in Chernobyl-affected areas in Belarus*,

Students from the State University at a legal aid lecture organized by the Office at the Palace of the Republic in Minsk, 11 May

Students test their skills and knowledge at an OSCE-sponsored regional competition on environment and security at Sakharov University in Minsk in November.



a programme involving national and regional authorities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations, the Office supported projects for the younger generation linking education, health and ecology and special training sessions on comprehensive agro-business development.

Human dimension activities

Anti-trafficking and gender equality. The Office continued to support the fight against trafficking, focusing on the identification, protection and assistance of victims. It facilitated the participation of officials and NGOs in international forums and co-sponsored a conference on child trafficking with the participation of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Minsk in April. The Office assisted the government in assessing labour exploitation and established a working relationship with the International Training Centre on Migration and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Minsk.

The Office supported the government and NGOs in addressing gender issues and co-sponsored a public campaign against domestic violence.

Strengthening local partners. Increasing its efforts to promote the rule of law and institution building, the Office provided members of public commissions for monitoring penitentiaries with training and opportunities to share international best practices. It supported the participation of experts involved in developing electronic

interfaces between governments and citizens in a European Union study trip. The Office provided police with behavioural skills training courses. Training sessions with renowned international experts, which it offered to the staff of the Minsk Police Training Centre, led to the updating of the Centre's curriculum. It selected a group of journalists from state-run and independent media to participate in an on-site research project in other OSCE participating States.

The Office, in close co-operation with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, organized public discussions on freedom of information and Internet regulation and provided expert advice on media legislation prior to the adoption of the new media law.

Together with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Office organized public discussions on the implementation of the OSCE *Action Plan on Roma and Sinti* in Belarus.

Outreach activities. To promote OSCE values and commitments, the Office and the UN jointly organized, for the second year running, the week-long film festival *Dignity, Equality, Justness* to commemorate International Human Rights Day. The Office also organized a public lecture on legal aid for students. Experts from Germany, Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova presented different European models of legal aid as well as an overview of problems and achievements common to countries in Eastern Europe.

Monitoring activities. The Office observed court hearings related to freedom of

association, the right to peaceful assembly and the right to a fair trial. It also monitored public demonstrations and legal cases involving youth activists charged with administrative infractions.

Individual complaints. The Office received numerous individual complaints, mostly pertaining to the work of the judiciary and to alleged violations by law enforcement agencies. Every complaint was considered and, in cases falling under its mandate, the Office referred the complaints to the competent Belarusian authorities.

Mission to Moldova

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Philip Remler**

Budget: **€1,956,400**

www.osce.org/moldova



The Mission continued to prepare the groundwork for a Transnistrian settlement by promoting confidence-building measures and contacts between the sides, monitoring the Security Zone through patrols and acting as an observer in the Joint Control Commission, which was established to oversee the 1992 ceasefire agreement. Formal negotiations remained blocked. Over 1,500 court cases involving corruption, trafficking in human beings, domestic violence or crimes against the administration of justice were screened by the Mission's trial monitoring programme.

Politico-military dimension activities

Political settlement negotiations. Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin and Transnistrian leader Igor Smirnov met in April for the first time in seven years and followed up with another meeting on 24 December. Mediators from the OSCE, Russian Federation and Ukraine and observers from the European Union and the United States met five times. Informal meetings of the sides with mediators and observers took place five times. These and additional shuttle diplomacy efforts by the Mission notwithstanding, formal negotiations in the "5+2" format were not resumed.

Confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs). The Mission held a seminar on the economic and environmental aspects of CSBMs attended by international experts and representatives of the Moldovan and Transnistrian sides in Odessa in April. The Mission is working with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to develop a project for the disposal of dangerous pesticides from the Transnistria region. The Mission facilitated joint Moldovan and Transnistrian working groups that discussed co-operation in the fields of health, infrastructure development and the environment.

To facilitate Transnistrian engagement, the Mission helped the High Commissioner for National Minorities to organize a seminar on autonomy



attended by representatives of both sides in Odessa in November and arranged an English-language course for officials from Transnistrian structures and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Along with the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre, the Mission collaborated with the Moldovan Ministry of Defence to develop projects to improve ammunition stockpile management in line with OSCE best practices. The Mission completed a Finnish-funded project for the destruction of outdated ammunition held by the Moldovan National Army.

In accordance with its mandate, the Mission maintained frequent patrols

in the Security Zone and throughout Transnistria.

Joint Control Commission (JCC). The JCC met regularly throughout the year and Mission members attended all sessions. The JCC continued to monitor the situation in the Security Zone and to provide guidance to the Joint Military Command of the Joint Peacekeeping Force (JPF). Agreement was reached within the JCC on the resumption of joint activities and training by all three contingents of the JPF.

The JCC continued discussions on issues such as freedom of movement of people, goods and services, the removal of

non-peacekeeping posts from the Security Zone, improving co-operation between the law enforcement structures of the Republic of Moldova and the Transnistrian region and increasing the effectiveness of the Military Observers. Progress in these areas was limited, but the Mission continued its efforts to promote constructive dialogue.

Withdrawal of Russian ammunition and equipment. There were no withdrawals of Russian ammunition or equipment from the Transnistrian region during 2008. The Voluntary Fund retains sufficient resources to complete withdrawal tasks.

Human dimension activities

Election and electoral reforms. The Mission, in the run-up to the April 2009 parliamentary elections, closely followed the adoption of amendments to the *Electoral Code* and continued, with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, to provide advice on further improvements to 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 issues of the school building in Ribnita, confiscated by the local authorities in 2004, and of the return of the exiled Theoretical Lyceum “Stefan cel Mare” to its native town of Grigoriopol, remained unresolved.

Monitoring human rights. The Mission responded to human rights complaints and monitored several high-profile court cases, including cases involving torture, the right to a fair trial, religious freedom and minority rights.

Humanitarian assistance. The Mission provided medical assistance to schools for the hearing-impaired in Transnistria and vocational assistance to prisons in Moldova.

Promoting human rights. The Mission continued to support small-scale projects to promote human rights and tolerance across the Dniester/Nistru River and strengthen NGOs.

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



An OSCE observer of the Gagauzian local elections in March

OSCE/MATI SIDOROFF

At the presentation of a report on the OSCE Trial Monitoring Programme for the Republic of Moldova in Chisinau, 19 June



OSCE/ALIA MIRNITKI

Promoting freedom of the media. The Mission closely followed developments in the field of electronic media. A roundtable on legal issues connected with the digitalization of audiovisual media was organized in co-operation with the Audiovisual Co-ordination Council. In co-operation with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, it organized training for the spokespersons of government institutions and provided expertise to Parliament for the drafting of a law on state secrets. The Mission continued to raise media freedom issues at the highest government levels.

Preventing human trafficking and promoting gender equality. The Mission continued to host regular technical co-ordination meetings in the anti-trafficking and gender fields and supported gender and anti-trafficking projects. It worked with the NGO La Strada on new techniques to aid and protect victims seeking assistance from the legal system. It supported the

global campaign *16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women* throughout the country. The Mission continued to support the development of a law against discrimination and helped the Government to implement the newly passed law on family violence.

The Trial Monitoring Programme observed approximately 7,000 court hearings in more than 1,500 trials. The cases involved corruption, trafficking in human beings, domestic violence and crimes against the administration of justice. In June, the Programme released its *Second Analytic Report* on the observance of fair trial standards in the Moldovan judicial system. The Supreme Judicial Council immediately began using the report to develop reforms to redress shortfalls in the system.

Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Project Co-ordinator: **Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj** from 21 April, succeeding **Ambassador James Schumaker**, whose mandate ended on 26 March

Budget: **€2,607,900**

www.osce.org/ukraine



© Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

The Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine worked closely with Ukrainian authorities to assist domestic efforts aimed at institution building, strengthening human rights, combating human trafficking, promoting economic development and tackling serious environmental threats, including unexploded ordnances from past wars.

Politico-military dimension activities

Aiding social adaptation of discharged military personnel. The Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the Ministry of Defence, organized retraining and employment assistance for 1,027 discharged military officers, 84 per cent of whom subsequently found employment. More than 1,420 active senior military officials were trained in social rights and guarantees for personnel discharged due to military restructuring.

Fifty-five work places were equipped at the State Border Guard Service's newly created criminal and risk analysis unit.

The Project Co-ordinator supported OSCE efforts to assist Ukraine in the preparation of a project concerning the disposal of its stockpiles of the toxic rocket fuel *Melange*.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Supporting local economic development. The Project Co-ordinator helped local government officials to develop service-oriented attitudes that encourage vital economic development, accountability and transparent decision-making at all levels. It co-operated with regional authorities to promote the introduction of E-Governance practices that give citizens electronic access to government services. It helped the government to simplify its system of issuing permits for entrepreneurs.

To support government efforts to save resources and energy, the Project Co-ordinator promoted the use of renewable and alternative energy sources, which

could reduce community budgets by up to 30 per cent. As a result of these energy-saving measures, some extra financial resources could be channeled into such areas as public infrastructure development and local economic development initiatives.

Promoting environmental protection. The Project Co-ordinator supported the activities of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in the Moldovan-Ukrainian joint management of the Nistru/Dniester River Basin. It also supported the national policy dialogue on climate change and its impact on human activities in the water and health sectors. It conducted a workshop on assessing legislation

and enforcement procedures regarding the detection and prevention of trans-boundary transport of hazardous waste, and provided regional training for relevant authorities. These projects were implemented within the framework of the *Environmental and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)*.

The Project Co-ordinator helped organize a joint Ukrainian-OSCE conference for all Black Sea States and international experts to explore improved environmental practices and safe navigation in the Black Sea basin.



Field trip within the project on trans-boundary co-operation and sustainable management in the Dniester River basin.

OSCE/TAMARA KUTONCIA



A team-building exercise for participants in a summer camp for children at risk of being trafficked, in Kherson, 29 June

Human dimension activities

Anti-trafficking support. The Project Co-ordinator continued to assist in drafting a comprehensive anti-trafficking law according to international human rights standards. To raise awareness and eliminate stigmatization of trafficked persons, over 2,200 governmental representatives were trained. Through non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, assistance was provided to about 400 victims and persons at risk of trafficking.

Administrative law. The Project Co-ordinator helped to develop a legislative and academic framework for Ukraine's administrative law reform and provide training to administrative court judges. Working groups convened by the Project Co-ordinator developed numerous draft codes, laws and amendments to existing legislation regulating state-citizen relations.

Legislative support. In close co-operation with Ukraine's Parliament, the Project Co-ordinator reviewed 71 legislative acts and submitted recommendations to bring the legislation more into line with international standards.

Detention monitoring. The Project Co-ordinator continued to support the development of national monitoring mechanisms against torture and ill-treatment of prisoners. Monitoring groups comprising civil society representatives and police officers conducted 103 visits to territorial police custody detention centres in 14 regions of Ukraine. With the Project Co-ordinator's assistance, a comprehensive *Concept of the State Policy on Preventing Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment* was developed

and endorsed by the National Commission for Strengthening Democracy and the Rule of Law.

Rule of law. The Project Co-ordinator raised awareness and improved understanding for rule of law principles in the Ukrainian academic community, in conjunction with its support of the development of a rule of law curriculum for universities.

Strengthening of democratic practices. In support of electoral reform, the Project Co-ordinator assisted efforts to develop a unified election code and establish a centralized voter registration system. This included commissioning gender analyses of seven Ukrainian election laws

and research on media activities during elections.

The Project Co-ordinator continued preparations to acquire information technology hardware required to establish a voter registry and maintained close contact with the Central Electoral Commission, which is responsible for developing the registry software.

In co-operation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Project Co-ordinator supported pilot training to strengthen the role of women in local government and raise the level of gender awareness nationally.

Media. The Project Co-ordinator in co-operation with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media continued promoting the independence and strength of Ukraine's media community by supporting media legislation reform.

Strengthening civil society. The Project Co-ordinator supported over 80 civil society advocacy initiatives, which focus on law enforcement agency violations of the rights of vulnerable groups and public participation in decision-making processes. To help promote the sustainability and efficiency of NGOs, the Project Co-ordinator conducted training sessions for more than 200 NGO representatives. The Project Co-ordinator also supported initiatives to revise and improve existing legislation dealing with civil society.

The research director of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Science inspects strawberries grown by beneficiaries of the *Local Economic Development Project* supported by the Project Co-ordinator, in Sumy in May



Office in Baku

Head of Office: **Ambassador Jose Luis Herrero**

Budget: **€2,498,800**

www.osce.org/baku



The Office in Baku supported Azerbaijan with its election-related commitments with respect to the October presidential election. It assisted with the implementation of the newly amended *Electoral Code* and *Law on Freedom of Assembly*, reform of the police and the judiciary and promoted freedom of the media, good governance, environmental awareness and regional economic development.

Politico-military dimension activities

Public assembly management. The Office co-ordinated and sponsored a large-scale public assembly management training plan. Over 1,000 police personnel and internal troops were trained in techniques to effectively manage public events while respecting individual rights, including the right to assemble freely.

Basic police training. The Office followed up on the introduction of a new curriculum for basic police training by sponsoring a series of exchanges under the twinning partnership between the host government and the Czech Ministry of the Interior. The new curriculum, which came into effect in January, increased the length of basic police training to six months from three.

Community policing. A team of OSCE police experts launched a series of consultative visits to eight additional locations throughout Azerbaijan to support the host government's expansion of community policing. The Office promoted gender mainstreaming and police-media relations through a series of events that involved civil society and community groups. The Office helped enhance skills in the security sector by sponsoring various members of civil society and governmental agencies to attend training events in Europe and Central Asia.



Children take part in Police Open Day in Shirvan, part of a community policing project in Azerbaijan run by the Office, 30 June

OSCE/ELGIN TAGHIEV

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Good governance and anti-corruption. The Office continued to support two advocacy and legal advice centres operated by Transparency Azerbaijan, which provide citizens with free legal assistance on corruption complaints, enhance awareness of individual rights and support government efforts to combat corruption.

Regional economic development. The Office promoted regional economic development by providing small-scale entrepreneurs outside Baku with training sessions in the International Labour Organization's (ILO) *Start and Improve your Business* methodologies and international accounting principles. The Office also worked

with regional marketing centres to assist farmers and agribusinesses to improve agricultural production and marketing skills.

Environmental awareness. The Office worked closely with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources to improve public awareness of environmental issues through the support of the *Aarhus Convention* and Aarhus Centres in Baku, Ganja and Gazakh. To raise youth awareness, it expanded the Green Pack training initiative to 50 teaching assistants assigned to rural schools and introduced the same tool-kit to professors and staff of the Natural Sciences and Pedagogical Departments of Nakhchivan State University.



A British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) trainer works with music staff of the public service broadcaster ITV at an OSCE-supported management training workshop in Baku, 2 July

Office experts train Internal Troops of Azerbaijan on public assembly management.



Human dimension activities

RULE OF LAW

Legislative assistance. The Office followed the legislative process for the adoption of the amendments to the *Law on Freedom of Assembly*. Upon their adoption, the Office, in co-operation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), prepared guidelines for Azerbaijan to facilitate the *Law's* effective implementation in line with European standards.

Trial monitoring. The Office presented the 2006-2007 *Trial Monitoring Report* to the Ministry of Justice, members of the judiciary and the Azerbaijani Bar Association.

Free regional legal advice. To address the lack of sufficient and free legal resources in the regions, the Office opened an additional legal resource centre in Masally to support training and capacity-building activities for judges and other legal professionals.

Training activities. The Office supported training on the application of European standards in domestic court proceedings, human trafficking, money laundering and the prevention of torture to judges, practising lawyers, prosecutors and court staff in Baku and Nakhchivan.

Juvenile justice. To foster the effective implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the Office supported the establishment in Baku of a Juvenile Legal Clinic and a pilot Diversion Centre, which provides an alternative to custodial sentences.

Publications in the Azerbaijani language. The Office supported the publication in Azerbaijani of a three-volume compilation

of selected jurisprudence from the European Court of Human Rights. The Office further translated and published the Council of Europe's *Guidelines to the implementation of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights* (on freedom of expression).

DEMOCRATIZATION

Electoral assistance. In close co-operation with the Central Election Commission and the Presidential Administration, the Office held a series of information sessions on the implementation of the newly amended *Election Code* and the *Law on Freedom of Assembly*. It continued to train domestic election observer groups and engaged in voter education and information dissemination.

Freedom of the media. The Office continued its extensive training programme for the public broadcaster ITV aimed at enhancing its professionalism. Through high-level public discussions, the Office particularly encouraged a responsible role for the media in democratic elections.

Democratic governance. Working closely with the Parliament's Commission on Social Policy, The Office supported a project to improve communication and mutual understanding between parliamentarians and their constituencies. It commissioned a survey to identify possible areas for future co-operation with Parliament.

Civil society development. The Office supported efforts by the Democracy and Gender Centre in Shamakhy to increase its activities and attract more participants to its training courses, which prepare women leaders, public defenders and female candidates for the 2009 municipal elections.

Anti-trafficking. The Office continued to co-operate with the ILO on the South Caucasus project to fight trafficking in human beings. This included providing a training course for the judiciary from the Grave Crimes Court and ongoing development of the National Referral Mechanism.

Teachers familiarize themselves with the OSCE-supported Green Pack environmental toolkit, School No.2, Sharur, Nakhchevan Autonomous Republic, Azerbaijan



Mission to Georgia

Head of Mission: **Ambassador Terhi Hakala**

Budget: **€9,750,700**

www.osce.org/georgia



The OSCE demonstrated its unique value and operational strengths in 2008 when it assisted in the country's snap presidential and parliamentary elections and met serious and high-profile challenges to security in Georgia, especially the outbreak of hostilities in August. When the war began, the Mission rapidly refocused its work toward urgent stabilization and monitoring efforts. Within days, the Mission smoothly assimilated 20 new officers to boost monitoring capability and help ease the security and humanitarian crisis. The Mission's election-related activities underscored the key role it plays in offering technical assistance and advice and co-ordinating international assistance. Elsewhere, the Mission registered successes in all three OSCE dimensions of security. Highlights included work in interagency cross-border security, police and penitentiary system reform, the integration of national minorities, protection of trafficking victims, promotion of small businesses and good governance and environmental security initiatives.

Conflict resolution and crisis response

The Mission continued to assist the sides to the Georgian-Ossetian conflict in the renewal of the settlement process. This included the promotion of dialogue, as well as confidence building with a focus on economic and social rehabilitation for the communities involved. In the context of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, the Mission continued to support the United Nation's (UN) conflict resolution efforts.

With increasing tension in the zones of conflict, the Mission contributed to early warning and conflict prevention by intensifying its military monitoring and reporting, as well as diplomatic interventions. In spite of all efforts, full-fledged hostilities broke out in August. This radically altered the situation for many, including the Mission.

Following the August war, the Mission worked intensively to help reduce tension between the parties, ease the humanitarian crisis and establish conditions on the ground conducive to further political dialogue aimed at achieving a longer-term solution to the conflict.

In order to contribute to the full implementation of the 12 August six-point

New OSCE military monitoring officers briefed at the Mission to Georgia, 3 September



OSCE/DANIEL KHIZANISHVILI

plan, the Permanent Council agreed on 19 August to increase the number of OSCE Monitoring Officers in the Mission up to 100, 20 of which were deployed immediately to areas adjacent to South Ossetia. The rapid deployment of additional monitors was a significant element of the Organization's response to the hostilities and their aftermath. However, the Mission was refused access to the former Autonomous district of South Ossetia to resume its activities there.

The Mission rapidly and effectively responded to the new challenges, including by establishing a forward monitoring base near the Karaleti/Gori area. The *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* re-directed its activities to accessible areas affected by the August events. The Mission also contributed to the Geneva discussions co-chaired by the European Union (EU), the UN and the OSCE to increase stability and security and to address the issue of internally displaced persons and refugees.



A police officer from the Armenian-populated Samtskhe-Javakheti region takes part in an OSCE-organized training course on community policing in May.



A practical anti-terrorism exercise on dealing with the aftermath of a bomb blast, 27 March



A cross-border workshop of the *Transitional Institutional Support Programme for Georgian Border Police and Revenue Services*, in Dzoraget, Armenia, on 10 October

Other politico-military dimension activities

Decontamination of former Soviet military installations. The Mission supported the removal of radioactive residues as well as the removal and ecological reprocessing of dangerous chemicals left by Soviet troops in former military installations. Also, the Mission continued a survey to assess the level and nature of pollution of former military airfields in Georgia in order to identify options for further action.

Police reform. The Mission supported the Ministry of Internal Affairs in implementing police reform. Assistance focused this

year on community policing and crime prevention, support to the Georgian Police Academy and human resources management. It also facilitated the establishment of international police co-operation on various levels.

Anti-terrorism assistance. The Mission continued to assist the Georgian authorities in strengthening institutional capacities and in complying with its international commitments in combating terrorism. This included training programmes aimed at enabling counter-terrorist units to cope with ongoing threats involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive devices and firearms.

Strengthening border management capacities. The Mission continued its support of the Georgian border security and management agencies through the May launch of the *Transitional Institutional Support Programme*. This included law enforcement training for the Georgian Border Police, on some occasions jointly with the Revenue Service of the Georgian Ministry of Finance. Additionally, the Mission facilitated a series of cross-border workshops at the major land border ports of entry together with neighbouring border security and management agencies.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

ECONOMIC ISSUES

The Mission funded Business Support Centres in Abkhazia and Javakheti, which support the development of small- and medium-sized businesses in these regions by training entrepreneurs.

It continued to support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) 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 also supported the monitoring of aid flows in Georgia to provide the general public with transparent, accessible and comprehensible information on aid allocation and implementation.

Funding business training continued to increase employment opportunities for internally displaced persons located in collective centres in Tbilisi, Kvemo Kartli, Samegrelo and Adjara.

The Mission also 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 throughout Georgia. The Mission also supported two regional environmental centres in Kvemo Kartli.

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



OSCE/CLAUS BEKKER REINHOLDT

Young members of the ECO Club in Chokhatauri, Georgia, at one of their regular meetings to plan cleanup and awareness-raising activities, 28 May. The Mission has supported the work of ECO Clubs in the country since 2006.

Twenty decision-makers attended a Mission-organized workshop on marine oil spill risk minimization and response and the national oil spill contingency planning process.

The Mission contributed to the promotion of the principles and practices of sustainable waste management throughout Georgia by funding an environmental awareness-raising and education campaign. It organized environmental youth clubs to provide environmental education for more than 300 Georgian students.

Human dimension activities

Human rights. The Mission works to promote and protect human rights while dealing with cases of human rights violations by monitoring trials, conditions in prisons, providing legal advice and raising concerns with relevant authorities.

The Mission supported projects including: free legal aid for vulnerable prisoners and awareness-raising on the rights of prisoners; a regional conference that addressed life-long imprisonment; promotion of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' (ODIHR) *Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel* and its translation into Georgian; and a human rights seminar for professionals dealing with children at risk. The Mission provided training on European human rights standards to 44 legal professionals and recently graduated lawyers, delivered by a Georgian expert.

Rule of law. The Mission continued assisting with the reform of the penitentiary system by offering practical recommendations and providing specialized training for prison staff. To support judiciary reform, it offered training for defence lawyers on the new *Criminal Procedural Code* and jury trials. To increase the transparency of the lawmaking process, it promoted open discussions of new law initiatives and access to draft legal acts prepared by the executive authorities. The Mission also facilitated implementation of the administrative and legal reform of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara.

Democratization and elections. 2008 saw three elections: extraordinary presidential, parliamentary and Adjara Supreme Council elections. To further free and fair elections, the Mission co-ordinated the international community's involvement in election issues at a technical and ambassadorial level, organized roundtable discussions on lessons learned and issued a brochure on election assistance rendered during the presidential and parliamentary elections.

With Mission funding, a domestic election watchdog audited the voters list and monitored the Adjara elections. The Mission provided expert advice on appeals and complaints procedures and facilitated dialogue between the ODIHR, the Venice Commission and Georgian election stakeholders on *Election Code* reform. The Mission administered the ODIHR-financed Centre for Parliamentary

Reform that provides expert and technical assistance to the Speaker of Parliament and parliamentary leaders in the field of parliamentary work and reform.

Civil society development in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. The Mission supported a series of training courses in which over 30 non-governmental organization (NGOs) leaders improved their skills and knowledge related to community development and mobilization. A small grants programme had to be stopped due to the outbreak of hostilities.

Freedom of the media. The Mission continued to strengthen the professional skills of journalists. In a series of workshops on media-related legislation, journalists learned procedures to access public information. The Mission funded an on-line publication, www.media.ge, which delivers news and analysis about media outlets and the status of freedom of expression. The Mission supported the participation of reporters of the web-based magazines www.civil.ge and www.media.ge in Internet publishing workshops offered by Transitions Online, Radio Liberty and the Media Development Loan Fund in Prague. The Mission co-funded the first-ever gathering of South Caucasus civic journalism activists and new media technology experts held in Tbilisi in summer.

Integrating national minorities. The Mission continued to work with national minorities in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti, two regions mostly populated by ethnic Azerbaijanis and Armenians. It initiated a *Student Exchange Programme*, in which 16 ethnic-Armenian students were sent for three months to study in Georgian schools and live with Georgian families. It also continued supporting two Youth Centres in minority areas, where more than 200 youth studied Georgian, English, information technology and civic education; and awarded small grants to develop the capacity of seven rural NGOs.

Anti-trafficking. The Mission worked with the Government and civil society to further develop the system of victim identification and assistance, particularly as regards trafficking in children. It conducted a training programme and a study visit to Skopje for anti-trafficking practitioners and also took part in drafting the new *National Action Plan of Georgia to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2009-2010*.

Office in Yerevan

Head of Office: **Ambassador Sergey Kapinos**

Budget: **€2,523,200**

www.osce.org/yerevan



The implementation of Office in Yerevan activities was affected by political tensions following the February presidential election. The Office fostered democratic reforms in the fields of elections, freedom of assembly, police, justice and the media.

Electoral reform. In the run-up to the February presidential election, the Office supported the training of election officials and raised public awareness about electoral rights and procedures, including democratic election standards. After the election, the Office helped the authorities to implement the recommendations made by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Freedom of assembly. The Office trained political parties, administrative court judges, local governments and civil society on the amended laws, international standards and case law concerning the right to free assembly.

Fighting corruption. The Office co-ordinated international anti-corruption initiatives. It assisted the authorities in elaborating the *2008-2012 National Anti-Corruption Strategy*.

Model OSCE. The Office publicized the Model OSCE initiative among Armenian youth and organized the first *Model OSCE Armenia* conference.

Politico-military dimension activities

Police assistance programme. In April, an OSCE-guided pilot community policing unit was launched, which was later expanded with the building of two outreach stations. The Office and the Police signed a memorandum of understanding to improve educational standards and public order management in the Armenian police-public partnership.

Police Open Day in Yerevan, part of a project to enhance police communication with the public, 16 August



Democratic control of the armed forces.

The Office commissioned studies for Parliament on draft evasion, the legal framework for security sector governance and civilianization. It also assisted Armenia's Human Rights Defender in monitoring disciplinary sanctions in the armed forces.

Border management. Border guards and customs officials attended an integrated border management workshop, part of a series of events the Office organized together with the Mission in Georgia. The two-day practical workshop addressed smuggling threats in the Caucasus, trafficking in human beings and narcotics detection.

Civil defence. The Office supported the Ministry of Emergency Situations with developing public information material for print and broadcast and media training of its staff.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Reducing administrative barriers for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

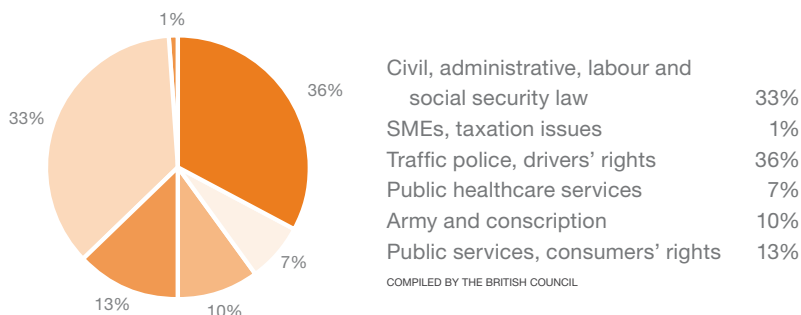
The Office worked to strengthen the institutional framework and professional capacity of state agencies responsible for Armenia's business environment. It also facilitated Armenia's integration into international and pan-European SME networks and provided professional expertise for the development, publication and dissemination of reference materials for policy makers and entrepreneurs.

Promoting regional socio-economic development.

The Office's Presence in Syunik supported the efforts of SMEs to attract start-up financing. It encouraged the local business community to assume corporate social responsibility for its activities. It promoted the *Clean Development Mechanism*, a *Kyoto Protocol* arrangement

Tackling Corruption

Calls and visits in 2008 to the Yerevan Anti-Corruption Reception Centre



to stimulate sustainable development and the use of renewable energy sources.

The Aarhus Convention. Thirteen Public Environmental Information Centres run by the Office hosted discussions with the public, government and the business community to promote the *Aarhus Convention*. The Office organized a workshop and a study tour on local environmental self-governance. A new centre for environmental rights focusing on environmental legislation opened at Yerevan State University with the Office's support.

Human dimension activities

Tolerance and minority rights. The Office organized roundtables and television debates on freedom of conscience and religion. It supported conferences, youth training sessions and cultural events on the preservation of national minorities' culture and identity.

Promoting public awareness of human rights. The Office produced, distributed and broadcast public service announcements on human rights. It supported extra-curricular training courses in

schools on interactive methodologies in human rights education.

Supporting the ombudsperson institution. The Office supported the publication and translation into English of the ombudsperson institution's annual report for 2007 and chaired an international working group co-ordinating activities in this field. A visit to the Polish ombudsperson was organized to reinforce co-operation between the two institutions.

Supporting criminal justice and judicial reforms. The Office organized training for the prosecutor's office on legal assistance in criminal matters. It supported the elaboration of amendments to the law on advocacy and helped to organize the 51st meeting of the International Association of Judges. It initiated discussions on judicial reforms among various stakeholders. The Office supported the group monitoring penitentiary institutions and trained police officers and members of the monitoring group. It organized a conference on the implementation of the *Optional Protocol* to the *United Nations Convention against Torture*.

Media freedom. The Office concluded a project to institutionalize freedom of information training for government public information officers. It conducted an assessment of Armenia's public broadcaster with a view to strengthening its public service ethos. It facilitated legal advice on broadcasting legislation and supported the creation of a media self-regulation mechanism in Armenia.

Anti-trafficking and migration. The Office helped establish the Anti-Trafficking Support and Resource Unit in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Together with the International Labour Organization and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, it supported the elaboration of a national referral mechanism and a training manual for law enforcement agencies. The Office commissioned a report on return migration to Armenia.

Gender issues. The Office supported the establishment of the first women's resource centre aimed at promoting women's entrepreneurship and employment in the Syunik province. It commissioned a monthly insert on women's rights in major Armenian newspapers.

Youth. The Office signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to support regional youth centres across Armenia. The Office also commissioned the European Students' Union to conduct a study on the state of student democracy at universities in Armenia.

A British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) consultant talks with the staff of Armenian Public TV as part of an OSCE-supported needs assessment mission, from 14 to 18 July.



The OSCE and the British Council organized a course for female candidates on election campaign management in Syunik province, 19 September.



OSCE/GAVANE TER-STEFANYAN

Centre in Ashgabad

Head of Centre: **Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic**

Budget: **€1,338,100**

www.osce.org/ashgabad



© Centre in Ashgabad

The Centre continued its support for strengthening border security and management and expanded its activities in the economic and environmental dimension to include the agricultural, rail transport and water resources sectors. The Centre facilitated the organization of a high-level OSCE event in Ashgabad — the *Second Preparatory Conference* for the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. It continued to support legal and electoral reform. The Centre supported an OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) election support team during the December parliamentary elections.

Politico-military dimension activities

Strengthening border security and management. The Centre organized a two-week training course on strengthening travel document security, in which border officials discussed how to detect forged documents and updated their knowledge on worldwide travel documentation.

Six Turkmenistan officials participated in a training course on border security and management organized jointly by the Finnish Chairmanship, the Secretariat and the Central Asian field operations.

Combating organized crime and trafficking in drugs. The Centre organized an instructor course for border security officials on checkpoints and x-ray image interpretation to detect firearms, drugs and other contraband. A course participant subsequently delivered two x-ray courses for airport officials. The Centre also supported a series of training courses

Participants at a two-week training course on strengthening travel document security organized by the Centre in September



OSCE/ANNE SIJOTULA

for law enforcement officials on drug search, detection and identification, held in Ashgabad, Serhetabat on the Afghan border and Artyk on the Iranian border.

Small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition. The Centre organized a workshop on managing surplus arms and ammunition in Ashgabad in November.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Workshop on oil spills response and clean-up. The Centre and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, with financial support from Spain, organized a workshop on best practices and latest technologies

for limiting environmental damages from oil spills. Experts and policymakers from Caspian littoral States and international organizations attended.

Supporting the transition to a market economy. The Centre supported two workshops on marketing and market research in agribusiness and safety in food supply chains.

The Centre provided support to Turkmenistan's efforts to integrate with key international economic and trade institutions through training courses in commercial diplomacy, trade policy, market competition and consumer protection.

Activities aimed at sharing best practices in the area of equity markets development included the invitation of experts

Drug search training course

“The exchange of information and experience between trainers and participants was a significant step forward in our co-operation to fight drug trafficking. Such training events, conducted on a regular basis, greatly contribute towards stopping illegal drugs at the borders.”

— Mikhail Ucak, Chief Inspector from the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime and one of the experts at a training course on drug searches (centre)



OSCE/ANNE SHUTTLA

from Kazakhstan’s stock exchange to discuss their experience in the sector.

Water resources management. The Centre organized three workshops on efficient irrigation and the use of Geographic Information Systems-based technology for effective water distribution.

Raising environmental awareness. The Centre continued to promote environmental awareness among youth through a series of ecology camps.

Promoting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises. The Centre supported the development of profitable pilot solid waste management schemes and rural community-based tourism.

Transport/infrastructure development. The Centre organized two workshops on infrastructure planning and railway safety and operations. The activities aimed to improve the safety of Turkmenistan’s railway network within the framework of the new north-south transport corridor from Russia to the Persian Gulf.

Human dimension activities

Promoting adherence to international human rights. The Centre organized several training courses on the administration of justice for senior officials from across the country and organized a five-day course on international public law for Turkmen State University students.

Supporting legislative reform. The Centre, in co-operation with ODIHR and the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, organized seminars on lawmaking skills to further strengthen the capacity of Turkmenistan’s legislators in this field. The Centre also organized

a three-day study tour to the Swedish Parliament for five Turkmenistan lawmakers.

Parliamentary elections. The Centre supported a nine-member Election Support Team deployed by ODIHR to follow the December parliamentary elections and assess the impact of recent amendments to Turkmenistan’s election legislation.

Support to civil society. The Centre enhanced its support to four local resource centres offering youth computer and English classes and education on life skills and preventive healthcare. With the support of the Centre, a greater number of civil society representatives participated in OSCE human dimension events than in previous years.

Promoting human rights recourse mechanisms. The Centre provided legal consultations to more than 200 individuals. It

published five thematic legal papers on issues such as rights of the accused and imprisoned persons, freedom of movement and housing rights and disseminated them among legal practitioners and citizens.



OSCE

Centre in Astana

Head of Centre: **Ambassador Alexandre Keltchewsky** from 11 June, succeeding **Ambassador Ivar Vikki**, whose mandate ended on 28 March

Budget: **€2,067,600**

www.osce.org/astana



The Centre continued its activities focused on projects supporting ongoing political reform. It paid special attention to raising awareness of OSCE activities as it continued to implement its mandate and assist the host country in support of the November 2007 *Ministerial Council Decision* on Kazakhstan's 2010 Chairmanship. Promoting confidence building, a transparent economic environment and judicial reform also remained priorities.

Politico-military dimension activities

Confidence building and civilian oversight of armed forces. The Centre continued to promote confidence- and security-building measures in line with the *Vienna Document 1999*. In co-operation with the Ministry of Defence, it conducted arms control training courses for military officers from Central Asian countries. Jointly with the Ministry of Defence and the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, the Centre organized a regional seminar on the implementation of the OSCE's *Code of Conduct on Politico-military Aspects of Security*.

Development of a modern police force. Jointly with the Ministry of the Interior and the OSCE Secretariat's Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Centre promoted democratic principles in police activity, including through regional events on the practical implementation of the *Guidebook on Democratic Policing*. The Centre supported a long-term pilot project on international standards in police stations and pre-trial detention centres in Almaty.

Border management. The Centre continued co-operating with other stakeholders in order to assist the host country in improving border security and management. Joint training courses together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on modern border inspection techniques, detecting illegal border crossings and smugglers and fighting corruption were conducted for border guards.

Political reforms. The Centre actively supported political reform to meet international standards and principles, focusing particularly on legislation pertaining to elections, political parties, media and local self government.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Promoting a transparent and efficient economic environment. The Centre prioritized the fight against corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. It facilitated training for the Financial Police

Government and Centre representatives discuss the promotion of confidence- and security-building measures at a training course on the *Vienna Document 1999*, 28 October.



OSCE/DINA IGILKOVA



Participants discuss a strategy to monitor women's rights at a workshop organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Centre in Astana in Almaty from 4 to 8 February.

OSCE/EUGENIA BENIGNI

in investigating corruption cases and a legal review of the fight against corruption in shadow economies. It promoted the establishment of a Financial Intelligence Unit by supporting renewed consultations on a proposed draft law and the creation of an inter-agency working group.

Education for sustainable development. The Centre finalized its project on sustainable development education. As a result, a course module on ecology and sustainable development will be included in the national standard higher education curriculum. Also, it helped to develop and launch a new training course on sustainable development for business managers.

Implementing international environmental treaties. The Centre supported the implementation of the *Aarhus Convention* by training judges on access to justice and strengthening the network of regional environmental groups. A national workshop was conducted on environmental impact assessments in a trans-boundary context. As a follow-up to the 16th *Economic and Environmental Forum*, the Centre raised stakeholders' awareness on international maritime conventions in order to improve

their ability to respond effectively to oil spills.

Climate change. The Centre, together with the United Nations Development Programme and the Ministry of the Environment, initiated a policy dialogue on climate change mitigation. Recommendations were elaborated for how to carry out voluntary projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Kazakhstan.

Human dimension activities

Judicial and legal reforms. In co-operation with national and international experts, the Centre analysed the status of judicial reforms, the penitentiary system, the humanization of criminal justice policies, investigative procedures, legal aid and the draft administrative code. Recommendations were discussed at expert meetings and presented at a press conference.

Human rights and democratization. The Centre, in co-operation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and with the involvement of parliamentarians, state

officials and religious leaders, organized debates on new draft legislation on religious freedom. It assisted the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in arranging consultations between national authorities and international experts to ensure that the rights of majority and minority religions are heeded in the draft law in line with international commitments.

Gender issues. The Centre involved parliamentarians, state officials, national and international experts and NGOs in workshops and roundtables on how legislation and monitoring bodies can effectively ensure gender equality and women's rights, including in co-operation with ODIHR. It also assisted ODIHR in preparing legal reviews of draft laws on gender equality and domestic violence.

Anti-trafficking support. The Centre supported an initiative of the Ministry of Justice to co-organize an enlarged session of the Interagency Commission on Fighting Trafficking in Persons with the participation of NGOs from Kazakhstan's regions.

Media developments. The Centre supported the development of a free media and an exchange of views on media-related legislation. It also worked to improve journalistic education and skills through a wide range of training seminars.



Kazakh police women join government officials and civil society representatives to discuss co-operation in promoting and monitoring women's rights at a roundtable in Kazakhstan, 11 December.

OSCE/EUGENIA BENIGNI

Centre in Bishkek

Head of Centre: **Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere** from 25 May, succeeding **Ambassador Markus Müller**, whose mandate ended on 14 February

Budget: **€5,051,900**

www.osce.org/bishkek



During its 10th anniversary year, the Centre in Bishkek focused on activities in the areas of border management, security and the rule of law. The Centre continued to fulfil its long-term commitments to police reform, the OSCE Academy and media development in the regions. It supported the host country in the areas of governance, legislation, ecological security and economic development.

Politico-military activities

Development of political institutions. The Centre trained political party representatives on politico-military issues affecting Kyrgyzstan's regions and on public communication. As a follow-up, participants established pilot constituent service offices in one of the provinces and offered similar training for regional staff. The Centre also offered training on communication to members of the new Parliament and on self-governance and oversight techniques to newly elected local legislatures.

Border management. The Centre worked with communities, local authorities and the border guard service on issues including tensions at or near the border and management of natural resources. It created local negotiation and conflict prevention mechanisms and organized training for local citizens on cross-border procedures and legal rights and obligations, with the active involvement of border guards.

Police reform. Through training sessions and seminars on combating domestic violence, and on traditions and laws, the Centre supported the development of community-based policing in remote areas. To enhance criminal investigations, it helped to improve the operational skills of local investigators and search officers and provided assistance with the elaboration and revision of legislation. It assisted the Police Academy and the Secondary Special Police School in raising the level of police training to approach international standards.

Conflict prevention. In the interest of promoting inter-ethnic tolerance, the Centre supported initiatives involving government officials, the Parliament, youth and journalists in several of Kyrgyzstan's regions. It supported local mediators in monitoring and responding to potential conflict situations. On issues concerning religious freedom, it promoted legal awareness among government officials and dialogue between concerned parties.

Media development. The Centre continued to support the provincial media resource centres in Talas, Karakol, Naryn and

Batken. It closely monitored the media situation, including violations of journalists' rights.

Economic and environmental activities

Economic issues. The Centre supported government efforts to improve the investment and business climate and fight poverty. It helped develop legislation, build efficient investment policies, increase the capacity of women and youth to run small businesses, create opportunities for generating income in economically depressed areas, provide safe employment



OSCE/EURUL USMANALIEVA

Roundtable discussion of proposed amendments to the law on freedom of religion, organized by the State Agency of Religious Affairs and supported by the Centre in Bishkek in November



OSCE/BURULI USMANALIEVA

opportunities for labour migrants and promote corporate responsibility among established businesses. The Centre is supporting activities of the Network of Labour Migrants Assistance Centres in four locations.

Environmental issues. The Centre concentrated on establishing national and local regulatory frameworks for and raising public awareness of environmental issues, particularly the legacy of uranium tailings. Current projects are tackling radioactive waste management, improving municipal services, preventing conflicts over water, providing access to environmental information and improving preparedness for natural disasters.

Good governance. The Centre continued supporting the government's fight against corruption, raising awareness and assisting the new National Agency on Corruption Prevention with staff training and workshops. The Centre supported activities to strengthen transparency and fight money laundering and terrorist financing.

OSCE Academy

Now in its sixth year, the OSCE Academy graduated 23 students with a Master of Arts in Political Science and enrolled 25 students from Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. It enlarged its training programme and initiated a new forum for security policy experts from Central Asia, East and South-East Asia, Europe and the United States to analyse and discuss key regional security dynamics and functional issues. The OSCE Academy also provided training for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan in its preparations for the OSCE Chairmanship.

Human dimension activities

Institutional and legal reform. The Centre supported efforts to bring national legislation into conformity with the *Constitution* of 23 October 2007. It assisted the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission in preparing comments on the draft amendments to the *Law on Freedom of Assembly*. The Centre further facilitated the implementation of the *Law on the Humanization of Criminal Legislation*. In preparation for the local elections on 5 October, it supported information campaigns, voter education, training of electoral officials and independent domestic election observers.

Promoting adherence to international human rights standards. Penitentiary system reform remained a priority for the Centre. It supported the establishment of a probation service. It trained personnel, increased safety and enhanced the respect for human rights in penitentiary institutions and detention centres throughout the country, and supported public monitoring of the same. The Centre continued to assist with training on media legislation for officials of

the public prosecutor's office. It worked to make free legal aid more accessible to socially vulnerable groups, including victims of torture, particularly in rural areas. It piloted a project on preventing torture and respecting human rights in police activities. The Centre supported its partners in monitoring trials in the Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces.

Promoting gender equality and fighting trafficking in human beings. The Office provided training in gender analysis and budgeting to new members of Osh City Council and in methods of teaching gender theory to Academy of Public Management lecturers. In the provinces Issyk-Kul and Naryn, it provided project management training to gender-focused non-governmental organizations, supported gender-related radio programmes and helped to prevent domestic violence and bride kidnapping. It assisted crisis centres for victims of domestic violence in the cities of Talas and Naryn. It also supported campaigns to raise awareness of the fight against trafficking in human beings and provided expertise to the new *State Anti-trafficking Programme*.

An OSCE-organized youth conference in Kant City near Bishkek, part of a larger programme to increase opportunities for rural young people, 21 November.



OSCE/ANDREY BUTSMAN

Office in Tajikistan

Head of Office: **Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin**

Budget: **€4,724,900**

www.osce.org/tajikistan



With the adoption of a new, more robust mandate on 19 June, co-operation with the Government was strengthened. The OSCE field operation in Tajikistan, formerly the Centre in Dushanbe, was renamed the Office in Tajikistan, with additional staff recruited, the budget increased and the Office moved to new and more spacious premises. The new Office in Tajikistan is better attuned to assist Tajikistan in addressing the challenges it faces at this stage of its development, including those arising in connection with the long border it shares with Afghanistan.

Politico-military dimension activities

Border security. The Office significantly increased its practical involvement in border management. It provided support and advice to the Government in drafting a comprehensive national border strategy. It launched preparations to establish an OSCE Border Management Staff College and began work on two other border projects that will provide training to Tajik border troops and customs officials.

Small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition. The Office enhanced the capacity of the country's law enforcement institutions to store small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition securely, successfully concluding the second phase of the programme. It provided training and improvised explosive device disposal capacities.

Mine clearance. This year, 22,074,105 square metres of previously suspected mined land were reclassified and handed back to local communities. A further 833,818 square metres of mined land were cleared by a mine detector dog and manual teams, which located and destroyed 5,569 mines, 1,900 cluster munitions and unexploded ordnances.

Confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs). The Office supported and coordinated activities with the Government to help it fulfill its CSBM commitments under the *Vienna Document 1999*.

Political dialogue. In co-operation with the Public Council of Tajikistan, the Office organized meetings for government officials, political parties and civil society to discuss current affairs. Seminars on *Law and Religion* reduced tensions between secular authorities and mainstream Islamic communities.

Police assistance. A Counter Terrorism and Police Adviser was recruited to follow up on a February needs assessment and develop project activities. Together with the Drug Control Agency, the Office conducted an information campaign on drug prevention along the border with Afghanistan.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Supporting business and trade. The Office continued supporting local authorities and entrepreneurs in developing business via its network of resource and training centres for small businesses and entrepreneurs engaged in cross-border trade. This year the centres provided advice to 6,500 people, including 2,000 entrepreneurs engaged in cross-border trade, and delivered training courses to 1,600 entrepreneurs and officials. The Office also initiated a process to achieve sustainability of the resource centres.



OSCE/FIRUZA GULOMASEINOVA

The new premises of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan were opened at a ceremony with OSCE and Government representatives on 20 October.



Newspaper sale improvised on the ledge of the Central Department Store in Dushanbe.

OSCE/MICHAEL LEVSTARIYEV

Fostering the democratization of the media.

The Office rendered tailored support to 21 newspapers with paper grants and a series of in-house training courses on management and layout. The newspapers developed business plans and were enabled to increase their circulation and profitability. Two OSCE-supported international conferences resulted in appeals to the President and Parliament to act for more transparent electronic media licensing procedures and remove defamation laws from the penal code. A seminar on media self-regulation in Berlin promoted the discussion of journalistic ethics among top decision makers in media businesses, media associations, the Government and Parliament. The Office also offered a multitude of training opportunities to journalists within and outside of Tajikistan to improve technical knowledge, research techniques and language skills.

Gender. The Office strengthened national agencies dealing with gender equality through educational and training programmes and mass-media campaigns. It supported 12 Women's Resource Centres in the provision of free psychological and legal support to empower women and raise the literacy level of girls. It trained the staff of the Women's Resource Centres in networking among themselves and co-operating with the Government. The Office helped to raise youth awareness of human trafficking risks, consequences and recruitment methods. It fostered inter-regional co-operation and capacity building of law enforcement bodies.

A workshop in September on creating an attractive business and investment climate, organized in co-operation with the OSCE Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, marked the expansion of the scope of the Office's work to cover policy issues such as the creation of free economic zones and the development of incentives to investment.

Human dimension activities

Human rights, democratization and elections. The Office organized several roundtables and events to engage civil society and government representatives in discussions on the new *Human Rights Ombudsman Law*, property rights, combating torture, access to prisons, free and fair elections. An important innovation on the part of the Office was the organization of discussions on issues of the *Preparatory Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*. From January, the Office became the co-ordinating agency hosting the monthly *Human Rights Sector Meeting* in Tajikistan.

The Office also implemented projects on property rights, provided intensive training in human rights and international public law to university students, supported the study *Judicial Reform Index for Tajikistan* and worked to raise awareness of human rights and democratization issues. Furthermore, in co-operation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Office was able to facilitate the sending of several governmental and civil society representatives on short-term parliamentary election observation missions abroad.

Improving environmental policy. The Office continued to support the implementation of the *Aarhus Convention* and the development of environmental legislation and strategies. It provided Parliament with suggested updates to the *Nature Protection Law*.

Water management. At an OSCE conference, experts from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan discussed a policy paper developed by the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, designed to spur the development of appropriate water management tools in Central Asia.

Awareness-raising. Fifteen environmental documentaries were broadcast on national Tajik television upon the initiative of the Office.



A clean-up conducted by the Green Patrols, a youth environmental movement supported by the OSCE, in Garm in October. In 2008, 14,000 youths participated in the activities of this group.

OSCE/MARIELE LESEUR

Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Project Co-ordinator: **Ambassador Istvan Venczel**

Budget: **€1,641,300**

www.osce.org/tashkent



© Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

The Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan placed special emphasis on co-operation in the politico-military field, focusing on the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime, and on economic and environmental activities, where the office has implemented most of its projects. The Project Co-ordinator also carried out a number of projects in the area of human rights and democratization with the active support of the Uzbek authorities.

Politico-military dimension activities

Organizing workshops on security threats.

The office of the Project Co-ordinator organized international expert workshops on current threats to security and stability, including terrorism, religious extremism, international organized crime and drug trafficking. The office organized a conference in April to discuss regional security and engagement with Afghanistan.

Police training. Within the framework of its long-term assistance to the Police Academy of Uzbekistan, the office of the Project Co-ordinator continued to familiarize police with international best practices in order to strengthen the system of police training.

Building democratic institutions. The office of the Project Co-ordinator organized discussions on the development of political parties, improvement of the election system and increasing voter education. The office worked to promote increased access to information on the role of socio-political organizations and the benefits of participatory democracy. In order to improve the public's access to information about the structure of the Senate, it supported the publication of 2,500 copies of a *Handbook on the Senate of the Republic of Uzbekistan*.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). A joint project of the Project Co-ordinator and the Uzbek Association of Businesswomen provided support to women and youth in opening their own SMEs.

Fostering the development of economic ties in Central Asia. The office of the Project Co-ordinator helped to create a team of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders from the transport sector to analyse existing legislation and guidelines and to prepare the first steps toward the creation of a Dispatching Co-ordination Centre in Uzbekistan, which would

facilitate national, regional and international trade.

Fostering rural development. In co-operation with the Farmers' Association, the Project Co-ordinator continued to promote socio-economic development and help create employment in rural areas, providing information on newly available financing and credit schemes, taxation and ecological security.

Good governance. In co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Project Co-ordinator assisted the Government with implementing good governance practices in response to the problem of tax evasion.



OSCE/OLEG ZACHENKO

Workshop on promoting law enforcement and judicial co-operation among source, transit and destination countries to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling to and from Central Asia, Tashkent, on 14 and 15 May

A mountain stream in Chatkai National Park in August



OSCE/MURD KHISANOV

Environmental issues. The office of the Project Co-ordinator organized a conference on the protection of the environment together with the State Nature Protection Committee in November. The office of the Project Co-ordinator, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and their implementing partner, the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination Scientific Information Centre, organized the conference *Environmental Security and Safety - a Major Factor of Water Management* in October.

Human dimension activities

Supporting non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Providing continued assistance to the National Association of NGOs of Uzbekistan, the office of the Project Co-ordinator promoted an effective social partnership between state institutions and NGOs, particularly regarding the social protection of vulnerable groups. He supported the publication of a number of handbooks.

Combating trafficking in human beings. The office of the Project Co-ordinator assisted the Government and public organizations with the development of a manual on identifying forms of human trafficking, a compilation of regulatory documents and an analysis comparing the existing regulatory framework in Uzbekistan with international standards.

Ombudsperson institution. The office of the Project Co-ordinator helped to strengthen co-operation between the national

ombudsperson and judicial and law enforcement bodies.

Human rights. The office of the Project Co-ordinator helped teachers and students of law faculties with the printing of materials. Together with the UNDP, his office held a conference on democratizing society and ensuring human rights on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. In order to strengthen the Human Rights Protection Department of the Ministry of the Interior, the office organized roundtables on co-operation between internal affairs bodies with other law enforcement bodies and state structures, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Assistance with Bilateral Agreements

Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

OSCE Representative: **Lt. Col. Helmut Napiontek**

Approved budget: **€9,600**

The Representative continued to assist in the implementation of the 1994 bilateral agreement between the Latvian and Russian Governments on social guarantees for military pensioners of the Russian Federation and their families residing in Latvia. On 1 July 2008, a total of 15,603 people were eligible under the Agreement, comprising 8,669 former military personnel from the Ministries of Defence and of the Interior plus 6,934 family members.

Activities and developments

Housing problems successfully tackled.

The discussions of the Joint Commission continued to deal with issues linked to the potential eviction of military pensioners and their families from so-called denationalized accommodation, in which property expropriated by Soviet nationalization and given to Soviet Army servicemen is returned. However these talks no longer dominated the Commission's agenda as in years past. 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. These efforts to soften potential hardship situations have been a success. It has been clear for more than a year that imminent eviction from denationalized houses no longer constitutes a major problem for military pensioners.

Resettlement programme continues.

Approximately 200 military pensioners and their family members have made use of a Latvian-financed resettlement programme launched in 2006 for military pensioners wishing to leave Latvia and take up permanent residence outside the country.

Institutions



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Head of Office: **Ambassador Janez Lenarčič** from 1 July, succeeding **Ambassador Christian Strohal**, whose mandate ended on 30 June
 Budget: **€14,405,100**
www.osce.org/odihr

The ODIHR is the principal OSCE institution responsible for assisting participating States with implementing their human rights and democracy commitments, which comprise the human dimension, one of the OSCE's three dimensions of security.

Monitoring commitments

ODIHR monitors the compliance of participating States with their human dimension commitments.

The Office's most high-profile monitoring work is in the field of election observation. In 2008, ODIHR deployed 12 electoral missions throughout the OSCE region, involving 2,850 observers from 49 participating States. A significant number of observers were financed through ODIHR's voluntary fund for enhancing the geographical diversification of observation missions. ODIHR observed several elections in partnership with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, on the basis of the 1997 co-operation agreement.

ODIHR's monitoring work continues after elections are over. In 2008, the Office published eight legal reviews of national election systems and took part in numerous meetings, roundtables and seminars

on such topics as improving electoral legislation and the conduct of elections.

ODIHR deployed experts to gather information on human rights matters in Armenia following violent post-election clashes between police and protesters in Yerevan in March, and passed its concerns and recommendations on to the Government. The Office — together with the offices of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights — undertook a field visit to Italy in July to assess the human rights situation of the Roma and Sinti population following a series of violent incidents targeting this community. At the request of the Chairman-in-Office, ODIHR and the High Commissioner sent teams to Georgia in October and November to assess the human rights and minority situation in the areas affected by the August conflict and report back on their findings.

Providing training and expertise

ODIHR offered a broad range of training and expertise to individuals working within governments and civil society organizations.

Providing law enforcement and judicial officials with the information and training they need to adequately recognize and combat hate crime remained a priority for the Office. In 2008, it signed an agreement with the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the implementation of its training programme for police, the *Law Enforcement Officer Programme on Combating Hate Crime (LEOP)*. Implementation of *LEOP* is also underway in Poland, and a roundtable meeting was held to discuss implementation in Ukraine.

More than 30 non-governmental organizations from 18 different participating States attended an ODIHR training

Election observation and assessment missions

Country	Type of Election	Date	Type of mission
Georgia	presidential	5 January	observation
Serbia	presidential	20 January & 3 February	limited observation
Armenia	presidential	19 February	observation
Spain	parliamentary	9 March	assessment
Montenegro	presidential	6 April	observation
Italy	parliamentary	13-14 April	assessment
Serbia	parliamentary	11 May	limited observation
Georgia	parliamentary	21 May	observation
fYROM	parliamentary	1 June & 15 June	observation
Belarus	parliamentary	28 September	observation
Azerbaijan	presidential	15 October	observation
USA	general	4 November	limited observation

(Note: All observations and assessments were preceded by a needs assessment mission that recommended the format of the respective observation mission. A needs assessment mission was also sent to Liechtenstein in December 2008; it recommended that no observation activity be undertaken.)

An OSCE election observer speaks to polling station officials during the Georgian parliamentary elections on 21 May.



OSCE/AGNIESZKA REBOWSKA

seminar on monitoring and reporting hate crime. The Office helped 10 participating States to develop country-specific teaching materials and teacher training seminars aimed at combating anti-Semitism. It initiated new projects to develop educational tools with which to address intolerance against Muslims.

ODIHR trained human rights defenders in Moldova and Armenia in monitoring and reporting on freedom of assembly issues.

The Office held its yearly training course for short-term election observers at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and in Tirana. In addition, ODIHR met requests from some participating States to train their election observers (for instance, the Office ran a training course for Russian observers at the Russian Diplomatic Academy).

Legislative support

To assist States in adopting legislation that complies with OSCE commitments,

ODIHR commented on draft laws concerning freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of information, freedom of religion, elections, gender issues, domestic violence, trafficking in human beings, anti-discrimination policies and constitutional amendments.

ODIHR's Expert Panel on Freedom of Assembly provided legal advice on amendments to the Armenian *Law on Assemblies* introduced during the state of emergency in March. Consultations held in Yerevan jointly with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission resulted in the passage of further amendments that addressed the experts' concerns.

ODIHR's legislative support activities have expanded over time to include a focus on legislative systems, looking at how laws are prepared, discussed, adopted and monitored. It released two reports during the year, assessing the lawmaking processes in Moldova and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The reports contain recommendations on ways

to make lawmaking more transparent, inclusive and efficient.

Publications

Key publications in 2008 included: *Hate Crime in the OSCE Region – Incidences and Responses*, the second such annual report identifying patterns characterizing hate-motivated incidents and effective state responses; *Human Rights Defenders in the OSCE Region – Challenges and Good Practices*, also the second annual report of its kind; a status report on participating States' implementation of the 2003 *Action Plan on improving the situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE area*; and the *Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel*, launched in conjunction with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces in May.

A highlight of the year's publications was *Trial-Monitoring: A Reference Manual for Practitioners*, designed for those



The *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*, Europe's largest annual human rights and democracy conference, opened on 29 September.



OSCE/AGNIESZKA REMBOWSKA

interested in setting up and running a trial-monitoring programme, an area of considerable OSCE expertise. ODIHR, together with the Spillover Monitoring Mission to Skopje, held a workshop with 12 OSCE field operations and conducted trial monitoring programmes to promote the use of the manual.

The Office published a report on compensation for trafficking victims, which was based on a review of the law and common practice in eight OSCE participating States.

It also published a manual which outlines the fundamental human rights principles that are most commonly engaged in the fight against terrorism and explains States' obligations in respect of those rights when dealing with terrorism.

Conferences and meetings

ODIHR organized a broad range of meetings varying in format and degree of formality to provide governments, civil society representatives and experts with an opportunity to review practices and share experiences on human dimension issues.

It held Europe's largest annual human rights and democracy conference, the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*, in Warsaw in September and

October. Some 1,000 participants at the two-week gathering reviewed the progress made by OSCE participating States in fulfilling their human rights and democracy commitments.

ODIHR also organized a *Human Dimension Seminar* on constitutional justice in Warsaw in May, as well as three *Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings* in May, July and November in Vienna. At the first, participants discussed the role of national institutions in fighting discrimination against migrants and persons belonging to national minorities. The second focused on the role of local authorities in integrating Roma, with a special focus on Roma access to education and social services. Attendees of the third meeting identified ways to encourage and support initiatives to strengthen the transparency and inclusiveness of lawmaking processes.

ODIHR contributed to the preparation of a seminar on election issues organized by the Chairmanship in Vienna in July, and participated in the discussions. ODIHR representatives also had an opportunity to discuss challenges related to new voting technologies during meetings organized by the Council of Europe and the Chairmanship, and distributed a discussion paper on observing electronic voting.

High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

High Commissioner: **Knut Vollebaek**

Budget: €3,017,100

www.osce.org/hcnm

The High Commissioner on National Minorities was created in 1992 to identify and seek early resolution of ethnic tensions that might endanger peace, stability or friendly relations between or within OSCE participating States.

The High Commissioner's work on national minority issues in international affairs culminated in the launch of the Bolzano/Bozen *Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations*. The recommendations provide advice on protecting and promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities while maintaining inter-ethnic harmony and strengthening relations between states.

The High Commissioner also paid particular attention to the situation of Roma and Sinti, arguing that the hurdles they face to social inclusion and new migration trends following EU enlargement may threaten their relations with other ethnic groups and their security.

The High Commissioner continued to support the Inter-State Dialogue on Social Integration and National Minority Education in Central Asia. Experts discussed issues of multilingual and inter-cultural education at one meeting and information technology and distance learning at another.

Country Reports

Croatia. The High Commissioner visited Croatia in November, where he discussed the implementation of the *Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities*. He raised several key issues, including equitable representation of national minorities in the public sector, procedures to promote minority representation in the Croatian Parliament and the need to use education as a tool to promote improved inter-ethnic relations, tolerance and ultimately reconciliation between groups. Integrated education is particularly important in this regard and, during his visit to Vukovar, the High Commissioner assessed progress in the re-integration of students from different ethnic backgrounds in schools in the region.

High Commissioner Knut Vollebaek (left) at a reception in The Hague to mark the HCNM's 15th anniversary, 11 November



Georgia. The High Commissioner visited Tbilisi and Sukhumi twice in 2008, but he was unfortunately prevented from entering South Ossetia. These travel restrictions violated his mandate according to which he may travel and communicate freely.

In Tbilisi, he discussed his conflict prevention and civil integration activities in the regions of Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo-Kartli, as well as the Meskhetian Repatriation Process. He also looked at ways to provide assistance to the Government in order to make repatriation possible. In Sukhumi, he urged the de facto Abkhaz authorities to allow Georgian students in Gali district to study in Georgian, and asked the de facto authorities not to impose Abkhazian citizenship on Georgians. The High Commissioner is concerned that, if unchecked, such coercive practices may further increase tensions in the region and force many Georgians to leave.

Promoting bilingualism as an effective tool of minority integration, the High Commissioner continued to support a number of pilot bilingual schools in the minority-populated regions of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti and provided

assistance to Georgia in elaborating a policy and an action plan for introducing wider-scale bilingual education. Other project activities aiming at the integration of Armenians and Azerbaijanis into mainstream Georgian society included supporting minority media outlets and providing free legal aid to citizens living in these regions.

The High Commissioner published a booklet that explains in accessible language the procedures set out in the *Law on Meskhetian Repatriation*, thereby assisting the Georgian Government in its implementation. The booklet is intended to help potential repatriates learn about the repatriation process, familiarize them with the situation in present-day Georgia and facilitate the integration of those who eventually decide to repatriate into Georgia's mainstream society.

The HCNM participated in an OSCE Human Rights Assessment Mission in Georgia in October and November. The HCNM findings were incorporated in the OSCE Human Rights Assessment Mission report issued in November.



Meshketians at their home in the village of Abastumani, Samtskhe-Javakheti region, Georgia, 9 July

OSCE/PANLO BVALIK

Hungary. In a February visit to Budapest, the High Commissioner raised the issue of its minorities abroad, particularly in Romania and Slovakia. The High Commissioner is committed to following up on this issue, because, in his view, the question of national minorities in inter-State relations in Central Europe can be dealt with in an effective, peaceful and friendly manner and serve as an example for other OSCE regions.

The High Commissioners also raised the issue of Roma and discussed with authorities the ways in which they have been dealing with the problems facing Roma minorities.

Latvia. The High Commissioner visited Latvia in April to look into the implementation of education reform and the naturalization process. After the visit, the High Commissioner recommended the Government speed up the naturalization process by automatically granting citizenship to newly born children of the families of non-citizens and, retroactively, to all children born in Latvia after 1991. He also advised the Latvian authorities to grant resident non-citizens the right to vote in local elections.

In November, he supported a conference on citizenship issues in the Baltic and Nordic States that took place in Jurmala, Latvia, on 20 and 21 November. The Conference, organized by the Naturalization Board of Latvia, allowed the Government of Latvia to learn from the experience of neighbouring states in order to implement

more efficient naturalization policies.

The High Commissioner also continued to monitor the implementation of education reform in Latvia. He recommended to the Government to regularly monitor progress, particularly as to the quality of education, and to address all shortcomings reported by professionals in the field as well as by pupils and parents. He also suggested strengthening the participation of parents in the consultation and decision-making process concerning education reforms.

Kazakhstan. In a July visit, the High Commissioner discussed issues pertaining to the representation of minorities in Parliament, multilingual education and issues of minority language broadcasting, in particular subtitling. A seminar on subtitling for media representatives was organized in Almaty in May. He paid special attention to the issue of election law and presented specific recommendations on how Government efforts to ensure minority participation in Parliament could be brought into line with OSCE commitments. The High Commissioner continued to support teacher training in southern Kazakhstan, including a variety of projects aimed at promoting modern methodologies of language teaching.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The High Commissioner discussed usage of minority languages, flags and symbols during a January visit. He also paid significant attention to the segregation along ethnic lines observed in the country's secondary

school system. The High Commissioner presented a set of country-specific *Recommendations on Integration through Education* to assist in efforts to prevent further segregation and build a foundation for inter-ethnic relations that promotes integration rather than separation. To help authorities carry out his *Recommendations*, the High Commissioner implemented two education-related projects in close co-operation with the Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje. In the first project, first-year students from different ethnic backgrounds in the town of Kicevo participated in a series of student debates, study trips and other extra-curricular activities that aimed to demonstrate practical alternatives to segregation in secondary schools. In the second, the High Commissioner supported the training of education officers from 44 municipalities on the development and implementation of education policy at the local level to help them fulfil their responsibilities under the new decentralized system.

Moldova. In a July visit, the High Commissioner raised in Chisinau the issue of linguistic integration of national minorities through better teaching of the state language. The High Commissioner has raised the situation in Gagauzia in general and relations between Chisinau and Comrat in particular at various meetings in Moldova.

The High Commissioner also went to the Dniester region and met with de facto authorities. He expressed there his concern



A newly naturalized citizen receives her passport in Jurmala, Latvia.

LATVIAN NATURALIZATION BOARD

for the protection of human and minority rights, paying special attention to the right to use one's mother-tongue particularly for non-Russian communities. He also expressed his continued support for the Latin script schools in the region that have been facing pressure from the local authorities.

In November, the High Commissioner hosted a roundtable on Models for the Settlement of Territorial Disputes in Odessa, Ukraine. It aimed at bringing together participants in the 5+2 negotiating format for conflict settlement. During the roundtable, the High Commissioner's team focused on mechanisms that have been developed across the OSCE area for sharing power among groups.

Montenegro. The High Commissioner provided assistance and expertise to the Montenegrin Commission tasked with drafting a National Minorities strategy and advised the Government on the implementation of the Constitution, especially with regard to the promotion of effective participation of national minorities in public life.

Romania. In a February visit, the High Commissioner examined Hungarian tertiary language education. He visited the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca to discuss ways in which the multicultural character of the University could be further enhanced and the needs of minority communities better accommodated. The High Commissioner expressed his support for, and undertook to continue his engagement with, the University, believing that such multicultural institutions have a role to play in the integration and consolidation of multi-ethnic societies.

As in his discussions with Hungarian authorities on their national minority in Romania, in Romania he also raised the question of its national minority in Hungary, again discussing how the State could support minorities abroad in a way

that serves the interests of the minority communities, and promotes peaceful, inter-State relations, on the other.

He also raised the issue of Roma and discussed with authorities the ways in which they have been dealing with problems facing Roma minorities.

Russia. The High Commissioner twice travelled to Russia for meetings with government officials, lawmakers and non-governmental organizations. His discussions focused on the situation of national minorities in the OSCE region and inter-ethnic relations in the Russian Federation.

Serbia. The High Commissioner discussed current legislative work pertaining to ethnic communities in a visit to Belgrade in September. Such laws, he argued, must be the result of inclusive processes and meet the highest international standards. In this context, he drew attention to the need to integrate ethnic communities more fully into the judiciary, police and higher education sector in Vojvodina and southern Serbia. The High Commissioner also brought up the need to provide access to adequate state language education.

During visits to Pristina in January, May and September, the High Commissioner raised the continued challenges posed by the weak implementation of Kosovo's legal framework in areas such as use of ethnic community languages, property rights and non-discrimination. He also pointed to a lack of clarity on which institutions are held accountable for the implementation of Kosovo's laws that particularly impact its ethnic communities.

During the three visits, the High Commissioner continued efforts to enlist support for building reconciliation between the two largest communities in **Kosovo**, both through Kosovo's institutional structure as well as by generating public discussion. In this context, he also worked in close co-operation with the International

Centre on Transitional Justice. To discuss ways of moving a process of transitional justice forward, local politicians, policy-makers and opinion leaders from both the Kosovo Albanian and the Kosovo Serb communities met for a third round of confidential talks in Ohrid in December, following up on meetings held the previous year. Participants agreed that a process of reconciliation would only be effective if it were generated through adequate public discussion. In order to promote public debate, the High Commissioner commissioned a discussion paper that was drafted by a local non-governmental organization through a consultative, multi-ethnic process.

Finally, the High Commissioner addressed the situation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Kosovo, specifically the lack of official registration for these vulnerable groups. The High Commissioner is studying how to address the more widespread problem of the lack of registration of Roma through a regional approach.

Turkmenistan. The High Commissioner focused his talks, during a May visit, on minority education and modernization of the legal system, in particular the Constitution. He visited several schools in the northern Lebap region. As follow-up, he provided the Government with recommendations emphasizing the principle of non-discrimination.

Ukraine. During two visits, the High Commissioner helped facilitate the integration of Crimean Tatars into Ukrainian society and ease inter-ethnic problems on the peninsula. He focused on the need to adopt legislation concerning the status and rights of formerly deported people.

The High Commissioner initiated a dialogue on international policing standards and best practices in Crimea through a conference organized jointly with the Ukrainian Ministry of the Interior in Simferopol. He also continued assisting Ukraine in promoting tolerance and inter-cultural understanding in Crimea.

The High Commissioner addressed the need for a comprehensive reform of the legislative framework concerning minority rights and language regulation, specifically on language issues in areas such as media and education.

Uzbekistan. The High Commissioner discussed a broad range of issues, particularly education, with the Government and national minority communities in a March visit.

Representative on Freedom of the Media

The Representative: **Miklos Haraszti**

Budget: **€1,312,000**

www.osce.org/fom

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media continued to observe media developments in the 56 participating States and promoted full compliance with the OSCE commitments on freedom of expression and free media. All geographical areas and all major issues were scrutinized, including cases where states tolerate harassment or where murders of media workers occur, where pluralism is considerably restricted by undue governmental influence over broadcasting or publishing, where investigative rights for journalism regarding governmental data are denied or where offending or critical views are often punished, almost mechanically, as “extremism” or “hate speech”. The year witnessed deterioration in two crucial dimensions of press freedom: the physical security of journalists and the legal protection of critical speech. The Representative continued to stress that violence against journalists is not “crime as usual”, because it aims at undermining a basic institution of democracy: the free press.

Regional conferences

In October, the Office organized the 10th *Central Asia Media Conference* in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and in November, the 5th *South Caucasus Media Conference* in Tbilisi, Georgia. The events focused on the challenges of public-service broadcasting (PSB), and how the upcoming digital switchover can support media freedom and pluralism. By offering objective news reporting and broadcasting high-quality programming, PSB is a basic tool of democracies, indispensable to ensuring the freedom and transparency of elections, fighting hate speech and protecting a country’s minority cultures.

The conference in Central Asia brought together media professionals and government officials dealing with media governance from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Because in Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan alone has a law on PSB and that institution has yet to start operating, discussions dealt with the broad benefits of PSB. The South Caucasus event provided a unique forum for animated and friendly discussions among leading media professionals, public-service directors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and members of parliament from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. They shared experiences and good practices and strengthened personal professional contacts.

The conferences also tackled the changes

broadcasting is undergoing in the digital age, and called on governments to regard the increase in the number of broadcasting channels on all new platforms as a new opportunity to strengthen media pluralism.

Legal assistance

Continuing to provide legal assistance to participating States throughout the year, the Office:

- co-operated with the Belarusian authorities on the first and second drafts of the Law on Information, Informatization and the Protection of Information, and reviewed the country’s draft media law;
- commissioned legal reviews of several legislative proposals concerning the media in Kazakhstan, and presented comments and recommendations on the new draft amendments to the defamation provisions of the *Criminal and Civil Codes* to the Kazakhstani authorities;
- commissioned an analysis of the draft Slovak Press Act containing practical recommendations on how to bring it into line with the country’s international commitments to protect media freedom;
- commissioned an independent OSCE expert to review an amendment to Armenia’s *Law on Television and Radio* that proposes to suspend tendering broadcasting licenses until mid-2010;
- provided the Moldovan authorities with the legal review commissioned on the

- draft Law on State Secrets;
- endorsed an OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) legal opinion on Armenia’s draft Law on Information, Information Technologies and Protection of Information and complemented it with additional recommendations.

Country visits

As in previous years, the Representative visited authorities in participating States, travelling in 2008 to Montenegro, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In Montenegro, the Representative met government officials, including the President and the Prime Minister, media professionals and representatives of civil society and international organizations. The purpose of the trip was to collect first-hand information in order to assess the current state of media freedom in the youngest participating State of the OSCE, especially as his visit coincided with a heated public debate over two draft laws: the draft Law on Electronic Communications and amendments to the *Public-Service Broadcasting Law*. Results of the visit are reflected in an assessment report, available on the Office’s website. In Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, the Representative met with stakeholders in the countries’ media governance arena to explore possibilities of reform towards



Participants at a two-day course on media self-regulation in Odessa, Ukraine, on 29 July

compliance with OSCE commitments in the field of media freedom.

Publications

The two main publications of the Office this year dealt with media self-regulation and the current and forthcoming challenges to media freedom.

The Office advocates media self-regulation as a good practice to increase media quality and remedy mistakes committed by media professionals. Efforts in this field were summarized in the *Media Self-Regulation Guidebook*, a compilation of questions and answers on the topic, with contributions from renowned international experts and practitioners. Although media quality should never be a prerequisite for media freedom, self-regulation is a proven method of fostering ethical journalism. Quality journalism, however, can only develop in an atmosphere of guaranteed freedom. The publication is available in English, French and Russian, and is currently being translated into additional languages.

The latest publication of the Office, *Ten Years for Media Freedom - An OSCE Anniversary: Current and Forthcoming Challenges*, was published to commemorate the 10 years the Office has spent protecting and promoting media freedom OSCE-wide. Contributions include cartoons by *Le Monde* cartoonist Plantu, presentations by Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Thomas Hammarberg, *Gazeta Wyborcza* foreign correspondent Konstanty Gebert, Writers in Prison Committee Chair Karin Clark, Senior Fellow at Privacy International Gus Hosein, BBC World Service Editor Firdevs Robinson, President of the Glasnost Defence Foundation Aleksey Simonov and Journalism in Extreme Situations Director Oleg Panfilov.

Training projects

The Office supported training courses for journalists and press secretaries throughout the year, promoting effective interaction between state officials and journalists in order to increase public access to official information. The Office held training seminars in: Osh, Kyrgyzstan; Tbilisi, Georgia; Khujand, Tajikistan; Chisinau, Moldova; Yerevan, Armenia; and Belgrade, Serbia.

The Office also started a new set of training courses this year, promoting media self-regulation as a credible mechanism for upholding ethical standards and professionalism. Training seminars were held in Odessa, Ukraine, and Bucharest, Romania.

Internet

In 2008, the Office was one of the main sponsors of the OpenNet Initiative's study on *Internet Blocking and Filtering* around the world. The OpenNet Initiative is a partnership of four leading academic institutions, the Universities of Toronto, Harvard, Cambridge and Oxford. Carrying analyses on Internet filtering

A participant at the Eurasia Regional Forum for Media Development in Paris studies the *Media Self-Regulation Guidebook* on 17 April.



OSCE/ADELINE HULIN

practices throughout the OSCE area, the publication will be issued in 2009.

The Office also co-hosted a roundtable discussion on Internet media regulation in Minsk, Belarus, together with the Ministry of Information of Belarus. The event brought together Belarusian officials and journalists, as well as international experts in the field. At the event, the Office encouraged the Government to exercise self-restraint in regulating content on the Internet, in order to honour important OSCE commitments on pluralism and the free flow of information.

Special reports

The Office regularly prepares special reports on various topics related to media freedom. In 2008, as a follow-up to the Office's report *Handling of the media during political demonstrations* published in June 2007, the Office prepared a non-exhaustive list of incidents of clashes between media professionals and police during political demonstrations, rallies or other public events. The list showed that this type of violence against journalism remains a key problem in the OSCE area. The police should always guarantee the right of journalists to cover any public event, regardless of whether it was authorized. On the other hand, journalists should visibly identify themselves as media professionals; they should make sure that their reporting does not inflame the situation and they should refrain from participating in the demonstration.

This year the Office also sponsored the manufacturing of 200 vests for the clear identification of Azerbaijani journalists during public events and demonstrations. The vests were presented to Azerbaijani media workers by the OSCE Office in Baku.

Secretariat



Secretariat

Secretary General: **Marc Perrin de Brichambaut**

Budget: **€31,617,100**

The OSCE Secretariat, led by the Secretary General, strives to ensure implementation of OSCE decisions and to support the process of political dialogue and negotiation among the participating States. It supports all OSCE structures and works hand-in-hand with the Chairmanship to fulfil the Organization's goals.

Continuity, coherence and co-operation — the guiding principles of the 2008 Finnish Chairmanship — could also characterize the Secretariat's work throughout this year, its regular support to the participating States in maintaining consistency of effort from one year to the next and in co-ordinating action across the Organization.

2008 was a particularly challenging year for the OSCE. Throughout the year, the Secretariat supported the Organization's crisis management efforts in relation to Georgia, including activities of the participating States, the Chairmanship and the Mission to Georgia, focusing particularly on ensuring the coherence and co-ordination of overall operational responses. Secretariat support included: 24/7 early warning activities, intensive reporting to the participating States on developments on the ground before, during and after the August war, rapid assistance in dispatching additional monitoring officers to the region, support to the Chairmanship in representing the OSCE in the Geneva discussions, as well as the OSCE-United Nations Environment Programme joint assessment of the conflict's environmental impact.

The Secretariat also stepped up its work in thematic areas, focusing on multi-dimensional responses to security threats and challenges throughout the OSCE's geographic area. These included projects and other activities to assist participating States, in co-operation with relevant field operations, in such areas as:

- disposal of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, including the rocket fuel *Melange*;
- strengthening border security and management, in particular in Central Asia;
- promoting action against terrorism, including through private-public partnerships;
- police-related activities, including efforts to fight organized crime and illicit drugs;
- promoting economic and environmental co-operation, including on good governance, transport issues and migration management, through such mechanisms as the *Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)*;
- fighting against trafficking in human beings, including by providing expert support to prosecution of offenders, protection of victims and prevention of this crime;

- advancing gender equality throughout the Organization's structure and programmes.

The Secretariat also devoted significant effort to enhancing dialogue with OSCE Partners for Co-operation, developing co-operation with other international organizations and promoting the public image and visibility of the OSCE. Major milestones in this regard included the first-ever OSCE-*Afghanistan Conference* in Kabul and the first *Model OSCE*, which brought OSCE goals, principles and experience to a new generation across the OSCE participating States.

The Secretariat continued to ensure effective and efficient management of human and financial resources across the Organization, to promote greater strategic planning of activities on the basis of desired medium- and long-term impacts and to ensure sound implementation of the OSCE regulatory framework. In an overall context of declining resources within the Organization and challenging external financial and economic factors, these efforts have become crucial to the Organization's ability to deliver the concrete results expected by its participating States.

More detailed reports on these and other activities of the Secretariat in 2008 are provided in the relevant sections that follow, the structure of which reflects the composition of the Secretariat: Office of the Secretary General, Office of Internal Oversight, Conflict Prevention Centre, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Department of Management and Finance and Department of Human Resources.

Office of the Secretary General

The Office of the Secretary General (OSG) includes Executive Management, the Press and Public Information Section, the External Co-operation Section, Legal Services, the Gender Section, Security Management, the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Action against Terrorism Unit, as well as the Office of Internal Oversight.

Executive Management

Executive Management of the OSG supports the work of the Secretary General and the Finnish Chairmanship, providing leadership and co-ordination to ensure the coherence and continuity of the multi-faceted and often long-term activities of the OSCE. The work of this team, as the focal point for internal co-ordination and day-to-day Chairmanship-Secretariat co-operation, is heavily influenced in any given year by the OSCE's current agenda, based on tasks set by the participating States, major developments in the OSCE area and the priorities of the Chairmanship.

Among other activities in 2008, Executive Management supported the Secretary General in implementing the 2007 *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*. This endeavour required considerable work and effective co-ordination among various parts of the Organization to enable the Secretary General to deliver concrete, coherent proposals to the participating States.

Another major concerted effort during the year was the project to dispose of the liquid rocket fuel *Melange* in Ukraine, which represented a technical, financial and managerial challenge of unprecedented magnitude for the Organization.

Strengthening the continuity and long-term planning of OSCE activities, while preserving the Organization's ability to respond quickly and flexibly to unforeseen challenges, was high on the agenda of the Chairmanship and of the Secretariat. Apart from ongoing work such as the further development of Performance-Based Programme Budgeting, Executive Management devoted special attention to supporting the Chairmanship's efforts to promote active dialogue between the Troika and the future Chairmanships of Kazakhstan and Lithuania within the framework of the quintet initiative.

Press and Public Information Section

The Press and Public Information Section is responsible for the OSCE's media communication, web communication and outreach, with the overall goal of raising awareness about the OSCE and generating support for its work.

The Section launched a major new initiative in 2008, the *Model OSCE*, to reach out to and inform a new generation about the Organization's values and activities.

In a first phase, the Section developed a syllabus and a quiz, which it distributed, with information about the OSCE, to 70 schools in the region. Students conducted an initial role-playing exercise. Next, the best 140 high-school and first-year university students from 30 OSCE participating States were invited to Vienna to take part in the 5 to 7 July conference where they debated three security challenges: terrorism and the use of the Internet; water management in Central Asia; and trafficking of Roma children. Three documents were adopted by consensus. This extra-

budgetary project, funded by seven participating States (Austria, Finland, France, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, and the United States), was under the supervision of a Board that included members of OSCE delegations.

To reach out to wider audiences and complement the Organization's work with young people, the Section also launched an official OSCE channel on the popular video-sharing website YouTube, at www.youtube.com/osce, which formed an integral part of the online coverage of the *Helsinki Ministerial Council* and will be further expanded in 2009.

A series of improvements and enhancements to the public website, as well as the OSCE Magazine's in-depth thematic approach to issues of topical concern, brought new depth and breadth to the Section's public information work.

More than 3,400 new documents, 1,760 photos, 15 conference sites, 43 feature stories as well as hundreds of new pages were added to the website, which was moved to a more robust hosting infrastructure to improve availability. Using a system built with existing resources to cover immediate needs, the website team added a total of 63 video and audio clips to its multimedia site



High school and university students from 30 countries learned about the OSCE and developed negotiating skills at the Model OSCE in Vienna, from 5 to 7 July.

OSCE/SUSANNA LOOF

in 2008, covering topics from the Helsinki *Ministerial Council* to recovery in Georgia.

To make information about the OSCE more widely available, the Section published the presentation *The OSCE at Work* in Azerbaijani and Dutch, in addition to the six official languages and Kazakh in which it was issued the previous year. It also used its in-house web expertise to promote innovative new events, setting up the technical platform for the OSCE's first solely online conference and assisting in the development of the conference's multimedia content.

The OSCE Magazine provided multifaceted, reflective reporting on the crisis in Georgia and other major topical issues, such as important OSCE work to combat trafficking in human beings and guarantee the freedom of the media.

The outbreak of hostilities in Georgia and the aftermath put the OSCE at the forefront of global media interest. The Section co-ordinated requests from more than 500 journalists to interview the Chairman-in-Office, the Secretary General and other OSCE officials. Three hundred journalists attended the Helsinki *Ministerial Council*. The Section also drafted numerous articles and opinion pieces on behalf of the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General for newspapers in the entire OSCE region, on this topic and others, notably in the Caucasus and in Central Asia.

In line with the year's action plan, other key results in outreach included:

- publishing twelve issues of the OSCE Highlights newsletter, including a special Helsinki *Ministerial Council* edition produced by University of Helsinki students, to provide journalists with targeted information about OSCE work in the field and upcoming events;
- commissioning, distributing and liaising with all Organization structures on a new *Visual Identity Manual* to unify and invigorate the OSCE's printed corporate image;
- updating OSCE fact sheets for Secretariat units and field operations to bring them into line with a new design launched in 2007;
- providing greater visibility to OSCE publications through the assigning of ISBN numbers to all departments and units of the Secretariat, as well as field operations;
- publishing the Strategic Police Matters Unit's polis.osce.org website in French;
- providing training on press release editing and writing to new staff;
- organizing the 2008 OSCE photo

contest "Waterways of Life" for the Chairmanship and a photo exhibition to mark the 500th flight under the *Open Skies Treaty*;

- presenting the OSCE to more than 60 visitor groups – nearly 1,500 people from 21 countries.

Section for External Co-operation

The Section for External Co-operation acts as the first point of contact for relations with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives at the headquarters level. The Section provides the Secretary General, Chairmanship and Troika with substantive advice and organizational support, ensures co-ordination on external co-operation issues within the Secretariat and with the OSCE Institutions, and serves as a source of relevant information.

In line with the Madrid *Ministerial Declaration* on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation, the Section worked to facilitate strengthening the relationship between the Partners for Co-operation and the participating States, including by supporting the work of the Contact Groups with Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation throughout the year, as well as the meetings of the OSCE Ministerial Troika with the Partners on the eve of the Helsinki *Ministerial Council*. The Section organized the two key annual events with the Partners for Co-operation: the 2008 *Mediterranean Conference*, held in Amman in October and the OSCE-Afghanistan Conference, held for the first time in Kabul in November.

With the establishment of the Partnership Fund by Permanent Council decision, the Secretary General designated the Section to act as master project manager, liaising with donors regarding fund raising and reporting and with individual project managers. Five projects were implemented under the Fund's umbrella, of which the Section managed four directly including two in co-operation with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

The Section interacted regularly with partner organizations and was responsible for the preparation and facilitation of OSCE participation in the established

mechanisms of high- and working-level consultations with the United Nations, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Council of Europe. These consultations focused among other topics on the international presence in Kosovo and the situation in Georgia following the August conflict. The Section also supported the OSCE's participation, upon invitation, to Summits and Ministerial meetings of other regional organizations, such as the Central European Initiative or the Collective Security Treaty Organization. To implement the Madrid *Ministerial Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*, the Section supported regular consultations with relevant international and regional organizations exploring possible co-operation options.

In response to requests, the Section hosted five visits to Vienna by the delegations of the League of Arab States, the African Union and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia to learn more about the OSCE's work in the three dimensions of security, in particular on early warning and conflict prevention. It also contributed to the sharing of experience between the OSCE and the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Finally, the Section served as the main focal point for interaction with the UN Alliance of Civilizations, including supporting the Secretary General in attending the first annual forum of the Alliance and in preparing a report on its outcome and possible OSCE contribution to its implementation phase, in line with the task set forth by the Madrid *Ministerial Council*.

Legal Services

To protect the OSCE's legal interests, Legal Services provides legal advice to the Secretary General, the Director of the Office of the Secretary General and other divisions of the Secretariat, Institutions and field operations, as well as to the Chairmanship and participating States.

Issues concerned public, private and commercial law as it affects the Organization, in particular with respect to:

- the interpretation of OSCE decisions, including the *OSCE Rules of Procedure*;
- agreements and memoranda of understanding with participating States or other international organizations;
- the *Financial Regulations* and related administrative instructions;
- the *Staff Regulations and Rules* and

related administrative instructions, as well as personnel issues concerning diplomatic status, privileges and immunities and employment contracts for different categories of staff;

- donor agreements and implementing partner agreements; and
- procurement and purchase contracts entered into by the OSCE.

Legal Services provided legal advice to the Chairmanship and the Secretary General on questions related to Kosovo, Afghanistan, Georgia, the Minsk Group and extra-budgetary projects such as the project to eliminate stockpiles of the toxic rocket fuel component *Melange* in Ukraine.

Following up on last year's work on the Draft Convention on the International Legal Personality, Legal Capacity, and Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE, Legal Services participated in and provided support to an informal roundtable organized by the Chairmanship in Vienna on 22 October. It was co-chaired by Päivi Kaukoranta, Director of the European Union and Treaty Law Unit of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and Ida van Veldhuizen-Rothenbücher, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the OSCE. Legal Services also organized a *Legal Roundtable* in March, at which all OSCE executive structures were represented.

Regarding personnel matters, Legal Services continued to provide advice to senior management on disciplinary cases and staff appeals against administrative decisions. It prepared informative charts on the Panel of Adjudicators and the initiation and implementation of disciplinary measures.

Gender Section

The Gender Section supports the promotion of gender equality in OSCE executive structures and underlines the need for gender mainstreaming beyond the human dimension, also focusing on the politico-military and the economic and environmental field.

The implementation of the *OSCE 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality* showed slow progress in 2008. To accelerate improvements, the Section continued to provide technical assistance to the Conflict Prevention Centre, which is the focal point in the Secretariat for

Participants in the Gender Section's seminar in Dushanbe on innovative approaches to combating violence against women



developing the OSCE's role in the politico-military dimension, and to field operations on how to integrate a gender perspective into projects.

With the support of the Chairmanship, the Secretary General, and a group of heads of field operations, the Section also launched an initiative to advise project managers in the politico-military and economic and environmental dimensions. For example, in close co-operation with the Section, the Office in Baku produced and is implementing an *Action Plan* for mainstreaming gender into its community policing project.

The Section organized the annual OSCE gender focal point meeting, which gathered 40 staff members to support work on gender issues throughout the OSCE. It assisted the Department of Human Resources in delivering a gender mainstreaming module to be used in the *General Orientation Programmes* for all new staff. The Section also started the development of a new tool to promote gender equality, the CD *Gender Matters in the OSCE*, funded by Austria, Liechtenstein, Canada and the Netherlands.

To aid participating States in their recruitment, the Section prepared the establishment of a roster of female military and police professionals, funded by Norway. It organized a 2-1/2 day expert seminar in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to facilitate the exchange among policy makers of innovative approaches to combating violence against women. It was attended by 89 experts and funded by Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Greece.

The Section joined forces with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to raise awareness among policy makers on the need for gender sensitive labour migration policies. The partners produced a draft OSCE guide on

gender and labour migration policies and organized an expert seminar in Vienna to discuss it. Finland funded parts of the project. The Section also collaborated with the OCEEA to prepare a booklet on how to integrate a gender perspective into OSCE environmental projects.

Furthermore, the Section delivered advice and/or training on gender issues during visits to field operations in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan, and to the High Commissioner on National Minorities in the Hague. It provided technical advice and made contributions to a number of international and OSCE events, including the Heads of Mission meetings, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's *Annual Session*, the Human Dimension Committee meetings and the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*.

www.osce.org/gender

Security Management

Security Management, the Organization's clearing house for all security-related issues, establishes safety and security policy and standards and supports security managers charged with staff security. Security Management also maintains the comprehensive OSCE-wide set of guidelines, the Security Management System.

In 2008, Security Management assisted in co-ordinating security arrangements in pre-crisis and emergency situations, including in Kosovo and Georgia.

It increased OSCE staff's security and safety awareness by:

- issuing security advisories,
- modifying security presentations for the *General Orientation Programme*, and

- continuing to provide individual briefings to staff with security responsibilities.

On 20 and 21 November, OSCE Security Focal Points met at their annual meeting to review managerial responsibilities in relation to security and update themselves on recent trends and security arrangements in crises areas.

During the past year Security Management:

- facilitated field operations' and institutions' compliance with security procedures as per provisions laid down in basic OSCE security and safety guidance documents by co-ordinating and monitoring security policy and carrying out field inspections;
- continued assessing the security aspects of potential premises for field operations; and
- assisted in the selection of security personnel.

The Security Management Committee, chaired by the Head of Security Management and comprised of representatives from the Secretariat's Office of the Secretary General, Conflict Prevention Centre, Department of Management and Finance, Department of Human Resources and Information Technology, served as the main security advisory body by:

- making recommendations on all forms of security arrangements;
- advising on emergency situations;
- co-ordinating other security-related measures.

Security Management took an active part in the meetings of ad hoc Task Forces on Georgia, Afghanistan and Kosovo.

Strategic Police Matters Unit

The Strategic Police Matters Unit assists participating States in building accountable, transparent and professional police forces according to the priorities enshrined in OSCE decisions.

The Unit conducted a two-week needs assessment mission to Tajikistan, at the request of the Government and in co-operation with the OSCE field operation. It focused on issues including police structure and efficiency, community policing and police training curricula.

Improvements suggested in the Unit's draft police reform report were launched in December, with a week-long training course on investigating human trafficking crimes.

In Kazakhstan, it organized a needs assessment mission on developing a pilot community policing programme for Astana. The Unit facilitated meetings between Kazakh officials and experts in the broader area of police reform.

To step up work to combat transnational organized crime, in particular trafficking in drugs and human beings, the Unit co-operated with other relevant organizations and OSCE structures to organize workshops, conferences and training courses to strengthen mutual legal co-operation among OSCE participating States. Those events were:

- a regional workshop on enhancing law enforcement and judicial co-operation on the Balkan drug routes in Istanbul in January;
- a workshop on strengthening international legal co-operation among OSCE participating States to combat transnational organized crime, organized together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna in April;
- a regional workshop on promoting law enforcement and judicial co-operation among source, transit and destination countries to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling to and from Central Asia in Tashkent in May;
- a regional workshop on seizing, confiscating and sharing/returning of proceeds/instrumentalities of crime transferred to foreign jurisdictions, in Almaty in July;
- an expert conference on international co-operation to combat trafficking in illicit drugs and chemical precursors in Vienna in July;
- the *Annual Police Experts Meeting* on fighting the threat of cyber crime in Vienna in October;
- a regional workshop on cross-border co-operation in Central Asia with Afghanistan to combat illicit drugs trafficking in Tashkent in November.

The Unit facilitated a two-week counter-narcotics training course for 12 Afghan police officers, conducted by personnel of the International Drug Fighting Training Centre of the All-Russian Advanced Police Academy in Moscow/Domodedovo.

Drawing on OSCE expertise, the Unit produced a report providing an overview of the Organization's 2008 activities in the

fight against organized crime.

In co-operation with the Action against Terrorism Unit and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, the Unit organized a regional workshop on police and inter-agency co-operation in the fight against terrorism in Central Asia aimed at identifying ways to improve co-operation among the main stakeholders in the region in Tashkent in September.

The Unit's work on disseminating best practices in baseline policing capacities culminated in 2008 in two key publications: *Good Practices in Building Police-Public Partnerships* and *Good Practices in Basic Police Training-Curricula Aspects*, both part of a series aimed at assisting participating States in better complying with their international legal commitments.

A regional roundtable in Almaty in November focused on putting into practice the recommendations of another publication in the series, the *Guidebook on Democratic Policing*. The roundtable discussion centred on the use of force, public order management and oversight mechanisms.

The Unit began translating into Russian the *Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit*, produced together with the UNODC in 2006 and designed to help professionals who are assessing the quality of police and criminal justice structures in Russian-speaking countries.

The Unit also developed a *Controlled Delivery Manual for South-Eastern Europe* to facilitate anti-drug trafficking co-operation among countries in the region by providing contact details of relevant counterparts and legislative information. It also translated into Russian a handy pocket book to aid police officers in identifying chemical precursors.

A French version of the Policing Online Information System (POLIS) was introduced. In October, POLIS hosted the OSCE's first-ever exclusively online seminar, on countering the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, featuring presentations by six international experts, with discussions moderated by the Unit. The second cluster meeting on organized crime was held online through POLIS.

To capture the learning from the OSCE's work in policing, the Unit developed a report describing and comparing the challenges faced by the field operations' Law Enforcement Departments and the approaches they took to manage these challenges.

Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings promotes the implementation of OSCE anti-trafficking commitments. In particular, the Special Representative is tasked to provide advice and assistance to participating States in the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and subsequent Ministerial Decisions from 2000 to 2008.

To elevate the priority of combating trafficking in human beings at the national level and to initiate political processes for the eradication of human trafficking, the Special Representative decided to initiate a series of country assessments. Work started in Spain and Romania, and these assessments will be published in 2009.

To enhance dialogue with participating States, the Special Representative paid official visits to Spain, Azerbaijan and Belarus, and visited Bosnia and Herzegovina together with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for meetings with parliamentarians from the region.

The Office continued to lead efforts to promote the creation of National Co-ordination Mechanisms as effective tools for enhancing a coherent approach and engaging all relevant stakeholders at the national level. The Special Representative encouraged the OSCE

quintet of Chairmanships to serve as role models by establishing or strengthening their National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms as another crucial component to make the fight against human trafficking more efficient. In November, the Office published an in-depth survey of the existing anti-trafficking structures established in the participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

The Office held two high-level conferences and a technical seminar within the framework of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons. In the spring, the conference on *Child Trafficking: Responses and Challenges at Local Level* was the first of its kind to address the way governments combat child trafficking in their capitals and how their responses are affected by national policy. Later in the year, the conference *Successful Prosecution of Human Trafficking – Challenges and Good Practices*, co-arranged with the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship, provided the participants with excellent first-hand information on how to enhance national capacities to prosecute cases of human trafficking with a victim-centred approach. The Special Representative also organized a *Technical Follow-up Seminar to the 6th Alliance Conference on National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms*. These events attracted more than 550 participants from 55 participating States and five Partners for Co-operation. The Special Representative and her team also contributed to more than 50 national and regional conferences and expert meetings.

At the European Union Anti-Trafficking Day 2008, Jacques Barrot, European Commission Vice-President, supported the OSCE Special Representative's work promoting better knowledge, understanding and data on trafficking in human beings through the establishment of National Rapporteurs.

The Office's contributions to the preparation of the main event of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), namely the *Vienna Forum*, were visible and had a significant impact on the success of this initiative.

To enhance its public outreach, the Office also revamped and promoted the unit's website: www.osce.org/cthb. Updated daily with news stories from around the world, in all the OSCE's official languages, the website is a genuine gateway to the Organization's anti-trafficking work. It offers a digital library of audio-visuals and other graphic material. In 2008, the new website showed a constant increase in visits reaching almost 35,000 unique hits.

Special Representative: **Eva Biaudet**
www.osce.org/cthb

Action against Terrorism Unit

In 2008, responding to requests by the Chairman-in-Office, participating States and the Secretary General, the Action against Terrorism Unit prepared over a dozen concept papers on cutting-edge anti-terrorism strategies. Many of these ideas, related, for instance, to enhancing passport/travel document security, promoting public-private partnerships or combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, were subsequently developed into OSCE initiatives.

The Unit organized, supported or otherwise facilitated over 20 capacity-building activities at the OSCE-wide, regional and national levels, co-operating with all pertinent United Nations structures, international, regional and sub-regional organizations and specialized agencies to support their counter-terrorism activities, share experiences and facilitate contacts among national authorities and international experts.

Funded in part by Spain, the Unit assisted requesting participating States in implementing counter-terrorism instruments, including through legislative drafting workshops, as part of its programmes on promoting international legal frameworks and enhancing international co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

As part of its programme on enhancing passport/travel document security and funded by Spain, the United States (U.S.), Norway and Lithuania, the Unit trained



OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Eva Biaudet (right) wearing the Légion d'honneur presented to her by French Ambassador to the OSCE Eric Lebédel (centre) and Advisor for Security Affairs, Guillaume Le Blond, 30 October

OSCE/BLANCA TAPIA



State officials and representatives from civil society and the business community gather in Vienna for a conference on public-private partnerships in combating terrorism.

experts from requesting participating States in identifying forged documents, using relevant Interpol tools, and adhering to handling and issuance standards, thereby significantly improving national and regional capacities.

Funded by Spain, the U.S. and the Russian corporation Norilsk Nickel, the Unit organized the *Follow-up OSCE Public-Private Partnership Conference: Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism* in Vienna in September, which explored the concrete potential for such co-operation in many counter-terrorism areas. Whenever appropriate, the Unit further increased co-operation with the business sector and civil society.

The Unit assisted requesting participating States in expanding the OSCE's work on combating terrorist use of the Internet so as to promote a comprehensive approach for enhancing cyber security, resulting in a Forum for Security Co-operation commitment.

Funded by the United Kingdom, the Unit organized a workshop on preventing violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. The event identified a need for better understanding of these phenomena and for developing multi-dimensional responses to counter them.

In co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the Unit organized an expert meeting, funded by the U.S., on *Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure from Terrorist Attacks*. Participants discussed threats and challenges and explored possible OSCE contributions in this field.

The Unit further improved the *Counter-Terrorism Network*, resulting in enhanced

visibility of OSCE counter-terrorism activities and better information sharing among counter-terrorism practitioners.

www.osce.org/atu

Office of Internal Oversight

The Office of Internal Oversight enhanced its oversight work this year through a greater focus on performance audits that recommend improvements to programme operations. Though the bulk of the Office's annual oversight concerned assessing controls and compliance with regulations, the Office moved increasingly towards the examination of programmatic areas.

The Office carried out audits and inspections of a number of field operations, the Secretariat and Institutions and issued 17 reports delivering roughly 200 recommendations for improvements. In line with its professional standards, the Office took a risk-based approach to selecting the subjects for its audits so that it could prioritize the use of its limited resources. The areas audited included financial and human resources management, procurement processes, programme management and relations with implementing partners.

The Office's programmatic audits revealed a number of areas requiring improvement. First, programmes must only be launched after first running a needs assessment and setting strategic goals. Second, tools to make realistic estimates of costs must be enhanced. Third, programme managers need to adopt detailed implementation plans to prioritize and schedule activities in line with the

availability of donor funding and to ensure that proper technical and administrative resources and capabilities are devoted to the programme. Finally, the Office found that the OSCE's relations with its implementing partners need to be improved. Weaknesses were found in areas such as: the selection of implementing partners, budget formulation, approval of financial accounting and reporting and monitoring and evaluation of implementing partners' activities.

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. The Office found that management was making good progress towards implementation of the remainder. The high rate of acceptance and implementation of the recommendations reflected the good co-operation enjoyed by the Office in its relations with the audited entities.

OSCE management regularly consulted with the Office on other issues such as audits conducted by third parties, the revision of instructions, cost saving and the preparation of major tenders.

The Office's work continued to be closely scrutinized by the Audit Committee. In its report to the Permanent Council, the Audit Committee underlined the relevance and the quality of the Office's work.

Conflict Prevention Centre

The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) supports the Organization and its 56 participating States in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. It 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.

Policy Support Service

The **South-eastern Europe Desk** assisted the Chairmanship in guiding the Organization's involvement in the region, especially following the proclamation of independence by the Assembly of Kosovo and its impact on the overall situation in the region.

The Desk continued to contribute to facilitating the two regional co-operation processes: the *Palic Process* on inter-state judicial co-operation on war crimes proceedings and the *Sarajevo Process* on regional refugee returns. It pursued dialogue at the expert level, including with partner organizations such as the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Commission, to find solutions to impasses in the processes.

The **Eastern Europe Desk** supported the Organization's efforts to reinvigorate the negotiation process for a peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transnistrian issue. It continued to support the work and participate in the meetings of the

mediators and observers involved in the conflict settlement process.

The Desk assisted the field operation in Belarus in helping the host country fulfil its OSCE commitments in all mandate-related areas. It supported the work of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in meeting the demand from government authorities for projects and in streamlining his office's project portfolio. Finally, the desk prepared and participated in all Chairmanship visits to the region, which included the first visit of a Chairman-in-Office to Belarus since 2004.

The **Caucasus Desk** continued to assist field operations in activities related to Georgian-Ossetian and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement processes. It also assisted the Mission to Georgia and the Chairmanship in conflict prevention and crisis management prior to, during and after the outbreak of hostilities in August. It was closely involved in the preparation and conduct of the post-conflict Geneva discussions.

The Desk contributed to the preparation,

conduct and follow-up of high-level visits by the Chairmanship to the region throughout the year. In particular, it accompanied and provided support to the Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office during visits to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the context of the 2008 elections in all three countries as well as with regard to crisis situations in the region.

The **Central Asia Desk**, the Centre in Dushanbe and the Government of Tajikistan convened the second annual *OSCE-Tajikistan Task Force Meeting* in Dushanbe to discuss common goals. The Desk supported the Chairmanship during its negotiations on a new mandate for the Office in Tajikistan. It continued to train Kazakh civil servants in preparation for the country's Chairmanship in 2010.

Visits to the region and events supported by the Desk included those by the Chairman-in-Office and by the Secretary General. It contributed to planning meetings of field operations in Central Asia and provided input to a Task Force dealing with the 2007 *Ministerial Council Decision*

Transfer of *Melange* into intermediate bulk storage containers at a military storage depot in Albania in October, part of a project to dispose of the toxic rocket fuel



Borders Team personnel on the Tajik/Afghan border in the Gorno Badakshan region during an assessment of the OSCE *Customs Assistance Project* launched in September



OSCE/JON TRUMBLE

on *OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*. It continued to deliver lectures on the Organization to students at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.

The Programming and Evaluation Support Unit

OSCE field operations are implementing ever larger and more complex projects with both budgetary and extra-budgetary resources. In close co-operation with the Policy Support Service, the Programming and Evaluation Support Unit co-ordinates the assessment of field operations' extra-budgetary projects, providing an effective channel for sharing views and technical expertise among the field operations, institutions and the Secretariat. In 2008, the Unit assessed 133 extra-budgetary projects planned by field operations and the Secretariat for a total value of over €23.8 million.

The Unit continued helping programme and project managers in field operations to plan, develop and evaluate their programmes and projects. This year, it provided on-site support to the Office in Baku, the Centre in Bishkek, the Mission in Kosovo, the Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, the Office in Tajikistan and the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. To help standardize OSCE programme and project management and promote best practices, the Unit initiated the organization of two events for field operations, institutions and the Secretariat: a project management training programme from 10 to 15 November and a Performance Based Programme Budgeting training event from 10 to 12 December, both in Stadtschlaining, Austria.

Operations Service

Operational planning and analysis. As the primary point of co-ordination for operational planning and analysis within the Secretariat, the Service, through its Planning and Analysis Team, helped plan the closure of the Mission to Croatia, the establishment of the Office in Zagreb, the increase in the number of military monitoring officers in the Mission to Georgia and the establishment of a Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Concerning operational analysis, the Service focused on further developing a systematic approach to lessons learning. In particular, the Service continued to co-ordinate the debriefing process of outgoing senior officials from field operations and prepared recommendations to enhance OSCE effectiveness. It also assisted in drafting After Action Reports to identify lessons learned and develop recommendations regarding operational planning.

As part of its contribution to the enhancement of early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management initiatives, the Service provided analytical advice and support in the context of risk reduction mechanisms following the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) incident over Abkhazia, Georgia, in April. Following the outbreak of hostilities in Georgia in August, the Service provided similar assistance in support of the subsequent Geneva discussions and consultations on the future mandate of the Mission to Georgia.

The Service continued its co-operation with the UN Department of Political Affairs in preparing for a follow-up to consultations on the operationalization of mediation support. It again supported

the Chairmanship in the organization of the *Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC)*. To facilitate discussions at the ASRC, the Service prepared a summary and compendium of existing OSCE Mechanisms and Procedures for Early Warning, Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management. The Service also provided support to the Security Committee.

24 hours/7 days a week operational link.

Through its Situation/Communication Room, the Service provided an around-the-clock operational link and point of contact among the OSCE structures, especially outside working hours. It provided real-time reporting on the OSCE area with a particular focus on emerging crisis situations, such as in Kosovo and Georgia. It disseminated accurate and timely information which enabled Senior Management to take appropriate decisions as those situations unfolded. The Service continued to produce daily briefings, numerous special briefings, weekly regional summaries and calendars of upcoming events. It also provided operational assistance for emergencies in the field, including security incidents and crises and medical evacuations.

Border security and management. In 2008, through its Borders Team, the Service maintained the efficient functioning of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network (NFP), organized the NFP's second meeting in Vienna with representatives of field operations and provided newsletters summarizing border-related activities and plans. It also organized a regional Field Operations Co-ordination Meeting on Border Management in Central Asia.

Following the adoption of the *Ministerial Council Decision on Afghanistan*, the Service contributed to the development of a programme of border-related activities, which was circulated to all participating States, and began work on planning the implementation of the border-related initiatives. The Service also provided support to a number of field operations in implementing OSCE border-related initiatives that targeted both policy makers and border practitioners.

It also planned and conducted a border management training programme which focused on inter-agency co-operation and which brought together representatives of all the Central Asian border and law enforcement agencies.

The service provided support on border-related issues to events conducted by the Chairmanship, the Action against Terrorism Unit and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

Forum for Security Co-operation Support Section

The Section continued to support the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in monitoring the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) and other commitments in the politico-military area stemming from FSC documents. It produced a *Summary Report on Recent Trends in the Implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 and Other Measures Addressed during the AIAM* to facilitate discussion at the *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM)*. At the AIAM, the Support Section also chaired a meeting of the heads of verification units to share practical thoughts and lessons learned with respect to CSBM implementation. During the year, the Section supported participating States by producing *CPC Monthly Reports* and *CPC Quarterly and Annual Surveys on CSBM Information Exchanged* as well as a *Summary Report on replies provided by participating States on the one-off information exchange with regard to OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)*.

Together with Switzerland and the Centre in Astana, the FSC Support Section organized a seminar on *Implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security in Central Asia* and provided input to national *Code of Conduct* workshops in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Section also

prepared and supported a *Workshop on the Implications of Technical, Managerial and Financial Issues of Existing and Planned Projects on SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA)*, which resulted in a wide array of proposals for further improving the OSCE response and work with other international organizations. The Section facilitated the first meeting among international organizations involved in SALW and SCA programmes.

Together with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the OSCE is running two large-scale SALW and SCA projects in Montenegro and one in Belarus. The second phase of the comprehensive assistance programme on SALW and conventional ammunition in Tajikistan is nearing completion. The Section also carried out assessment visits to Albania, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to develop project activities there. A combined donors/assessment visit to Belarus facilitated an update of the implementation plan for the second phase of the OSCE-UNDP programme on SALW.

The Section published the *Handbook of Best Practices on Conventional Ammunition* and prepared the FSC Chair's progress reports to the *Helsinki Ministerial Council* on SALW, SCA and the *OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*. It organized an exhibit there on its SALW and SCA projects.

The **OSCE Communication Network** facilitates the exchange of important information to further openness and transparency in military affairs. The FSC Support Section maintains the system and the custom software used to generate treaty notifications, which was improved and expanded in 2008. The parties to the *Dayton Peace Agreement* now also have use of the software. The network made possible the exchange of approximately 260,000 messages between participating States this year, while maintaining an availability of 99.9%. The Section also continued to chair the OSCE Communications Group, which provides valuable oversight by and for delegations.

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)

A top priority in 2008 was to support the Finnish Chairmanship in successfully conducting the 16th *Economic and Environmental Forum* in Vienna and Prague, on the theme *Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment*. The topic offered continuity with past meetings of the *Forum*, such as the 13th, which addressed issues related to transport, or the 14th, on the links between the environment and security.

The Office followed up on the *Forum* with a number of activities, including assisting the Chairmanship in the organization of the conference *The Safety of Navigation and Environmental Security in a Transboundary Context in the Black Sea Basin* in Odessa, Ukraine, from 24 to 26 June, and the drafting of a handbook on best practices at border crossings, due to be finalized in mid 2009. The *Forum's* outcome and recommendations led to the adoption of a follow-up decision by the Helsinki Ministerial Council.

Economic co-operation and migration management

The OCEEA continued to support the creation of favourable investment and business conditions in the OSCE area. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-OSCE *Investment and Competitiveness Initiative* for countries of Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia, initially discussed at an international conference in 2006, was launched at a ministerial-level conference in Berlin in November. Delegations from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan agreed on a concluding statement regarding the *Initiative*, with other countries of the region expressing interest in the theme.

The OCEEA continued activities aimed at facilitating dialogue and the exchange of good practice on labour migration. It developed a multi-dimensional project aimed at raising political awareness of the gender dimension of labour migration.

Environment and security

The OCEEA, in co-operation with other international partners, continued its involvement in the *Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative* with a portfolio of over 50 projects and an overall budget of US\$11.3 million. *ENVSEC* promotes transboundary co-operation on environment and security issues in Central Asia, South-eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe. The *ENVSEC* publication *Environment and Security, Transforming Risks into Co-operation – the Case of the East Caspian Region*, was finalized and printed. The OCEEA also helped *ENVSEC* to finalize the Dniester II project, in which a new bilateral agreement was drafted and discussed by Moldova and Ukraine. In parallel, the current agreement was updated, taking into account public participation components, sanitary-epidemiological control of water quality and water quality provisions. Furthermore, the OCEEA continued to support the water management

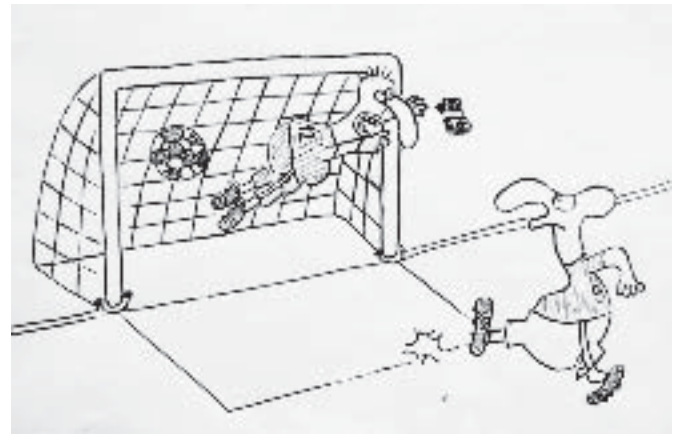


Photo competition

"Fishermen on the river Bolshaya, near the town Oktiabrsky on the Kamchatka peninsula" by Andrey Shapran, the winning entry in the 2008 OSCE photo contest, "Waterways of Life". The photo is from the project *Lands at the edge of the world*, about the Far East of Russia.



OSCE/SABA, NORDBLÖM



Entry in a Mission to Serbia-supported anti-corruption art competition. Cartoon by Morija Bajovic

Desertification, as seen here in a photo from Turkmenistan, can constitute a serious threat to security.

project in the Amu Darya river basin in Central Asia.

In March, the OCEEA organized a *Technical Workshop on Oil Spills Response and Remediation* in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan. Participants from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan exchanged views with international experts on developing oil spills response programmes in the Caspian Sea region. The workshop aimed at identifying the best oil spills remediation technologies and set up a framework for co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations in oil spills-related activities.

The OSCE stepped up its promotion of the *Aarhus Convention* principles this year. The OSCE Side Event organized in Riga on 11 June, as part of the *Third Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention*, brought together practitioners from OSCE-supported Aarhus Centres in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, enabling them to share experiences and best practices in implementing the *Aarhus Convention*.

An independent OCEEA-commissioned evaluation of Aarhus Centres concluded that in most of the countries concerned, the Centres play a key role in facilitating dialogue and co-operation among governmental authorities, civil society organizations and the public. The evaluation

pointed out several achievements and also some challenges, including the need for further efforts in support of the *Convention's* provisions on access to justice, designed to ensure the public's ability to seek legal redress when requests for environmental information are denied. In response to this challenge, the OSCE joined the UN Economic Commission for Europe in organizing the *Access to Justice Regional Workshop for High-Level Judiciary for the South East European Region* in Tirana on 17 and 18 November.

In October, the Co-ordinator led a joint OSCE-UN Environment Programme mission to assess the environmental impact of the conflict in Georgia.

Good governance

The Office further intensified its activities to combat money laundering, the financing of terrorism and corruption. In June, it assisted the OECD in organizing the *7th General Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Network* in Tbilisi. Participants discussed national anti-corruption efforts and the status of the implementation of the *UN Convention against Corruption*. Together with OSCE field operations and the *Global Programme against Money Laundering* of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the OCEEA organized the regional workshop *Combating Money*

Laundering for judges from Central, South-eastern and Eastern Europe in Vienna in July. Also in July, the Office assisted the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Centre in Astana and UNODC in organizing a regional workshop on *Confiscating Criminal Assets, Combating Money Laundering and International Mutual Legal Assistance* for officials from Central Asia, Russia and Ukraine in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

In September, the OCEEA, the Office of the Special Representative on Combating Human Trafficking, UNODC and the Republic of Cyprus organized a regional meeting for officials from the Mediterranean region on *Combating Money Laundering and Trafficking in Human Beings*. The first such meeting ever, it focused on improving prevention mechanisms, inter-agency co-ordination and international co-operation. The event was held in Larnaca, Cyprus.

In 2008, the OSCE became an observer to the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures (MONEYVAL) and took part in the 28th MONEYVAL plenary in Strasbourg in December.

Department of Management and Finance

The Department of Management and Finance continued to enhance the Organization's Common Regulatory Management System (CRMS), moving toward a more proactive, operational footing in terms of using the Integrated Resource Management System. The Department, which comprises Conference Services, Finance Services, Financial Compliance, Systems and Support, Mission Support, Information and Communications Technology and the Prague Office, further contributed to the enhancement and institutionalization of the Organization's approach to OSCE-wide Performance-Based Programme Budgeting, and provided extensive support and functional training to Fund Administration Units in the field, including risk assessment training.

Key 2008 achievements included:

- progressing further toward an appropriate internal control environment by improving access to the Organization's resource management system, training programmatic and administrative staff and developing and providing training on a risk management tool for OSCE staff. Also, the Department continuously reviewed procedures to ensure compliance with the CRMS, including by managing a cross-functional working group on Implementing Partners;
- completing the first of a two-phase Information and Communication Technology (ICT) project to replace the Oracle hardware platform. The Department initiated an internal study to review the OSCE-wide ICT organizational structure and to establish a total cost base for further evaluation;
- co-ordinating the procurement and deployment of armoured vehicles and other assets to the Mission to Georgia within one week following the August conflict;
- implementing an OSCE-wide global travel contract which serves 18 locations, focusing on improving advance booking performance to keep costs down;
- advising and supporting field operations with fleet rationalization, with significant reductions achieved;
- developing a strategy for OSCE adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by 2010;

- supporting the Chairmanship, participating States, the Joint Consultative Group and the Open Skies Consultative Commission in their conducting of meetings and conferences, including the *Ministerial Council* in Helsinki.

Prague Office

This year the Prague Office, home to the OSCE archive, celebrated the first decade of its *Researcher-in-Residence* programme, under which it hosts researchers working on topics pertaining to OSCE activities.

The Prague Office supported the Organization's public outreach efforts by posting 2,000 statements, journals and decisions issued by the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation on the Internet, and by disseminating supporting documentation to participants of the first *Model OSCE* exercise in July.

The Prague Office's archives expanded following the rationalization of the Mission to Croatia and after the transfer of the historical documents from Conference Services and the Conflict Prevention Centre following the Secretariat's 2007 move to new premises in Vienna. The latter include records of the exchange of military information compiled since 1993 by the Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit.

The Office supported the organization of the second part of the 16th *Economic and Environmental Forum*, which took place in May in Prague, and the preparatory conference for the 17th *Forum*.

Together with the Information Management Unit in Vienna, the Office is engaged in planning practical solutions for the sustainable safekeeping of the OSCE's archives.



Masters and doctoral theses resulting from *Researcher in Residence* projects are available in the researchers' reference library of the Prague Office.

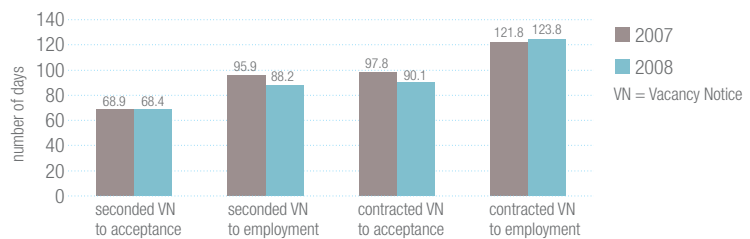
Department of Human Resources

The Department of Human Resources continues to strengthen the OSCE's human capital pool by providing comprehensive human resource services.

Key achievements in 2008 were:

- recruiting swiftly and immediately deploying an additional 20 military monitoring officers to Georgia, who were operative on the ground within 10 days;
- completing preparations to streamline practices related to hiring consultants and releasing a new user-friendly version of the OSCE's online recruitment system, iRecruitment; further customizing the Integrated Resource Management human resources module to provide improved reporting capabilities;
- conducting a systematic campaign to boost the number of qualified women applicants/nominees, particularly to higher-level posts;
- working to meet the major challenges in attracting and retaining highly qualified staff, by proposing and implementing approved amendments to the Staff Regulations and Rules;
- establishing a fully operational payroll unit in line with a set of recommendations from the Office of Internal Oversight; preparing and circulating Standard Payroll Operating Procedures for implementation across the Organization;

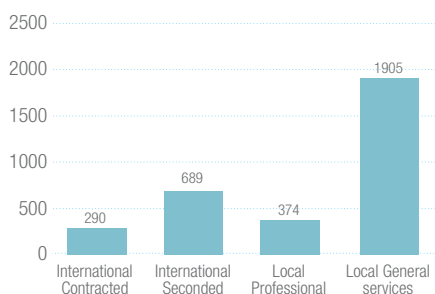
Recruitment duration



The Department made concerted efforts this year to reduce the average recruitment time.

- conducting an annual review and regular improvement of the OSCE's group insurance scheme and aligning it more closely with the OSCE's regulatory framework;
- implementing the streamlined Job Classification System;
- further improving the professional working environment, including by: enhancing the mediation focal point network; introducing a pilot project on mandatory exit interviews in the OSCE Secretariat; reviewing awareness-raising activities on the *Code of Conduct* and Staff Instruction 21/2006, the *OSCE Policy against Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination*;
- conducting a flexible working time trial in the Secretariat in order to create family- and gender-friendly working arrangements in the OSCE;
- processing and paying entitlements and benefits due to staff members quickly and accurately, managing extensions of contracts and the performance appraisal system efficiently;
- continuing the Junior Professional Officer programme that provides young professionals from under-represented participating States the opportunity to gain an overview of the Organization;
- providing efficient and cost-effective training programmes in line with the OSCE Training Strategy for 2008-2010;
- providing continued support for and encouragement of best practices in pre-mission training activities of participating States, including by hosting the annual *OSCE Meeting on Training and Recruitment*, which in 2008 focused on the effective preparation of short-term election observers.

2008 OSCE Post Table



Participants at the third OSCE Meeting on Training and Recruitment, held at the Vienna Hofburg in February



Partnerships for Security and Co-operation



Interaction with organizations and institutions in the OSCE area

Under the guidance of the Finnish Chairmanship, and in accordance with relevant Ministerial and Permanent Council decisions, the OSCE maintained active contacts and close co-operation throughout the year with other international, regional and subregional organizations and initiatives concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area. Developments in the region significantly shaped this interaction. The reconfiguration of the international presence in Kosovo and the eruption of the conflict in Georgia in August prompted close consultations and co-ordination with the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and other interested organizations. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo remained a central element of a reconfigured UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The OSCE was an active participant in the framework of international efforts to settle the conflicts in Georgia. It co-chaired the Geneva discussions with the EU and the UN, which met on three occasions during the year: 15 and 16 October, 18 and 19 November and 17 and 18 December.

The Madrid *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan* tasked the Secretary General to explore co-operation options in co-ordination with the UN and other relevant regional and international organizations. In order to seek complementarity and avoid duplication, the OSCE consulted closely the planning of its activities with the UN, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the EU and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), as well as the World Bank (WB) and the World Customs Organization.

Partner organizations were regularly invited to OSCE events, including the Helsinki *Ministerial Council, Annual Security Review Conference, Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Economic and Environmental Forum* and others, while the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other senior officials represented the Organization, upon invitation, to Summits, Ministerials and

other relevant meetings of international organizations.

The 2008 *Annual Security Review Conference*, focusing on arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, provided an opportunity to review and further enhance security dialogue with the UN, the EU, NATO, CSTO, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development and the Migration, Asylum, Refugee Regional Initiative.

The OSCE took part in the annual high-level consultations in the 'Tripartite-Plus' format with the UN and the Council of Europe (CoE), hosted by the CoE in Strasbourg in July. The three convening organizations, joined by participants from the EC, NATO, CIS, CSTO and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), came together to discuss different aspects of their collaboration in intercultural dialogue, particularly the role of human rights, the promotion of intercultural competences through education, as well as the link between intercultural dialogue and conflict prevention.

A session on co-operation with the UN-family and regional organizations present in Central Asia held back-to-back with the *Regional Heads of Missions Meeting* in Astana on 20 June provided attendees with an opportunity to exchange views and information on their activities in the region. Participating organizations included the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), EU, ICRC, CIS, CSTO, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.

The Conflict Prevention Centre promoted further co-operation on operational issues through the exchange of ideas on the development of a structured approach

to lessons learned and best practices with the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) and the EU Council Secretariat.

The Action against Terrorism Unit sought to promote a coherent international approach to counter-terrorism through collaborating with more than 20 UN structures, international, regional and sub-regional organizations and specialized agencies.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) continued to participate in the *Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)*. One of the highlights of the year was the support ENVSEC provided to the Joint OSCE-UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Assessment Mission on the environmental impacts of the recent conflict in Georgia from 29 September to 3 October.

The Gender Section engaged in dialogue with other international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and think tanks on gender issues in the politico-military dimension, as well as on continuing its work in raising awareness about human trafficking and violence against women. It participated in a workshop initiated by the ENVSEC that sought to mainstream a gender perspective in its programmes.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly fostered interaction and co-operation, particularly in connection with its election observation missions, with inter-parliamentary bodies such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

United Nations

As the largest and most inclusive regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE continued to build on its close ties with the UN, both through political consultations at the headquarters level and through practical co-operation in the field.

The reconfiguration of the international

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (right) with OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, in Geneva on 14 October



presence in Kosovo, the conflict in Georgia and the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan provided the main focus of OSCE – UN co-operation in 2008. The year also saw the opening of new avenues of co-operation in Central Asia. The UN established a Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, which sought the OSCE's regional expertise to launch its peace-making initiatives.

A number of institutional contacts between the two organizations took place during the year. On 23 September, OSCE Chairman-in-Office Alexander Stubb addressed the Security Council of the UN, highlighting the OSCE's activities, particularly focusing his attention on the Organization's role in Georgia, Kosovo and vis-à-vis Afghanistan.

Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut discussed the situation in Georgia and the respective roles of the UN and the OSCE during a bilateral meeting with the UN Secretary-General on the margins of the Geneva discussions on 14 October. In addition, he exchanged views on various issues of mutual interest during his consultations with senior UN officials at UN headquarters in September.

On 24 January, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) in the UNDPKO visited the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. Meetings were held with the OSCE Secretary General and senior staff, presenting the work of the recently established OROLSI office and exploring possible areas for co-operation with the OSCE in the areas of policy development and resource generation.

The annual OSCE-UN staff-level

meeting was hosted by the UN in New York on 29 May. The UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs stressed the efficient and practical co-operation between the UN and the OSCE. Participants discussed a number of regional issues, as well as OSCE-UN co-operation on election-related issues.

On 23 July, the OSCE Secretariat welcomed the visit by the UN Assessment Mission to Abkhazia. The Mission met with the OSCE Secretary General and the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre to exchange views on the situation in the two zones of conflict.

On 10 June, the UNHCR Director of the Europe Bureau met with the OSCE Secretary General and senior officials from the Secretariat. During the meetings, the increasingly pragmatic and project-based nature of the co-operation between the two organizations was emphasized.

The Liaison Officer in Brussels for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs visited the OSCE Secretariat on 19 June, where she met with senior representatives of various departments in order to establish contacts and identify possibilities for future co-operation.

The OSCE participated in the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), aimed at mobilizing state and non-state actors to eradicate human trafficking by: reducing both the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; ensuring adequate protection and support to those who fall victim; and supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved. In close co-operation with the UNODC, the IOM,

the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the OSCE contributed to UN.GIFT's main global event of the year, the *Vienna Forum*. The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings participated in the UN.GIFT Steering Committee, positioning the OSCE as one of the six major organizations worldwide fighting human trafficking.

The OCEEA worked closely with UNODC's *Global Programme against Money Laundering* and the *Global Programme against Corruption*, supporting regional and national events. Other joint activities included the preparation of a technical guide for the implementation of the *UN Convention against Corruption*.

In July, the OCEEA, the Strategic Police Matters Unit and the OSCE Centre in Astana, in close co-operation with UNODC, organized a regional workshop on *Confiscating Criminal Assets, Combating Money Laundering and International Mutual Legal Assistance* for officials from Central Asia, Russia and Ukraine in Almaty.

In September, the OCEEA and the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, in close co-operation with UNODC and the government of the Republic of Cyprus, organized a regional meeting in Larnaca, Cyprus, for officials from the Mediterranean region on *Combating Money Laundering and Trafficking in Human Beings*, the first ever such meeting with a special focus on how to improve mechanisms for prevention

and inter-agency co-ordination and international co-operation.

In promoting the implementation of the *Aarhus Convention*, the OSCE co-operated with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in the organization of the Access to Justice Regional Workshop for High-Level Judiciary in Tirana on 17 and 18 November, which brought together judges from the South-eastern European region and environmental law experts from other parts of Europe. The OSCE was also an active member of the *Aarhus Convention* Capacity Building Co-ordination group, addressing capacity building needs of countries.

Co-operation with UNECE on transport and trade facilitation also continued. Efforts focused on the drafting of a Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings. Collaboration was extended to include the *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment* in a trans-boundary context, through a project between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

The OCEEA worked together with the UNECE, UNDP and the EU Water Initiative within the framework of an extra-budgetary project *Capacity for Water Co-operation in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia*, funded by ENVSEC.

The OCEEA continued its collaboration with the UN *Convention to Combat Desertification*, extending it also to the World Meteorological Organization, in particular in the Central Asian regions. A political event in Bishkek took place in May as a follow-up to the technical workshop held in Tashkent in November 2007.

European Union

2008 saw deepened co-operation between the EU and the OSCE on a number of key issues. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office was instrumental in assisting the EU with the brokering of the ceasefire agreement in Georgia.

In his address to the Permanent Council on 24 January, the Slovenian Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council highlighted the need for continued and deepened co-operation between the EU and the OSCE. He expressed the EU's support for the OSCE's work during the Slovenian EU Presidency in the first half of 2008.

This commitment was reiterated by French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner during the French EU Presidency in the second half of the

year. On 17 July, addressing the OSCE Permanent Council, he emphasized the OSCE's indispensability for peace and stability in Europe and underscored the need for increased OSCE-EU complementarity. He focused particularly on Kosovo and the unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area, and sought support for the stabilization of Afghanistan. Central Asia was also highlighted as one of the important areas for increased co-operation between the EU and the OSCE.

On 31 January, EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner addressed the Permanent Council, stressing the importance of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue among its 56 participating States, as well as its extensive field presence and its agreed values and commitments in all three dimensions. Other briefings to the Permanent Council by senior EU officials included the EU Special Representative for Central Asia and the EU Special Representative for the crisis in Georgia.

The Chairman-in-Office participated in the *OSCE-EU Ministerial Troika* meeting, held in April. Meetings of the Ambassadorial Troikas took place in February and September. Topics discussed included co-operation in Central Asia, the situation in Kosovo and protracted conflicts. The OSCE Secretary General addressed the EU Political and Security Committee in May and November, under the respective Slovenian and French EU Presidencies, and in the margins held a number of bilateral meetings with representatives of the European Commission (EC) and of the EU Council Secretariat.

The annual EU-OSCE staff-level meeting was hosted by the EU in Brussels on 13 June, allowing for constructive exchanges of views and expertise on topics including: the international presence in Kosovo, South Caucasus, Eastern Europe and Central Asia; implementation of the Madrid *Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan* and the fight against terrorism.

The OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings co-ordinated efforts and strategies with the EC, particularly with the Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security, regarding the role of National Rapporteurs. Through this co-operation, the Special Representative released an Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team Statement of the National Rapporteurs on European Anti-trafficking Day. The EC Vice-President praised the good co-operation with the Special

Representative, remarking on their common goal to promote better knowledge, understanding and data on trafficking in human beings through the establishment of National Rapporteurs. One member of the Office was elected to join the recently established EU Expert Group against Human Trafficking.

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) regularly collaborated with the European Parliament during election observation missions. ODIHR representatives also participated in the EU Council Working Group on the OSCE and the CoE, discussing co-operation between the EU, ODIHR, and the CoE on human rights.

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 Neighborhood Policy, focusing 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

Building upon a consolidated co-operation framework and regular contacts, the OSCE and the CoE continued to work together in 2008 and to closely co-ordinate their actions on emerging and current issues of common interest at the political and working levels, including in the field.

The events in Georgia topped the agenda of the talks between the Chairmen-in-Office of the two organizations, Foreign Ministers Stubb of Finland and Carl Bildt of Sweden. At a meeting in Brussels on 12 September, they called for the implementation of the French and Russian Presidents' agreed ceasefire and discussed the humanitarian implications and possible follow-up. They also examined co-operation between the OSCE and the CoE on election-related issues and in the four priority areas: tolerance and non-discrimination; rights of persons belonging to national minorities; fighting terrorism; and trafficking in human beings; stressing the commitment to further deepen the existing co-operation.

The concrete outcomes and plans for co-operation in the four priority areas were discussed at the two meetings of the Co-ordination Group, held in Vienna and Strasbourg on 14 March and 19 September, respectively. These underlined the importance of sustaining ongoing co-operation while respecting the different memberships and decision-making processes and

mandates of the two organizations.

On 28 February, Ján Kubiš, Chair of the CoE Committee of Ministers, in his address to the Permanent Council, pointed to the importance of further strengthening dialogue and co-ordination between the two organizations. Subsequently, he had a bilateral meeting with the OSCE Secretary General to discuss regional issues and practical co-operation.

Both the Secretary General of the CoE in his address to the Permanent Council on 24 April and the OSCE Secretary General, speaking to the CoE Committee of Ministers on 7 May, highlighted the significant complementarities in the work of the CoE and the OSCE and the concrete results that could be reached through an effective working relationship.

At the senior officials' meeting on 8 July, the two organizations had the opportunity to further exchange views and advance co-operation in the field. The meetings focused in particular on South-eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Eastern Europe.

The progress made in providing assistance to local self governments in South-eastern Europe and the opportunities for additional joint projects were discussed at the regular meeting on the implementation of the *Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in South East Europe* on 13 November.

The OCEEA interacted with the CoE on issues of migration, good governance, combating money laundering, financing of terrorism and corruption, including through cross-representation at events. In 2008, the OSCE became an observer to the CoE's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures (MONEYVAL).

The Representative on Freedom of the Media held talks with the CoE's Secretary General and the Commissioner for Human Rights to discuss issues of common interest and reinforce co-operation. At the regular meeting of the CoE's Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services, the Representative also called upon member states to make further efforts to decriminalize defamation.

In 2008, the ODIHR and the CoE's Commission on Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) delivered joint opinions on electoral legislation (Armenia, Moldova, Azerbaijan), assembly laws (Armenia, Kyrgyzstan), legislation concerning freedom of religion (Kazakhstan), as well as anti-discrimination legislation. The ODIHR regularly co-operated with

both the CoE's Parliamentary Assembly and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on election observation activities. In July, the Office jointly assessed the human rights situation of the Roma and Sinti in Italy with the CoE's Commissioner for Human Rights.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities maintained regular contacts with CoE national minority bodies. At his request, the Venice Commission adopted a Report on Dual Voting for Persons Belonging to National Minorities.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

OSCE-NATO relations continued to develop in 2008 through regular political dialogue and expert-level co-operation.

On 9 July, the OSCE Secretary General delivered a statement to the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) providing an overview of the Organization and highlighting its values and commitments. He also met with the Secretary General of NATO and other high-ranking officials. Co-operation on regional matters and politico-military activities were discussed at regular OSCE-NATO staff meetings.

The Deputy Chairman of the NATO Military Committee visited the OSCE Secretariat on 9 September and exchanged views with OSCE staff. The Subcommittee on Democratic Governance of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly was briefed on OSCE activities by the Chairmanship and the Secretariat on 25 November.

Following an invitation from the NATO Secretary General, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings met with the EAPC members in March. The Special Representative discussed trafficking in human beings from the perspective of security and military operations. The Office of the Special Representative contributed to an anti-trafficking course held in Ankara.

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Joao Soares addressed the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 54th Annual Session.

Other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives

The OSCE followed closely the developments of regional co-operation in South-eastern Europe. In January, the OSCE Secretary General received the visit of the Secretary General of the Regional Co-

operation Council (RCC), who introduced the newly created Secretariat, exploring venues for collaboration. The OSCE Secretary General and representatives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly also attended the final *Regional Table of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe* and Inaugural Meeting of the RCC, in Sofia on 27 February. Moreover, the OSCE Secretary General was the first representative of an international organization to visit the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo on 17 March. A representative of the Secretariat attended the 11th *Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Co-operation Process* in Pomorie, Bulgaria, on 21 and 22 May.

The OSCE Secretary General participated in the *Summit of the Heads of Government of the Central European Initiative* in Chisinau on 28 November, stating the OSCE's readiness to pursue co-operation with the *Initiative*, particularly on environmental issues.

2008 saw increased contacts with the CSTO. The Secretary General attended as observer the session of the Council of Collective Security of the CSTO in Moscow on 5 September, upon invitation of the CSTO Secretary General. The OSCE and CSTO Secretaries General met bilaterally on the margins of the Summit. The main focus of these consultations was the implementation of the *Madrid Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*. Contacts with the CSTO also included a visit by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre to the CSTO Secretariat in April, and the participation for the first time by an expert from the OSCE Secretariat in the international anti-drug operation *Channel-2008*, held in Moscow from 15 to 22 September.

On 3 July, the CIS Executive Secretary addressed the Permanent Council. On the margins, he met bilaterally with the OSCE Secretary General in order to discuss issues of mutual interest. The ODIHR maintained an ongoing dialogue with the Secretariat of the CIS regarding the election observation missions that the two organizations respectively conducted, and also attended meetings on election observation hosted by the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly conducted an intensive dialogue on election observation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS. The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, in co-operation with ODIHR and the Strategic Police Matters Unit,

contributed to a training course at the CIS International Training Centre on Migrations and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Minsk.

The Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General represented the OSCE at the 18th and 19th *Meetings of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)* Member States in Kyiv on 17 April and in Tirana on 23 October, respectively. These meetings provided opportunities to highlight the potential for further co-operation between the two organizations, especially in the economic and environmental areas, where synergies were most apparent.

In accordance with the Madrid *Ministerial Decision on Tolerance and Non-discrimination; Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding*, the OSCE Secretary General attended the first *Annual Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations* in Madrid on 15 January, and presented a report on its outcomes to the participating States, for consideration of an appropriate OSCE contribution to the implementation phase of the Initiative.

Representatives of the ICRC visited the OSCE Secretariat in February for their annual consultations with representatives of various departments. The meeting served to exchange information on current and planned activities of the two organizations.

In June, the OSCE assisted the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in close co-operation with the American Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Legal Initiative and US Agency for International Development (USAID), in organizing the *7th General Meeting of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe* in Tbilisi.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) responded to the invitation of the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator and contributed substantially to the 16th *OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum* process which focused on *Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment*.

Throughout the year, the OCEEA continued its co-operation with the IOM and the ILO.

The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings continued close co-operation with the main organizations combating human trafficking within

the framework of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons, an OSCE initiative which established an informal forum for dialogue between the participating States and international organizations. The Special Representative held two high-level Alliance conferences and a technical seminar. During these events, participants discussed the latest developments and lessons learned from common initiatives and work carried out by Alliance participants: UNICEF, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNODC, CoE, IOM, ILO, UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), EU Expert Group on Trafficking in Human Beings, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), European Police Office (EUROPOL), International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes), Anti-Slavery International, La Strada International, Save the Children and Terre des Hommes.

International financial institutions

The OCEEA continued its collaboration with the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, the WB, the International Monetary Fund and the Financial Action Task Force.

In October, the OCEEA, in co-operation with the Financial Integrity Network and the CoE, organized in Davos, Switzerland, an international seminar on combating terrorist financing for investigators, prosecutors, Financial Intelligence Unit experts and other officials from OSCE countries.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly participated in a WB meeting in Tirana of the East European Parliamentary Network.

Non-governmental organizations

NGOs were invited and contributed to the main OSCE meetings and events. They also continued to co-operate with the Institutions, field operations, and the Secretariat, frequently as project partners.

Highlights of co-operation in the field

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The **Presence in Albania** worked with the European Commission, the CoE and the ODIHR on electoral and civil registry reform. On decentralization, it co-operated with the CoE. It joined forces with the EC on judicial, police and property reform. With the UNDP, it worked on gender reform. Donor co-ordination was jointly led with the UNDP, WB and the EC.

The **Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** carried out its various programmes in co-operation with international organizations and agencies including the UNHCR, UNDP, NATO, EUFOR, the Delegation of the EC, the CoE and the office of the High Representative and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The **Mission to Montenegro** implemented a total of 58 regular budgetary projects and 12 advisory/monitoring assistance projects in 2008. Twenty-six of the projects were implemented in co-operation with international organizations.

The **Mission to Serbia** co-operated with UN agencies such as the UNDP, UNHCR, UNODC as well as with the EU, CoE, NATO, ICTY, the WB, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and with NGOs in its five programme areas: rule of law/human rights, democratization, law enforcement, media and economy and environment.

The **Mission in Kosovo** continued to engage proactively with relevant international institutions, including the UNHCR, UNDP, CoE, IOM, NATO, and ICTY.

In addition to continuing co-operation with the UNDP, the EC and a variety of international organizations, the **OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje** began working closely with the new CIVI-POL CONSEIL Police Development Assistance Project on community policing, training and structural police reform.

The **Office in Zagreb** worked closely in consultation with the EC Delegation, UNHCR and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) on access to housing and war crimes accountability issues.

EASTERN EUROPE

The **Office in Minsk** worked in close consultation with those UN organizations

present in Minsk: UNDP, UNHCR and IOM. The Office conducted a seminar on the *Convention on Cybercrime* with expertise provided by the CoE. In the field of economic reforms, the Office held a joint seminar with the International Finance Corporation and attracted expertise from the WB and the EC on an energy efficiency workshop. The Office also worked closely with UNEP and UNDP within the ENVSEC initiative.

The **Mission to Moldova** maintained close co-operation with the UN, the CoE and the EU in promoting democracy, strengthening the rule of law, freedom of the media and combating trafficking in human beings.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** co-ordinated activities with the CoE, EU, USAID, IOM, the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation and local and international NGOs.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

The **Mission to Georgia** co-chaired with the UN the Ambassadorial Working Group ahead of the presidential and parliamentary elections. It worked closely with the CoE on electoral reform. To help improve the security situation after the August fighting, the Mission co-operated with the new EU Monitoring Mission on the ground. The Mission also closely co-ordinated with international humanitarian organizations in support of their efforts to provide humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons and residents of the areas adjacent to South Ossetia.

The **Office in Baku** worked with the CoE on Freedom of Assembly legislation, with UNICEF on juvenile justice, with ILO and ICMPD on enhancing anti-trafficking efforts and with UNDP on improving aid co-ordination.

The **Office in Yerevan** co-operated with the CoE, UN, EU, WB, IMF and USAID on elections, anti-corruption, ombuds-person, media, gender, anti-trafficking and migration. In particular, jointly with ILO and IICMPD, the Office implemented a major anti-trafficking project.

The **Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference** maintained contacts with organizations such as the EU, CoE, UNHCR, the ICRC, and various international NGOs, with relation to the major problems

of internally displaced persons and refugees, prisoners of war, missing persons and detainees, as well as mine clearance.

CENTRAL ASIA

The **Centre in Ashgabad** worked with UN agencies, the EU *Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States Programme* and the US Peace Corps to train civil servants to address border security, education, health and environmental issues, and assist farmers' associations. The Centre significantly intensified its interaction with higher education institutions and local educational organizations.

The **Centre in Astana** co-operated closely with the UNDP on local self-government, with the IOM, EC/*Border Management for Central Asia programme* on border management, with the UNECE on transboundary water management, with UNIFEM and UNDP on gender issues, with the WB on anti-money laundering and with the UNODC on fighting corruption and organized crime.

The **Centre in Bishkek** co-operated with several international organizations on large projects on human rights, economic security, and other areas of comprehensive security and democratic values. It worked with the IMF on anti-money laundering and held joint conferences with the UNDP on Democratic Governance. The Centre co-operated with the UNODC on combating corruption and with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems on election monitoring. It also co-operated on human rights legislation with the Venice Commission and on migration with the IOM.

The **Office in Tajikistan** continued and expanded its co-operation in a number of programme areas with international organizations, including UN agencies, international development banks, international NGOs and also with bilateral donors active in Tajikistan. These partnerships were essential in projects concerning border management, anti-corruption, environmental issues, human rights and media.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** organized various events with international organizations and NGOs and implemented projects in the areas of tax control and human rights with the UNDP. Together with the OCEEA and the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination Scientific Information

Centre, the Project Co-ordinator organized a conference on *Environmental Security and Safety - a major factor of water management* in October.

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

A solid foundation for intensified dialogue and co-operation with the Partner States in 2008 was provided by the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the Partners for Co-operation and the Ministerial Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan in late 2007, as well as by the Permanent Council Decision on the Establishment of a Partnership Fund.

Report of the OSCE Chairmanship

The Finnish OSCE Chairmanship closely followed developments in relations with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners and, where necessary, supported the work carried out by the Spanish and Greek Chairmanships of the Contact Groups.

Following the practice established in previous years, the Partners were regularly invited to meetings of the Permanent Council as well as to the Forum for Security Co-operation and its working groups, providing a platform for virtually permanent interaction. They were

also invited to participate in all the main OSCE events of the year, such as the *Economic and Environmental Forum*, the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* and the *Annual Security Review Conference*. The Chairmanship included issues of particular relevance to the Partners on the Permanent Council's agenda. For example, Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, addressed the Permanent Council on 17 April.

The Partners continued to stimulate new and interesting debate and activities. In September, for the third year running, an informal discussion on the many points of contact between human security and the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and co-operative security was held in Vienna. Finland, together with the initiator Japan and a number of Partners, was among the co-sponsors of the event.

To strengthen relations with the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), a recommendation made at the 2005 OSCE-Korea Conference, the Finnish Chairmanship, alongside the Secretariat, participated in and contributed to an important ARF

workshop on preventive diplomacy hosted by Germany in the spring.

With regard to the politico-military dimension, the Finnish Chairmanship supported a closer engagement of the Partners, on a voluntary basis, in the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*. The successive Chairs of the Forum for Security Co-operation and its Austrian Co-ordinator, in line with the call made in the Forum's *Decision on Awareness Raising and Outreach* of the *Code of Conduct*, will continue to engage the Partners in a process aiming at their voluntary implementation of the principles

Asian Partners for Co-operation:

Afghanistan, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Thailand. Spain chaired the Asian Contact Group in 2008.

Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation:

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Greece chaired the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2008.

Partnership Fund

On the margins of the Madrid Ministerial Council in 2007 the participating States adopted a Permanent Council Decision on the Establishment of a Partnership Fund, aimed at promoting the engagement of the Partners for Co-operation in the OSCE. At the beginning of the year, the Secretary General established guidelines for the Fund's functioning and designated the Section for External Co-operation as Fund manager, including liaising with donors on fund raising and reporting and with individual project managers regarding the everyday management of specific projects.

Pledges received in its first year of operation amounted to €552,049.36.

Apart from the Troika members Finland (€253,597.88), Greece (€100,000) and Spain (€100,000), donors were (in OSCE alphabetical order): United States, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland, Japan, Republic of Korea and Egypt.

Five projects were developed and placed under the Fund's umbrella in 2008:

- Seminar for young diplomats from the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (project no. 1100726);
- Support for participation of Mediterranean non-governmental organizations and members of civil society in the OSCE 2008 Mediterranean Conference (project no. 1100748);

- Afghanistan: OSCE/ODIHR electoral technical assistance (project no. 1100744);
- Supporting the participation of representatives from the Partners for Co-operation to the events listed in PC.DEC/812 (project no. 1100705);
- Publication of a French-language version of the OSCE/International Organization for Migration/International Labour Organization Mediterranean edition of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies* (project no. 1100701).

As per the *Decision*, the Secretary General reported to the Permanent Council on the operation of the Partnership Fund.

Engagement with Afghanistan

Throughout 2008, the Secretariat worked to deepen the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan, an Asian Partner for Co-operation since 2003, as follow-up to Madrid *Ministerial Council Decision* 04/07. In June, the Secretary General proposed 16 concrete activities, which drew upon several fact-finding missions to the country as well as consultations with participating States and relevant international organizations. They included proposals to strengthen border security and management, foster cross-border co-operation and enhance national law enforcement capacities. The projects were to have been carried out both within the OSCE region and inside Afghanistan.

Despite the overwhelming support of participating States for deepening OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, consensus could not be reached prior to the end of 2008 on project activities inside Afghanistan. The Secretariat therefore took steps to initiate work on

a number of priority projects inside the OSCE area, under the existing mandates of Central Asian field operations. Among these projects were the establishment of a new Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and a Customs Training Facility in Bishkek, as well as the provision of Customs and Border Assistance for Turkmenistan. Other projects were pending at year-end, and discussion among participating States continued on possible OSCE project activity on Afghan territory.

The Secretary General visited Kabul twice, in September and in November, to discuss the proposed activities. Over the course of the year, various units of the Secretariat carried out Afghanistan-related activities within their existing mandates. The Strategic Police Matters Unit helped build the skills of the Afghan National Police and Counter-Narcotics Police in combating drug trafficking. The Action against Terrorism Unit and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) organized a conference on

security in the region.

The OCEEA also facilitated Afghan participation in a regional task force dealing with issues of energy generation and transport in Central Asia. Afghanistan also took part in an OSCE-supported regional process aimed at elaborating efficient water management principles and in September, Afghan representatives participated in an OSCE seminar on investment and business climate.

The Partnership Fund enabled Afghan representatives to participate in other OSCE activities, and financed an election-related project requested by Afghanistan and implemented by the Office of the Secretary General's External Co-operation Section and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Finally, the Asian Partners held their annual meeting in Kabul for the first time.

OSCE engagement in Afghanistan will remain a key organizational priority because of its long-term impact on the security of all OSCE participating States.

of the *Code of Conduct*.

The Finnish Chairmanship, after receiving the Secretary General's proposal, conducted extensive consultations with participating States on a draft Permanent Council decision on the implementation of the *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*, but unfortunately consensus could not be reached. Afghanistan, however, has been invited to participate in projects conducted within the OSCE area.

The 2008 OSCE conference with the Asian Partners was hosted for the first time by Afghanistan in Kabul on 9 and 10 November. The high-level participation

of the host country and its active role and deliberations in the conference were of great value. Furthermore, Afghanistan requested OSCE involvement in its upcoming elections in 2009. The Finnish Chairmanship considered that the OSCE should reply positively to this request.

Following an initial application to become an OSCE Partner in 2004, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Palestinian National Authority, Riad Malki, sent a letter on 22 July to the Chairman-in-Office to renew the Palestinian National Authority's request for Partner status. On the basis of the letter, the Finnish Chairmanship conducted

consultations. Due to the differing views of the participating States, the Chairmanship concluded that a positive consensus-based decision would be unlikely at the moment.

However, the Finnish Chairmanship considered it important to continue informal co-operation between the OSCE and Palestinian representatives. The Chairmanship was pleased that the Palestinian National Authority took part in the *OSCE 2008 Mediterranean Conference* at the invitation of the host country, Jordan. The Finnish Chairmanship also supported the incoming Greek Chairmanship's intention to continue consultations on this matter in 2009.

Participants at a conference in Kabul aimed at strengthening co-operation between the 56-country OSCE and Afghanistan and its four other Asian partner countries — Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Mongolia on 9 November



COURTESY OF THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

Finally, Finland contributed over €250,000 to the Partnership Fund, part of which was used to finance the participation of two experts from the Afghan Independent Central Election Commission (ICEC) in the *Chairmanship Seminar on Election-related Issues* on 21 and 22 July; and to co-finance an election assistance project for ICEC, together with Korea and Slovenia; and a side event for Mediterranean non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the *Amman Mediterranean Conference*, together with Denmark and the United States.

Report of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation

Work of the Asian Contact Group. The Asian Contact Group held five meetings in 2008, concentrating on a number of issues in all three dimensions, from counter-terrorism to border management and security, police activities and anti-trafficking. Following previous recommendations to strengthen relations with the ARF, discussion took place on the outcome of the March ARF Seminar on confidence and security-building measures (CSBMs) and preventive diplomacy, hosted by Germany, and to which the Secretariat and the Finnish Chairmanship contributed.

The Contact Group also held a solid discussion on the outcome of the *Madrid Ministerial Council*, with its three approved Partner documents mentioned above and the *Permanent Council Decision* on the adoption of a Partnership Fund.

OSCE Afghanistan conference. The highlight of the Asian Contact Group's work was the *OSCE Afghanistan Conference on Strengthening Co-operation between the OSCE and its Asian Partners for Co-operation to Address Challenges to Security* held in Kabul on 9 and 10 November. The conference focused on three key issues: the OSCE's contribution to capacity-building in the OSCE region and the Asian Partners; threats to the common security and stability of the OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners, with particular attention to Central Asia and Afghanistan; and challenges and opportunities in border security and management, including customs modernization.

The conference venue of Kabul carried significant symbolic weight, focusing attention on Afghanistan as well as on broader security for the Central Asian region. Participants considered that the

OSCE has a role to play in Afghanistan, including in supporting capacity-building in areas such as customs, borders management and security, counter narcotics and police. Possible OSCE support to next year's elections in Afghanistan was also mentioned.

Further comments highlighted that many of the issues on the agenda, such as trafficking in narcotics or terrorism, are by their nature trans-national, trans-boundary and trans-regional threats to security. They cannot be circumscribed within the boundaries of one country and cannot be faced by one single State or organization in isolation. They require solid and systematic co-operation.

Human security informal workshop. The informal human security workshop focused on concrete human security projects within the OSCE region in order to understand the concept in a practical way. Speakers identified the areas in which both the OSCE and United Nations (UN) have been active, highlighting the usefulness of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security in the OSCE region. They also noted that participating States can enhance their responses to issues affecting human security by drawing on the OSCE's expertise.

Speakers also pointed out how fields in which the OSCE possesses particular expertise, such as human trafficking and landmines, are also fields targeted by the Trust Fund. The example was raised of specific Trust Fund projects, which helped illustrate areas of common interest and concern with the OSCE, while at the same time reconfirming the usefulness of co-operation between the OSCE and the UN.

Spain presented a report on the work of the Asian Contract Group at the *Helsinki Ministerial Council* in accordance with the *Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the Partners for Co-operation*.

Finally, Spain contributed €100,000 to the Partnership Fund.

Report of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Work of the Mediterranean Contact Group. In 2008, the Mediterranean Contact Group held eight meetings, focusing on issues in all three dimensions. On the politico-military dimension, the Mediterranean Partners received an in-depth briefing on the work of the Security Committee and of the Forum for Security Co-operation. The Mediterranean Partners had a lively exchange of views following up the

Valencia and Rabat Seminars of December 2007, during which sensitive issues such as desertification, management of water resources and migration were discussed. As for the human dimension, several discussions were held on issues ranging from the freedom of the media and tolerance and non-discrimination, to trafficking in human beings and gender issues. The Mediterranean Partners contributed to addressing these security challenges by expressing their own perspectives and suggestions.

Seminar for young diplomats. Together with the secretariat, the Greek Chairmanship organized a seminar for young diplomats from the Mediterranean Partners and quintet countries, which took place in June in Athens and in Vienna. Over 40 participants from the Mediterranean Partners and the quintet countries had the opportunity to exchange ideas on European security issues and the broader development of European security architecture, while at the same time learning about the OSCE's approach to security, both the doctrine and its practical implementation.

OSCE 2008 Mediterranean Conference. In order to reflect the deeper and more meaningful engagement by the Mediterranean Partners in the OSCE, the Greek Chairmanship upgraded this annual event, renaming it the *OSCE 2008 Mediterranean Conference*.

The OSCE approach to regional security — a model for the Mediterranean took place in Amman, Jordan, on 27 and 28 October. The agenda addressed challenges in all three OSCE dimensions.

In the politico-military sphere, participants discussed the crucial role of CSBMs in establishing mutual trust, transparency and predictability in the OSCE area, together with the usefulness of adopting and tailoring CSBMs to the needs of the Mediterranean region. To tackle terrorism, the OSCE's assistance to participating States and the Mediterranean Partners in such areas as enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters and improving travel document security was cited as an example. The second session focused on environmental challenges to security. Participants noted that political tensions and long-standing conflicts in the region endanger regional security and the environment, undermining development. Both Partner and participating States agreed on the need for enhanced co-operation at regional and interstate level.

Discussion on the human dimension

stressed that a key priority remains the implementation of OSCE commitments on combating intolerance and non-discrimination, by using the appropriate tools developed by the OSCE. Moreover, participants recognized the contribution of civil society and national human rights institutions.

On the eve of the Conference, a Side Event on *Co-operation with Mediterranean civil society and NGOs in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination* was held, financed by the Partnership Fund. Recommendations from the event were presented at the conference.

Greece reported on the Mediterranean Contact Group's work to the Helsinki Ministerial Council as per the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the *Partners for Co-operation*.

Finally, Greece contributed €100,000 to the Partnership Fund, part of which was used to finance the above-mentioned seminar for young diplomats.

Report of the Secretary General

The Secretariat supported the efforts of the OSCE Chairmanship and the Chairs of the respective Contact Groups to strengthen relations with the Partners for Co-operation, including by organizing the annual *Mediterranean Conference* and the *OSCE-Afghanistan Conference*. The Secretary General addressed both events.

On the margins of the *Mediterranean Conference*, the Secretary General had an audience with King Abdullah II and bilateral meetings with Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Nader A. Dahabi and Foreign Minister Salaheddin Al-Bashir, to discuss co-operation between the OSCE and Jordan. Talks focused on possible closer co-operation in water management and environmental security and Jordanian expert support to the OSCE's work on border management and security in Central Asia and with Afghanistan.

On 28 and 29 April, at the invitation of the Republic of Korea, the Secretary General visited Seoul for consultations with Korean authorities. During the visit, he met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Yu Myung-hwan, and Kim Sung-hwan, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as well as other senior officials in the Ministry. The consultations focused on ways to deepen co-operation between the OSCE and Korea, as well as possible co-operation on projects to assist Central Asia and Afghanistan.

From 9 to 11 September, the Secretary General visited Kabul for consultations

on the implementation of the *Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*, with particular reference to the 16 projects elaborated by the Secretariat. During the visit, the Secretary General met with President Hamid Karzai, Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta and Deputy Interior Minister General Mohammad Daud. He also met with Kai Eide, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan, and Ettore Sequi, EU Special Representative for Afghanistan and other representatives of the local diplomatic corps. They expressed their full support to the OSCE's proposed activities in support of Afghanistan.

Interaction with Organizations outside the OSCE Area

The OSCE's dialogue and co-operation with regional organizations outside the OSCE area broadened in 2008. In addition to regularly inviting these organizations to relevant OSCE events, including the Helsinki Ministerial Council, the OSCE 2008 *Mediterranean Conference* and the *OSCE-Afghanistan Conference*, the OSCE has increasingly shared with them its experience, in particular in preventive diplomacy and confidence-building measures, as advocated in the 2007 Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the *OSCE Partners for Co-operation*.

In March and April, the Section for External Co-operation hosted two delegations from the African Union's recently established Secretariat of the Peace and Security Council (PSC), upon the latter's request. As part of the Union's capacity-building efforts, the PSC Secretariat representatives received extensive briefings by various departments and units in the Secretariat to exchange experience with the OSCE on issues related to the Organization's mandate and activities in early warning, conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation. They were also received by the Finnish Chairmanship. In a follow-up letter to the Secretary General, the PSC Secretariat noted that it had "acquired useful lessons, especially with respect to the provision of operational support to peace and security organs and related activities."

Similarly, on two different occasions, in February and December, the Section for External Co-operation welcomed delegations of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States to exchange experience with the OSCE, following its establishment of a Peace and Security Council in 2006. The League's delegations received in-depth

briefings by the Conflict Prevention Centre and other relevant departments and units of the Secretariat on the OSCE's work in all three dimensions of security, with a particular focus on early warning and conflict prevention. The League's delegates were also received by the Secretary General and the Chairmanship. In addition, the second delegation visited the High Commissioner on National Minorities in the Hague to familiarize itself with his mandate and activities, and Skopje to learn how an OSCE field operation works.

The Secretary General also held a bilateral meeting with Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League, when he visited Vienna to address the Permanent Council.

Relations with the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) were further fostered in 2008. The OSCE Secretary General met with the CICA Executive Director during his trip to Astana in April and on the margins of the Helsinki Ministerial Council. Discussions focused on the possibilities for co-operation between the OSCE and CICA on border security and management in Central Asia and Afghanistan. Furthermore, in July, officials from the CICA Secretariat met with the OSCE Secretary General and representatives of various Secretariat departments in Vienna for an exchange of experience. As in previous years, CICA officials participated in a number of OSCE events, including the Helsinki Ministerial Council.

In March, the Secretariat, together with the Chairmanship, participated in a workshop organized by the ARF on *Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Asia and Europe*. The workshop, hosted by Germany in Berlin, provided a practical opportunity for the exchange of information and sharing of experience between the OSCE and the ARF. Later in April, upon the invitation of the Government of Canada, the Head of External Co-operation addressed the ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group on *Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy*.

Annexes



The OSCE at a glance

The OSCE, with its 56 participating States in Europe, North America and Central Asia, some 3,000 staff members in 19 field operations, several specialized Institutions and a Secretariat in Vienna, 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.

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 issues, which it has traditionally grouped into three areas or dimensions. In the **politico-military dimension**, it not only carries out important work in the traditional areas of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures but also helps participating States improve the management of their borders and reform their military and police forces. In the **economic and environmental dimension**, the OSCE promotes economic co-operation and good governance, a cornerstone of stability. It works to raise environmental awareness, promote co-operation among States regarding shared natural resources and help them manage the disposal of toxic waste. In the **human dimension**, the Organization is engaged in ensuring respect for human rights, democratic governance and the promotion of minority rights in its participating States.

The OSCE works co-operatively. It often acts behind the scenes, fostering discussions and defusing tensions before they develop into conflict. All 56 States enjoy equal status. Decisions are taken by consensus and are politically but not legally binding. The OSCE also collaborates with countries 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).

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. In the early 1990s, the Conference's work became more structured, meetings were held more regularly and field operations were established. It acquired permanent institutions, 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.

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.

In the twenty-first century, the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security has increasingly proved useful in tackling new challenges such as the fight against terrorism and combating trafficking in human beings, which defy categorization into any one of the three dimensions of security. 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).

How the OSCE works

The OSCE is chaired by one of its participating States, a role which rotates annually. In 2008, Finland held the Chairmanship. To aid in long-term planning and foster continuity, Finland promoted active dialogue between fellow Troika members Spain (2007) and Greece (2009) and the future Chairmanships of Kazakhstan (2010)

and Lithuania (2011) within the framework of the quintet initiative.

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.

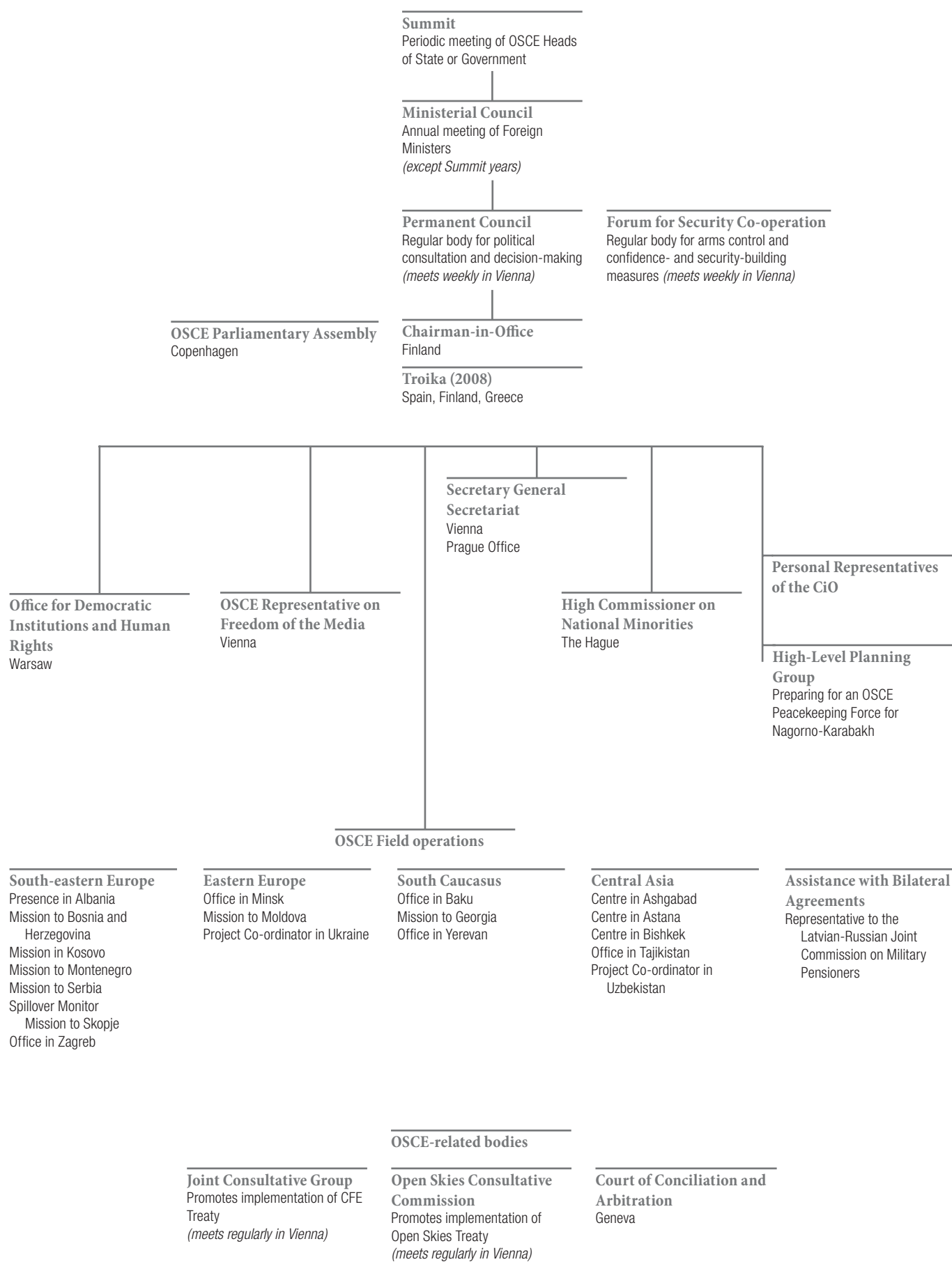
The Permanent Council is the main regular body for political consultation and decision-making. Composed of the Permanent Representatives of the participating States to the OSCE, it meets weekly in Vienna to discuss all pertinent issues and to take appropriate decisions. The Forum for Security Co-operation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

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 second three-year term in June 2008. 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. A distinct body, the Copenhagen-based OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (1991), consisting of 320 parliamentarians from all the participating States, supports inter-parliamentary dialogue and also plays an important role in election monitoring.

The OSCE has 19 field operations in 17 States. Slightly more than 69 per cent of the OSCE's 2008 budget of €164 million was allocated to field operations, 19 per cent to the Secretariat and 11 per cent to its Institutions.

Organigram



OSCE Budget 2008 by Fund

(Permanent Council Decisions 839, 882)

Fund	Euros	% of Total
The Secretariat	31,617,100	19.26%
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)	14,405,100	8.77%
High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)	3,017,100	1.84%
Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM)	1,312,000	0.80%
Total for the Secretariat and Institutions	50,351,300	30.67%
Augmentations*	5,340,900	3.25%
Mission in Kosovo	30,010,300	18.28%
Tasks in Bosnia and Herzegovina	15,254,500	9.29%
Office in Zagreb**	2,748,800	1.67%
Mission to Serbia	8,200,400	5.00%
Presence in Albania	3,544,600	2.16%
Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje	9,078,800	5.53%
Mission to Montenegro	2,309,500	1.41%
Mission to Moldova	1,956,400	1.19%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	2,607,900	1.59%
Office in Minsk	962,300	0.59%
Representative to the Latvian-Russian JC on Military Pensioners	9,600	0.01%
Mission to Georgia	9,750,700	5.94%
Office in Yerevan	2,523,200	1.54%
Office in Baku	2,498,800	1.52%
High Level Planning Group	192,200	0.12%
The Minsk Process	953,300	0.58%
Personal Representative of the CiO - Minsk Conference	1,050,900	0.64%
Centre in Astana	2,067,600	1.26%
Centre in Ashgabad	1,338,100	0.82%
Centre in Bishkek	5,051,900	3.08%
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	1,641,300	1.00%
Office in Tajikistan***	4,724,900	2.88%
Total for Field Operations	113,816,900	69.33%
GRAND TOTAL	164,168,200	100.00%

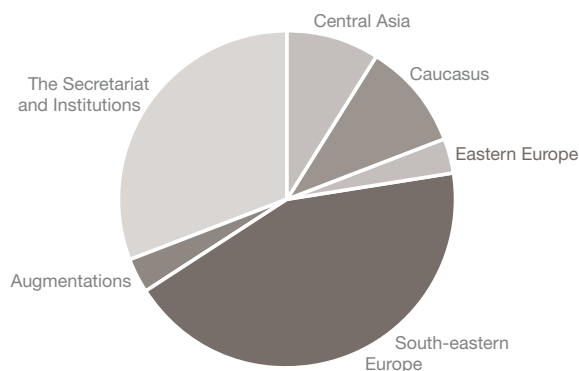
* Augmentations established as a separate fund by PC Decision 827

** Office in Zagreb established by PC Decision 836

*** Centre in Dushanbe renamed to Office in Tajikistan by PC Decision 852

Budget 2008 by Institutions and Regions

Central Asia	9.0%
Caucasus	10.3%
Eastern Europe	3.4%
South-eastern Europe	43.3%
Augmentations	3.3%
The Secretariat and Institutions	30.7%



OSCE Fixed-term Staff as of 31 December 2008

(including staff financed from extra-budgetary contributions)

Nationality	Kosovo	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Zagreb	Georgia	Skopje	Serbia	Montenegro	Moldova	Albania	Astana	Ashgabad	Bishkek	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Baku	Minsk	Yerevan	Minsk Conference	Ukraine	Total for field operations	Secretariat	Freedom of Media, Vienna	HCNM, The Hague	ODIHR, Warsaw	Total for Secretariat & Institutions	GRAND TOTAL
Albania																				0					0	
Andora																					0					0
Armenia	1	1											1							4				1	1	5
Austria	16	5	1	5	3	1	1		3			1			1					37	9	1	1	2	13	50
Azerbaijan	2	1			1															4	1				1	5
Belarus	1			2	3															6	1	1	1	2	5	11
Belgium																				0	3				3	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8			1	2	1					1									13	1			2	3	16
Bulgaria	2	2		1			3	1	2		1		1			1		1		15	5				5	20
Canada	2	1											1							5	6			6	12	17
Croatia	5	1			1	1														8	1			1	2	10
Cyprus																				0	1				1	1
Czech Republic		1		1	1				2									1		6	3				3	9
Denmark				1									1							2	1			1	2	4
Estonia				1	1	2		2												6	0			1	1	7
Finland	3	2		5	1			1		1			3		1					17	8		1	2	11	28
France	7	7		4	2	1	1	2		1	1		2	1	1	1	1			32	10	1		6	17	49
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3																			3	1				1	4
Georgia	1				1	1														3	1		1	2	4	7
Germany	18	5		7	4	2	1	1	2	1			2	1	2	2	1			49	12		2	3	17	66
Greece	6	2		1																9	3			1	4	13
Hungary	2	2		4	1	2				1				1	1			2	1	17	1	2		1	4	21
Holy See																				0	0					0
Iceland																				0	0					0
Ireland	5	5			1	2	1													14	4		1		5	19
Italy	13	8	1	1	6	3	1		1	1			2							37	9		1	4	14	51
Japan					1															1						1
Kazakhstan				1									1							2	1			2	3	5
Kyrgyzstan		2																		2	1				1	3
Latvia				1				1	1											3				1	1	4
Liechtenstein																				0						0
Lithuania	2								1											3	1				1	4
Luxemburg																				0	3				3	3
Malta	1																			1	1				1	2
Moldova	2			1		2				1		1	1				1			9	2		1	1	4	13
Monaco																				0						0
Montenegro	1																			1						1
Netherlands	4	3				2			4				1					1		15	2		2	3	7	22
Norway				2	1	4	1						1							9	2		2	2	6	15
Poland	2			2			1	1				1								8	3		1	7	11	19
Portugal	3								1											4						4
Romania	2	1		1			1		2			1								8	3			1	4	12
Russian Federation	2	3			3							1	2				1			12	14	1		1	16	28
San Marino																				0						0
Serbia				1											1					2	2			1	3	5
Slovakia	1	2	1			1														6	1			1	2	8
Slovenia		1			1	1														3				2	2	5
Spain	17	3	3	1	4						1		1		2					32	12		1		13	45
Sweden	5	3		2	2	3	1			1		1				1	1			20	6			1	7	27
Switzerland	1			2																3	2	1			3	6
Tajikistan	1	2																		3	2				2	5
Turkey	7			4	5	3	1					1				2				23	6				6	29
Turkmenistan																				0	2				2	2
Ukraine	2			3	1	1						2	1							10	4		1		5	15
United Kingdom	5	1		2	4	3		1	3			1					1	1		22	13		1	5	19	41
United States	17	11	1	3	4	5	2	2	4			2	2					1		54	14		2	7	23	77
Uzbekistan	2																1			3		1		1	2	5
Internationally recruited staff	172	75	7	60	54	41	15	12	26	6	5	13	22	3	12	5	9	6	3	546	178	8	19	71	276	822
Locally recruited staff	580	435	24	144	146	136	36	37	79	19	18	68	87	15	21	9	37	11	45	1947	187	2	9	58	256	2203

Contact information

Press and Public Information Section

OSCE Secretariat
Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43 1 514 36 6000
Fax: +43 1 514 36 6996
info@osce.org
www.osce.org

Parliamentary Assembly

International Secretariat
Raadhustraede 1
1466 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Tel.: +45 33 37 80 40
Fax: +45 33 37 80 30
E-mail: osce@oscepa.dk

Institutions

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Aleje Ujazdowskie 19
00-557 Warsaw, Poland
Tel.: +48 22 520 06 00
Fax: +48 22 520 06 05
E-mail: office@odih.rpl

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Prinsessegracht 22
2514 AP The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel.: +31 70 312 55 00
Fax: +31 70 363 59 10
E-mail: hcnm@hcnm.org

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel: +43 1 514 36 68 00
Fax: +43 1 514 36 68 02
E-mail: pm-fom@osce.org

OSCE Field operations

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

OSCE Presence in Albania

Sheraton Tirana Hotel
& Towers, 1st Floor
Tirana, Albania
Tel.: +355 4 235 993
Fax: +355 4 235 994
E-mail: Post.Albania@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fra Andjela Zvizdovica 1
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel.: +387 33 752 100
Fax: +387 33 442 479
E-mail: info.ba@osce.org

OSCE Mission in Kosovo

OSCE Headquarters
10000 Pristina
Kosovo-UNMIK
Tel +381 38 240 100
Fax +381 38 240 711
E-mail: press.omik@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Montenegro

Bulevar Svetog Petra
Cetinjskog 147
81000 Podgorica
Montenegro
Tel.: +382 81 40 64 01
Fax: +382 81 40 64 31
E-mail: omim@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Serbia

Cakorska 1
11000 Belgrade Serbia
Tel.: +381 11 36 06 100
Fax: +381 11 36 06 119
E-mail: ppiu-serbia@osce.org

OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

QBE Makedonija Building, 11
Oktomvri Str. 25
MK-1000, Skopje
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tel.: +389 23 23 40 00
Fax: +389 23 23 42 34
E-mail: info-mk@osce.org

OSCE Office in Zagreb

Florijana Andraseca 14
10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel.: +385 1 309 66 20
Fax: +385 1 309 66 21
E-mail: osce-croatia@osce.org

EASTERN EUROPE

OSCE Office in Minsk

Prospekt Gasety Pravda 11
220116 Minsk, Belarus
Tel.: +375 17 272 34 97
Fax: +375 17 272 34 98
E-mail: office-by@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Moldova

Str Mitropolit Dosoftei 108
2012 Chisinau, Moldova
Tel.: +373 22 88 78 03
Fax: +373 22 22 34 96
E-mail: moldova@osce.org

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

16 Striletska St.
01034 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel.: +380 44 492 03 82
Fax: +380 44 492 03 83
E-mail: csaba.csizmadia@osce.org

OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: +43 1 514 36 68 58
Fax: +43 1 514 36 61 24
E-mail: helmut.napiontek@osce.org

SOUTH CAUCASUS

OSCE Office in Baku

The Landmark III
96 Nizami St.
Baku, Azerbaijan
Tel.: +994 12 497 23 73
Fax: +994 12 497 23 77
E-mail: office-az@osce.org

OSCE Mission to Georgia

Krtsanisi Governmental Residence
Krtsanisi St.
0114 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel.: +995 32 202 303
Fax: +995 32 202 304
E-mail: po-ge@osce.org

The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

4 Freedom Square
GMT Plaza, 1st Floor
0105 Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel.: +995 32 99 87 32
Fax: +995 32 98 85 66
E-mail: prcio@osce.org

OSCE Office in Yerevan

64/1 Sundukyan Str.
Yerevan 0012, Armenia
Tel +374 10 229610-14
Fax +374 10 229615
E-mail: yerevan-am@osce.org

CENTRAL ASIA

OSCE Centre in Ashgabad

Turkmenbashi Shayoly 15
744005 Ashgabad
Turkmenistan
Tel.: +993 12 35 30-92
Fax: +993 12 35 30-41
E-mail: info_tm@osce.org

OSCE Centre in Astana

10 Beibitshilik St.
Astana 010000, Kazakhstan
Tel.: +7 7172 326804
+7 7172 321940
Fax: +7 7172 328304
E-mail: astana-kz@osce.org

OSCE Centre in Bishkek

139 St. Toktogula
720001 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Tel.: +996 312 66 50 15
Fax: +996 312 66 31 69
E-mail: pm-kg@osce.org

OSCE Office in Tajikistan

18a A. Donish Ave.
734012 Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Tel: +992 37 251 0034
Fax: +992 37 251 0137
E-mail: cid-tj@osce.org

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Afrosiyob Street 12b, 4th Floor
700015 Tashkent
Republic of Uzbekistan
Tel.: +998 71 120 44 70
Fax: +998 71 120 61 25
E-mail: osce-cit@osce.org