



# Annual Report on OSCE Activities 2002

early warning   conflict prevention   crisis management   human rights   democratization  
confidence-building measures   arms control   preventive diplomacy   security-building measures   election monitoring   police training   freedom of the media  
anti-trafficking   protecting national minorities   economic and environmental security   post-conflict rehabilitation  
anti-terrorism   institution building   border monitoring   building civil society

‘The OSCE .... is agile and far less expensive than comparable international organizations. Its unique advantage is that it is highly operational. With more than 3,000 people in 19 field missions in 17 countries, the OSCE has a stronger operational capability than any other international organization in Europe.’

**US Ambassador Robert Barry** (*International Herald Tribune, November 2002*)

‘I am pleased to report that in this difficult and ever-changing (global) environment, the OSCE again demonstrated that its co-operative and comprehensive approach to security makes it a vital and recognised tool in the armoury of participating States as they confront not only traditional but also new challenges.’

**OSCE Secretary General, Jan Kubis**



The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is a pan-European security body whose 55 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

Recognized as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. Its approach to security is unique in being both comprehensive and co-operative: comprehensive in that it deals with three dimensions of security — the human, the politico-military and the economic/environmental.

It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including human rights, arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities. It is co-operative in that all the States participating in OSCE bodies and activities are equal in status. Decisions are taken by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis

#### PARTICIPATING STATES

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Holy See  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
Malta  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
San Marino  
Serbia and Montenegro  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Tajikistan  
Turkey  
Turkmenistan  
Ukraine  
United Kingdom  
United States of America  
Uzbekistan

#### PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

Japan  
Republic of Korea  
Thailand

#### MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

Algeria  
Egypt  
Israel  
Jordan  
Morocco  
Tunisia

# Report of the Secretary General 2002 including the Report on Interaction between Organizations and Institutions in the OSCE Area

## Foreword by the 2002 **Chairman-in-Office** the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs **António Martins da Cruz**

The year can justifiably be regarded as a successful one for the OSCE. From the outset, the Portuguese Chairmanship identified the adaptation of the OSCE to the evolving security environment as the driving force of its work programme. This general orientation led to the approval by the Porto Ministerial Council Meeting, on 6 and 7 December 2002, of the Political Declaration entitled 'Responding to Change'. This Declaration reinforces, in my view, the continued commitment of the participating States to the relevance of the OSCE within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Security Architecture, in the spirit of the Platform for Co-operative Security.

Participating States have laid down, at the Ministerial, clear guidelines for the formulation of an OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century. In a moment in which international attention has been focused on the enlargement of NATO and the European Union, it has been possible for the OSCE to prove it retains a special role as a political regional forum that is simultaneously Euro-Atlantic, pan-European and Eurasian. This inclusiveness, coupled with the consensus rule and sense of ownership which prevail in the OSCE, are all the more important in the current context where security is more than ever indivisible, thus requiring enhanced dialogue and co-operation.

The prevention of and fight against terrorism topped the priorities of the Portuguese Chairmanship. The 12 June Meeting of high level officials from governments and major international organizations, held in Lisbon, contributed to stimulating co-operation efforts in this field. I believe that the adoption of the OSCE Charter on the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism in Porto will keep alive and enhance the contribution of our Organization and its participating States to the endeavour of the international community to eradicate such a scourge. We need to remain engaged and ensure an adequate follow up to these efforts.

Another high priority area of the Portuguese Chairmanship has been to improve the balance between the three dimensions of the OSCE. The Decision adopted in Porto on enhancing the role of the OSCE economic and environmental dimension resulted from the impulse given by the Portuguese Chairmanship in this regard. The 10th OSCE Economic Forum, dedicated to the theme of water, highlighted the importance of taking into account crucial economic and environmental issues in our comprehensive approach to security. The human dimension was also revitalized through the adoption of new follow-up and implementation mechanisms. We have also been aiming at strengthening the politico-military dimension namely through the decision taken in Porto to establish an Annual Security Review Conference.



As Chairman-in-Office, I would like to recall, among my best memories, my visits to the missions in all parts of the OSCE region, to see the work of the dedicated and professional staff from different participating States. These visits allowed me also to witness directly, in the field, the broad scope of activities in which the OSCE is involved, covering early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The ambitious outcome of the Porto Ministerial, described in this report, will, I firmly believe, guide the OSCE for years to come. The package of decisions adopted there amounts to a comprehensive programme of action for the OSCE. I hope its systematic implementation by the Netherlands in 2003 and successive chairmanships will foster the conditions for consolidating the OSCE's international position and adapting its agenda to the new challenges in Europe and throughout the world in the 21st century.

Meanwhile, I can assure my colleagues that Portugal will uphold the honour and responsibility it bears in continuing to serve the OSCE over the course of 2003 as a bold, experienced and supportive member of the Ministerial Troika.

## Porto Ministerial Council: a new direction for 21<sup>st</sup> century

Foreign Ministers from the 55 OSCE participating States met in Porto on 6 and 7 December 2002 for the Tenth Ministerial Council of the OSCE. Key decisions included:

### ***OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism***

The Charter condemns 'in the strongest terms, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations' and calls on States to 'work together to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute terrorist acts, including through increased co-operation and full implementation of the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism.' The Charter also notes 'the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, money laundering, trafficking in human beings, drugs and arms'.

### ***A Porto Ministerial Declaration: Responding to Change***

Participating States adopted the declaration which contains a commitment to work together 'to protect our peoples from existing and emerging threats to security'. Ministers instructed the Permanent Council to continue work to develop a comprehensive OSCE Strategy to address threats to security and stability in the 21st century.

### ***The Declaration on Trafficking in Human Beings***

This called for intensified co-operation in the fight against trafficking among OSCE structures as well as between the OSCE and other international organizations.

### ***Annual Security Review Conference***

Ministers decided to hold an Annual Security Review Conference, starting in 2003 and to continue reinforcing the economic and environmental dimension. They agreed that Bulgaria will take on the OSCE Chairmanship in 2004 and Slovenia in 2005.

Further details can be found at:

[www.osce.org/events/mc/portugal2002/documents](http://www.osce.org/events/mc/portugal2002/documents).

## The Bishkek International Conference on Security and Stability in Central Asia

***December 2001, Kyrgyzstan***

Formally known as the *Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism*, the international gathering was held to discuss comprehensive and concrete steps to prevent and counter terrorism, especially with regard to providing practical support to the five Central Asian OSCE participating States. The event was attended by 300 representatives of more than 60 states and international organizations.

This conference was co-sponsored by the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODCCP). The main documents adopted in Bishkek were the Conference Declaration and the Programme of Action.

## The Tenth OSCE Economic Forum ***May 2002, Prague***

The Forum focused on how to ensure that disputes over secure water supplies do not undermine security in parts of the OSCE area.

The meeting – of the 55 Participating States, representatives of international organizations, experts and non-governmental organizations – demonstrated the importance of economic and environmental activities as part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. It included sessions on the Aral Sea Basin, the water situation in the Kura Araks Basin in the Caucasus and the Sava River in south-eastern Europe.





## MESSAGE FROM OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL, Ján Kubiš

I am pleased to present to you the 2002 Annual Report on OSCE Activities, including the report on interaction between organizations and institutions in the OSCE area. For the first time, the report covers the full calendar year of 2002, the year of the OSCE Chairmanship of Portugal.

The Annual Report appears in a new and more user-friendly format this year in an effort to make the work of the OSCE more accessible. I hope it will succeed in giving you a better insight into the immensely varied activities of this unique and fascinating Organization.

The report again demonstrates that the co-operative and comprehensive approach of the OSCE to security makes it a recognised and relevant instrument in the toolbox of the international community as it confronts traditional and new challenges to security.

While continuing to serve as a vital forum for dialogue, consultations and negotiations on political, politico-military and security matters, the Organization in 2002 remained highly focused on field work, with nearly 4,000 international and local staff working in 19 missions, offices and centres co-operating with their host countries in south-eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia – an unrivalled presence on the ground.

I pay tribute to all of our dedicated staff, but notably to those in field operations and activities, whose work in often difficult and sometimes dangerous circumstances makes a tangible difference in assisting host countries and in the lives of ordinary people.

With preventing and combating terrorism high on the agenda in 2002, participating States agreed to focus the OSCE's efforts in four key areas where the Organization has, or is rapidly developing, a real

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*The OSCE is exemplary for the patience that is required for successful international policy-making. Moreover, it represents the strength and forcefulness of democratic ideals and inalienable human rights.*  
German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer

MESSAGE FROM  
OSCE SECRETARY  
GENERAL, Ján Kubiš

comparative advantage - policing, border security, anti-trafficking and cutting off terrorist financing.

In fact, a range of activities in which the OSCE is engaged – from regulating trade in small arms and light weapons to training police and border guards, from promoting small and medium enterprises to fostering implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the environmental area, from organizing and monitoring free and fair elections to promoting ethnic and religious tolerance – are well suited to helping tackle the scourge of terrorism in the long term.

Of particular importance is the determination of the OSCE to ensure that the fight against terrorism, difficult and painful though it will be, must not be allowed to encroach upon the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms which the OSCE has done so much to uphold.

In other fields, too, the Organization continued to demonstrate its traditional action-oriented drive, flexibility and adaptability.

We positioned ourselves as a strong and determined partner in the international fight against trafficking in human beings, drugs and small arms and light weapons. Following a series of preparatory meetings and work in 2002, the 11th OSCE Economic Forum in May 2003 is dedicated to these highly topical issues.

A Senior Police Adviser was appointed to head the Strategic Police Matters Unit in the Secretariat, quickly building up a specialised centre of expertise to meet the growing demands from participating States for expert assistance in this area. The OSCE's proven expertise in policing, gained in south-eastern Europe, is now being put to use in Central Asia, starting with a pilot project launched in Kyrgyzstan in 2002. Better policing will not only reduce crime and improve the lives of ordinary people. It will also help to curb the spread of transnational organized criminal networks, which threaten the fabric of society throughout the OSCE area.

In 2002, the OSCE Border Monitoring Operation in Georgia expanded to cover not only the segment of borders with the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, but also the Ingush segment. This year the expansion will cover also the Dagestani segment.

In 2002, the Organization moved to strengthen its work in the economic and environmental dimension of security, which alongside the politico-military and human dimensions has been one of the three pillars of our activities since the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. Starting from the premise that economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility must be at the heart of any sustainable concept of security, the OSCE has worked with participating States to promote the market economy, strengthen good governance and the rule of law, fight corruption and tackle environmental problems. Successful anti-corruption projects in co-operation with Armenia can serve as an example of our work in this area. Other initiatives in 2002 included identifying

environmental threats in south-eastern Europe and Central Asia and conducting workshops on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

When reading the Annual Report, you will not fail to note a multitude of activities of the OSCE in its traditional area of the human dimension, in which the OSCE Institutions in particular are active. Here, too, the OSCE broke new ground in 2002. For example, our Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in an effort co-ordinated with the host country and other international partners, moved into the new field of education, developing a strategy for educational reform.

In many of its activities, the OSCE co-operates with other international partners – intergovernmental and NGOs. In particular it engages in joint activities with the UN system, the EU, NATO, the Council of Europe, and increasingly with organizations in the CIS area and its subregions, as well as with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation. A special section of the Annual Report is devoted to this co-operation.

One of my key duties as Secretary General is to ensure that the OSCE has the operational and managerial capacity to meet the demands and expectations of participating States. For the OSCE, 2002 was a year of real change and reform.

Administrative problems identified in recent years, which were largely a consequence of the rapid growth in our field activities, have been addressed in earnest by the participating States, which thus provide strong guidance and support for the efforts of the Secretariat in this area.

Based on their discussions and decisions, a comprehensive OSCE management agenda was developed in 2002, intended to clarify responsibility, authority and accountability and to introduce improved transparency and best management practices in translating the political decisions of participating States into action. Its implementation will determine the OSCE management reform in the years to come. A highlight will be the introduction of an Integrated Resource Management system (IRMA) which will improve our ability to manage human and material resources.

As the Annual Report shows, the OSCE is a dynamic and vibrant organization, working in a wide variety of concrete ways, through the partnership and co-operation of its participating States, to respond to the global developments and security challenges of today and tomorrow.

Ján Kubiš

# ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD

Alexander Nitzsche/OSCE



*In many ways, the OSCE, with its unique mandate and membership, is much better placed than individual states or other international organizations to take advantage of these changes and respond rapidly to events.*  
The International Crisis group's report *The OSCE in Central Asia: A New Strategy*, 11 September 2002

OSCE



*The missions are an important engine of change and, fortunately, that role is increasingly recognized by local populations.*  
Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Dutch Foreign Minister, OSCE Chairman-in-Office, 2003

OSCE



*The Council of Europe and the OSCE have a common goal: making Europe a better, safer and fairer home for its hundreds of millions of inhabitants.*  
Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

OSCE





The Kosovo Assembly – the highest representative and legislative Provisional Institution of Self-Government of Kosovo – in session 2002



#### Refugee Return

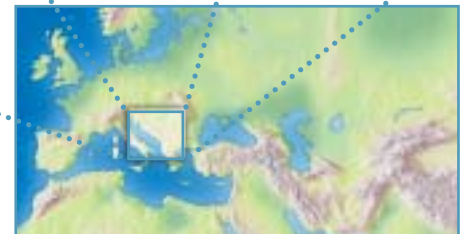
During the reporting period the OSCE further focused on tackling the challenges of refugee return in south-eastern Europe. In 2002, programmes to facilitate sustainable return were developed and implemented by the ODIHR and the OSCE Missions, in close co-operation with the countries of the region, the UN (UNHCR and UNMIK) and the Stability Pact for south-eastern Europe. There are good prospects for the rates of repossession and return over the region to continue to improve.

This Serbian woman returned to the Osejane Valley in Kosovo



# SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

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*The flexibility and the expertise of the OSCE is, and will remain, essential all over the Western Balkans if we are to succeed in our joint efforts to help this region to become just another region of a united Europe.*

Javier Solana, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union.



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# OSCE Presence in Albania

## CONTEXT

The OSCE Presence has been playing a vital role in restoring Albania's stability since the civil unrest of 1997. It has been working towards strengthening state institutions and civil society to overcome a sometimes difficult political environment. Most of the Presence's activities are concentrated in the human dimension. The areas in focus during 2002 were:

- strengthening the rule of law
- fighting trafficking in human beings
- electoral reform
- parliamentary support
- media development
- civil society development.

In addition, the Presence has also been the local chair of the Friends of Albania Group (FOA), which held its Sixth International Conference in April 2002 under the auspices of the Chairman-in-Office and the Spanish European Union Presidency. The FOA has functioned as an informal forum of countries and international organizations reviewing Albania's progress and co-ordinating assistance.

## Human Dimension Activities

### ELECTORAL REFORM & DEMOCRATIZATION

#### *Setting up a bipartisan parliamentary committee*

The Presence worked closely with institutional and political actors throughout 2002 to build dialogue on electoral reform. As a way of addressing problems which occurred during Albania's *Kuvendi* (parliamentary or assembly) elections in 2001, the ODIHR suggested the establishment of a bipartisan parliamentary committee to identify remedies and commence discussion on a review of the electoral framework. The Presence helped to set up and contributes to this bipartisan committee to discuss and draft improvements to the electoral framework.

Three roundtables have been organized by the OSCE and the Council of Europe in support of the bipartisan committee on the electoral administration system, complaints and appeals procedures as well as practices in voter and civil registration.

#### *The State budget*

Given the importance of the State budget as a useful tool in maintaining the government's accountability to parliament, the Presence is working with Parliament's Committee on Economics and Finance to strengthen its role. The Committee has decided to:

- reform the budget law to allow it a longer time to review the draft budget
- have a mandated role earlier in the year when the expenditure ceilings are defined
- establish a unit to provide deputies with independent analysis on economic, financial and budgetary matters.

#### *Supporting parliament*

The Presence launched a three-year project aimed at helping build the capacity of the Albanian Parliament. It will train members and administrative staff, enhance the research and advisory capacity of the committees and promote outreach activities with constituents. The OSCE has begun staff training on team building and communication, management and parliamentary theory and has initiated assistance in the annual budget process.

#### *Developing civil society*

This has been the second year of a three-year plan for a national network of Civil Society Development Centres. They were created to provide capacity-building training for non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups. They also provide free access to office equipment and meeting spaces, which are in short supply outside Tirana. In 2002, the centre managers completed a lengthy training process on marketing and business skills to help make the network self-sustainable.

#### *Giving anti-corruption agencies a voice*

The Presence has supported the Government's anti-corruption strategy and has helped civil society develop an informed and constructive voice on anti-corruption by publishing a translation of the Transparency International Sourcebook, *Confronting Corruption: the Elements of a National Integrity System*, the first of its kind in the Albanian language.

## JUDICIAL REFORM

### *Identifying areas to be reformed*

Strengthening the judicial system in Albania has also been a priority for the Presence in 2002. During the year, the Presence began work on a Legal Sector Report to add to the development of a comprehensive national strategy for judicial reform. The report, drafted in consultation with the Albanian authorities, describes the legislative framework, organizational structure, activities and a range of challenges in the legal sector. This report will be used as a tool to identify areas that need more work. Early observations have led the Presence to draft two projects for 2003 which will focus on support to the General Prosecutor's Office and on fair trial development within the courts.

### *Establishing witness protection*

A *Witness Protection Task Force*, composed of Albanian authorities and a group of international actors in which the OSCE took the lead, was set up in 2002. This followed complaints from Albanian prosecutors that the majority of witnesses withdraw their testimony after threats and bribes. The Task Force, for which the OSCE provides a secretariat function, will serve until the legislative framework is in place. Lessons learned in witness protection are being taken on board during the drafting of the new legislation.

In one of the cases handled by the Witness Protection Task Force, a trafficking victim had offered testimony against a number of traffickers from a serious criminal gang. Because of this testimony, the victim's life was in serious danger. The shelter she was staying in was receiving credible threats against them. Through the efforts of the task force, the victim was able to be relocated outside Albania with full refugee status, allowing her to integrate into a new society free from the fear of retaliation for participating in the fight against trafficking. In late 2002, the majority of these traffickers were convicted and received above-the-minimum sentences.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### **Cracking down on human trafficking**

The *Victims Assistance Project* was set up by the Presence to provide legal advice and appropriate counselling to victims of trafficking who are repatriated to Albania. The project is the result of nurturing a close relationship with the anti-trafficking teams of the Albanian police and the prosecutor's offices. The Presence has continued to provide advice and assistance to the Minister of State's Office on implementing a new *National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings*.

### **Supporting the People's Advocate (Ombudsman)**

The Presence has continued to refer cases involving human rights and minority issues to the Office of the People's Advocate. Several highly controversial cases concerning property and blood feuds have been resolved as a result.

### **Resolving property issues**

Resolving the property situation – especially complex legal ownership issues – is essential for economic development and the establishment of the rule of law. The Presence has therefore provided technical assistance to the *ad hoc* parliamentary committee which was set up in April. It has helped review and draft legislation on property restitution and compensation through a project funded by USAID and The World Bank.

### **Gathering momentum for women's rights**

Due to the increasing demand for advice, the Presence extended last year's grass-roots initiative to raise awareness of the relationship between human rights, women's rights and anti-trafficking issues. The *Women's Rights and Anti-Trafficking Education* (WRATE) project deals with this relationship in the context of Albanian legislation and international conventions. By the end of 2002, the network of WRATE trainers had educated approximately 1,500 individuals through regional workshops aimed mostly at rural women, students, teachers, social workers, women's non-governmental organizations, journalists, police and judges. The project also enhanced its course material to include additional information on the challenges of gender inequality and gender-based violence.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDIA

### **Helping to regulate the media landscape**

The main focus in this area was the creation of a map based on the first complete set of data on:

- the number of radio and TV stations in Albania
- the location and power of each of their transmitters
- the area of coverage for each signal and the areas of interference.

This *Frequency Map Project* has been used to help Albania's national regulatory body to produce a plan for the future orderly allocation of the broadcast spectrum, which will enable its proper administration in accordance with the law and international standards. Other Presence activities included legal assistance to amend the *Law on Electronic Media*. It has also supported media institutions such as the National Council of Radio and Television, the Parliamentary Committee on the Media and the national broadcaster and Albanian Public Radio and Television.

## Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities

### **Understanding the economic environment**

The Presence aims to stimulate new assistance programmes throughout north-eastern Albania.

This year it has set up the *North East Initiative* to increase awareness of the difficult economic and social conditions in the region.

The initiative is being promoted as a theme within the donor community's discussions on the *National Strategy for Socio-Economic Development*. The Presence and the Netherlands Embassy organized an extensive field visit to the region in May 2002.

### **Boosting the business climate**

The presence has supported the development of dialogue between the Government, foreign and local business associations, the Bankers Association and the Chambers of Commerce. It continues to listen to the concerns of the business com-

munity and this has led to initiatives for improving the economic climate.

On the basis of these efforts, the Minister of Economy initiated a project on *Promoting Government-Business Dialogue on Free Trade* with the Presence, which will involve conducting country-wide roundtables on the issues of free trade.

## Politico-Military Dimension Activities

### **Monitoring the Small Arms and Light Weapons programme**

Since spring 2000, the Presence's field stations have been monitoring the Government's programme on small arms and light weapons. It has worked in co-operation with the UN Development Programme's *Weapons for Development* project. This year, the Presence continued its interest in this area after the expiry of the general amnesty as the Albanian police continued to collect weapons from individuals.

### **Boosting cross-border co-operation**

The focus of the Presence's work to strengthen Albania's border management has been to facilitate co-operative exchanges of information on cross-border crime. The Presence has continued its three-year effort to support Joint Border Commission meetings in Kosovo, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In collaboration with the Albanian police, the Presence has begun to carry out similar activities with the border authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

# OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

*This year has seen positive developments that many would have thought impossible only a few years back. An ever-increasing number of municipalities have completed the process of returning property to their rightful owners. We have also seen thousands of soldiers voluntarily leave the military – men who can now help develop their country's political and economic life as civilians, and thus reinforce the image of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country at peace. And together with our Bosnian partners we compiled a comprehensive education strategy in less than four months.*  
Robert M. Beecroft, Head of OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (December 2002)

## CONTEXT

The OSCE has played a central role in fostering a stable, peaceful and democratic Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) since 1995<sup>1</sup>. The key focus areas in 2002 were:

- transferring electoral competencies to BiH authorities and providing support to the BiH Election Commission
- promoting the development of democratic, participatory and self-sustaining institutions at all levels of government
- monitoring human rights and fundamental freedoms and supporting the development of sustainable human rights institutions
- fostering democratic control over the armed forces in BiH, affordability of defence and security reform and assisting BiH in complying with its OSCE politico-military commitments
- co-ordinating the compilation of an education reform strategy, in co-operation with BiH authorities and other stakeholders.

The International Community envisages the country as a State that is no longer reliant on the international and donor assistance, which meets its international obligations and is integrated fully into Euro-Atlantic structures.

While the vision has evolved, its essence remains the same: an entry strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina into Europe.

The commitment and engagement of BiH authorities to carry out the necessary reforms remain a key factor for success. There is general consensus that these goals can be achieved only through the affirmation of the rule of law, democratic control of affordable armed forces, fundamental economic reform, return of refugees and displaced persons, as well as effective, independent and self-sustaining institutions.

## Human Dimension Activities

### ELECTIONS

#### ***Transferring electoral capabilities to BiH authorities***

Following the adoption of an *Election Law* and the establishment of a BiH Election Commission in 2001, the Mission transferred its capabilities in electoral matters to BiH authorities in the early months of 2002. Thereafter, the Mission's role focussed on providing expert advice and political support to the BiH Election Commission.

The ODIHR monitored the 5 October elections and found them to be "largely in line with international standards for democratic elections, considering the country's unique constitutional framework. They also mark important progress toward the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law under domestic control."

### HUMAN RIGHTS / RULE OF LAW

The return and repossession issue was the top priority of the human rights programme of the Mission to BiH in 2002. As a result, property repossession figures have increased steadily to reach 69 per cent at the end of the year.

#### ***Property Law Implementation (PLI)***

The full implementation of property laws and the return of refugees and displaced persons (DPs) to their pre-war homes were among the Mission's priorities in 2002.

The *Property Law Implementation* rate reached 69 per cent at the end of 2002. This represents an increase of 28 per cent in comparison with 2001. Special emphasis has been placed on the chronological processing of property cases and on proceeding with evictions of persons not in compliance with the property laws. The objective is to complete PLI by the end of 2003. The OSCE's partner organizations in implementing property laws are the Office of the High Representative, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Mission to BiH and the Commission for Real Property Claims.

#### ***Sustainable return relies on human rights protection***

As the rates of repossession and return continue to improve, the Mission has been increasingly engaged in addressing violations of the rights and fundamental freedoms of those who find themselves as minorities, many of whom are returnees.

#### **The issue of refugee return can only be comprehensively tackled and resolved through regional co-operation.**

A regional Joint Action Plan has been designed by the OSCE Missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in co-operation with the UNHCR. It was presented to the respective governments. Its aim is to facilitate the cross-border return of thousands of families and will have a positive spin-off effect on the return process in the entire region.

Sustainable return is hampered by discriminatory practices in employment, education and other social services. To address this issue, the Mission has set up a Fair Employment Project.

Under the project, the Mission has been working in partnership with selected public and private sector employers to promote fair employment principles and anti-discriminatory legislation by providing technical advice and assistance.

### **Supporting human rights institutions**

The Mission has continued to support human rights institutions, such as the Human Rights Chamber and the Office of the BiH Ombudsman, with a view to ensuring their independence, effectiveness and financial sustainability. The OSCE has also provided political support and facilitated the raising of voluntary contributions for the *Republika Srpska* and Federation Ombudsman Institutions. In 2002, the rate of compliance with the recommendations and decisions of these human rights institutions continued to improve.

### **Trial monitoring**

The Mission continued to monitor trials dealing with trafficking in human beings, war crimes and returnee violence.

### **Roma issues**

Roma are the largest minority in BiH and are socially, economically and politically marginalized. The OSCE has implemented a successful programme of capacity-building for Roma communities and organizations by facilitating the development of a national action plan and the establishment of the Council of Roma and the National Advisory Council of Roma. The OSCE has also worked closely with local Roma mediators to facilitate their dialogue with local authorities and non-governmental organizations.

## **EDUCATION**

The role of the OSCE has been to co-ordinate international efforts in the area of education reform and to ensure that they are consistent with those of BiH education ministries and that they target clear strategic goals.

The substantive issues embrace:

- legislative reform
- non-discriminatory access to education
- primary and secondary education
- higher education
- vocational education
- education management and financing.



*The OSCE has the necessary expertise, political clout and respect among government authorities and parliaments at all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be able to lead [on education] and work with all partner organizations to provide the field dimension and political support necessary.*

*Paddy Ashdown, High Representative on OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (July 2002)*

### **Successful strategic planning**

The OSCE has been working with all stakeholders to achieve maximum efficiency through effective strategic planning, clear communication and targeted monitoring. The approach has been inclusive and decisive.

Consultation and co-ordination structures have been developed to ensure that all stakeholders have a voice and are well-informed, that appropriate advice is formulated and that political interventions are undertaken when necessary.

These efforts have culminated in the BiH authorities' presentation of an Education Reform Agenda to the Peace Implementation Council in Brussels on 21 November. The agenda, *Reforming education to give BiH a better future*, is a comprehensive strategy listing goals for education reform and focussing on action needed to realize these goals.

## **DEMOCRATIZATION**

### **Promoting good governance**

Economic and political development is dependent upon the capacity and commitment of government institutions to reform their structures and procedures and to comply with the norms set out for integration into European structures.

The OSCE democratization programme works to support the bridging of the gap between Bosnia and Herzegovina, its immediate neighbours and other European countries in the region by promoting best practices at the practitioners' level.

The OSCE democratization programme's approach is facilitative and process-oriented. It secures the direct commitment of the relevant authorities to the realization of far-reaching and sustainable democratic development goals.

Overall, the Mission's governance programme aims to improve the accountability of local institutions and to encourage citizens' participation in civic life.

*The Municipal Infrastructure and Implementation Project (MIFI)* promotes:

- proficient municipal management of budgetary and material resources
- consensus- and community-building
- training seminars with on-site technical assistance tailored to the needs of participating municipalities
- an OSCE-sponsored quarterly newsletter which is facilitating the sharing of best practices throughout the country.

*The Cantonal Administration Project (CAP)* promotes the application of public management tools and encourages effective cantonal leadership responsive to local needs. The project was expanded in 2002 to include Tuzla and Sarajevo Cantons.

### **Building state institutions: Parliamentary Support Project (PSP)**

In the context of streamlining, the OSCE took the lead in co-ordinating assistance to legislative bodies at the state and entity levels in BiH.

The training of new parliamentarians following the elections in the autumn of 2002 has formed a major part of the work of State institution-building.

The project continues to focus on the state parliament and the provision of intensified support for links to other important institutions. Emphasis has been placed on developing the parliamentary committee system within the BiH Parliamentary Assembly. This is carried out with the active participation and support of parliamentary bodies throughout Europe.

**Political development and youth participation**

The OSCE's political development activities aim to develop a more pluralistic, inclusive and tolerant political landscape and more democratic and accountable political institutions and organizations across all levels of government.

The OSCE also seeks to modernize the practices, structures and standards of political parties and to promote youth participation and a more equitable gender balance among the representatives in political life.

**Politico-Military Dimension Activities**

**Establishment of international norms**

Strategic objectives in the field of military stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina have consistently been to establish 'normality,' both within the country and in the politico-military relationships with all the other parties involved in the recent conflicts. Immediately after the armed conflicts, these objectives were designed, first and foremost, to ensure and secure the peace.

**Strengthening military stability**

Significant changes in the overall security situation have resulted in an increasing focus on capacity-building of democratically accountable and affordable defence structures and will assist BiH in improving implementation of its OSCE commitments in the politico-military dimension.

In late 2002, the Presidency of BiH adopted a decision on the Organization and Functioning of Defence Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the core of this Decision is the restructuring and strengthening of the Standing Committee on Military Matters. Other OSCE initiatives focussed on the provision of advice and technical assistance connected with the *Document on Conventional Arms Transfer* (Weapons Export Control Commission) and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

**Overcoming the legacies of armed conflict: restructuring to affordable armed forces**

The Mission, in co-operation with international institutions, is also supporting several efforts to overcome the legacies of the armed conflict, including reductions in the size of the armed forces, alleviating the social consequences of demobilization and achieving greater budget transparency.

**Democratic control of armed forces**

The Mission has been working towards improving effective parliamentary oversight of the armed forces. In fostering the development of parliamentary defence committees, it has been conducting roundtables to develop the mechanisms and procedures for improved parliamentary control. It has also been organizing visits to other parliaments in neighbouring countries.

**Supporting the Dayton Peace Accords**

The Mission has also continued to provide logistical and administrative support to the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Articles II and IV of Annex 1B of the *General Framework Agreement for Peace*.

During 2002, the Mission worked on the issue of defence affordability and spearheaded the downsizing of the armed forces in BiH by some 13,000 soldiers, a reduction of about one third.

The urgent need to cut military expenditure was a message the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina conveyed to the BiH authorities at the beginning of the year 2002. As a result, some 13,000 soldiers were demobilized before the end of the year. The Mission working with the Organisation for Migration (IOM), offered demobilized soldiers transitional assistance, which helped former soldiers successfully re-enter civilian life.



**Samsudin Herak is one of those helped by the Mission:**

Before the war began, Samsudin planned to finish his education at technical college. Instead, he ended up serving in the Federation Army as a front-line soldier. When Samsudin left the army, he registered for transitional assistance for discharged soldiers. "At this point, my friends and I had a 'hopeless' mentality. Although I didn't believe that the programme could truly help me at the time, I also had nothing to lose."

Samsudin spent a year and a half working as a barber while in the army – work he enjoyed. The OSCE/IOM programme helped him set up a hair salon, and it was also agreed the he would complete his high school vocational training. In September 2002, the Coliseum hair salon opened for business. He is now enthusiastically marketing his business and is building up his client base.

OSCE

# OSCE Mission to Croatia

*In the course of 2002, the co-operation between the Government of Croatia and the Mission strengthened in many areas, leading up to a joint appearance in December of the Head of Mission (HoM) and the Croatian Foreign Minister before the OSCE Permanent Council. On the operational side, the Mission presented an Activity Plan on the implementation of the Mission mandate, which is intended as a common basis for future co-operation with the Government.*

## CONTEXT

The Mission to Croatia was established in 1996 to provide advice on human rights, minority rights and the full implementation of legislation to Croatian authorities and relevant groups. The mandate was enhanced in 1997 and 1998 to include assistance to the Government with its commitments to the two-way return of all refugees and displaced persons.

Mission activities are undertaken in support of:

- judicial reform
- the rule of law
- refugee and property return
- freedom of the media
- police assistance
- civil society development.

### Field presences – backbone of the Mission

The strength of the Mission is its presence in the former war-affected areas. Three field centres in Knin, Vukovar and Sisak as well as seven field offices enabled the Mission to assess the progress that Croatia has made with regard to refugee and property return, rule of law, judicial reform, human rights and minority rights and democratization as well as other international commitments. Moreover, field offices provide advice for local and regional authorities as well as NGOs and individuals on mandate-related issues.

At the end of 2001, the Government signed a *Stabilization and Association Agreement* (SAA) with the EU and in May 2002 it joined the *Membership Action Plan* (MAP) with NATO. These developments contributed to enhanced co-operation with government officials and authorities at all levels working on mandate-related issues.

Most of the political commitments undertaken by Croatia in the SAA harmonize with the Mission's mandate. These include efforts to realize the sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons, reform of the judiciary, minority rights as well as media-related reform measures. This is also reflected in the Government's Implementation Plan for the SAA as well as the National Programme for Admission to the EU.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

All of the Mission's core activities are aimed at the improvement of the overall human rights situation in Croatia. This work primarily involves supporting the reform of Croatia's legislation and the legal system as well as the promotion of democratic values and civil society. The Mission has also designed projects to support Croatia's human rights watchdog institutions, the Ombudsman and the Constitutional Court.

## Human Dimension Activities

Since most human dimension issues show similarities to those in other countries in the region, co-operation was developed further with neighbouring countries. The Mission has intensified its co-operation with partners inside and outside the OSCE: ODIHR, The Stability Pact, other OSCE Missions and the UNHCR. In this framework, activities centred on regional return and property restitution issues and support for cross-border co-operation and confidence-building initiatives.

In November, the Mission participated in a regional conference by ODIHR on trial monitoring. The Mission also provided trial monitoring assistance to the Mission in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which intended to begin such activities in the near future.

### Progress on minority rights

In December, Parliament adopted a *Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities* (CLNM), fulfilling a commitment that had been outstanding since the country's admission to the Council of Europe in 1996.

During the period leading up to the adoption of the CLNM, the Mission provided

advice to representatives of national minorities and civil society. Several seminars, briefings and consultations were held involving the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and Mission staff, as well as the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. In November, the Head of Mission chaired a roundtable between government representatives and leading minority figures on the CLNM and was invited to address the parliamentary committee tasked to prepare the law. The Mission has now begun monitoring the implementation of the CLNM.

The Mission also advised on minority rights as they relate to education, both the right to education in minority languages and the right of minorities to be free of discrimination in education. The teaching of history is also an area in which the Mission became active and advised relevant Croatian authorities.

Within the framework of The Stability Pact, the Head of Mission participated in September in a roundtable in Cakovec in northern Croatia on the education of Roma and the Government's National Strategy for Roma in Croatia. In October, the Mission also attended a follow-up regional conference on Roma issues, which was held to assess ongoing activities under The Stability Pact and to identify new priorities for action in south-eastern Europe.

### Action on gender issues

In November, a Mission representative participated in a three-week training course on gender equality and women's rights at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund, Sweden. This course will boost the Mission's efforts to develop further gender mainstreaming and to implement the OSCE *Action Plan for Gender Issues*.

## REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

While the return of ethnic Croats displaced as a result of the conflict has almost been completed, the return of Croatian Serb refugees and displaced persons remains a major challenge. Over 100,000 Croatian Serbs have returned since the war. The Mission is working with Croatian authorities to create such conditions that anybody who wants to return among the remaining

250,000 refugees can do so. The Mission and its international partners are continuing to provide legislative and other advice to the Government on remaining issues related to return and reintegration.

**Speeding up the repossession of property**  
Changes to the *Law on Areas of Special State Concern* (LASSC) to speed up property repossession came in response to long-standing advice from the Mission. The Mission organized a one-day seminar to train more than 80 OSCE and UNHCR staff members working in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on monitoring the newly-adopted legislation on property repossession. It also provided advice to relevant authorities.

**Strengthening the right to unconditional return in Croatia**  
The Joint Working Group on Legislation, created in 2001 between the Government, the Mission and its international partners, elaborates legislative and other solutions for return-related problems. In August and December 2002, the Working Group issued its first 'Joint Recommendations' to the Government on the full implementation of the Law on Reconstruction and on the right to unconditional return.

**Redress for lost housing and terminated occupancy/tenancy rights**  
Mission advice was offered to Croatian authorities on providing redress or compensation to Croatian Serbs for terminated occupancy/tenancy rights to formerly socially-owned housing. Further, the Mission held meetings in Zagreb with Council of Europe experts on terminated occupancy/tenancy rights.

**Developing a Trilateral Plan for the Implementation of the "Common Principles on Return"**  
In October 2001, three OSCE Heads of Mission (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) presented a set of seven common principles to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. These principles were designed to ensure the consistency of the legal, administrative and political framework on return throughout the region. In June 2002, these principles were incorporated into The Stability Pact's AREA II document. As an instrument to

the common principles, a *Joint Action Plan* was presented in October 2002 to the Governments of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This plan was the result of meetings between the Heads of OSCE and UNHCR Missions in the three countries. The plan should be finalized by early 2003.

#### MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

**Transforming Croatian Radio and Television into a public service broadcaster**  
In 2002, the Mission's support for media development focused on providing expert advice to ministries on the reform of media legislation in line with European standards.

In November, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Mission supported the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Mass Media of the Council of Europe in reviewing draft media legislation. Advice was provided to the Government on aligning legislation related to European broadcast media standards, including reviews of several drafts of the *Law on Croatian Radio and Television* (HRT).

A final report by the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee was delivered in December by the Mission to the Government. It offered a number of recommendations related to the transformation of HRT into a public service broadcaster and suggestions that would allow for stronger safeguards for HRT against possible political interference.

#### Media Legislation

The Government intensified its efforts to amend relevant media-related legislation. Changes to the 2001 Law on HRT and a new Media Law were still being drafted at the end of 2002. A government working group has been established to propose changes to the 1999 Law on Telecommunications.

Mission staff played an important role at several conferences and roundtables on the development of a new draft Law, primarily those organized by the Croatian Journalists' Association. In May, the Mission discussed amendments to the Law on Media at a seminar of the Croatian Association of Radio and Newspapers.

A new Law on Media, a draft of which is expected in early 2003, would address issues related to print media and provide a

legal framework to prevent any monopolies in the media field.

**Creating an independent regulator**  
The Mission has also continued to advocate changes to the 1999 *Law on Telecommunications*, as recommended by both the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Council of Europe. Particular emphasis was placed on the transformation of the Council for Radio and Television into a genuine independent regulator.

**Strengthening local media development**  
Strengthening local media development has been an important focus for the Mission. The Mission analyzed, for example, the local media environment in the Zadar area of southern Croatia at the request of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

The Mission in Croatia has:

- co-funded the *Summer School on the Right to Access Information*, held in August by the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (HHO)
- met regularly with local and private media outlets throughout Croatia to offer assistance and advice
- co-funded selected activities of the Split-based press agency *Stina*, one of the main media outlets in the region on refugee return, minority rights and media freedom issues
- covered the distribution costs for a minority newspaper in 2002
- financed a project by the HHO to monitor political programmes on Croatian Television (HTV).

#### RULE OF LAW

Much of the Mission's work focuses on the rule of law and the administration of justice. The Mission offered recommendations for legislative reform, in particular on access to court, length of proceedings and execution of court decisions. The Mission's field monitoring of the functioning of the judiciary, for example, facilitated an assessment of Croatia's implementation of its judicial reform plan adopted in November 2002. Of particular interest was the implementation of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and the Constitutional Court, many of which focused on the functioning of the judiciary. The increasing co-operation between the Mission and the EC Delegation was



illustrated by the Mission's support of the work of the EC Justice and Home Affairs Team to Croatia.

### War crimes

The Mission continued its trial monitoring programme of approximately 70 domestic war crime prosecutions, predominantly involving Serb defendants. It also continued to monitor the Chief State Prosecutor's review of war crimes cases.

In 2002, the Mission suspended its participation in monitoring exhumations due to the improved work of the Government's Office for Missing and Detained Persons and its improved co-operation with its counterparts in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Mission continues to maintain close contacts with the Office.

## POLICE DEVELOPMENT

At the end of its mandate in early 1998, the UN Police Support Group (UNPSG) withdrew from the Danube Region of eastern Croatia. Soon afterwards the OSCE Permanent Council established the OSCE Police Monitoring Group (PMG) to assume the responsibilities of the UNPSG in the Region. Reflecting the improved political and security environment the OSCE Permanent Council ended the PMG mandate on 31 October 2000, but the Mission retained a limited number of OSCE Police Affairs Officers who continue to work closely with the Croatian Police at the central and local levels.

### Developing the Croatian police service

The Mission's Police Affairs Officers are continuing to advise their Croatian colleagues on:

- community policing
- hate crime management
- security maintenance
- administrative and structural reform.

The Mission has channelled its advice and assistance through regular contacts with senior Croatian officials of the Police Directorate, the Minister of the Interior's Cabinet and a developmental working group that was jointly established at the end of 2001 by the Mission and the Ministry of the Interior.

In Zagreb, the Mission and the American Embassy continued to co-chair a donors'

co-ordination body on international police assistance. The Mission's Police Adviser also participated in the first *Regional Police Internal Affairs Conference* in south-eastern Europe on enhancing cross-border and regional investigative capacities in the region. He made a joint presentation with the Croatian Director General of Police on the positive impact of international police assistance programmes and agreements in Croatia.

With the support of the British Embassy in Zagreb, the Mission arranged for two senior Croatian police officers to observe community policing techniques as guests of the Sussex Police in the United Kingdom, including the work of 'beat' managers.

### Community policing

The objective of community policing is to increase the level of co-operation between police and other actors in the community, while improving security and reducing the number of criminal offences. Examples from the United States and Great Britain have shown the importance of introducing community policing techniques into regular policing programmes and that it takes about a decade to fully develop a functioning community policing system.

At the request of the Ministry of the Interior, the Mission began a series of community policing presentations to approximately 1,500 police officers in the Danube Region of eastern Croatia. The presentations offered insight into police-media relations, sharing information with other community actors and enhanced police accountability. Consultations with the Ministry were also initiated in order to offer similar presentations in central and southern Croatia.



British 'Bobbies' and Croatian Police exchanged information on Community Policing concepts, November 2002.

## PROGRAMME FOR DEMOCRACY

The development of a healthy civil society remains a precondition for the protection of human rights and sustainable return. The Mission has focused its democratization programme on these goals within its *Peace-building Programme for Conflict Prevention*.

In total, 47 national and grass-roots projects were implemented in 2002 on:

- bringing different ethnic communities together
- broadening the multicultural experiences of women in local communities
- promoting the role of young people in war-affected communities
- enhancing capacity-building and skills training for NGOs and local officials.

### Children from war-affected areas

In 2002, 80 pupils from five war-affected municipalities in central Croatia attended the Mission's two summer projects. Focusing on activities that aim to eliminate stereotypes and images created during the armed conflict, these projects supported the normalization of life and the integration of children in a post-conflict environment. The Mission also sponsored the establishment of 10 youth clubs in targeted war-affected areas, including training for youth leaders, as well as five seminars for local authorities aimed at encouraging civic participation.

### Capacity-building for non-governmental organizations

The Mission supported a project of the Government Office for Associations aimed at increasing capacity-building in the NGO sector. It also finalized a capacity-building programme for 12 selected NGOs together with the International Training and Research Centre (INTRAC).

### Landmark cross-border meetings

The Mission and sister OSCE Missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia helped facilitate, for example, a landmark cross-border meeting for authorities along the Sava River between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, involving various regional and local governmental representatives and mayors.

In order to intensify cross-border co-operation in the micro-region shared by Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Mission also supported a conference by the East-West Institute in Dubrovnik, entitled the *Southern Adriatic Trans-frontier Co-operation Forum*. This event was co-sponsored by the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

# Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

**NOTE ON THE NAME OF MISSION**  
*The Mission was renamed the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro in February 2003, following the country's decision on a new constitutional arrangement between Serbia and Montenegro. During the reporting period, the former name was in use.*

## CONTEXT

The process of reforms in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) has created a landscape in which the OSCE Mission to the FRY (OMiFRY) Mission operated in 2002.

### Development of the economic climate in the post-Milosevic period

Economic performance has improved since the change of government and the initiation of reforms in late 2000. Inflation has declined by up to 40 per cent and the foreign exchange reserves of the Central Bank have doubled.

While the Mission was not directly involved in economic reform, these positive achievements create an environment within which other reforms, where the Mission is playing an active part, can be pursued more vigorously.

Stabilization of the security and political situation in southern Serbia is another notable development.

## Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities

### **A strong environmental mandate**

The former FRY did not have an Environmental Ministry or legislation. Moreover, the level of environmental consciousness in the country has traditionally been low.

One of the main achievements of the Mission's Economy and Environment Department has been to assemble an international donor and advisory constituency to support the Serbian authorities. They have drafted new environmental legislation in line with European and international standards. An Environment Ministry and an independent Environmental Agency are also being established.



*A Letter of Intent on the protection of the waters of the River Sava was signed by the authorities of the FRY, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina after a meeting set up by the Mission.*

## Human Dimension Activities

### ELECTIONS

#### **Southern Serbia**

Tension in Southern Serbia escalated in 2001 due to an insurgency of Albanian militants. The tension stems from the Milosevic period during which Albanians were excluded from local government. After the fall of Milosevic in October 2000, the new Government in Belgrade prepared a plan to reintegrate ethnic Albanians into state structures, along with guarantees to demilitarize the region, create a multi-ethnic police force and fully respect minority rights.

### **Southern Serbia: supporting the peace process after the Spring of Violence**

After the signing of the NATO brokered "Covic" peace agreement, on 21 May 2001, which brought an end to violence in this region, the Mission appointed a southern Serbia Co-ordinator in order to further concentrate its activities. The creation of favourable socio-political conditions has accounted for much of the Mission's activities in southern Serbia during the reporting period.

OMiFRY has witnessed a great step forward in the process of normalization in southern Serbia after a period of violence in the region. The Mission's presence has acted as an important confidence-building measure and finally, after a long process, southern Serbia has a representative multi-ethnic local government structure.

### **Groundbreaking elections in Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja**

In July 2002, three multi-ethnic communities of southern Serbia went to the polls to elect members of their municipal assemblies. The OSCE played a fundamental international role in this important process. Multi-ethnic municipal assemblies and local governments were introduced in Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja for the first time.

However, the elections were not without flaws. There were incidents of group voting and lack of transparency. Nevertheless, the Mission was satisfied that complaints were dealt with in an appropriate manner<sup>1</sup>. Repeat elections<sup>2</sup> were held and assessed by the Mission.

### ***The next phase of the peace process***

In the past, security and the stabilization of the peace process were our highest priority in southern Serbia. The introduction of a proportional representation electoral system means the Mission can move on to develop, support and implement projects based on the socio-political needs of all three ethnic communities of the new municipal assemblies.



A woman casting a ballot in elections for the first multi-ethnic municipal assemblies in Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja. The Mission will remain a vigilant guarantor of multi-ethnic governance in southern Serbia and will offer political expertise.

### ***Strengthening Democracy***

The Mission's Democratization Department has driven several human dimension projects, ranging from support for Roma to gender work.

It has also been concentrating on the development and professionalism of committee structures in parliament. Additionally, the department continues to focus on trafficking issues. It is in the process of assisting the establishment of a regional NGO network to enable displaced persons and refugees to return.

### **RULE OF LAW**

#### ***Stepping up anti-corruption action***

OMiFRY focused increasingly on anti-corruption activities, culminating in an important anti-corruption conference in October 2002.

As a result of this expert conference the Mission has decided to tackle corruption on four fronts:

- adoption of a 'prevention of conflict of interest' law
- financing of political parties, which must be transparent
- setting out of concrete rules to ensure that all qualified persons have an equal and fair chance of obtaining government contracts
- building of the most suitable framework that would ensure that anti-corruption legislation and rules are not only adopted in law, but also implemented in practice.

### ***Launching strategies for law enforcement***

The Mission stepped up its activity in border policing, combating organized crime and police training in all aspects from human rights to management. It is working intensely on the implementation of organized crime legislation.

The Mission also focused on developing a more holistic, humane and effective anti-trafficking strategy.

### **Media Development**

Transparent and fair licensing procedures have been an important aim for broadcasting and telecommunications in the FRY. Regulatory agencies are being set up with the support of the Mission.

The Mission continued to share its legal expertise by advising government authorities and journalists' associations on new broadcasting and public information legislation.

*Serbian State Radio and Television (RTS)* has a new management team which is turning it into a public broadcasting service. The Mission is instrumental in this process and is supporting the re-working of its news service.

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As part of a special campaign co-organized by the OSCE, first graders will receive new alphabet primers.

1 Formal complaints were filed to the Municipal Election Commission and the Municipal Court, as stipulated by the Serbian Election Law.

2 Second and third round repeat elections in certain electoral units in line with the democratic and legal criteria.

### Politico-Military Dimension Activities

#### **Democratic control over the army: a priority**

In August 2002, the FRY took up the chairmanship of an important OSCE body, the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Benefiting from this, the Mission made democratic control of the armed forces a priority and a pivotal area of activity in 2002. In a number of conferences organized by OMiFRY throughout the year, the role of parliaments was advocated as crucial in making democratic control effective and meaningful.

The Mission's efforts in this field continued to focus on implementation of two OSCE documents – the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* and the *OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)*.

#### **Disposing of surplus small arms and light weapons (SALW)**

Stability and security in the FRY, and the region as a whole, would benefit from stricter controls and a reduction of the surpluses of SALW, which have been used in past conflicts and remain in the possession of individuals, criminal groups and organized crime.

The Mission has supported the early implementation of the OSCE SALW Document and was involved in a programme, funded through The Stability Pact, for the destruction by the Yugoslav Army of stockpiles of surplus SALW.



OMiFRY participated in the public destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons at the facility in Cacak, Serbia.

The establishment of a Regional SALW Clearing House in Belgrade also provides an additional opportunity for the Mission's active participation in this field, together with other relevant international actors, such as UNDP and The Stability Pact.

#### **Confidence- and Security-Building Measures**

The Mission has been mandated to assist and promote implementation of confidence- and security- building measures (CSBMs), among other defence-related issues.

OMiFRY has noted the need to establish standards of democracy in the military and security sectors.

The mission has made the effective functioning of parliamentary oversight a priority, as part of its mandate to assist and promote implementation closely linked to defence and security-related issues.

# OSCE Mission in Kosovo

## CONTEXT

More than three years have passed since the conflict and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMiK) has continued its work in fulfilling its institution-building mandate, concentrating on the fields of:

- human rights
- media development
- police training
- democratization and elections.

The Mission in Kosovo represents a new step in fostering co-operation between international organizations. For the first time, the OSCE is an integral part, albeit distinct, of an operation led by the United Nations, the UN Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK).

### **Handing over to local responsibility**

OMiK has streamlined and restructured itself, to ensure its achievements are sustainable as the international presence in Kosovo decreases. It has handed over greater responsibility to its local professional staff and other agents in Kosovo's provisional institutions and organizations.

## Human Dimension Activities

### ELECTIONS

In the reporting period OMiK organized two elections:

- Kosovo Assembly Elections, November 2001
- second Municipal Elections, October 2002.

OMiK is unique among current OSCE missions in that it is still directly responsible for the organization and conduct of elections.

### **The Kosovo Assembly Election**

A transparent, accepted count and the election of a representative Assembly laid good foundations for the transfer of responsibility to provisional self-governing institutions.



*Laying good foundations: Kosovo Assembly Elections*  
There was a high turnout of 64 per cent and all communities of Kosovo participated in person or by mail. Thirty-four women were elected and all communities achieved representation.

### **Successful Municipal Elections that bode well for the future**

As regards creating the necessary conditions for the participation of all of Kosovo's communities, the elections were an operational and technical success. There was a 54 per cent turnout.

However, the low level of participation by Kosovo Serb voters was a cause for concern.

The province witnessed a peaceful campaign and election day, with political entities and candidates held to higher standards of transparency.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo is handing over electoral responsibilities. It has significantly increased the responsibilities of local election officials, who performed their duties professionally and accurately during the Municipal Elections.

### DEMOCRATIZATION

#### **Responding to the new Assembly's calls for assistance**

Soon after the Kosovo Assembly was formed, OMiK initiated the *Assembly Support Initiative* (ASI). The ASI co-ordinates assistance from international organizations and has arranged study trips abroad and training seminars on parliamentary and policy work.

OMiK has been focusing on democratization through good governance, citizen participation, parliamentary support and inter-ethnic dialogue.

When the sole Kosovo Serb entity in the Assembly withdrew, alleging discrimination by the Albanian majority, OMiK appointed a full-time officer to monitor the Assembly's compliance with the Constitutional Framework.

#### **Democracy forums and 'starter kits' for new members**

In the run-up to the Municipal Elections, OMiK held regular *Political Party Consultative Forums* to provide parties with information on electoral rules, security measures and how to conduct a democratic election campaign.

OMiK delivered an assistance programme for the 30 municipal assemblies. An initial *Municipal Assembly Starter Kit* was designed as a training programme for members, many of whom are holding elected office for the first time.

#### **Preparing the ground for a new Kosovo Institute for Public Administration**

OMiK has trained over 5,000 civil servants in more than 80 training programmes. In October 2002, it brought together a number of representatives from public administrations throughout the region and from various international agencies.

#### **Listening to 'Minority Voices'**

OMiK's continuing work with the ethnic communities of Kosovo includes voter education programmes, electoral process training sessions and the *'Minority Voices' project*, a survey that focused on the access of minorities to municipal public services. In response to the special needs of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, OMiK has offered training for community advocates, who will link these communities more closely with society at large.

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**GOOD GOVERNANCE**

***Working with the Prime Minister***

The Mission’s Advisory Offices to the Prime Minister advises on good governance, human rights, equal opportunity and gender and community affairs. They also oversee the Ministries’ practices, review draft legislation and develop policy in line with European and international standards.

***Developing an anti-corruption plan***

The Advisory Office on Good Governance, with OMiK advisers, the World Bank and the Council of Europe, developed a comprehensive *Anti-Corruption Plan* after the Prime Minister prioritized the issue. A working group, headed by the Advisory Office and including representatives from law enforcement authorities, is responsible for overall policy and implementation of government initiatives on awareness and prevention.

***Transferring power to the Kosovo leadership***

OMiK’s two Advisory Offices have continued mentoring and training programmes to support the transfer of powers from the international community to Kosovo civil service staff. OMiK advisors continue to advocate a ‘proportional representation range’ policy for the inclusion of ethnic communities and gender balance within the central and municipal levels of the Kosovo Civil Service.

A system has been designed to track the Government’s implementation of this programme, as well as to gauge the effectiveness of the gradual transfer of power to Kosovo leadership.

***Guiding commitment to gender equality***

A new three-year *Gender Action Plan* was endorsed by the Prime Minister and the OMiK Head of Mission in November 2002.

The Mission participated in the establishment of a high level oversight committee and its working group<sup>1</sup>, which aim to ensure that all laws and other actions by UNMIK are in compliance with international human rights standards. In this regard, the two bodies have a mandate to review all draft UNMIK legislation and other legal instruments.

OMiK is charged with monitoring and promoting the development of institutions which ensure that human rights and the rule of law are respected and that effective remedies are available when human rights are violated.

The Mission’s continuing commitment of resources and expertise has been crucial in establishing a unique, vigorous and effective structure, which has yielded important results.

OmiK has initiated and led the drafting of an anti-discrimination law. The bill serves to consolidate and strengthen existing law on discrimination, bringing it into conformity with international and European anti-discrimination law and standards. It aims to promote uniformity in the treatment of discrimination – including in employment, public and social services, education and housing – against vulnerable groups in society and seeks to provide remedies or sanctions, as appropriate.

***Producing reports on human rights issues***

The Mission launched a comprehensive report on property rights and produced the Ninth Minority Assessment with the UNHCR. This considers carefully the situation of ethnic communities in Kosovo from various aspects – such as security, freedom of movement, non-discrimination and equal access to services – and suggests achievable solutions to the problem.

The Human Rights Division has been increasing the focus on capacity-building and training in Kosovo, running a range of programmes in areas such as human rights education, NGO human rights programming, women’s participation in society and victim advocacy awareness and training.

**JUDICIAL REFORM**

Promoting a healthy Judicial System OMiK promotes and monitors the development of the legal and judicial system in Kosovo through:

- three institutions: the Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI), the Criminal Resource Defence Centre (CDRC) and the Kosovo Law Centre (KLC).
- providing continuous legal education and a *Professional Skills Training Programme* for judges and prosecutors
- assisting defence lawyers by providing human rights and advocacy skills training
- being a resource for technical and logistical assistance
- cultivating the professional skills of the local legal community.
- Publishing the third edition of the law journal, *Kosovo Legal Studies*.

In addition, a number of reports on the judiciary have been published on:

- the administration of justice
- the criminal justice system
- domestic war crime trials in Kosovo.



The launch of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo’s victim advocacy manual, February 2002.

Ljubomir Kalef/OSCE

## MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Another key responsibility of OMiK is to promote professional and independent media, with three key areas of activities: development, training and regional co-operation. Highlights include:

- supporting *Radio Television Kosovo* (RTK), which is developing into a strong multi-ethnic public service broadcaster
- establishing a network of 27 Serbian-language radio stations through which Serb-speaking communities can receive accurate and timely information in their own language
- providing special training courses on media management and technical aspects of media
- bridging the information gap between different parts of south-eastern Europe through a number of organized activities involving media professionals from the region.

Until the Independent Media Commission has been formally established, OMiK's Temporary Media Commissioner continues to apply 'temporary' codes of conduct and issuing licences.

OMiK believes continuous breaches of existing media laws may cause deep mistrust among society, media and government in years to come.

## POLICE DEVELOPMENT

### *Police development and education*

The Kosovo Police Service School (KPSS) has been undergoing change: Kosovo staff are gradually replacing international staff. OMiK has been operating the KPSS at full capacity throughout this transition. After a period of operational duties, fully-trained Kosovo Police Service (KPS) officers have returned to the school to become trainers.

The KPSS was established in 1999 and has now matured into a strong institution. This year, OMiK has assisted other OSCE missions where policing expertise needs have been identified. It has provided resources and personnel to the OSCE's Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, and the Office in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Other successes of the KPSS include:

- the graduation of 5,500 multi-ethnic officers
- 16 per cent minority and 16 per cent female cadets graduated into the service
- KPS officers on patrol outnumbered their counterparts from UNMIK
- around 11,600 participants attended various weekly attendance courses in the school
- the school offers basic training for daily operational needs and, for officers ready for promotion, courses in supervision, management and specialized in-service training
- specialist instruction was offered on subjects including drugs detection, forensics and advanced criminal investigations to combat organized crime.

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The OSCE-founded Kosovo Police Service School in Vushtrri/Vucitrn provides democratically oriented police training for locally recruited cadets. Officer Agim Melenica, a KPS officer, teaches a class.

# OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

## CONTEXT

The year saw the completion of police re-deployment to all former crisis areas, the graduation of 500 new police officers from non-majority communities and significant progress in the development of community policing.

Concrete progress in the implementation of the *Ohrid Framework Agreement* has fostered improvements in both the human and economic dimensions.

Laws on local self-government were passed by Parliament in August, parliamentary elections were held in September and a census was conducted in November.

### ***Consolidating and re-focusing***

The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje changed noticeably in 2002, keeping pace with developments on the ground.

Following successful police redeployment in June, the Mission consolidated its policing activities to focus on community-based policing and training, and placed a greater focus on its mandate in the fields of:

- police development
- confidence-building
- rule of law
- media development.

The Mission has established units in each of these areas, creating a clear division of labour in implementation of its mandate.

The improvement in the security situation, fostered by the redeployment of police, allowed the Mission to reduce its staff from 309 international Mission Members to less than 200. It closed four of its six field stations.

## Politico-Military Dimension Activities

### POLICE DEVELOPMENT

#### ***Peacefully redeploying police to former crisis regions***

The first six months of the year focused on the phased and peaceful redeployment of police to 138 villages in the former crisis regions. The process contained several steps, managed on a 'Matrix', which steadily increased police presence from a few hours a day to a 24-hour police presence.

The redeployment process was overseen by the Crisis Management Centre (CMC), which is a co-ordination body within the Government. It included representatives of all four signatory parties to the Framework Agreement and relevant international organizations. Daily reviews of progress and recommendations were made for advancement of specific villages through the phases of return.

Throughout the entire process, OSCE Confidence-Building Monitors (CBMs) and Police Advisers, supported by the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) and NATO's Task Force Fox (TFF), worked with local communities and police to build confidence in these regions.

#### ***Transition from police redeployment to community-based policing***

By the end of June the last village in the former crisis areas had completed the police redeployment plan.

It became clear, however, that further steps were needed to consolidate community-based policing and rule of law in these regions, and the pace of OSCE phase-down in the field was slowed.

This allowed more monitors and police advisers to assist consolidation of police deployment and rule of law in the former crisis regions, especially during the months leading up to the elections.

#### ***Accomplishing a primary task of the Framework Agreement: training 500 cadets from non-majority communities***

By the end of July 2002, 526 cadets had graduated from the OSCE's nine-month *Basic Training Programme*, which comprises a three-month academy course followed by six months of structured field training. Cadets from all ethnic groups represented in the country graduated from the programme, some 17 per cent of whom were female.



New cadets graduate from the OSCE's multi-ethnic police training course in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, February 2002.



A policeman on patrol greets villagers in Gorno Mojanci, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, February 2002.

**Additional police trained in 2002**  
**Field Training Officers Course:** 506  
**In-Service Training Course:** 630  
**Instructor Development Course:** 86  
**Command Officers Course:** 439  
**Elections Security Training Course:** 3,500 uniformed officers  
**Human Rights Reform Course:** 920 uniformed officers  
**Drug Identification Course:** 230 uniformed officers  
**Arrest and Detention Seminars:** 76 uniformed officers  
**Computer Training Courses:** 48 officers



### ***Developing a New Approach to Policing***

The Ministry of Interior, assisted by the Mission, created a plan outlining how community policing could be defined and integrated into the fabric of the police service in all communities.

The underlying concept is to balance robust police action with confidence-building and co-operation.

For sustainable progress, the relationship between police and the community must evolve into one of partnership, rather than confrontation. Citizens must take greater responsibility for security in their communities by working with the police, building citizens' confidence in the police and providing a more constructive and co-operative environment for effective police work.

In implementing the plan, the Mission helped the Ministry to focus on three areas:

- increasing robust police activity, substantiated by measurable benchmarks
- efforts to build confidence between police and citizens, including the creation of structured self-sustainable forums for interaction between the police, citizens and local governmental structures
- continuation of efforts to embed the ethos of community-based policing in the former crisis areas.

### ***Building confidence between police and citizens***

The Mission assisted the Ministry by deploying Community Policing Trainers and Police Advisers in the former crisis areas to work directly with local police. The Mission also supported the formation of Citizen Advisory Groups (CAGs), which provide regular forums where volunteers from many segments of society can informally consult with police about issues of mutual concern.

The idea behind Citizen Advisory Groups is to build confidence, a spirit of mutual assistance and joint responsibility for law and order in communities.

## **CONFIDENCE-BUILDING**

### ***Maintaining stability***

During the first half of the year, Confidence-Building Monitors (CBMs) were deployed throughout the former crisis area to support the maintenance of stability and security, especially in regard to assisting police during the redeployment process.

Confidence-Building Monitors developed working relationships between community leaders, local police, military and members of the former armed groups.

They supported the creation of an environment in which communities develop increasing trust in law enforcement.

They also reported on security issues, including illicit arms trafficking and the humanitarian situation.

### ***Creation of separate Confidence Building Unit***

As part of the Mission's restructuring, this Unit (CBU) was developed to focus the monitors' co-operative relationships into more productive avenues, including assisting the development of Citizen Advisory Groups.

CBU support was especially critical during the pre-election period, when its presence and activities played a role in diffusing highly charged situations.

While the unit continues efforts to assist in stability and security, its role after the completion of police redeployment includes developing and assisting in projects promoting ethnic integration and understanding.



The OSCE's Annual Blossom Run, a charitable fund-raising relay race from Tetovo to Skopje, promoted the theme of reconciliation and helps raise money for local charities.

### ***Situation Centre***

The unit also includes a Situation Centre as an important arm of its operations. The centre provides 24-hour emergency contact coverage and acts as a conduit for much of the information from the former crisis areas, as well as for outgoing information to the rest of the international community. It is the Mission's movement, control and security information centre.

## **Human Dimension Activities**

### **RULE OF LAW**

#### ***From monitoring to longer-term programme development***

Early in the year rule-of-law activities were generally focused on supporting the police redeployment plan. This was offered in the form of monitoring and reporting on the humanitarian situation, including the return of refugees, internally displaced persons and trafficking in human beings. The unit also played a key role in supporting the *Amnesty Law* and monitoring its implementation. After initially channelling its work through a Human Dimension Section under the larger Operations Unit, the Rule of Law Unit was officially separated and renamed in June.

The Rule of Law Unit concentrated on a more programmatic approach, moving away from general monitoring and reporting to developing projects in fields such as supporting Ombudsmen and anti-trafficking, with a view towards capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy.

Highlights included:

- the facilitation of a trip for the Ombudsman to meet colleagues in Bosnia-Herzegovina
- the development of a project to organize an anti-trafficking hotline
- support to NGOs prioritizing legal aid and trial monitoring
- ongoing support to the Government over co-operation with the ICTY and monitoring allegations of police abuse.

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**MEDIA DEVELOPMENT**

***Nurturing multi-ethnic media through the new Media Development Unit***

The Mission's small but focused media development programme concentrates on developing independent media outlets, providing training in journalistic skills in all communities and assisting in the development of a journalism curriculum in universities. It also supports government reform.

The Mission has also worked with the OSCE's Representative on the Freedom of the Media on projects such as: *Freedom and Responsibility: Media in Multi-Lingual Societies*.

Since its creation in August, the Media Development Unit (MDU) has supported projects producing multi-ethnic media. This includes bi-lingual radio shows and multi-ethnic newspapers. The largest of these is the *City Desk*, a multi ethnic press agency based in Tetovo, producing radio and TV news stories for local media outlets. The MDU also supported the *Gostivar Voice*, a multi-ethnic newspaper in the Gostivar region and is now funding a similar project in the Tetovo region.

Training courses in media development were organized to develop specific skills on:

- basic and intermediate journalism for Roma
- TV camera skills for intermediate professionals
- media business management and marketing.

**EDUCATION**

The Mission supported Skopje University in its first steps towards reform of its journalism curriculum, bringing it in line with European standards. Similar support has been offered to the SEE University, a university created with the support of the former OSCE HCNM, Mr. Van Der Stoel.

**ELECTION SUPPORT**

While the ODIHR was the lead organization observing the 15 September 2002 Parliamentary Elections, the Mission to Skopje strongly supported the election process wherever possible. Assistance included:

- support in drafting the *Election Law*
- training 3,500 police officers and reservists on election security
- briefing ODIHR election monitors on the security/political situation.

The Mission also supported a successful project organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and a local NGO to create a Code of Conduct for the election campaign, eventually signed by all relevant political parties.

In addition, the Mission and international partners were active in assisting the country in maintaining a stable security situation.

During a politically charged pre-election period, the Mission's work included mitigating the effects of hostage situations and roadblocks, as well as discouraging retaliatory activity.

**Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities**

The Ohrid Framework Agreement tasked the Mission with assisting in areas relevant to the economic and environmental dimension.

The Local Governance Section monitors the overall decentralization process in the country and is the most prominent section through which economic and environmental issues are addressed. This can be seen through a pilot project introducing concepts of co-operation between the six municipalities in the ethnically-mixed Kicevo valley.

***Training for grant applications***

As part of the *Municipal Co-operation programme*, a training project was held in the field of grant applications, with a specific focus on EU funding. Financially supported by Norway, this project was the first of its kind and is expected to have a large impact on future implementation of the law on local self-government.

***Inter-municipal cooperation***

A Co-operation Board between the same six municipalities was also established. Through it, they have undertaken to research the problem of solid waste collection and are working towards developing a single service which will address the problem in all six municipalities.

OSCE



Newly trained police officers brought along their family on graduation day in Idrizovo, July 2002.

# The OSCE and The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

## CONTEXT

Due to the comprehensive concepts of security that the OSCE and the Pact are built upon, the two are natural partners. Therefore, since its formation in 1999, The Stability Pact has been placed under the auspices of the OSCE.

Many Stability Pact initiatives work very closely with OSCE institutions, most of all with the field missions in south-eastern Europe.

### OSCE Partners in The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

*Countries of south-eastern Europe and their neighbours:* Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Serbia and Montenegro), Turkey and Moldova

*With over 40 partner countries and institutions in all, other members include:* European Union, non-EU European countries, non-EU members of the G-8, international organizations, international financial institutions and regional initiatives.

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE, 2002

After consultation with all the partners involved in The Stability Pact, the Special Co-ordinator has focused on six concrete objectives in south-eastern Europe (SEE) in the areas of:

- trade and investment
- infrastructure, including energy
- refugee issues
- small arms and light weapons
- combating organized crime
- sub-regional co-operation.

### **Trade and investment: completing the network of bilateral and free trade agreements**

A network of bilateral free trade agreements between the countries of south-eastern Europe is being established, which would in effect create a free trade area of 55 million consumers. This will make the region more globally competitive, encourage more foreign direct investment and create employment. With 12 out of 21 agreements signed and 9 under active negotiation, much has been achieved in this area since the beginning of the year.

### **Infrastructure: timely implementation of agreed infrastructure projects and removal of obstacles to implementation**

Out of 46 infrastructure projects, 23 projects with a total value of 3.46 billion Euros have commenced physically on the ground. The Infrastructure Steering Group is actively working to identify and overcome barriers to implementation.

### **Infrastructure: Strengthening regional energy co-operation, particularly in the field of electricity**

The *South East European Electricity Forum* has been launched in co-operation with the European Commission to improve the stability of electricity supply for the countries in the region, which is fundamental for economic development and political stability. A memorandum of understanding has been signed. This is a breakthrough and will form the basis for further work in this field.

### **Refugee issues: providing sustainable solutions for at least 100,000 refugees and displaced persons by increasing the level of return and integration assistance and credits for self-assistance, creating employment opportunities and accelerating the repossession of properties**

Record numbers of refugees have returned to their countries in 2001 and 2002. The *Stability Pact Refugee Return Initiative* (RRI) has successfully found sustainable solutions for over 125,000 persons in 2002. The initiative has worked itself out of a job and will be phased out in the course of 2003. Some of its refugee-related activities will be

integrated into the mainstream of other Stability Pact initiatives.

The OSCE is a full partner of, and major contributor to, The Stability Pact's RRI *Agenda for Regional Action* and has endorsed the guiding principles on returns in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro.

### **Small arms and light weapons: establishing a 'Regional Clearinghouse' in Belgrade under UNDP auspices**

A Small Arms and Light Weapons Clearinghouse for the region has been set up in Belgrade. The response in the region has been very supportive and the Clearinghouse has already developed substantive programmes. Useful partnerships in this endeavour have been developed with some of the OSCE Missions in the region.

### **Organized crime: establishing a Stability Pact Organized Crime Initiative executive secretariat at the Centre for Combating Transborder Crime and Corruption in Bucharest to be operational in the region**

In an attempt to streamline ongoing initiatives to fight organized crime, the Secretariat of *The Stability Pact Organized Crime Initiative* is being established at the Regional Crime Fighting Centre in Bucharest. The Stability Pact will concentrate its law enforcement activities at the Centre, which is a model for regional ownership.

### **Sub-regional co-operation: starting an informal sub-regional dialogue and co-operation process between key actors on functional cross-border issues**

International links have been strengthened with a view to promoting sub-regional co-operation in areas such as the fight against organized crime and trade. A next step will require including the respective governments.

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#### THE STABILITY PACT AND THE OSCE MISSIONS

Many Stability Pact initiatives work closely with OSCE institutions, especially with the field missions in south-eastern Europe.

Here is a partnership truly based on comparative advantages: The Stability Pact can offer its regional approach and issue-specific expertise, whereas the OSCE Missions can provide country-specific knowledge and experience and an invaluable presence on the ground.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE OSCE AND THE STABILITY PACT:

**Trafficking in human beings** is an issue of great concern for the region – and Europe as a whole. Several OSCE Missions are working actively in this field and co-operating closely with The Stability Pact Task Force based in Vienna.

OSCE Missions play an important role in preparing **parliaments** to create a forum for sharing information and experience to facilitate harmonization of legislation ahead of EU association and/or accession.

Several OSCE Missions, such as the Presence in Albania, have used The Stability Pact's emphasis on empowering **local government** as a starting point for their own efforts to promote legislation and train local government officials. The aim has been to deepen and speed up the decentralization process and to obtain the commitment and support of external partners. A Stability Pact conference on local democracy and cross-border co-operation in Osijek reaffirmed commitment to this important aspect of democratization and confidence-building.

All the OSCE Missions in south-eastern Europe have supported **Gender Task Force** projects. With the ongoing institutionalization of the Task Force, the role of main administrator is shifting from the OSCE to the Regional Centre of the Task Force in Zagreb, which co-operates closely with the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. The Task Force contributes to the sustainability of regional gender equality developments in south-eastern Europe.

The Stability Pact Initiative on **Organized Crime** was elaborated with OSCE Missions, laying out standards according to the EU *acquis communautaire*. A possible future role of the Missions would be to help develop and implement *National Action Plans* with the Initiative and to improve regional co-operation by facilitating the exchange of information and harmonization of legislation.

On **Small Arms and Light Weapons**, The Stability Pact Small Arms Clearinghouse in Belgrade is co-operating closely with OSCE Missions on the ground.

In the field of **Media**, The Stability Pact Media Task Force has helped establish Working Groups in the countries of south-eastern Europe comprised of representatives from media outlets, NGOs and government. Closer co-operation with OSCE Missions is planned, especially in determining priorities for legal reform as well as ensuring implementation.

#### CO-OPERATION AT HEADQUARTERS LEVEL

The Special Co-ordinator of The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Erhard Busek, addressed the OSCE in March, soon after taking up office, when he outlined the proposed reforms and goals that the Pact set forth for the year 2002. Later in the year he reported to the Permanent Council on The Stability Pact's achievements and the way ahead.

The Special Co-ordinator participated in the Heads of Mission meeting organized by the Conflict Prevention Centre in July. Experts from The Stability Pact Secretariat were invited to attend a regional Heads of Mission meeting in Skopje, where they gave briefings on concrete areas identified for enhanced co-operation.

This pattern of co-operation is continuing among the participants and is being encouraged at the Headquarters level.

# EASTERN EUROPE



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Since its deployment, the Mission has evolved to support Moldova's needs and regional stability. Mission Members and local staff work on such wide-ranging issues as minority education rights and support for free elections, to facilitating the withdrawal of Russian Federation troops, arms and equipment. In the past year, the Mission has devoted increasing efforts against human trafficking. If progress continues toward settlement of the Transdniestrian problem, the Mission may assume even more important tasks in support of national reunification.

**William Hill, Head of OSCE Mission to Moldova**

IOM



We recognize the need to address root causes of trafficking and to reduce the economic and social inequalities and disadvantages, which also provoke illegal migrations, and which may be exploited by organized criminal networks for their profit.

Declaration on trafficking in human beings, OSCE 10th Ministerial Council, Porto, December 2002

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# OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus

## CONTEXT

In the course of 2002, it became apparent that the Belarusian Government was striving for a new basis for OSCE activities with and in Belarus.

The four remaining international staff members had to leave Belarus between April and October, and the functions of the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus (AMG) had to be gradually reduced.

In view of the above, in 2002 the AMG conducted a limited number of activities. The Group, for example, helped co-ordinate the visit to Minsk of the Belarus *ad hoc* Working Group of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The Working Group intended to assess the progress achieved in the democratization process and to address the issue of the future of the AMG.

### **Assessing the level of co-operation with the AMG**

A series of high level meetings was organized to assess the level of co-operation with the AMG on legal matters and to identify future areas of co-operation. The meetings were held in March by the Acting Head of Group, with the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Belarus, the Chairman of the Constitutional Court and the Chairman of the Supreme Court.

Similar contacts took place with the Speaker and the Vice-Speaker of the Upper Chamber of the National Assembly along with the experts of the Lower Chamber. The specific aim was to address the drafting process of the *Bill on the National Assembly* and the *Bill on Local Powers*.

## EC/ODIHR JOINT PROGRAMME ON ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIZATION

The first European Commission/ODIHR *Joint Programme* on advancing human rights and democratization in Belarus was completed in February. The programme consisted of seven projects targeting various aspects of building civil society in the country.

During the first two months of 2002, the programme centred around:

- **a lecture series on public institutions:** Two major conferences were held in Minsk: one on the concept of local self-government in Belarus with the broad participation of local and foreign experts, and the other on public opinion polls and public policy
- **a prison management and pilot tuberculosis control project:** Aimed at improving the Belarusian penitentiary system, the project was successfully implemented
- **a programme on dispute resolution:** This concluded with a roundtable on the concept of a training centre for conflict prevention and peace-building
- **training for political parties:** The concluding session of the project addressed computer literacy and the use of modern information tools in the presence of members of political parties representing a broad spectrum of the political life in Belarus.

## MONITORING ACTIVITIES

### **Judicial system**

The AMG continued to closely monitor and report on human rights compliance by Belarus and to assist citizens. Attendance of court trials and monitoring of public events and demonstrations were at the core of monitoring activities.

### **Media development**

The AMG also monitored the media situation with an emphasis on the difficulties faced by the non-state media sector. Special attention was devoted to the draft law on media, after the Minister of Information confirmed his readiness to send the text for review by international experts and to hold a public hearing on it.

## NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW MANDATE

Efforts of the Portuguese OSCE Chairmanship- in-Office supported by the Secretary General resulted, at the end of November, in the opening of the negotiations on a new mandate.

On 30 December 2002, the Permanent Council decided to close the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group on 31 December 2002 and to open the OSCE Office in Minsk on 1 January 2003. Its tasks will be to:

- assist the Belarusian Government in further promoting institution-building, consolidating the rule of law, and developing relations with civil society, in accordance with OSCE principles and commitments
- assist the Belarusian Government in its efforts in developing economic and environmental activities
- monitor and report accurately on this process.

A new *Memorandum of Understanding* was signed between Belarus and the OSCE.

# OSCE Mission to Moldova

## CONTEXT

### *Political negotiations*

The OSCE Mission to Moldova has played a very active and critical role this year in negotiations toward a political settlement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the authorities in the Transnistrian region.

Negotiations in the 'five-sided' format (the three mediators: Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE, plus the two sides: Moldova and the Transnistrian region) resumed in Kyiv in July, following a ten-month break. A document proposing a solution to the Transnistrian question on the basis of a federal state model was tabled in Kyiv by the mediators.

The mediators' proposal formed the basis of further meetings throughout the rest of the year. On this basis, the parties have discussed issues and articles of a draft final document on a comprehensive settlement. In parallel with meetings in the five-sided format, meetings of technical experts in the economic sphere also took place.

The negotiation process was affected by tense relations between the Moldovan Government and authorities in the Transnistrian region, following changes to customs and fiscal arrangements in the autumn, when both sides imposed new tax and duties schedules on one another. By the end of the year, however, negotiations had resumed with limited progress on some provisions of the Kyiv mediators' proposal.

## Politico-Military Dimension Activities

### THE JOINT CONTROL COMMISSION

Members of the Mission have been present at all weekly meetings of the Joint Control Commission (JCC), the body responsible for implementing the July 1992 cease-fire agreement and supervising the joint peace-keeping forces in the Security Zone. They have participated actively in seeking solutions for problems occurring in the Security Zone.

Concerns remain on several issues, including:

- the presence of Moldovan institutions and police units in the city of Bendery, also under the control of authorities in the Transnistrian region
- the continued closure of the repaired bridge over the river Dniestr, near the village of Gura-Bicului, by authorities in the Transnistrian region
- the harvesting by Moldovan farmers of land under the control of the Transnistrian region.

### *Efforts to resolve tensions*

Of particular note were efforts to pacify the situation which arose when the authorities in the Transnistrian region tried to force the evacuation of a Moldovan-controlled tuberculosis prison hospital in this territory. The Mission made several efforts, including direct contact with the leadership in the Transnistrian region, but without resolution by year's end.

### *Assisting departments of the JMC*

The Mission supported the work of the Group for the Search of Missing People by supplying computer hardware and software. Mission members met regularly with the Joint Military Command (JMC) and made regular visits to peacekeeping units. The Mission provided an additional office computer to assist the JMC in its work.

### MONITORING WEAPON REDUCTION

In accordance with its expanded mandate as a result of the 1999 *Istanbul Summit*, the Mission has facilitated the withdrawal and reduction of Russian arms and equipment from the Transnistrian region of Moldova.

In March, a Programme Management Cell was established in the Mission with contracted ammunition experts and additional military staff from donor States supporting the Voluntary Fund.

These are participating States that are financially assisting the Mission's efforts to help the Russian Federation in its withdrawal from the Transnistrian region and in its arms-destruction activities.

Ammunition destruction technologies from the United States and Germany were brought into the country to assist the

Russian Federation in meeting its Istanbul Commitment.

Unfortunately, the authorities in the Transnistrian region did not permit the equipment to be brought to the Kolbasna military base of the Operational Group of Russian Forces (OGRF), where some 40,000 tons of ammunition remain.

Regular verbal and written reports were made to the Voluntary Fund donor states.

### *Verifying destruction of weapons*

Frequent contacts were maintained with the OGRF, despite the obstructive position of the authorities of the Transnistrian region towards the withdrawal and destruction activities. The Mission observed and verified the destruction of 51 pieces of equipment not limited under the *Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty*.

In addition, the Mission monitored the withdrawal of four trains from the region: two loaded with ammunition and two containing military equipment. In November, an inspection was performed for the planned destruction of 24 anti-tank systems.



The OSCE Mission to Moldova verifies the removal of Russian military equipment from the Transnistrian region of Moldova. A train – with 47 open platforms loaded with 77 military trucks – left Tiraspol on 16 December, followed by 29 rail cars carrying bridge-building equipment and other material on 24 December.

### *Delays in the removal of SALW*

Initial plans by the Russian Federation would have involved the removal by air of over 40,000 assorted small arms and light weapons. However, although repair works to the OGRF military airfield in Tiraspol were completed, the removal of the SALW armoury held by the OGRF had not begun by December 2002.

## Human Dimension Activities

### LANGUAGE RIGHTS

#### **Supporting ethnic languages in schools**

Activities focused on issues involving schools in Transnistria which follow a Moldovan-language (Romanian) curriculum. At the start of the year authorities in the Transnistrian region threatened to close down these schools. Mission Members tried to facilitate a solution by meeting directly with the Transnistrian 'Minister of Education' and the head of the Tiraspol city administration education department. At the end of the year, efforts by the Mission were still going on.

The Mission provided assistance to the OSCE HCNM and his projects designed to improve the knowledge of the state language among non-native speakers, in order to promote social and inter-ethnic harmony. The project provided training for most teachers of the Moldovan language for grades 5 to 9. In addition, a textbook was published.

#### **Establishing dialogue on reform of history teaching**

The Mission supported the Council of Europe's seminars, *History Teaching in Moldova*. This follows the Council's recommendations for teaching History in 21st Century Europe.

In December, the Mission facilitated a meeting between representatives of the Deputy Prime Minister's officer and the Transnistrian 'Minister of Education', with a view to organizing a seminar in Transnistria in January 2003.

### ELECTIONS

#### **Following election procedures**

The Mission carried out a political assessment of the election of the Bashkan (Governor) in the Autonomous Region of Gagauz Yeri (Gagauzia) in October and a repeat vote held later that month.

Mission members closely followed preparations and on both polling days visited nearly all polling stations. The counting procedures were also followed in selected locations after the polls closed.

### HUMAN RIGHTS

#### **Monitoring minority rights and freedom of religion and expression**

The Mission continued its direct engagement in developments in the case of the Ilascu group and assisted the European Court of Human Rights in its plans to conduct an 'on-the-spot investigation' in 2003. In addition, the Mission responded to a large number of petitions and complaints from citizens on both sides of the Dniestr River.

### ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

#### **Stepping up the fight**

The Mission appointed a dedicated Anti-Trafficking Mission member in August. The Mission was then able to commence monitoring, co-ordination, advocacy, capacity and institution-building and project development in line with the OSCE's commitments in gender issues and in combating trafficking in human beings.

Close co-ordination was developed with the Gender Task Force and the Anti-Trafficking Task Force of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

#### **Empowering women**

To promote women's participation in political and public life ahead of the local elections in spring 2003, the Mission implemented the *Women Can Do It* project. Through a pool of 28 women from NGOs, unions, political parties and local administrations, the project reached about 370 women.

This activity also supported the introduction of a provision for a minimum quota of 30 per cent women in the two parties' decision-making bodies and electoral lists. Local and mayoral projects were also launched.

#### **Supporting the national Anti-Trafficking Plan of Action**

Throughout the year, the Mission maintained efforts to develop the *Plan of Action on Anti-trafficking*. This could serve as a basis for a national referral system.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Interior, the Mission facilitated Moldovan participation in the regional *Development of Anti-trafficking Training Module for Police* programme.

#### **Reforming anti-trafficking legislation**

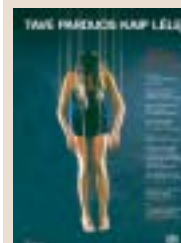
The OSCE and its partners provided technical assistance in the drafting of the *Criminal Procedure Code*, which remains to be finalized.

#### **Supporting women and child victims of trafficking**

The Mission has maintained a database on ongoing projects to enhance anti-trafficking co-ordination among NGOs and national and international agencies.

In December, the Mission allocated financial and technical resources to provide direct support to victims of trafficking, especially women and children. Victims and their children will receive humanitarian aid and will be provided with educational opportunities through scholarships.

IOI



The Mission has contracted the NGO 'La Strada' to offer direct assistance to victims of human trafficking. The first in a series of small, fast-impact actions was launched. During the first

phase of the project, which is run in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration, particularly vulnerable women and children were identified and provided with humanitarian aid kits.



## FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA

Throughout the year, the Mission actively monitored the state of the media on both sides of the Dniestr River, especially efforts to place restrictions on this sphere.

### **Public service radio and television**

In spring 2002, the Mission monitored a number of public protests in Chisinau about media censorship, especially in the state company *Tele-Radio Moldova*. Several journalists and part of the top management of the company were replaced.

The Mission and other International Organizations provided advice for a Media law which was passed by Parliament in August. The opposition and international experts alike strongly criticized the law, arguing that the Government still retained control over state media.

### **Monitoring the state of the media**

The Mission observed the blocking of transmissions by the Romanian channel, *First Romanian TV*, despite official reassurances to the contrary. Similarly, in April, the Co-ordinating Council of the Audio-visual Services refused to grant a licence to *Moldovan Television* to broadcast the programmes of *TV Romania 2*. Other foreign television channels have not encountered similar obstacles.

The Mission noted in December that a popular Romanian language radio channel, *Vocea Basarabiei*, was denied its licence to continue. This issue was subsequently resolved.

Some media policy experts and political opposition representatives claimed that the measure was a means to give government media more space and influence during the period before the local elections scheduled for May 2003.

Similar problems within the print media were noted by the Mission. It closely observed and reported on the arrest of the director and one journalist of the weekly *Accente* in October, allegedly for bribe-taking. This was the most notable example of the media being under strict observation.

### **Media in the Transnistrian region**

The Transnistrian media situation continued to cause concern to the Mission. In 2002 a left-wing opposition paper, *Glas Naroda*, was denied access to its printing house and thus practically forced to close down. Another independent paper, *Novaia Gazeta*, was sued for libel. Both cases were closely monitored by the Mission.

More positively, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova was given the possibility to address the Transnistrian population in a live interview and phone-in discussion for one-and-a-half hours in December. This followed expressed concerns over the lack of direct access to the Transnistrian population through the mass media.



Classtime for some of the 650 pupils of a school in the Transnistrian region of Moldova. It is one of several which delivers a Moldovan language (Romanian) curriculum in the Latin alphabet rather than cyrillic. The directors claim the school is under threat of closure because of this, by the separatist authorities in the region. The Mission to Moldova is following this issue.

# OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

## CONTEXT

The mandate of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, established in 1999 after the closure of an earlier Mission to Ukraine, consists in planning and implementing projects in co-operation with the relevant authorities in Ukraine.

Freedom of the media, trafficking in human beings, establishing legal norms in the military and addressing environmental issues have been the subjects of specific projects.

In the reporting period, this mandate has been fulfilled by providing assistance in the adaptation of legislation, institutions and policies to international standards.

## LEGAL REFORM

### *Adaptation of legislation*

As the main activity in this area, the Project Co-ordinator continued to provide assistance to Ukraine in bringing its legislation in line with European and international standards.

After a review of existing legislation during the initial stage of this project, emphasis was gradually shifted to the provision of assistance in drafting new legislation.

Activities aiming at the elaboration of new legislation focused on current legislation on local self-government and subjects relevant to projects of the Office, namely the draft law on the register of physical persons and the draft *Administrative Procedural Code*.

### *Assisting the implementation of new legislation*

The Project Co-ordinator supported the authorities in publicizing the new legislation and guided judges and other law practitioners in its application. Similar activities were also carried out regarding the provisions of relevant international conventions to which Ukraine is a party.

## STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

The Project Co-ordinator has continued to provide technical assistance to institutions that are crucial to the rule of law, such as the Supreme Court and the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine.

### *Making legal references material more accessible*

Special emphasis has been placed on facilitating the exchange and dissemination of information, particularly on rulings of the highest courts and their jurisprudence, by making use of an Internet-based database. A substantial project was also launched to assist the Supreme Court in establishing an administrative court system.

## MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

### *Promoting media standards*

Efforts to promote international standards relating to freedom of the media have targeted journalists, judges and law practitioners, and the public by means of:

- publications
- seminars in the regions
- television broadcasts.

## ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### *Fighting trafficking in human beings*

The Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the OSCE/ODIHR, has continued to support and develop the counselling and information hotlines of six regional non-governmental organizations. A toll-free National Hotline in Kyiv has also been established.

### *Witness protection*

Support to relevant Ukrainian authorities concerning the criminalization of trafficking and the development of a relevant witness/victim protection programme has continued. In this area, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine has worked closely with other international organizations.

## WORKING WITH THE MILITARY

### *Establishing standards*

Technical and expert support towards the establishment of a military police in the Ukrainian Armed Forces was continued and completed. To highlight international humanitarian law and the OSCE *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*, a series of lectures and seminars were held at the National Academy of Defence and in garrisons throughout the country.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

To improve good governance and transparency, several projects were carried out. Achievements include providing assistance to the Public Prosecutor's Office and other relevant governmental institutions through international seminars on strategies for preventing and combating organized crime.

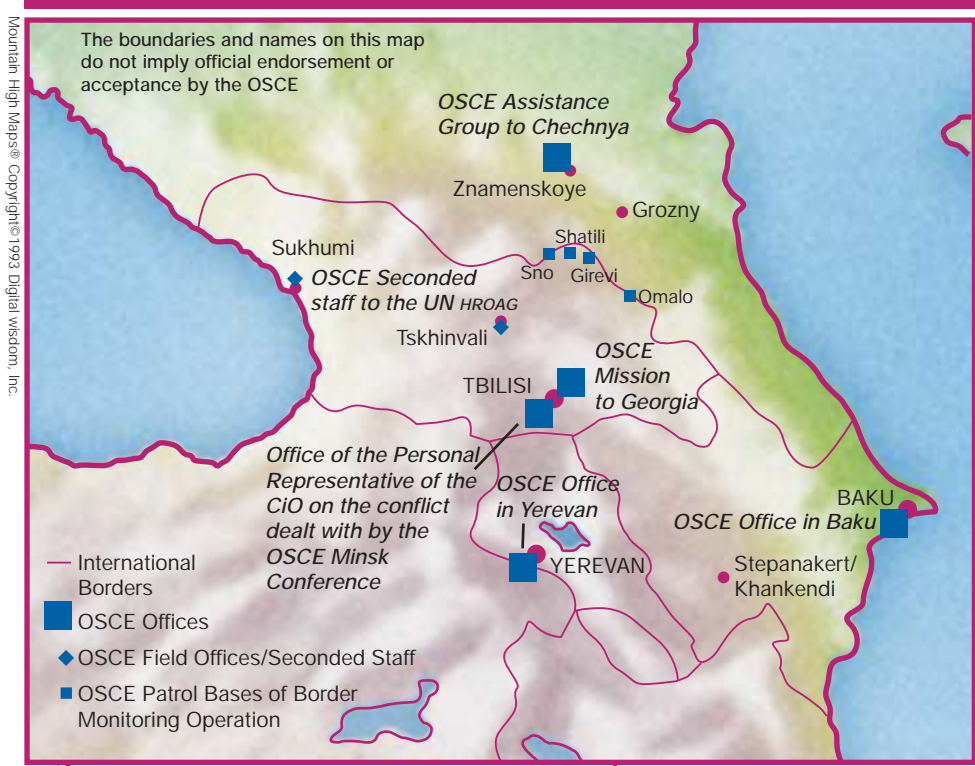
Support was also given to the establishment of the websites of regional and local authorities.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

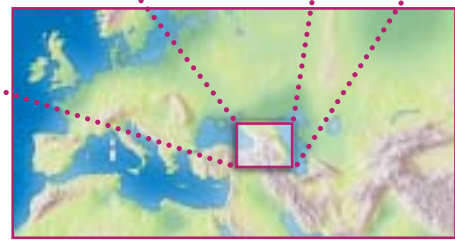
A project on the Introduction and Implementation of the EU *Water Framework Directive in Ukraine* was carried out through the organization of two roundtables, the publication of a guidebook on the Water Framework Directive and the elaboration of a comparative analysis of existing Ukrainian legislation.

Assistance was also provided to governmental and regional authorities in the application of the principles of the *Aarhus Convention* to address local environmental problems.

# CAUCASUS



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*Though operating on a more confidential, low-key basis, the Assistance Group in Chechnya did important proactive monitoring and reporting.*  
 Human Rights Watch  
 World Report, 2003

*The UN and the OSCE have much to contribute to each other's work, and have made significant progress in areas of common concern. Georgia is one example. The resolution of the conflict in and around the Nagorny-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan is another.*  
 Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General



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# OSCE Office in Baku

## CONTEXT

A key focus in 2002 was to consolidate the establishment of the Office, whose activities officially began a year before this reporting period.

Under its new Head, the Office has striven to develop the implementation of OSCE principles, in all dimensions and commitments, with special emphasis placed on the rule of law and good governance.

## Politico-Military Dimension Activities

The President of Azerbaijan, OSCE representatives, officials from NGOs and religious communities were among those who gathered for the conference – *The Role of Religion and Convictions in Democratic Society* – to discuss the wide-reaching implications of this issue and strategies for the future. The conference followed on from a workshop earlier in the year, *Ensuring Freedom of Religion and Belief while Combating Extremism: Challenges and Practices in Azerbaijan*.

### **Defining the role of security forces**

A Baku roundtable of OSCE experts and over 30 government representatives focused on the role of security forces in democratic societies. Following this, the Head of Office, as guest on a live television talk show, answered questions from the public about the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* and the way it relates to the fight against terrorism.

The Office was instrumental in arranging and funding a one-year training course for Azerbaijani border guards, at the Polish border guards' academy in Ketrzyn.

OSCE



Programmes as a framework for exchange: General Elchin Guliyev (right), Commandant-in-Chief of the Azerbaijani Border Service, visits the Training Centre for Border Guards in Ketrzyn, Poland.

Programmes as a framework for exchange: General Elchin Guliyev (right),

## Human Dimension Activities

### ELECTIONS

#### **The Referendum: promoting electoral reform**

The televised discussions on the referendum on amendments to the constitution were a highlight of the Office's work in electoral reform. The series of five roundtables between members of the Government, opposition parties and local NGOs – chaired by the Head of Office – were broadcast nationwide on state television.

The television programmes – chaired by the Head of Office in Baku – provided a platform for a public exchange of views on proposed amendments to the Azerbaijani Constitution to a wide audience.

#### **Reforming election legislation**

With a similar aim of promoting the country's compliance with relevant international election standards, the Office involved itself in the process of reforming legislation. The draft Electoral Code was discussed with the

authorities and reviewed jointly by the OSCE/ODIHR and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. A working visit by the experts in November strengthened this process.

The public consultation process on this new election law began with a first roundtable in December. Unfortunately, the Opposition Coalition Parties decided not to participate in a roundtable. The aim of this series of roundtables is to provide an opportunity for representatives of relevant national and international authorities to discuss the new legislation prior to its adoption by Parliament.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### **Strengthening policing**

Throughout the reporting period, special attention was devoted to law enforcement issues.

Following a seminar on civic education for police and NGOs, which was supported by three OSCE Police Instructors from the Kosovo Police Service School, a series of similar seminars in a dozen regional centres of Azerbaijan was organized for 2003. Several other training seminars were organized for police, prosecutors and the judiciary, on the issue of domestic violence.

To assess future co-operation between the OSCE and Azerbaijan in the field of policing, the OSCE Police Advisory Team visited Baku in September. The relationship between the police and the public should benefit from the resulting recommendations and directives.

Alexander Nitzsche/OSCE



The OSCE's fight against terrorism was strengthened by the conclusions of the international conference 'The Role of Religion and Convictions in Democratic Society: Search for Ways to Prevent Terrorism and Extremism', held in Baku in October.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### *Empowering the fight for human rights*

The First EC-ODIHR *Joint Programme for Conflict Prevention and Human Rights Capacity Building in the Caucasus* has spawned several important programmes in Azerbaijan.

Within this framework, the Office has been engaged in:

- a series of human rights monitoring training activities for NGOs
- reform of the prison system of Azerbaijan, including a workshop on international standards of prisoner treatment, for officials from the government and human rights NGOs, as well as staff and inmates of a Baku women's prison.

### *Supporting the Azerbaijani human rights watchdog*

The Office has closely followed the establishment of an Ombudsman Institution. It organized a support conference on the prospects for this institution in Azerbaijan for OSCE institutions and external partners.

Alexander Nitzsche/OSCE



Oil and gas are the main exports of Azerbaijan.

## Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities

### *Important steps in water protection*

The OSCE's Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, the Office and the government took part in the third preparatory seminar on *Co-operation for the Sustainable Use and the Protection of the Quality of Water*.

As a concrete follow-up measure, the three-year *South Caucasus River Monitoring* project has begun. Standardized water quality and quantity measurements will be assessed independently in each of the three South Caucasus countries. It will fund state-of-the-art hydrology equipment and also provide training and salaries for local scientists. The initiative, which is sponsored by the OSCE and the NATO *Science for Peace Project*, is considered to be an important first step for assessing water quality in the Kura and Araks river basins and will form the basis for future water purification programmes.

### *Targeting economic development*

Two key developments within the reporting period, which the Office is using as a starting-point for future activities in the economic field, are:

- a presidential decree: *Removing Impediments to the Development of Entrepreneurial Activity* in September.
- the adoption of a state programme on poverty reduction and economic growth for 2003-2005, which was presented at a national conference in October.

In co-operation with relevant state bodies and in co-ordination with other international actors, the Office has started designing projects to provide appropriate assistance in reaching these targets.

# OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya

## CONTEXT

The Mandate of the Assistance Group to Chechnya (AG), originally adopted in 1995 and interim, was changed in 2001 to be renewed yearly. As in previous years, during 2002 the AG remained the only independent field presence of international organizations in Chechnya, Russian Federation. The mandate was not extended, however, for 2003 and the AG ceased to exist at the end of 2002.

The AG used much of its resources for monitoring and reporting activities. In addition, rule of law and human rights activities were a high priority.

During the reporting period, the Assistance Group's main partners were the Chechen Administration in Grozny as well as the Federal Authorities of the Russian Federation.

In order to keep informed on latest developments in the political, economic and humanitarian fields, the Head of the AG met the federal authorities in Moscow as well as federal and local authorities in Chechnya. He was also in contact with the

Chechen Consultative Council and the Constitutional Commission.

The AG also visited the local Chechen Administration in various parts of the Republic: Grozny, Tolstoy-Yurt, Gudermes, Urus-Martan, Achkoy-Martan, Argun, Nozhay-Yurt and Shelkovskaya. Close ties were also created with the Upper Terek Rayon in Znamenskoye. As well as useful fact-finding and monitoring, other concrete results of these meetings included helping the AG to develop its follow-up of the security situation in Chechnya.

## HUMAN RIGHTS: MISSING PERSONS

### *Registering over 300 cases of alleged killings and disappearances*

The Assistance Group was in close contact with the Chechen Prosecutor's Office and exchanged data, including statistics, with regard to the local population's complaints on alleged disappearances and killings of individuals. Since the OSCE AG opened its office in June 2001, it received individual complaints on cases of 51 alleged extrajudicial killings and 288 forced disappearances. The complaints collected by the AG comprise only a minor fraction of the cases referred to the Russian Federation President's Special Representative on the Protection of Human Rights in Chechnya, the Prosecutor of Chechnya, Human Rights NGOs and other international organizations.

Reflecting the rule of law situation in Chechnya, the vast majority of the disappeared were never found by the authorities.

The AG drew attention to these problems both nationally and internationally. Discussions took place with the Procurator's offices in Chechnya, as well as with the RF President's Special Representative on the Protection of Human Rights in Chechnya, the Council of Europe Experts working in his Office, the Human Rights Centre Memorial, as well as other human rights organizations.

## HUMAN RIGHTS: INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

### *Monitoring the Plight of IDPs in Temporary Accommodation Centres*

The OSCE closely monitored the humanitarian situation of the population and especially that of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).



Tent camps provided temporary housing to the internally displaced persons affected by the ongoing crisis in Chechnya.

From the beginning of 2002, boarding-house-type Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs) were created in Grozny and elsewhere to replace the tent camps in Chechnya and Ingushetia. For instance, two of the tent camps were dismantled in July 2002 in Znamenskoye and the IDPs were moved to the TACs, mainly in Grozny. The AG maintained in its meetings with local and federal authorities that the principle of voluntary return must be observed consistently when moving IDPs to Grozny or other places in central Chechnya, and that appropriate lodging should be prepared in advance for the returning IDPs. A number of deficiencies in this respect were pointed out to the authorities by the AG.

The OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya visited all the Temporary Accommodation Centres on various occasions. Most sheltered several hundred people and lacked running water and sewage facilities. Inhabitants have had problems getting proper identification documents.



The Head of the Assistance Group to Chechnya, Jorma Inki, visiting Nozhay-Yurt in August 2002. Here he talks with Ms. Izita Gairibekova, Head of Administration in Nozhay-Yurt and Ms. Muslimat Akhmatkhanova, her first deputy.

The OSCE Group also learned that not all of those who left the tent camps in Znamenskoye arrived in the TACs. Many seem to have remained behind or moved to their relatives or friends in the Upper Terek Rayon or other regions such as Ingushetia, where tens of thousands of IDPs still live in camps and improvised lodgings.

The AG obtained a list made by the Authorities of dwellings of the IDPs deemed to be habitable. It traced back a random sample of these addresses after the owners had lost their tent-places in Znamenskoye in July. It appeared that less than one-third had arrived in the dwellings. The rest could not return for various reasons, including situations where other families were occupying the houses.

The AG regularly shared its findings on the humanitarian situation with the local authorities and humanitarian actors in the region, as well as with representatives of the OSCE participating States.

#### **REHABILITATION PROJECTS FOR IDPs**

Considering the Assistance Group's limited resources, its humanitarian activities were mostly directed at rehabilitation projects. In general, projects were not easy to implement in Chechnya because of the security situation.

Many of the Group's rehabilitation activities were directed at helping IDPs. Most projects were developed in the two camps in Znamenskoye, and, after the IDPs' relocation, in the TACs in Grozny. These projects promoted confidence from the local authorities and the IDP community towards the AG's activities.

The OSCE Assistance Group's projects included:

##### ***Nursery Schools for children***

This was started in Znamenskoye and financed by a voluntary contribution of the Turkish Government. The Group continued the programme in Grozny with about 100 children in two tent camps. The programme was later financed from the Group's core budget. The AG also began implementing a project to provide playgrounds and restrooms for IDP children in TACs in Grozny.

##### ***Psychological rehabilitation of children***

This was started in Znamenskoye with financial support offered by the German Company, Wintershall AG. It was taken over in Grozny by new implementing and financing partners.

##### ***Extended day classes for children***

This small-scale project was started to offer education to pupils and financial support to teachers in the Znamenskoye camps. It was continued in Grozny.

##### ***Qualification courses for IDPs***

Accountancy and computer courses were initiated in Znamenskoye. Originally financed through a voluntary contribution of the Estonian Government, the project was then funded by the AG.

##### ***Winter clothing for pre-school children***

The Group purchased these vital items of clothing for the children of the Znamenskoye camps. It launched a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation to distribute children's shoes.

##### ***Equipment for Grozny's Paediatric Hospital***

The Group handed over two oxygen generators and four sets of monitors to the Republican Paediatric Hospital.

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS**

The AG instigated a number of assistance programmes tackling one of the main problems for IDPs and residents: the precarious human rights situation, accompanied by a low level of legal awareness and defence.

##### ***Rights for IDPs***

Legal assistance to IDPs was offered through an awareness project in IDP camps following a 'training of the trainers' model of the Human Rights Centre Memorial. It was sponsored by the Government of the United Kingdom. The project also aimed at capacity-building among the IDPs to enhance their participation in civic society.

The opening of a legal and social advice office in Grozny in co-operation with the UNHCR and a local NGO in Grozny was scheduled for the beginning of 2003.

##### ***Human Rights at Chechen schools***

The Group initiated a project in co-operation with the Chechen Ministry of Education and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to introduce human rights issues into the curricula of Chechen schools.

##### ***HR training for the Chechen militia***

The AG welcomed the gradual transfer of public order tasks from federal authorities to the newly established Chechen Interior Ministry. In co-operation with the Ministry's police school and human rights NGOs, the AG developed a human rights training programme for newly recruited Chechen militia. Implementation of the programme was hampered by security constraints.

##### ***Chechen Lawyers Association***

The Group established working contacts with the Chechen Lawyers Association. Sponsored by the ODIHR, the AG supported the purchase of communication equipment for the Grozny Office of the Association. Further training and support programmes were developed.

>>

### BUILDING CIVIL SOCIETY

#### **Supporting young people**

In support of its humanitarian activities, the Group paid attention to enhancing civic society in Chechnya. It co-sponsored and organized the *Civilian Youth Forum – The Young Generation for Peace and Reconstruction of the Chechen Republic*, the first official youth meeting for many years.

#### **Enhancing education and culture**

As part of the Civic Society programme, the Head of the AG established working relationships with the three universities in Grozny – the State Petroleum Institute, the Chechen State University and the Pedagogical Institute in Grozny. These educate nearly 17,500 students. They lacked, however, elementary communication, Internet and telephone systems.



Students of the Grozny State University in the Philological Faculty (studying English, French and German)

The AG initiated support programmes, including provision of computer technology hardware and software. It also created links to museums and archives in Chechnya. The US Government provided funds for purchasing 24 sets of new generation computer stations for the IT Faculty of the State Petroleum Institute. Finnish-donated conference equipment was brought to Grozny Pedagogical Institute. The State University in Grozny received books from Austria and Canada. There was a plan to provide the three universities with basic funding in order to create a joint printing house for them.

The Group pledged to co-fund the rehabilitation of two schools: one is in Grozny, to be implemented by the NGO People in Need Foundation (PINF); the other is in the village of Goragorsk, implemented by the Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development (CPCD).

### BUILDING DIALOGUE WITH THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY

The AG established working relations with the highest representatives of the Islamic Community of Chechnya, including the Mufti of Chechnya, who play a mitigating role in the crisis in the Republic. The AG co-sponsored the participation of the Mufti of Chechnya in a conference on *The Role of Religion and Belief in a Democratic Society: Searching for Ways to Combat Terrorism and Extremism*, organized jointly by the Azerbaijan Government and ODIHR in October in Baku. The Head of the AG also participated in this conference.



**These children are in class on 25 December, preparing for New Year festivities.**

The AG's Znamenskoye tentcamp project 'Extended day-classes for IDP Children' was moved to the temporary accommodation centres in Grozny, after the dismantling of the camps in the summer of 2002.



# Mission to Georgia

## CONTEXT

The Mission has been in operation since December 1992. It has been involved in the following areas:

- promoting a peaceful settlement of conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia
- monitoring and promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Georgia, including South Ossetia and Abkhazia
- promoting the development of civil society and democratic institutions
- monitoring economic and environmental developments related to security, since mid-2002, when the Mission appointed an officer for this purpose
- since 2000, the Mission has observed and reported on movements across the border between Georgia and the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, and since the start of 2002, across the Ingush segment of the border.

## PROMOTING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE GEORGIAN-SOUTH OSSETIAN CONFLICT

Despite increased tension in the zone of conflict in September and October, the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict settlement process has continued. It is supported by two mechanisms in which the Mission participates: The Joint Control Commission (JCC) and the Experts' Groups meetings on political issues. In 2002, the meetings assumed a more regular schedule.

An EU grant, enabling the JCC to establish permanent Secretariats, is administered by the Mission and has been instrumental to the success of the negotiation mechanisms.

### *Gaining momentum in negotiations*

Agreements have been reached on important issues related to urgent security matters, economic rehabilitation and IDPs and refugees.

Further elaboration of the Russian-Georgian intergovernmental programmes on economic rehabilitation in the zone of conflict and on return, integration and re-integration of refugees and IDPs has been conducive to further deepening of confidence and reconciliation between the sides.

### *Advancing the agenda on political issues*

The Eighth Experts' Group meeting on political issues was held in Castelo Branco in October 2002, hosted by the Portuguese OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

The meeting and its results were positive and constructive, despite heightened tension on the ground. The sides agreed that the previous expert meetings and discussions of various aspects of political settlement, in particular the discussion of a *Draft Intermediary Document*, had strengthened understanding between them and broadened the basis for mutually acceptable ways of resolving the conflict. This ensures continuity in the peace settlement process.

The draft, first discussed at the Fourth Experts' Meeting in July 2000, outlines the basic principles of political and legal relations between the sides.

### *Effects on economic reform*

The sides shared the view that rehabilitation in the zone of conflict played a growing role in the overall conflict settlement process.

Since the meeting, the sides have confirmed their interest in participating in a joint taxation scheme on transit cargo traffic through South Ossetia. The proceeds would benefit the population in the zone of conflict.

## THE HANDOVER OF SMALL ARMS

From its start in 2000, the Mission has supported the Joint Peacekeeping Forces' (JPKF) programme of voluntary hand-over of small arms and ammunition.

### *Projects for the benefit of communities voluntarily handing over weapons*

The Mission is considering further plans to implement projects for the benefit of communities from the zone of conflict which voluntarily hand over weapons to be destroyed.

In this reporting period, the Mission has supervised several projects including

- the delivery of computers to a school in Tskhinvali
- the repair of sections of two irrigation canals providing water for both Georgian and Ossetian villages
- rehabilitation of a section of a road in the south-eastern part of the zone of conflict. This road will ease Ossetian villagers' access to the Georgian administrative centre in Gori. There are also plans for a bus route for this purpose.



Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

### *Transparency and monitoring*

The Mission continued its monitoring of the JPKF in the Georgian-Ossetian zone of conflict, with an emphasis on transparency of their activities and co-operation among the sides.

On other security issues, the Mission has administered an EU donation of communication and transport equipment to the Special Co-ordination Centre, which is a joint Georgian-Ossetian body staffed with police officers from both sides.

Crime is a matter of growing concern in the zone of conflict and isolated incidents could ignite ethnic tension and violence.

The Mission therefore impresses on both sides the need for more efforts to be made to work within the framework of the Special Co-ordination Centre.

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## ASSISTING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE GEORGIAN-ABKHAZ CONFLICT

### *Delay in opening Human Rights Office in Gali*

The political and security impasse has negatively impacted on the possible opening of a Human Rights Office in the Gali District of Abkhazia, with OSCE participation, as recommended by the UN/OSCE assessment mission to Gali in late 2000.

### *Visit to the Gudauta base*

On 15 June 2002, at the invitation of Russian military authorities, a team of four OSCE military experts visited the Gudauta base in Abkhazia at very short notice. The visit was regarded as a preparation for possible later inspections.

## BORDER MONITORING OPERATION OF THE MISSION

As a result of the geographical expansion of the Mission's mandate to observe and report on movement across the border between Georgia and the Ingush Republic of the RF in addition to the Chechen segment of the border, a new patrol base was established on this part of the border.

### *Responding to an increase in border activity*

From the end of July to the end of August 2002, there was a significant increase in activity in the border area west of the Girevi patrol base, close to the Chechen segment of the border.

On several occasions OSCE patrols observed and reported on trespassers crossing the border and on over-flights of unidentified aircraft.

While movements in the Girevi area calmed, activity along the western part of the Ingush segment of the border increased in September and October 2002.

As is the norm with the onset of winter, activity along the border area at the end of the reporting period had decreased considerably.

In December 2002 it was decided to extend the OSCE monitoring of the Georgian-Russian Federation border to also cover its Dagestan segment.

## Human Dimension Activities

### DEMOCRATIZATION

#### *Elections*

The new *Unified Election Code*, adopted in 2001, was broadly put to the test during local elections in June 2002. The Mission participated with the ODIHR in informal observations of the polling process.

#### *Monitoring irregularities*

The Mission noted that, in general, the local elections were characterized by procedural violations and isolated, but serious, external incidents of violence. Polling was postponed in some cities and protracted recounts took place. At the parliamentary by-elections in November 2002, election administration was poor and violations of electoral procedures were noted.

### *Working towards the forthcoming elections*

The Mission was instrumental in the creation of several working groups to prepare for the parliamentary elections planned for 2003:

- a technical working group for international election experts co-ordinates technical assistance
- an Ambassadorial Working Group is engaged in intensive dialogue with the Government of Georgia
- in co-ordination with these two predominantly international groups, in late 2002 a group of Georgian NGOs formed a Democratic Coalition to consolidate public support for fair elections and engage with the Government of Georgia.

The Mission, together with other organizations in the Technical Working Group, helps to provide technical expertise to Georgian election partners.

### RULE OF LAW

#### *Monitoring legal reforms*

The Mission continued monitoring developments in reforming legislation and institutions in Georgia. In particular, the Mission noted the development of the *Concept of the Reform of Security and Law Enforcement Services of Georgia and the Concept Paper on Penitentiary System Reform*. These concepts contain plans for major changes in these spheres. Securing financing for reforms remains an issue that directly influences the outcome of the process.

#### *Situation in the prison system*

The Mission's monitoring and reporting role also covers conditions in penitentiary institutions. Due to a lack of finances, they are far below recognized standards for buildings, accommodation, equipment, sanitation, nutrition and medical care. At the same time, the Ministry of Justice displays transparency by having established a Council of Public Control, consisting mainly of NGO representatives, to monitor the penitentiary institutions and develop relevant reports and recommendations.

OSCE



OSCE monitors patrolling the border between Georgia and the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### ***Supporting the Public Defender's Office***

The Mission has maintained close co-operation with the Public Defender's Office (PDO) and remains supportive of its work. The PDO is becoming more active and visible and, although still lacking sufficient funding, it is being increasingly recognized by official structures.

### ***Effective monitoring by the Rapid Reaction Group***

A pilot project establishing the Rapid Reaction Group of the PDO was launched in 2002 through the support of the ODIHR and facilitation by the Mission. This group has conducted unannounced visits to pre-detention facilities and the Military Commandant's Office in Tblisi, and the preventive nature of the group has been clearly demonstrated.

Monitoring of pre-detention facilities acts as a deterrent against poor practice and conditions. Improvements for detainees in monitored facilities have been noticed.

### ***Monitoring the situation of minority groups***

The Mission is following closely the situation for religious minority groups, in the field as well as in the courtrooms. The situation for religious minorities has deteriorated despite official policy allowing religious diversity. Instigators, Orthodox extremists, appear to act with impunity. The Mission follows related court cases carefully.

The Mission provided logistical and administrative support to the activities in Georgia of the OSCE HCNM, aimed at supporting a stronger integration of the Samtskhe-Javakheti region into Georgian society. Since June 2002, a Project Liaison Officer of the HCNM has been accommodated in the Mission.

## ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In 2000, Georgia signed the UN *Convention On Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Convention)* and its protocols on trafficking and smuggling of people. However, these documents have not been ratified. Trafficking in human beings is neither defined nor prosecutable as a criminal offence in Georgia.

### ***Facilitating the fight against human trafficking***

The Mission regularly participates in a Steering Committee to support an IOM project alerting the public about the dangers of irregular migration and trafficking in human beings, alongside key Ministries and NGOs. In addition, the Mission initiated a co-ordination group to involve a wider group of NGOs, international organizations and diplomatic missions in focussing directly on trafficking.

### ***Anti-Trafficking legislation***

In support of the ratification of the *Palermo Convention*, the Mission facilitated its translation into Georgian. As a second initiative to encourage the ratification process, the Mission assisted the Ministry of Justice in developing amendments to the Criminal Code to define trafficking in Georgian legislation and to make it a criminal offence.

## OTHER HUMAN DIMENSION ACTIVITIES

The Mission successfully supported six multifaceted project activities transcending ethnic boundaries and incorporating media, gender, IDPs, civic diplomacy, human rights and youth aspects. The Mission is also supporting a cross-border networking of women's newspapers in the Caucasus and workshops on media, conflict resolution and women's role in post-conflict reporting and confidence-building.

### ***Running four human rights projects in Abkhazia.***

In 2002, the Mission and its partners ran several human rights projects, which included:

- media projects, such as exchange of Georgian and Abkhaz newspapers and electronic news-agency bulletins
- training of Abkhaz women journalists
- a human rights training programme for young people
- a local television programme on human rights.

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### Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities

Mission activities within the Economic and Environmental Dimension began in late summer 2002. There was an increased focus on monitoring of economic and environmental issues from a security perspective.

This included the gas and electricity sectors, the economic and environmental impact of petroleum transport through Georgia, and economic security dynamics in South Ossetia and the Samtskhe-Javakheti region.

#### ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Public awareness of prospects for economic recovery of Georgia need to be raised. Here the Mission intends to play an important role in the dialogue between national and international institutions that are supporting stabilization processes.

The Mission's grass-roots *Good Governance Empowerment Initiatives* have complemented other efforts by the international community and the Government's anti-corruption campaign.

The Mission began to focus on the economic and social implications of the ongoing process of withdrawal of the Russian military bases from Georgia. This process began as a follow-up to the *Joint Declaration by the Russian Federation and Georgia*, adopted during the OSCE *Istanbul Summit* on 17 November 1999.



The OSCE Mission to Georgia supervises a project to recycle rocket fuel into environment-friendly products, March 2002.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

##### *Promoting better water management*

The Mission assisted in reaching an agreement between NATO's *Science for Peace Programme* and the OSCE to fund 30 river monitoring stations that will be placed along the Kura and Araks Rivers basin.

The formation of a monitoring body to plan and organize water projects in the region is being considered. This follows a three-day follow-up seminar on *Transboundary Water Issues in the South Caucasus*.

##### *Initiatives for safely ridding the environment of surplus military stockpiles*

The Mission administered and supervised a major project for converting 400 tons of 'Melange' rocket fuel into fertilizer. The fuel was considered a major hazard to the local population and the environment.

By the end of the reporting period, the Mission had almost completed preparations for a new project in which the dismantling and recycling of tons of different types of artillery ammunition and aerial bombs are envisaged.

As well as a major threat to the environment, the presence of this ammunition might possibly be a source of materials for terrorist groups, especially as anti-aircraft, anti-tank and anti-personnel artillery is inadequately secured. The Mission sees its involvement in the dismantling and recycling of ammunition not only as activity within the framework of the OSCE policy of environmental protection, but also as a concrete contribution to the OSCE policy of combating terrorism.



Alexander Nitzsche/OSCE

Destruction of weapons in the framework of of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces programme, which is supported by the OSCE.

# OSCE Office in Yerevan

## CONTEXT

The OSCE Office in Yerevan was established in March 2000 to promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments in all dimensions. From 2002 the Office began working in the field of military and security co-operation.

With a Council of Europe (CoE) representative, who moved into the OSCE premises in Yerevan in 2002, the Office has been working closely with the Armenian authorities to assist in the implementation of a number of commitments. This includes a wide spectrum of legislative reform concerning the *Electoral Code*, *Law on Mass Media*, Alternative Military Service and the Ombudsman.

The Office has been successful in co-ordinating the activities of the international community on a number of issues, for example anti-corruption, elections, trafficking and human rights. It is also well-regarded as a facilitator between Government, Parliament, civil society and the media.

One good example of the Office's success was the ratification and first step in the implementation of the *Aarhus Convention*.



This movie – part of the *Human Rights Roadshow* in Armenia – was produced in co-operation with the American Bar Association Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI - USAID) and the International Organization for Migration.

Another achievement of the Office in 2002 was a *Human Rights Roadshow*. Initiated by OSCE/ODIHR in 1999, this project aims at raising public awareness on human rights throughout the country. The project team travels to the furthest regions of Armenia to make presentations on selected human rights topics. This includes showing a film and further discussion and explanation by the expert. The target groups include teachers, prisoners, border guards, law enforcement bodies, students and NGOs.

## Politico-Military Dimension Activities

### GOOD GOVERNANCE

#### *A new anti-corruption strategy*

The Office continued to co-ordinate the activities of the international community in developing an *Anti-corruption Strategy* for Armenia. International and national experts, employed under a World Bank grant to produce details of the Strategy, submitted their final report to the Prime Minister at the end of July 2002.

This report was discussed in Cabinet. Meanwhile, the Government has undertaken to adopt a shorter, targeted *Action Plan*, which has been commented on by the international community.

#### *A wealth of international expertise*

Throughout the period, the Office worked closely with the expert group and, with international partners, put together a series of workshops to examine specific themes and issues. International experts presented case studies of laws and institutions used in other countries to tackle corruption and looked at ways of adjusting these experiences to Armenian conditions.

In addition, the Office assisted in the creation of a coalition of some 30 NGOs concerned with levels of corruption in the country. This coalition will have a critical role to play in both assisting and monitoring the implementation of the Strategy once it has been adopted. With USAID, the Office commissioned and published a major public opinion poll on corruption, the findings of which were widely publicized.

## LEGISLATIVE REFORM

The Office continued to provide support, assistance and expertise for legislative change in areas such as the Armenian Ombudsman, Elections, Criminal Code, Constitutional amendments, Police, Media and NGOs. The attachment of a CoE representative to the Office at the beginning of the year eased and enhanced the work of the Office.

## ELECTIONS

### *Extensive preparation for the 2003 elections*

The Office has been co-ordinating local and international partners on electoral issues. Joint expertise from within the OSCE and international partners was provided to both the Government and National Assembly, relating to the amendment of electoral legislation in anticipation of the local, Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

Close working contacts were maintained with the Central Election Commission. In May 2002, a major workshop was held to discuss draft amendments to the electoral code. The Office also expanded and deepened its contacts with political parties in the country.

### *Assessing local elections*

With assistance from ODIHR and members of the international and national communities, the Office carried out a political assessment of the October 2002 local elections in Armenia. As a result, a number of recommendations for improvement were made to the Central Election Commission. One of them – improvement and verification of voters' lists – is already being tackled by the Office, in co-operation with the Working Group on elections.

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The Office continued to participate in a working group on displacement and refugee issues. The group also works closely with the Department for Migration and Refugees. The main interest of the Office lies in the area of filling legislative gaps and in supporting a project by the NRC to conduct a mapping exercise of conflict-induced IDPs.

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## MILITARY AND SECURITY ISSUES

During 2002, the Office extended its coverage of military and security issues and engaged in discussions with Ministries to identify areas of potential cooperation. The initial task is to address military-civilian aspects of security at a local level, with a long-term view to advancing broader security concerns. At the same time, the Office has looked at additional ways of assisting in the field of anti-terrorism.

### *Stepping up involvement in security issues*

Apart from providing support to a *Code of Conduct* seminar and a *Canadian-Armenian Workshop* on anti-personnel landmines, the Office initiated a workshop on fraudulent document identification, which was addressed by international experts.

The Office was planning to have a major workshop on money-laundering in spring 2003. The possibility of a specialist workshop on cyber-crime was also under discussion.

At the request of the Armenian Young Lawyers' Association, the Office, through ODIHR, provided a speaker on anti-terrorism and human rights for their conference in September 2002.

### *Promoting an alternative to military service*

The Office continues to maintain its interest in the progress of proposed new legislation on alternative military service – a subject also relevant to monitoring of religious freedoms and conscientious objection. Expert comments from an ODIHR panel were passed to the National Assembly Committee dealing with this issue at the end of the year and further joint activities are planned for 2003.

## MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

### *Working towards new freedom of information legislation*

An Office-run workshop on freedom of information led to the formation of a joint media-government-parliamentary working group to draft legislation. The new *Law on Freedom of Information* was given its first reading in the National Assembly in October and the new version will receive its second reading in spring 2003. Throughout this period, the Office was heavily involved in co-ordinating international expertise and facilitating meetings.

### *Facilitating new media legislation*

In 2002 the Office, together with the Ministry of Justice and international partners, facilitated public discussions on the draft *Law on Mass Media*. Later, through the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, an expert opinion on the draft was arranged. The draft was submitted to the National Assembly at the end of the reporting period. The Office will continue its efforts to ensure adoption of the law in line with OSCE commitments.

Meanwhile, both CoE experts and the Office have been engaged in promoting amendments to the existing *Law on Television and Radio Broadcasting*.

## MEDIA MONITORING

In co-operation with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and the CoE, the Office closely monitored the state of media freedom in Armenia. The scope comprised cases of attacks on journalists, monitoring and reporting on litigation against media and following investigations.

In particular, distribution of broadcasting frequencies was the focus of the Office's attention in view of the fact that two TV stations – *A1+* and *Noyan Tapan* – lost their frequencies during the tender in April. The Office was heavily involved in monitoring and reporting all court proceedings related to the case, which has now been submitted for consideration to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

A further tender was announced in October 2002 and the Office was again following events.

### *Supporting journalists*

With funding provided by the German Government, the Office was able to support the formal launch of the International Association of Journalists of South Caucasus, which held its founding conference in Georgia in November 2002.

Within this project, two working meetings were held in preparation of the publication *Media in South Caucasus in Post-Soviet Times*.

The Office presented an annual prize to a journalist during the Yerevan Press Club's annual award ceremony.

## Human Dimension Activities

The Office was responsible for the implementation of six major ODIHR projects. On human rights public awareness, 22 television documentaries, including five talk shows dealing with human rights themes, were produced and disseminated. Using these materials, the Office put on a public awareness 'road show' which showed the videos and held discussions on their contents in rural communities, universities, schools, prisons and law enforcement establishments.

## PRISON REFORM

### *Retraining prison staff*

In the sphere of prison reform, work is underway in retraining prison staff – following the transfer of the prison system from the former Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice – introducing social and psychological services into criminal executive institutions and establishing a civil society monitoring group for places of detention.

Reform of the women and children's prison system is underway. In addition, a project on democratization of law enforcement bodies was successfully launched.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### *Improving the Citizen Registration System*

Within the framework of the project to introduce a new registration system for citizens, a package of three new laws was drafted and submitted to the National Assembly for consideration.

### *Addressing gender issues*

*The Women's Rights Education Programme* for young women was continued, comprising gender education at universities and schools. A training course for trainers on women's rights was developed for young women from the regions.

### **Monitoring human rights**

The Office continued to monitor the human rights situation in Armenia. In the past few months, attention remained focused on:

- religious freedom
- conscientious objectors
- retention of the death penalty
- allegations of torture and ill-treatment in the army and prison system.

Many of the cases the Office pursued were brought to its attention by individual complainants. Where the Office approached the relevant Government institutions, it always received an open and helpful response.

### **Number of individual cases continues to rise**

The Office took on a part-time legal specialist to help carry the increasing load of human rights abuse cases. It also carried out a regional training workshop for other OSCE field presences in the South Caucasus to exchange experiences and best practices in this work.

### **National Minorities**

As a result of co-operation and funding from the U.K. Government, the first ever workshop on national minorities was held. This resulted in a series of proposals for future work. Two publications on minority issues were published with Office assistance.

### **NGO monitoring of human rights**

An NGO training project resulted in the production of four human rights monitoring reports examining performance in the courts, army, higher educational institutions and the penal system.

### **Combating trafficking in human beings**

The Office actively participated in the work of the Inter-Agency State Commission on Anti-Trafficking, concentrating on and heading the legislation sub-group. It also co-organized a joint action to address public awareness of the issue, including a mobile poster exhibition entitled *United Europe Against Slavery*.

## **Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities**

### **Ensuring water quality**

The Office worked with and accompanied Armenian delegations to the *Baku Preparatory Seminar* and the *Prague Economic Forum*. During these meetings, projects in the areas of water quality and control were agreed. The Office subsequently worked with the Armenian partner organizations on implementation.

### **Aarhus Centre**

Following the Office's work in securing ratification of the *Aarhus Convention* by Armenia in 2001, a Public Environmental Information Centre was opened in the premises of the Ministry of Nature Protection in March 2002. The Office has been instrumental in encouraging its use by governmental and non-governmental bodies and individual citizens. A directory of environmental organizations was published with support from the Office.

This is a unique example of successful co-operation between the Government, NGOs and the donor community. The Centre is run by a Board of Experts comprising representatives of the Ministry and NGOs, assisted by an Advisory Board of Donors.

### **Promoting economic reform**

A major *Workshop on Competition Policy* was held in September. This was an Office initiative. Recommendations from this event were distributed to participants and a website was recently launched.

The Office actively participates in the UNDP-led work on a Poverty Reduction Strategy for Armenia. Within this project, it has concentrated on promoting social reforms for credible poverty reduction. Among areas under scrutiny are the old Labour Code, economic legislation and workforce rehabilitation and retraining policies.

Landscape around the Armenian town of Gorni.



# The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference

Implementation of the mandate of the Office of the Personal Representative (PR) of the Chairman-in-Office is closely connected with the tasks dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Group (MG) and its Co-Chairmen.

The Mandated activities facilitate the progress in negotiations on the cessation of the armed conflict.

During 2002 the Office increased its activities aimed at promoting confidence building measures. It assisted in a project to establish water sharing in the northern part of the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan by facilitating visits and cross border consultations involving de-mining and other specialists. The Office also continued to be active in promoting the release of Prisoners of War and worked closely in this with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

**During this period, the Office of the Personal Representative was an important factor in the promotion of the peace process on the ground.**

The Office of the Personal Representative has remained active among the parties and has maintained contact on all sides and at all levels of political and military circles. Information obtained through these contacts was forwarded to the Chairman-in-Office to keep him up to date on all developments related to the conflict. The Office also functioned as a messenger between the parties.

The Office assisted in the arrangements for the visit of the Chairman-in-Office in March. In June the Office also played an important part in the familiarization visit to the region by the Head of the Netherlands Delegation to the OSCE in preparation for the Netherlands Chairmanship in 2003. The Office continues to play an important role in providing support to the Co-chairs of the Minsk Group. The assistance of the Office is especially important in Nagorno-Karabakh where there is no diplomatic representation.

## ***Monitoring of the Cease-Fire Usually Takes Place Twice a Month***

This contributes to stability along the Line-of-Contact and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In this period a total of 21 monitoring activities were conducted, five on the Azeri-Armenian border and 16 on the Line-of-Contact.

During the reporting period, all parties requested, at various times, that monitoring be carried out at specific points in order to reduce local tensions.

This demonstrates trust and respect for the role of the Office.

## ***The Importance of Monitoring***

These activities provide the Chairman-in-Office and members of the MG with valuable information relating to the situation on the ground. They also provided opportunities for the Co-Chairs to observe the situation for themselves.

Monitoring also serves as an important confidence-building measure. Local commanders of the opposing sides are given the opportunity to communicate, using OSCE radio equipment, and consequently have an opportunity to clear up any misunderstandings.

When monitoring is carried out on the border, an additional benefit is that representatives of the local authorities can be brought together. During the meetings they engage in efforts to solve some of the acute problems faced by the local population.

## ***Other OSCE contacts in the area regarding humanitarian issues in general***

The Office maintained its contacts and close co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international organizations and NGOs.

## ***Clarifying Prisoners of War Cases***

The Office has devoted special attention to the fate of civilians and military personnel who had been detained during the conflict.

In 2001, the parties agreed to release new POWs and civilians as soon as possible after they had been detained. In 2002, a total of nine such persons were handed over.

All the releases were carried out under the aegis of the ICRC, in accordance with the rules governing such matters and, each time, the Office co-operated closely with the ICRC.

## ***The Office is the only permanent body on the ground dealing with the resolution of the conflict***

This Office is a major source of information in this area for the CiO and OSCE structures. Many high level delegations and organizations request briefings on developments in the peace process. During this reporting period briefings were given to the Council of Europe and the EU Commission.

## ***Preparation for further Peace-Building Solutions***

The Office is fully involved in implementing the policies of the Co-Chairs, even when this is not necessarily obvious to the local population. Feedback on these developments is given and the Office prepares the ground for future initiatives. This contact is achieved by a combination of meetings with all parties, at all levels of government and authority, and through the monitoring activities themselves. This constantly reinforces the aim of the Co-Chairs to find a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.



## High-Level Planning Group

The High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) was established in accordance with the decisions of the Budapest Summit of the OSCE (then the CSCE) in 1994, with the aim of intensifying action in relation to the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.

Under its open-ended mandate, adopted by the Chairman-in-Office on 23 March 1995, the HLPG makes recommendations to the Chairman-in-Office on developing a plan for the establishment, force structure requirements and operations of a multinational OSCE peacekeeping force. In addition, it makes recommendations on, *inter alia*, the size and characteristics of the force, command and control, logistics, allocation of units and resources, rules of engagement and arrangements with contributing States.

The Head of the HLPG is appointed by the CiO, to whom he reports directly and from whom he receives directives. He is responsible for the implementation of the HLPG's mandate and for organization and management of the HLPG's work and its staff. He liaises, as appropriate, with the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group, with the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference and contributing States.

The HLPG is composed of military staff seconded by OSCE participating States and non-military staff employed by the OSCE Secretariat. The initial strength of the HLPG was 35 and the current strength is nine.

As a result of its planning activities, the HLPG has developed a concept for an OSCE multinational peacekeeping force, to be deployed in the area of conflict.

This concept comprises four options, of which three are a mixture of armed peacekeeping troops and unarmed military observers and the fourth is an unarmed military observer mission.

In the spirit of its mandate, during the reporting period the HLPG continued to maintain and expand contacts with international bodies and institutions in order to improve its current information; in addition, it continued to adapt the concept, updated the four options and prepared a comparative study of them.

Following the recommendations of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group, and in view of the continued delicate situation in the area of conflict, the HLPG was not able to carry out much-needed operations/logistics reconnaissance missions to the conflict area. Instead, the HLPG continued to participate in the monitoring tasks on the Line-of-Contact carried out by the Personal Representative of the CiO and thus has been able to participate in eleven monitoring missions since November 2001.

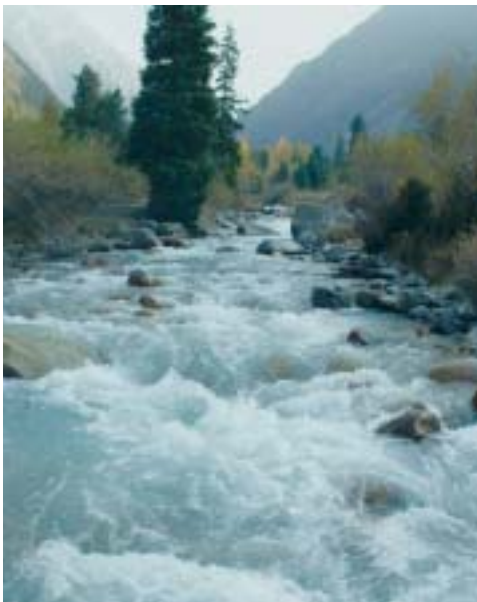
During the reporting period, the HLPG has provided briefings on its activities to the incoming Chairmanship, the Co-Chairmen, ambassadors and military advisers of OSCE Delegations and senior staff at the management level in substantive and administrative areas of the OSCE Secretariat.

HLPG officers visited military training centres and participated in seminars and courses related to peace support operations, gaining information which is utilized in the planning work of the Group.

The HLPG is confident about its ability to adapt the current plans and thus respond to the needs of any future mission and other support activities related to this undertaking.

## Economic and Environmental Activities in Central Asia

Lubomir Kotlek/OSCE



As the political and economic landscape of south-eastern Europe evolves towards European structures, the OCEEA is following the trend within the OSCE and has, at the invitation of the participating States, started to place greater attention on the economic and environmental needs of Central Asia among other regions.

The Environment and Security initiative launched by the OSCE, UNDP and UNEP is a process under which the three leading political, development and environment organizations identify environmental threats to security and mobilize resources and action to address them as a means of fostering co-operation and strengthening sound environmental governance.

### The Aarhus Convention

The Aarhus Convention is a unique agreement that focuses on public participation in the field of environmental protection.

The Convention lays down basic rules to promote citizens' involvement in environmental matters and enforcement of environmental law. It consists of three pillars, each of which grants different rights:

- the first pillar gives the public the right of access to environmental information
- the second pillar gives the public the right to participate in decision-making processes
- the third pillar ensures access to justice for the public.

The convention came into effect on 30 October 2001.

In 2002, the OCEEA provided increasing support to the OSCE Centres in the design and implementation of projects that will act as catalysts. The aim is to assist the transition process by promoting human capital development and retention, new opportunities for business and entrepreneurs, increased environmental awareness, good governance and institutional capacity building.

Rainer Hermann/OSCE



Officials from Central Asia focused on the challenges and practicalities of managing an industrial enterprise in a border region, during their visit to Germany, France and Switzerland.

## Police development in Central Asia

OSCE



OSCE Senior Police Adviser Richard Monk (centre) and (behind him, centre) Police Adviser Hans Jarvestam visited the Police Academy in Bishkek in May 2002 to lay the groundwork for the OSCE-Kyrgyzstan police co-operation programme. They were received by the head of the Police Academy, Lieutenant-General Bek-sultan Ishimov and his staff. The Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, Ambassador Aydin Idil (behind Mr. Monk, to his right), was part of the OSCE team.

The decision to place tangible policing resources in the OSCE Secretariat – in order to increase or promote co-operation among participating States – has coincided with the OSCE's fresh focus on the security situations confronting the countries of Central Asia among others. At the invitation of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the Senior Police Adviser and his colleagues have undertaken preliminary assessment visits with ministers, senior law enforcement officials and other national and international figures, contributing information as a basis for enabling specific police partnerships in each country.

*The OSCE has made remarkable efforts in building up the foundation of rule of law and democracy in all Central Asian States. In the longer run this is a key contribution to the overall stability in the region and the OSCE is well equipped to carry on the work.*

**Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of The European Union**

*The OSCE focuses on addressing factors that provide fertile ground for terrorism. The consequences of money laundering have to be seen as a threat to national and international security. Each international organization has something to contribute in combating against it.*

**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, at the National Workshop on Combating Money Laundering and Suppressing Financing of Terrorism in Bishkek, September 2002.**

# CENTRAL ASIA



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# OSCE Centre in Almaty

## CONTEXT

In the international arena, Kazakhstan has been very active. That culminated in the successful first *Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building in Asia* (CICA) Summit of Asian leaders in the capital, Almaty in July. A high-level OSCE delegation contributed to the event.

During the reporting period the OSCE Centre in Almaty has significantly increased its activities in all three dimensions.

## Politico-Military Dimension Activities

### **Tackling traffic in weapons**

The Centre has worked in close co-operation with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and the host country on several issues related to politico-military security. A national workshop and seminar was held on small arms and light weapons trafficking, with national and OSCE partners. Special attention has been paid to the implementation of the OSCE *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* within the country.

### **Training Border Guards**

To address the problem of border security, the Centre took part in the implementation of an extensive training course for Tajik and Kyrgyz border guards. The training offered an excellent opportunity to equip them with modern border security techniques as well as contributed to strengthening co-operation between Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Tajik border security structures.

The training was organized by the OSCE's ODIHR, the Kazakh Border Service, IOM, the Regional Centre for Migration and Refugee Issues with the technical assistance of the American Embassy in Kazakhstan.

### **Counteracting religious extremism**

A regional conference on Islam and national security in Central Asia was held to discuss national security and issues related to religious extremism. It was organized by the Centre, the Kazakh Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KISI) and the delegation of the European Commission in Kazakhstan in co-operation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

### **Monitoring and reporting**

The Centre has been closely following the latest developments in the Kazakh political scene. In June and August, its representatives attended trials of two opposition members.

### **Developing electoral law**

A roundtable on the reform of the Electoral Code has been completed under the auspices of the OSCE and Kazakh Government. A package including a set of comprehensive recommendations has been submitted.

The Centre has continued to offer advice on new laws to bring them into line with international standards. There has also been a review of the law on political parties.

## Human Dimension Activities

### MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

#### **Strengthening the media law**

The Centre has provided advice to the government and local media on legal issues, and reviewed the media framework and a draft law on advertising.

Forums for discussion have been provided including a regional media conference *New Challenges for the Kazakh Mass Media*. This has brought together governmental officials, opposition journalists and international experts for meaningful dialogue.

The Centre closely followed the case and, upon invitation of the Kazakh authorities, the ensuing trial of Kazakh journalist Sergei Duvanov.

### **Reaching all Kazakhstan's journalists**

Activities have also been focused on raising awareness among journalists by issuing important documentation in both Russian and Kazakh languages. Material distributed includes OSCE commitments in the field of freedom of expression, international standards for journalists and the *Kazakh Media Report*.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIZATION

The Centre continues to promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments also in the sphere of human rights and democratization, and strives to address issues through its targeted project work. Much of this work is complementary to, or guided by, the OSCE Institutions, the HCNM and ODIHR.

The Centre's project work is guided by two priorities: to intensify the work in the regions of Kazakhstan and to build capacity in governmental and non-governmental institutions. In accordance with these basic guidelines, the Centre has designed and implemented several important projects:

- *Women's Rights Awareness Project – Phase 2: Women's Political Awareness*
- assistance to the Training Centre for the judiciary
- training for staff of pre-trial detention facilities
- the *Civic Dialogue Project*
- the *Human Rights Monitoring Training Programme*
- the *Legislation Alert and Technical Assistance Programme*
- prison service training
- assistance for national human rights institutions and ombudsman
- the *Anti-Trafficking Project Fund*
- grassroots democracy projects.

## Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities

The Centre has continued to increase its activities in the economic and environmental dimension in 2002 as recommended by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Government of Kazakhstan. The Centre has also tried to strike a balance between economic and ecological activities.

Fifteen substantive projects were implemented in this field during 2002. Special attention has been paid to the regions of Kazakhstan. As well as projects, several fact-finding visits have been made in the regions of Aktobe, Aktau, Oskemen, Shymkent, Aral and Balkhash.

### ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

#### ***The OSCE emphasizes the growing importance of economic and social stability in relation to the fight against terrorism***

The OSCE in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNODC organized a workshop, *Combating Money Laundering and Suppressing the Financing of Terrorism*. Training of judges and other legal experts on economic matters will be one of the follow-up activities to the workshop in 2003.

The OSCE Centre conducted the roundtable with the U.S. Department of Commerce. The main objective was to create a dialogue between the public and private sectors on issues of corruption and building a better business environment through the adoption and implementation of an ethical code of conduct.

Several other projects on poverty alleviation, development of small- and medium-size businesses and economic legislation have been successfully seen through to fruition.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Three regional workshops, on the participation of civil society in ecological decision-making processes, have been conducted. This work has followed concepts set out in the *Aarhus Convention*.



Industrial district in Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### ***Promoting the link between good ecological practice and the development of Kazakhstan***

Since the main environmental theme for the OSCE for 2002 has been water management, the Centre conducted the conference *Drinking Water Quality as Guarantee for Social and Environmental Security*, where state officials, companies and NGOs took part.

The Centre, together with the Regional Environmental Centre, the United Nations Office in Almaty and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, conducted a regional preparatory seminar *RIO+10: Central Asia*. It was a part of the overall preparation process for the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Centre has drawn the attention of the authorities to national parks and tourism development by organizing clean-up actions.



As a participating State, Kazakhstan has agreed to respect OSCE commitments related to freedom of media and expression.

# OSCE Centre in Ashgabad

## CONTEXT

The Centre in Ashgabad has developed activities in Turkmenistan in all three dimensions: the politico-military, the human and the economic and environmental.

The Centre has continued to maintain co-operation with State institutions, international organizations and local NGOs. The Centre has provided regular information on developments in the country. During this reporting period, it facilitated the organization of several high-level visits to Turkmenistan.

The 25 November assassination attempt on the President was strongly condemned by the OSCE. The subsequent activities of the Government created concerns with regard to the due process of justice and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In mid-December, ten participating States invoked the *Moscow Mechanism* to look into concerns arising from investigations following the attempt.

## Politico-Military Dimension Activities

### ***Controlling the circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)***

A *Training Workshop on SALW* was held in Ashgabad where three specialists, from Russia, Germany and Croatia, gave talks on controlling the availability and circulation of small arms among the population. Officials of the State Border Service, Ministry of Defence, National Security Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs and police and the State Customs Service took part in the workshop and subsequent discussions with the lecturers.

### ***Fighting the issue of drug addiction***

The Centre held a joint interactive seminar with the Ashgabad office of the UNODCCP on stimulating public opinion on the struggle against drug addiction among young people. Participants included several law enforcement officials and NGO members, and a large number of teachers.

### ***Defining the OSCE's role in the region***

The Centre organized a seminar on the OSCE and its work in the city of Turkmenabat, in the east of Turkmenistan, close to the border with Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

Within the scope of the seminar, the then Special Adviser of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Central Asia, Ambassador Herbert Salber, discussed the OSCE and Central Asia. Particular attention was given to OSCE activities and projects in Turkmenistan.

Participants included representatives from the Welayat Administration, the state border and customs services, the Prosecutor's Office, the women's and the youth unions, the Deputy Governor of the Lebap region and the Deputy Mayor of Turkmenabat.

### ***Training in border control***

The Centre has conducted a series of training seminars to acquaint border and customs officials with international experience and practice in border and customs control. The seminars were arranged in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the OSCE's international partners. Activities consisted of four two-day seminars in the provinces of Turkmenistan and a final one-day seminar in Ashgabad.

### ***Turkmenistan's role as a neutral state***

A roundtable was organized on *The Role of Neutral Turkmenistan in Central Asia*, focusing on the country's possible contribution to regional security as a neutral state. Speakers came from international organizations and from other OSCE participating States.

In the area of media development, the Centre assisted four Turkmen journalists to attend the *Central Asia Media Conference*, in Tashkent.

## Human Dimension Activities

### HUMAN RIGHTS

#### ***A key seminar on rights of foreigners***

The Centre participated in a seminar about national and international standards on the rights of foreign citizens. It also looked at the role of local authorities in this issue. At this meeting, the Centre delivered presentations to partner organizations on the role of the OSCE in this area and on cross-border co-operation on a regional level in Europe.

#### ***Training on international legislation in the sphere of human rights***

This is the third year of the Centre's five-day training course, which is delivered to some 35 participants from different governmental and social institutions.

#### ***Monitoring alleged human rights abuse cases***

During the reporting period, the Centre has followed a number of individual cases in which alleged violations of human rights have been brought to the Centre's attention: notably with regard to relatives of persons convicted in relation to the assassination attempt.

Complaints mostly concerned property and labour rights. The Centre has provided legal advice and submitted cases to the Turkmen authorities with a request to investigate.

#### ***Capacity building within NGOs***

The Centre is broadening its scope of co-operation with grassroots organizations by assisting them in their activities focused on the development of civil society.

The Centre is assisting in setting up an NGO-database, and attended different events related to or organized by NGOs. The OSCE has also assisted the participation of members of NGOs in training courses and other events, such as election observation. In most cases, it has unfortunately not been possible to involve representatives from the Government of Turkmenistan in these events.

The Centre has enabled citizens and members of NGOs to attend various relevant seminars and programmes held abroad. These covered the issues of election observation, judicial systems, human rights, gender concerns and religious affairs.

#### **RULE OF LAW**

##### ***Delivering a seminar on the role of attorneys in contemporary society***

Members of the legal profession attended a seminar where special attention was devoted to the question of whether professional organizations of advocates/solicitors should be treated as public or state establishments. The participants stressed the need for further improvements in the legislation of Turkmenistan on NGOs and easing the registration procedure for NGOs.

#### **Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities**

##### ***Completion of Aarhus Convention project***

This project, consisting of a series of roundtables that were held from Ashgabad to the Caspian coast was dedicated to discuss and formulate proposals for the implementation of the *Aarhus Convention* in Turkmenistan. It finished in September after running for two years. During the 27 September meeting, a set of recommendations was presented to an audience composed of selected participants from each roundtable, representatives of embassies and international organizations, as well as government officials and NGOs. The OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities addressed the overall structure, objectives and latest developments.

As a follow-up to this project, the Centre published and distributed information materials on issues related to the Convention. It also started a capacity-building project for the National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention, within the Ministry of Nature Protection.

##### ***Putting information on the Web***

As a further follow-up, the website [www.aarhus-tm.org](http://www.aarhus-tm.org) was launched by the Centre and the NGO Catena Ecological Club. This site focuses on the implementation of the *Aarhus Convention* in Turkmenistan and contains a database which includes Turkmen legal materials and other documents related to the Convention and the environment in general.

The Centre also facilitated the attendance of delegations of Turkmen officials and several members of NGOs to various seminars covering economic and environmental issues.

# OSCE Centre in Bishkek

## CONTEXT

Kyrgyzstan is an active member of the anti-terrorism Coalition.

After a series of events, including a fatal clash in March, in Ashgabat, tensions reached their peak. The Centre helped to diffuse them.

The Centre played the role of facilitator for dialogue between the state structures, opposition and civil society.

At the end of summer 2002, the President entered into dialogue with opposition leaders and a Constitutional Council was formed to study changes in the existing Constitution

Highlights of the Centre's regular work include activity on

- the freedom of belief and expression
- combating money-laundering
- suppressing the financing of terrorism
- implementation of the *Code of Conduct on Politico-military aspects of Security and security-building measures*
- facilitating the OSCE police assistance program
- establishing the OSCE Academy in Kyrgyzstan
- drafting legislation in light of the OSCE principles for improving the judiciary system of Kyrgyzstan in relation to international standards
- bringing together local governors of the Ferghana Valley to discuss regional economic problems.

These efforts have resulted in a very good level of co-operation that was confirmed between Kyrgyzstan and the OSCE during the reporting period.

## ***Playing a vital role in co-operation and democratization***

Throughout this challenging period, the OSCE took an active role in supporting further democratization. The Centre was instrumental in facilitating dialogue between the Government and opposition circles. It participated in meetings organized by the Government and others held by the opposition and has called for a dialogue. It has also facilitated two gatherings: one initiated by the civil society leaders and the other initiated by the President, the *Third National Roundtable*, in which opposition leaders, parties, NGOs and mass media representatives participated.

## Human Dimension Activities

### ***Improving the Electoral System***

The Centre is focusing increasingly on the next Parliamentary and Presidential Elections in 2004/2005. In 2002, it has encouraged co-operation among leading academics for the creation of an NGO to work for the improvement of election legislation, while offering training for members of the election commissions and electorate education.

Two seminars on elections have been held by the Centre and the Kyrgyz State National University and the NGO, Democratic Processes Research Centre. They included a workshop on the problems and prospects of development of democratic elections and another on the analysis of amendments to the Election Code.

### ***Prison Reform***

The Centre and OSCE's ODIHR have worked with the Ministry of Justice on prison reform by arranging study visits, international co-operation and the training of prison staff on human rights standards in prisons and their implementation.

### ***Reviewing laws on demonstrations***

The Centre has initiated an ODIHR review of the draft laws on meetings and demonstrations, as well as on the Ombudsman.

Meanwhile, the Centre has been working with the Ministry of Justice in the field of

judicial reform and introduced a mechanism for permanent consultations on draft legislation.

### ***Supporting NGOs***

The Centre has supported the first ever exhibition on the role of NGOs in the development of Kyrgyzstan. Its work focused on the co-operation of public and governmental sectors, in developing the economy, fighting poverty and building democratic institutions. A number of seminar activities in the south, Osh, also discussed the role of NGOs in civil society post-11 September.

### ***Action on gender issues***

The Centre has followed the gender activities of OSCE/ODIHR in Kyrgyzstan and offered the assistance of OSCE institutions to implement the *National Plan of Action*.

### ***Anti-trafficking activity***

The Kyrgyz authorities are strengthening their efforts in combating trafficking in human beings. In April, the President issued a decree concerning the fight against illegal trafficking in human beings and established a National Council on the matter. The CiB has been focusing its activity on co-operation with this National Council.

Public service announcements on Trafficking of human beings have been produced. Members of the nation-wide women's network have been trained to monitor the broadcasts.

### ***Promoting human rights and tolerance***

Several human rights activities took place in schools in southern Kyrgyzstan. At a two-day event on teaching human rights in schools in southern Kyrgyzstan, teachers and students discussed the need to increase education in this field. Meanwhile, activities at an international children's camp focused on building trust and breaking down stereotypes and other barriers between pupils.

### ***Training human rights monitors***

Three sessions of training on human rights monitoring and reporting organized by the Centre and partners were carried out during the year for representatives of NGOs and government structures. They studied human rights standards, their



philosophy and history, as well as relevant techniques of planning, preparing and conducting proper, fact based and objective monitoring of human rights and reporting on their implementation.

## Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities

### *The OSCE strengthens its environmental and economic programmes*

The Centre in Bishkek has continued to strengthen the OSCE's role in the Economic and Environmental Dimension in Kyrgyzstan. It has maintained its close working relationships with the local civil society at large, receiving proposals and requests for co-operation and assistance, mainly from national NGOs, but also from government sources, parliamentarians, donor partners and the academic and business communities.

The Centre has started to deal with:

- small- and medium-size enterprise development
- good governance and best business practices
- money-laundering issues
- trans-boundary trade issues
- regional water resources management.

### ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

#### *Solving issues in collaboration with other countries in the region*

The Centre has been active in promoting regional co-operation, between the OSCE Centres in Central Asia, in matters of cross-border trade and economic development.

#### *Developing strategies for tackling money laundering*

Kyrgyzstan joined workshops arranged by the OSCE and the UNODC on this issue. The participants adopted a set of ten recommendations for the Government to prevent money-laundering and suppressing the financing of terrorism.

#### *Fostering Cross-Border Co-operation*

The Centre has initiated provincial meetings aimed at removing inter-regional cross-border barriers on free exchange of trade, services and capital. It was attended by Officials from the banking and law enforcement sectors, customs, border guards services and

local administrations. Specific issues for their respective trade and economic domains will be addressed at further sessions.

#### *Establishing private enterprise*

The Centre held a roundtable in Bishkek on the role of the state institutions in establishing private entrepreneurship, in collaboration with the Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and the Kyrgyz-Turkish State University of Manas. The Government and private business sectors, academicians, NGOs and mass media participated in the event.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

In the environmental field, the Centre focuses on:

- regional water management issues
- highlighting environmental issues among the general public, especially the youth
- dealing with the pollution effects caused by toxic and radioactive waste.

#### *An Ecological resource Centre for the South*

An Ecological Forum has been convened to discuss environmental problems. It runs its own resource centre open to the public. The OSCE plans to replicate these initiatives elsewhere in the country.

The Centre has also supported NGO activities promoting awareness of the *Aarhus Convention*. Texts of the Convention and other publications have been published in Kyrgyz and Uzbek – the most widely-spoken languages in the Ferghana Valley part of Kyrgyzstan.

#### *Dealing with radioactive dumps*

The Centre has been engaged in dealing with the problem of nuclear waste dumps in southern Kyrgyzstan. It began the preparation of a scientific assessment process by scientists and experts of donor countries.

#### *Regional water management*

Regional training in water management was held at the Field Office in Osh within the framework of the Interstate Commission for Water Co-ordination. The Training centre's first seminar was attended by officials from the three neighbouring countries. Participants were involved in policy-making and provincial water economy.



Rainer Hermann/OSCE

### OSCE Academy in Bishkek

A new study and research institute on regional security issues was inaugurated in Kyrgyzstan on 17 December 2002. The OSCE Academy's curriculum will include training programmes for experts and scientific research on regional security issues. The institution is designed to become a centre of competence that will support the understanding and investigation of foreign policy questions with which Kyrgyzstan is confronted. In addition, it will help the OSCE to obtain information on this country and the whole region of Central Asia.

Opening the Academy, President Askar Akaev said: 'This is a unique institution of a new type that will facilitate the development of democratic processes in Kyrgyzstan.'

To support this initiative, the OSCE has secured funding for a six-month initial phase, with donations by the Swiss and German governments. The first cycle of lectures on regional security involved Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Kazakh and American scholars.

# OSCE Centre in Dushanbe

## CONTEXT

The OSCE set up its Mission to Tajikistan in 1994. In October 2002, the mandate of the OSCE presence was renegotiated and significantly changed. The previous Mission became an OSCE Centre with a comprehensive mandate reflecting the current realities in the country and requirements of OSCE co-operation with Tajikistan.

### A broad mandate

As a result of progress made since the end of the civil war, the Centre's mandate has been broadened to encompass, *inter alia*, economic and environmental activities. This will offer wider opportunities to tackle existing challenges of development of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan continued to support the international anti-terrorism coalition. During the year 2002 there was a significant increase of international presences in the country.

The Centre has focused on:

- Support of the executive in improving the legislation, in particular, penal procedure and administrative codes, as well as preparing reports to national and international bodies
- Support of the judiciary by creating a legal training centre, through monitoring and organizing public discussions on death penalty, torture, economic criminality and corruption.
- Assistance in legislative issues by monitoring by-elections, providing legal expertise and addressing the authorities on issues linked with the political parties.

The Centre organized an international conference *Combating Extremism and Strengthening Democratic Institutions: Problems and Prospects*, in April 2002. The conference was attended by specialists and state officials.

The Centre in Dushanbe has begun to consider ways of how to support the host country with various de-mining efforts and to foster the implementation of Tajikistan's international commitments in this field.

## Human Dimension Activities

### PRISON REFORM

Bringing the structure of the penitentiary system in line with international standards is a complex undertaking. It requires legislative reform in the areas of criminal justice and restructuring of the penitentiary system.

#### *Steps to make prisons more humane*

The Centre has welcomed the decision of Tajik authorities to transfer the penitentiary system from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. An international conference was held in October 2002 in Dushanbe to help identify the major issues involved.

The goals identified during the conference include demilitarization of the penitentiary system, increasing the professionalism of the prison personnel, opening the prison system to outside supervision and the development of alternatives to imprisonment.

#### *Training for prison governors*

High-ranking prison officials have been introduced to international detention standards and a study trip to Kazakhstan was organized for Tajik officials to work on solutions to this issue.

#### *Co-operation on the prison reform process*

The Centre has continued to advise and to co-operate with the Tajik authorities on the prison reform process. It also plans to develop new curricula for training prison staff. A significant pool of instructors will be trained to implement the curricula.

The Centre is developing forums for organizations of civil society to be involved in monitoring prison conditions. Strengthening alternatives to imprisonment through legislative reform is also an important element of the Centre's activity.

#### *Training law enforcement personnel*

On the Centre's agenda was to increase the knowledge of law enforcement agencies of the international human rights norms and standards and to train them in the practical skills for their implementation. Among the objectives is to increase protection of persons under investigation.

The Centre has concentrated primarily on training of the police, judges, prosecutors and advocates. It is developing training for lawyers and judges on international standards for fair trial procedure.

### CIVIL SOCIETY

During the reporting period the Centre has actively promoted the development of civil society, including free media. It supported the allocation of the free frequencies to independent radio stations.

Strengthening of non governmental organizations is another central issue. The Centre has started the implementation of a *Cross-Border Tolerance-Building Among Youth* project, where young people from both sides of the Tajik-Kyrgyz border participated.

#### *Strengthening human rights NGOs*

Human rights NGO representatives are taking part in training in human rights monitoring and reporting; as well as the issues of right to fair trial, prison conditions and advocacy skills.

### ***Civic education for the next generation***

The Centre has organized three civic education summer camps for school and university students to trigger interest in the issues of democracy and the role of civil society.

## **GENDER ISSUES**

### ***Aiding Tajikistan in meeting its commitments***

As a signatory to the UN *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*, Tajikistan has committed itself to actively promote the principles of the Convention. In this regard, the country created a governmental commission for the implementation of the international commitments in the field of human rights.

The Centre and its partners have conducted a round table on the compliance of the Tajik legislation with the Convention.

### ***Promoting gender balance***

In addition to its support to the authorities through conducting round tables in remote areas of the country, the Centre has been supporting more than 300 women, who have organized self-help Women Support Groups. These groups are a direct and efficient way to help women from the countryside to defend their rights.

OSCE



### **Promoting girls' access to higher education**

Girls from rural and mountainous areas benefit from a Government quota system that facilitates their access to universities.

The OSCE Garm field office conducted a round-table to discuss equal access to education and representatives of the Education and Economic Ministries, local authorities, teachers and civic groups resolved to establish an independent monitoring task force.

## **Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities**

### ***Empowerment of environmental NGOs***

The OSCE Centre held the first *Eco-Forum*, a three-day national workshop of Environmental NGOs. Fifty-eight environmental NGOs from all regions of Tajikistan proposed a new form of co-operation based on partnership. They aim to participate in the environmental decision-making process and ensure information flow between the NGOs and the Government.

The Tajik Ministry of Nature Protection and Tajik environmental NGO Team for Nature Protection, with the support of the OSCE, have conducted round tables and workshops on the *Aarhus Convention*.

### **The Aarhus Convention and the Centre in Dushanbe**

The OSCE Centre assists local governments and environmental NGOs in raising awareness about the Convention. The Centre has been very active in organizing training sessions for the youth. It is increasing access to environmental information and building a network of young Tajik ecologists.

# OSCE Centre in Tashkent

## CONTEXT

Active participation of Uzbekistan in the anti-terrorism coalition has strengthened its relations with the coalition partners and the international community.

## Politico-Military Dimension Activities

### ***Launching a legal clinic for journalists***

The CiT, with Internews Uzbekistan, launched a project to create a Legal Clinic for Journalists. The clinic has employed a local lawyer who is supporting the work of local journalists through legal consultations and representation.

### ***Improving capacity of border guards***

An OSCE expert team conducted a two-week pilot project at the Uzbek-Afghan border crossing point. This Termez-Hayraton training initiative aimed to enhance the capacity of the local border guards and customs officials to interdict illegal arms shipments. This was undertaken as part of a larger training scheme, organized by the UN Office for Drugs Control and Crime Prevention (now the UN Office for Drugs and Crime, ODC).

The training was well received and the participants gave positive and substantive feedback to the OSCE expert team, which could be useful for envisaged follow-up training.

## Human Dimension Activities

### HUMAN RIGHTS

#### ***Positive steps in the fight against human rights abuses***

For the first time, four police officers and three officers from the security service were sentenced to long terms in prison for torturing suspects to death.

The removal of censorship and the decrease in the number of arrests on terrorism charges are also important signs.

At the end of the year, also for the first time, a roundtable was held on the problem of torture in places of detention.

#### ***Monitoring trials and complaints***

During the year, the Centre monitored more than ten trials, where most of the defendants were accused of religious extremism.

The Centre also received complaints, mainly concerning alleged violations by the law enforcement agencies, including allegations of torture and violation of the right to a fair trial. In connection with this, a major activity has been work with several different law enforcement agencies.

The Centre has also focused on abuses in relation to gender and religious rights.

#### ***Freedom of the Media***

The *Fourth Central Asian Media Conference* was organized by the Office of the OSCE Representative of Freedom of Media in co-operation with the CiT and the Open Society Institute. It took place in Tashkent

in September. The Conference tackled various aspects of media freedom, ranging from the influence of the events of 11 September on media development to religious freedom, freedom of expression and corruption.

### CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The CiT has carried out Prison Service Training in collaboration with ODIHR. This was part of a series of more than 50 training projects, seminars, roundtables and other events that the Centre and partner organizations have provided.

Other human dimension activities this year included:

- Training on international standards of human rights for advocates
- Training in human rights monitoring and reporting for NGOs and participants from the Ombudsman's Office and National Human Rights Centre
- Review of Uzbek criminal procedures and other legislation in the light of international standards
- Training for the office of the Ombudsman on case handling
- Organizing conferences on *Gender and Youth and Gender and Media*
- Roundtable on the conclusion and Recommendations of the UN Committee Against Torture.

## Economic and Environmental Dimension Activities

### ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

#### *The Centre's potential role in water resources management issues*

The CiT took steps to foster a discussion of integrated water resources management in Central Asia, as trans-boundary co-operation on this issue is vital to help resolve the region's ongoing water problems. The CiT arranged for two local partners to attend the *10th Economic Forum in Prague*. At the Forum, held in May, one of the experts presented a report about the potential role of the OSCE in helping to tackle the Aral Sea Basin crisis.

#### *Promoting small- and medium-sized business development*

The CiT has continued to focus on the promotion of development in this economic area through the continuation of its series of workshops in the provinces. The CiT has conducted phase two of its training in Karshi, Nukus and Termez.

Training includes a review of new Uzbek legislation concerning small- and medium-sized businesses, as well as issues related to renting, leasing and franchising.

#### *Developing good governance*

The Centre has been focusing on developing a project concerning good governance and fair business practice.

A business roundtable is being planned, at which entrepreneurs from successful transition economies could share their experiences with local business people.

#### *Increasing access to information*

An OSCE Resource Centre has been set up at the National University of Uzbekistan's Faculty of Social and Political Sciences. Facilities include a computer/Internet room and an adjoining conference room that serves as a library and a meeting space.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

#### *Possible accession to the Aarhus Convention*

In the environmental area, the CiT has been involved in activities related to Uzbekistan's possible accession to the *Aarhus Convention*.

The Centre conducted training workshops in the provinces for governmental officials and NGO representatives, and held an *Aarhus Convention Roundtable* in Tashkent. During the roundtable, government representatives from countries that have ratified and are implementing the Convention shared their experiences with Uzbek governmental officials.

#### *Focusing on the use of water*

The CiT has financed the production of a national television public service announcement on environmental issues. This television spot focuses on the efficient use of water. The Centre has also supported a local environmental NGO to conduct clean drinking water workshops.

The CiT has increased the role of *Mahallas* (local community organizations) in environmental protection activities. With the *Mahalla Republican Charitable Fund*, CiT has conducted roundtables for Mahalla leaders on reviewing of Uzbekistan's environmental laws and environmental protection issues.

With local partners, the CiT is co-financing the publication of the *Red Book of Uzbekistan for Indigenous Fauna*, which will present information about Uzbekistan's endangered indigenous animals.



Journalists at the Central Asia Media Conference in Tashkent inspect new publications of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, September 2002.

# The Special Adviser to the Portuguese OSCE Chairmanship on Central Asia

The work of the Chairman-in-Office with regard to Central Asia in 2002 took into consideration several specific factors:

- The post-11 September period has significantly increased the international community's attention to the OSCE region neighbouring Afghanistan
- The launch of a major military operation within the close proximity of the Central Asian participating States
- The presence of foreign military in some Central Asian participating States.

The Portuguese Chairmanship has been able to build on the considerable engagement of the OSCE within the area since the Polish Chairmanship in 1998.

#### **The Portuguese Chairmanship's priorities have been:**

- Achievement of a better balance among all three dimensions of the OSCE approach to security, notably addressing the request of participating States in Central Asia for enhanced activities in the politico-security, the economic and environmental dimension
- Continuation of the fight against terrorism and implementation of the Bucharest and Bishkek Plans of Action
- Focusing on institution and capacity-building
- Regional co-operation
- Co-operation and co-ordination with the donor community.

To achieve its objectives, the OSCE has engaged in a permanent political dialogue and co-operation with its Central Asian participating States and also worked through OSCE institutions and operations as well as in the field through projects.

The Portuguese Chairmanship has supplemented the mandates of the OSCE Centres in Central Asia several times in 2002 with guidelines in order to make sure that priorities and objectives set by the Chairmanship were implemented.

During its OSCE Chairmanship Portugal sought to modify the character of co-operation with Central Asia, moving away from patterns of the past which had frequently been perceived as patronizing.

The call for balancing the activities in all three dimensions of the OSCE's approach to security was also translated into action. In the course of 2002 a significant change has been achieved: while maintaining the level of activity in the human dimension, efforts in the economic/environmental dimension have been increased. In addition, the scope of activities in the politico-military dimension has been broadened.

An OSCE Academy was established in Bishkek in December 2002. This new institution represents a completely new type of OSCE involvement in the region. It is a concrete contribution to implementing paragraph II.12 of the *Bishkek Programme of Action*, which calls for offering 'young people opportunities ... to familiarize them with peaceful conflict resolution methods.'

# OSCE ASSISTANCE with BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

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# The Agreement on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina and The Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control

## (ARTICLES II & IV OF THE DAYTON PEACE ACCORDS)

The Agreement on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Article II)

### INSPECTIONS AND VISITS TO WEAPONS MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

Nine inspections have been conducted this year; four were led by the OSCE. Eighteen OSCE countries contributed by either leading inspection teams or providing experts. Four visits to weapons manufacturing facilities have taken place.

### ANNUAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

*Annual Information Exchanges* has continued to show marked improvement.

### VOLUNTARY MEASURES

The Parties have been actively engaged in voluntary programmes. Some of the more important activities this year include:

#### *Code of Conduct*

Finland and Sweden provided experts who have conducted four *Code of Conduct* seminars for junior and mid-level officers from the two Entities. One can note a substantial increase in the active participation of the attendees and the level of interest. Similar seminars are programmed for next year.

#### *Aerial Observation Exercises*

One exercise has been undertaken this year, supported by the Czech Republic. It is anticipated that the Parties will try to conduct these exercises, using their own internal resources, in the future.

#### *Working Group on Common Manuals*

This Working Group has made tremendous progress, and preparations are well under way for the long-planned *Command Post and Field Training Exercise* along the Inter-Entity Boundary Line. The goal is to develop procedures allowing the respective Entity armed forces to assist one another in cases of man-made or natural disaster.

#### *Seminar on the Economic Aspects of Security*

This Seminar was held in Portoroz, Slovenia and was well attended by a number of key individuals within the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the members of the Joint Consultative Commission, and a number of military/civilian experts from the region.

Implementation of the Protocol on Verification and the Exchange of Information and Notifications have continued smoothly.

Meanwhile *Implementation of Measure XI, Voluntary Activities*, continues at a very driven pace – the level of activity for next year remains the same.

## The Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (Article IV)

### INSPECTIONS

Most inspections are conducted as scheduled. It is important to note that the Parties conducted an 'undeclared' site inspection this year. This Office has seen this as an example of the level of confidence and security currently in existence between the Parties. They are encouraged to continue to conduct these inspections next year.

### ANNUAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The quality of the *Annual Information Exchange* continues to improve each year.

On the whole, the Article IV Agreement is implemented fully, with one exception: inspections by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND DIRECTIONS:

The Agreement On Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Consideration is being given to the streamlining process of the international organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Close work will continue with the other international organizations in Sarajevo to minimize overlap and to ensure harmony.

Regarding implementation of the Agreement, the Office's main focus continues to be overseeing the inspection regime although more attention is devoted to voluntary measures.

It is through these voluntary measures that true confidence and security is developed. Greater transparency of the military budgets is encouraged. To this end *Code of Conduct* seminars are organized.

Ways to give more responsibility to the Parties are being considered. The Parties are increasingly becoming self-sufficient with regard to implementation of this agreement and the role of the Personal Representative is becoming increasingly advisory.



This is taken as an indication of the high degree of confidence and transparency that exists.

### FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND DIRECTIONS: The Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control

The Parties to the Agreement have convened on three occasions this year and held the third conference to review the implementation of the Agreement.

During this conference, key decisions were taken that finally resolved a number of issues concerning exempted equipment. The Parties have closed the 'loop-holes' that allowed them to have, in effect, large numbers of equipment that were not subject to inspection.

The members of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission have been able to resolve issues within the *Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control* that remain unresolved in a similar conventional arms control regime.

Two areas of exempted equipment remain unresolved: armaments in internal security forces and armament held for research and development. It is anticipated that these issues will be resolved next year.

On 1 January 1999, the Parties assumed chairmanship of the Commission, the body with oversight responsibility for the *Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control*. Thereafter, the OSCE, through the Personal Representative, took on a more advisory role, to include 'secretariat' responsibilities.

Subsequently, at the 21st meeting of the Commission, the Parties decided to hold meetings on their respective territories, thus ending the long-standing tradition of holding meetings in Vienna.

The Parties have shown continued improvement with regard to implementation of the Agreement. Each year the Information Exchanges have improved with respect to presentation and content.

This is commended when taking into account the considerable restructuring of the armed forces taking place, the number of military installations that have subsequently been closed and the large number of military personnel who have been retired or demobilized.

The Parties continue to request 'OSCE Assistants' on their inspection teams. Nevertheless, it is evident that their respective verification agencies have reached a high-level of competence.

No ambiguities have been declared and the inspection process can be described as a complete success, with inspections being conducted in a professional and thorough manner.

Consultation has begun with OSCE Delegations to develop a long-term strategy consistent with the overall strategy within the region, namely, giving the Parties ownership of this process and 'streamlining' the role, presence and responsibility of the international community.

Ownership, within the confines of the *Article IV Agreement*, has been achieved. The role of the OSCE within this regime is purely advisory although the Personal Representative retains responsibility for coordinating inspections and the participation of OSCE Assistants.

It is envisaged that, after streamlining, the role of this Office, with respect to the *Article IV Agreement*, will be to provide technical support to the inspection process and provide analysis of the annual information exchange.

# OSCE Representative to the Estonian Expert Commission on Military Pensioners

## CONTEXT

The main task of the OSCE Representative is to participate in the work of the Estonian Expert Commission on Military Pensioners which makes recommendations to the Government on the issuance of residence permits to former military personnel in Estonia.

The Government has been successful in granting a large number of residence permits and in reducing short-term permits while augmenting the number of longer-term permits. Meanwhile, a solution of remaining problem cases is being sought.

The performance of the Commission this year has been encouraging and the OSCE Representative commends its rational way of deliberation. The co-operation of the Commission with the OSCE Representative, Uwe Mahrenholtz, continues to be good.

## ACTIVITIES & DEVELOPMENTS, 2002

### *Swift review of applications for residence*

In 2002, the change of status of the Commission (from a Government Commission to an Expert Commission) brought about improvements in the methods and continuity of its work.

As a result, the review of applications for residence in Estonia by foreign former military personnel and their dependants moved rapidly ahead.

### *Reducing short-term residency permits*

The Commission has been successful in further downsizing the number of short-term residence permits (six months to three years) from about 1,030 to 600. The number of longer-term (four to five years) residency permits has reached 10,348. There are now more than 10,900 holders of valid temporary residence permits.

In 2002, 37 requests of residence permits were refused. The majority of these refusals affected beneficiaries of the *Russian Officers Resettlement Programme* of the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Since the Commission took up its work in 1994, a total of 267 requests have been rejected. However, many more applicants have been granted permits on the basis of humanitarian exception than have been refused.

### *An important ruling by the State Court*

The Estonian State Court (supreme court) recently held that foreign military retirees and families listed under the '1994 bilateral accord on social guarantees' were eligible for permanent resident permits. The court decision of 24 October 2002 may very well turn out to be a precedent-setting one.

While the state had, up to then, always refused requests of retired military personnel for permanent residency permits on the ground that the *Estonian Law on Aliens* did not provide for this possibility, the State Court's Administrative College demonstrated that the same law did indeed contain provisions permitting the issuance of permanent residency permits to foreign military pensioners when such persons were covered by an international contract (in this case the 1994 bilateral accord), such a contract having priority over national law.

### *The issue of privileged status is still under question*

No progress has been made on the question of according a number of ex-servicemen and their families, presented to the Estonian Government on an additional list in 1994, the privileged status as military pensioner under the terms of the 1994 bilateral accord. While the Russian authorities have certified these former officers as military pensioners, Estonia has refused to grant them this status. These diverging views are the result of individual interpretation of the relevant articles of the accord and of the corresponding Estonian act of ratification.

### *The unexplained presence of beneficiaries of US Finance Housing*

The continuing presence in Estonia of a number of beneficiaries of the USAID *Russian Officers Resettlement Program* who had pledged to leave the country can only be resolved gradually.

# OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

## CONTEXT

Following the closure of the OSCE Mission to Latvia, Helmut Napiontek was appointed by the Chairmanship as the OSCE Representative to the Military Pensioner's Commission in July 2002. Until then, the OSCE Representative's position had been held by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Latvia.

The OSCE Representative is supported by an expert, who is intimately aware of the details and of the respective Latvian and international legislation relevant to current cases. It has been agreed that this representation should be established as a secondary function on the basis of part-time secondment. The OSCE Representative is based in Vienna.

In 2002, the OSCE Representative continued to provide assistance in the implementation of the Agreement between the Latvian and Russian governments on social guarantees to military pensioners of the Russian Federation and members of their families residing on the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

## *Numbers in question*

A recent annual update of October 2002, provided by the Russian side, counted 18,722 persons falling under the agreement; that is 640 persons less than in 2001 (against an initial figure of 22,320 in 1994).

## *The role of the Joint Commission*

Most issues concerning these pensioners were and still are the subject of close and productive collaboration between the Russian and Latvian parties. The Joint Commission can handle only a limited number of files.

However, one cannot exclude that several questions might be of long-term character and therefore will require continued discussion.

## *Resolving concluding cases*

All long-term individual cases have been resolved to the fullest possible extent. Only two new individual cases have been brought forward recently, with good chances of being resolved in the first half of 2003. Another collective petition requires further legal clarification and is currently under consideration.

# OSCE INSTITUTION ACTIVITIES 2002



## ODIHR

*I would like to acknowledge the OSCE's pioneering role in placing human rights – all human rights – very much at the core of the concept of security years ago.*

Sergio Vieira de Mello, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

## HCNM

## HCNM

*In the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE has found a valuable mechanism for the identification of situations of ethnic tension, allowing them to be managed without recourse to violent conflict.*

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General



## RFM

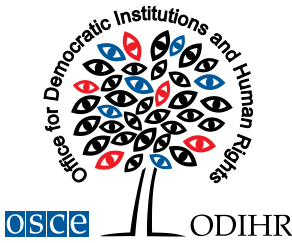
*The media should be free to play its fundamental role as society's watchdog against corruption, which is a serious obstacle for all countries both East and West.*

From the final declaration of the OSCE's Fourth Central Asian Media Conference, September 2002

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ODIHR

## The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

In its 2002 activities, the ODIHR has proved again that it is able to respond flexibly and quickly to emerging needs or opportunities. This allowed the ODIHR to accommodate requests to observe or assess a total of 20 elections in 2002, many more than initially planned.

In its project work, the ODIHR made efforts to ensure that last-minute developments and new opportunities were always taken into account. This applied to both its short-term, high-impact activities, as well as its longer-term capacity-building programmes.

During 2002, the ODIHR continued to consolidate and fine-tune its election, democratization and human rights programmes with a focus on supporting the development of in-country capacities, eventually leading to self-sustainability in these essential fields of the human dimension.

The Office also ventured into new areas such as the fight against terrorism, the assessment of elections in long-standing democracies, and the organization of OSCE-internal regional co-ordination meetings.

### ELECTIONS

The ODIHR, Europe's lead agency in the field of election observation, coordinates and organizes the deployment of thousands of observers every year to assess whether elections in the OSCE area are in line with national legislation and international standards. Its unique methodology provides an in-depth insight into all elements of an electoral process.

#### Election Observation

**With 20 elections, the Office's observation schedule this year included an unprecedented number of electoral events observed or assessed by ODIHR missions and expert teams.**

Nearly half of the missions deployed in 2002 were sent to monitor

a long series of elections that took place in south-eastern Europe during the second half of the year, including the 900-observer-strong monitoring mission for the parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (15 September). With this mission, the largest ever deployed by the OSCE, the ODIHR played an important role in making the elections a significant step in the confidence-building process after last year's crisis in the country.



*The OSCE Counting and Results Centre in Pristina.*

For the first time, the ODIHR has assessed elections in some of the OSCE's long-standing democracies. Invited by the governments, the Office assessed the presidential elections in France, the parliamentary elections in Turkey and the congressional elections in the United States.

Other elections observed in 2002 include the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Latvia and Montenegro/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), as well as the presidential elections in Serbia/FRY and Montenegro/FRY. The Office has also observed the general elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and sent experts to support the resident OSCE Missions to assess the referendum in Uzbekistan, elections to local

self-government bodies in Georgia, the election of the Governor of the Gagauz autonomous region of Moldova, and the local elections in Armenia.

**Technical Assistance**

**The follow-up to recommendations in ODIHR election reports have remained a top priority for the Office, in line with the relevant 1999 Istanbul Summit decision. It has reviewed the election laws of all countries in which an observation mission was deployed or planned.**

In January, the fourth and last of a series of election roundtables took place in Astana. The meeting focused on the role of the media during election campaigns and developed a comprehensive package of proposals for amendments to Kazakhstan’s election laws. Later in the year, after the establishment of a bipartisan parliamentary committee to investigate ODIHR’s concerns surrounding the 2001 elections in Albania, this Office provided support and technical assistance. This included the organization of four roundtable meetings. The work of the bipartisan parliamentary committee has signalled the start of a new era of dialogue and consensus on the Albanian political scene.

Following a roundtable on electoral reform in Armenia in May, the ODIHR and the Venice Commission issued assessments of draft amendments to the *Electoral Code*, which contained a number of positive reforms, partially addressing ODIHR’s concerns. Meanwhile, the ODIHR continued its assistance to the reform of the election framework in Azerbaijan. It was agreed to begin the public consultation process on reforming the country’s election legislation with a roundtable in December.

**With a view to clarifying international election commitments and standards reflecting developments in this field over the past decade, the ODIHR has begun work on a major compilation of existing election-related standards, commitments and case law.** The draft compilation was presented

at the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* in September, which urged the Office to continue its work in this field.

**DEMOCRATIZATION**

The ODIHR in 2002 has placed a strong emphasis on continuing and increasing efforts to promote and assist in building democratic institutions by helping to strengthen administrative capacities, the judiciary, as well as Ombudsman and civil society institutions. Activities have striven to facilitate exchanges of best practices and experience between participating States and to solidify gains made in democratic institution-building, civil society and good governance as stressed in the *Bucharest Ministerial Council Statement*.

This Office has continued to stress implementation and follow-up to projects as prioritized in the Chairmanship-in-Office statement at the 2000 Vienna Ministerial Meeting and as welcomed in the 1999 *Istanbul Summit Declaration*.

More priorities for 2002 have been to further enhance the ODIHR’s capacities to implement a large number of targeted programme activities and respond to the increasing demands of co-ordinating and working with OSCE missions and other structures.

**In the field of democratization in 2002, the ODIHR has carried out more than 100 assistance projects in over 20 countries. These projects have been aimed at building democratic institutions and strengthening the rule of law, civil society and respect for human rights.** This Office’s democratization activities have been primarily conducted across six thematic fields of work:

- rule of law
- civil society
- equality between men and women
- combating trafficking in human beings
- freedom of movement and migration
- anti-terrorism (since October).

ODIHR Election Observation Schedule 2002		
Country	Type of Election	Date
Ukraine	Parliamentary	31 March
Hungary	Parliamentary	7 April
France	Presidential	21 April / 5 May
Republic of Montenegro/FRY	Municipal	15 May
Czech Republic	Parliamentary	14-15 June
Republic of Serbia/FRY	Partial municipal	28 July
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Parliamentary	15 September
Slovakia	Parliamentary	20-21 September
Republic of Serbia/ FRY	Presidential	29 September / 13 October
Latvia	Parliamentary	5 October
Bosnia and Herzegovina	General	5 October
Republic of Montenegro/FRY	Early Parliamentary, Municipal (Podgorica)	20 October
Turkey	Early Parliamentary	3 November
USA	General	5 November
Republic of Serbia/FRY	Repeat Presidential	8 December
Republic of Montenegro/FRY	Presidential	22 December

The new Anti-Terrorism Co-ordinator has begun building awareness of human dimension issues in combating terrorism and developing projects which fundamentally address factors engendering terrorism.

Projects have been conducted in co-ordination with OSCE field operations, with local partners and NGOs, as well as with a number of other international actors. The European Commission has remained one of ODIHR's most important partners, with five major programmes aimed at advancing democracy and human rights in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Belarus, and south-eastern Europe jointly implemented in 2002.

Democratization programmes have continued to be sub-divided into longer-term, multi-year, institutional and capacity-building programmes and shorter-term, high-impact projects, such as those originating from the *Grassroots Project Fund*. **The hallmark of ODIHR democratization activities has become the effort to maintain maximum flexibility and timeliness in all project work, to be able to respond rapidly to priority opportunities and issues.**

In addition to its heavy programme load, this Office has been faced with a steady demand for human dimension expertise coming from both within the OSCE and from outside (international organizations, NGOs).

## RULE OF LAW

The concept of rule of law forms a cornerstone in the OSCE human rights framework. The notion of rule of law, as enshrined in major OSCE documents such as the 1990 *Copenhagen Document*, does not merely describe a formal legality, but also aims at justice based on the full acceptance of the supreme value of the human personality and human rights. Rule of law seeks to establish and entrench an institutional framework for democracy in participating States and other structures.

**The ODIHR has engaged in a variety of technical assistance projects designed to foster respect for human rights within the context of the promotion of the rule of law.**

In the area of legal reform, the ODIHR, under its successful legislative alert programme, has analysed a large number of draft laws in light of their compliance with international standards. In each case, the ODIHR was involved in public discussions following the publication of the assessment reports.

The ODIHR's *Human Dimension Seminar* in 2002 year focused on human rights and judicial reform. The Seminar, which took place in April, highlighted the substantial progress that has been made, but also stressed that a number of issues of concern remained or had emerged recently, both in established democracies and in transition states. The Seminar also discussed ways to ensure effective access to justice for all parts of society. A special side-meeting was devoted to access to justice by Roma and Sinti. Another focus was the role of judicial systems in post-conflict situations.

As part of its efforts to promote non-custodial measures, the ODIHR co-organized a seminar on alternatives to pre-trial detention and prison sentences in Uzbekistan. The seminar resulted in a set of recommendations on how existing legal provisions on alternative sentencing could be put into practice, as well as an action plan for the training of prosecutors, judges, lawyers and probation officers.

In April, the ODIHR ran a workshop on criminal justice reform in Tajikistan. The workshop focused on how Tajikistan's international human rights obligations could be translated into national norms and practice. It resulted in the adoption of recommendations setting out steps for the reform of the *Criminal Procedure Code*.

In the area of legal education, the ODIHR has continued to aid the legal clinic at the Russian Tajik Slavic University in Dushanbe, Tajikistan and the Criminal Legal Clinic in Osh, southern Kyrgyzstan. In both cases the ODIHR provided training and expert advice.

As regards assistance to national human rights institutions, the ODIHR has continued its support of the office of the Georgian Public Defender. This included its effort to combat police abuse of persons in custody by establishing a 'rapid reaction programme' that will enable the office to monitor police stations on a permanent basis.

An ODIHR expert team went to Uzbekistan in November to assist the office of the Uzbek Human Rights Ombudsman in its continuing efforts to extend its mandate and independence. It also provided advice for the drafting of the Kyrgyz Ombudsman Law.

In the context of its programme to provide training to legal professionals, the ODIHR co-organized a workshop in May on the re-establishment of the rule of law in Chechnya. In October, the first of a series of six follow-up training seminars on human rights instruments for members of the Chechen Lawyers Association was held in Moscow. Meanwhile, in Kazakhstan, a training seminar for potential future trainers at the Kazakh Judicial Training Centre was held. A similar training was conducted for trainers of various professional education centres in Uzbekistan.

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**In the field of prison reform, projects aimed at the demilitarization and democratization of penitentiary systems have been supported by the ODIHR.**

A *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting*, held in Vienna in July, was devoted to the reform of prison systems in line with human rights standards. The meeting discussed measures to improve prison conditions in compliance with international standards and the role NGOs can play in monitoring detention facilities. It has succeeded in producing concrete recommendations for national programmes to implement the provisions included in international law and OSCE commitments. This Office also ran a regional conference in Dushanbe, in October, on the transfer of the prison systems from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. This is promoted by the ODIHR as a major step towards demilitarization of prisons. The conference resulted in a set of recommendations, in particular with regard to the transfer processes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Large-scale training programmes on international human rights standards relevant to detention facilities have continued this year for prison personnel. Such training courses were put together in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Assistance to the Azerbaijani penitentiary service has also been given. It was aimed at improving the curriculum and methodology of the prison personnel training academy. In Armenia, this Office has provided advice on the new draft concept for the reform of social and psychological rehabilitation services within prisons and pre-trial facilities.

**While the ODIHR's rule of law work generally includes an anti-torture perspective, a number of activities carried out in 2002 addressed this issue specifically.** These include training seminars for law enforcement personnel in Tajikistan, and support for anti-terrorism projects carried out by local NGOs in Armenia and Georgia. In Kazakhstan, the ODIHR organized a roundtable on torture during police investigation and in Tajikistan a public awareness campaign against torture was supported.

*(There are) probably more slaves today in many European capitals than... since the end of the 18th century when slavery was still customary.*

ODIHR Director Stoudmann,  
Financial Times, 23 July 2002

## COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The ODIHR carries out a wide variety of anti-trafficking activities in co-operation with OSCE participating States, NGOs and other international organizations. This year it has continued to design and implement anti-trafficking projects such as roundtable events and joint training initiatives including both NGO and governmental partners. With such projects the ODIHR seeks to establish effective and inclusive national referral mechanisms, including identification, referral and assistance.

**Anti-trafficking remained a continuing focus for the ODIHR. Projects, hotlines, conferences and workshops are a few of the wide variety of this Office's activities in 2002.**

The ODIHR has implemented anti-trafficking projects such as roundtables to establish effective and inclusive national referral mechanisms. Its *Anti-Trafficking Project Fund* was used to support OSCE field missions in their activities to prevent trafficking and to assist victims.

On addressing the issue of destination countries, the ODIHR has initiated an advocacy project aimed at transforming international and regional anti-trafficking standards into national legislation.

Within the framework of a regional human dimension co-ordination meeting in Sarajevo in June, one of the working group sessions focused on anti-trafficking issues and developed a set of concrete recommendations to be presented to high-level OSCE meetings.

A comprehensive report on trafficking in human beings in south-eastern Europe, published jointly by the ODIHR, UNICEF and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, was presented to the public on 22 July in Geneva. The report identifies the obstacles to adequate protection and support for victims, and includes a set of recommendations for improving current responses to trafficking in human beings.

A day-long special session on trafficking in human beings at the *September Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* focused on national referral mechanisms and victims' advocacy. Another issue discussed was the involvement of some international field mission personnel in trafficking.

The ODIHR continued its support of anti-trafficking hotlines in Belarus and Ukraine by providing training for the hotline

'Rights of Refugees' – a film within the ODIHR project on Public Awareness on Human Rights



### GRASSROOTS, DEMOCRACY PROJECTS FUND

In 2002, the ODIHR has continued to offer support to small-scale activities implemented by OSCE presences. A special emphasis was placed on projects related to the promotion and protection of human rights outside the capitals of the respective countries. The grassroots programme was supported by contributions from Norway, Denmark and Canada. The majority of project proposals came from small OSCE presences in Central Asia, the Caucasus and from the Mission to Moldova. For the first time, the ODIHR supported grassroots projects in south-eastern Europe.



consultants. In Moldova, the Office provided expertise during the drafting process that led to the adoption in April of a new *Criminal Code* that includes a wide range of anti-trafficking provisions. In Poland, the ODIHR supported the NGO *La Strada* in providing direct assistance services to Polish and foreign victims of trafficking.

## STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

The strengthening of civil society in countries in transition has always been a main focus of the ODIHR's democratization activities. Support for civil society actors has not just been to bring about democracy as such but, more importantly, to ensure its viability. The ODIHR has continued to establish a constructive dialogue, where needed, between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government or state representatives on legislation affecting civil society and on important human right issues. In post-conflict areas, the ODIHR brings together actors from the different parties involved in order to boost and support reconciliation efforts.

**The goal of strengthening civil society in countries in transition is at the heart of ODIHR's Democratization activities.**

As part of its efforts to establish constructive dialogue between NGOs and governments on legislation affecting civil society and on important human rights issues, the ODIHR has organized a series of roundtables in Kazakhstan, including on confessional security and on the abolition of the death penalty.

In the context of its programme to support reconciliation in post-conflict areas, the ODIHR supported the activities of 30 Local Youth and Children Councils from different communities in Moldova, including from the separatist Transdnestr region. In Azerbaijan and Georgia, the ODIHR launched a programme of public awareness radio talk shows on human rights issues, in cooperation with resident OSCE offices and the BBC *World Service*.

The ODIHR's highly successful human rights monitoring and reporting training programme for NGOs was this year expanded to include Georgia and Tajikistan, bringing the total of countries involved to seven participating States in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

## GENDER EQUALITY

The equality of women and men is an integral part of sustainable democracy. Maintaining peaceful, prosperous and democratic societies in the OSCE region is central to the vision of the OSCE. This year the ODIHR has pursued its goal of equal rights and opportunities for women and men to participate in and contribute to the democratic processes in OSCE participating States. The ODIHR implements this by a two-pronged approach: integrating gender in all areas of its work, while simultaneously giving gender equality extra impetus by developing a portfolio of gender specific projects.

**In 2002, the ODIHR broadened its project portfolio in the field of promoting equality of women and men as an integral**



Participants in a workshop for women leaders from the Caucasus and the Baltic states organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Tallinn, February 2002.

**part of sustainable democracy. At the same time, this Office has increased its efforts to integrate a gender perspective in all areas of its work.**

The ODIHR's large-scale programme on promoting participation of women in public life in 2002 has focused on Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan. Initial gender training for small groups of predominantly younger women from rural areas created pools of trained women. They then went back to their home regions to disseminate their freshly acquired skills and train other women in turn. Through this knock-on effect, the programme has reached thousands of women and contributed to the development of civil society and the ability of women to mobilize themselves for positive change. The programme has reached out beyond the urban centres, and in several cases sparked the development of a strong women's movement.

In the context of its programmes to promote women's equal rights and opportunities, the ODIHR has worked to integrate and mainstream gender education into the Armenian educational system by training high school and university teachers on gender issues. As part of the ODIHR's human rights monitoring and reporting programme, 25 representatives of NGOs and government bodies from Uzbekistan were trained on women's rights, monitoring and documentation of cases of discrimination. Meanwhile in Georgia, the Office has continued its support for a women's NGO coalition which currently unites more than 45 women's NGOs working together to lobby and advocate gender issues.

Violence against women seriously inhibits women's ability to fully participate in society and ultimately undermines the democratic process. The prevention and combat of such violence was the focus of a *Supplementary Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* in March in Vienna. The meeting discussed domestic violence, violence against women in the community and violence in conflict situations.

With a series of training workshops for law enforcement personnel in Azerbaijan, this Office succeeded in raising awareness of the fact that domestic violence is not a private matter and should be treated as a punishable crime.

## MIGRATION AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

**The OSCE has increased its focus on the fight against terrorism in 2002. In this light, the ODIHR has continued to assist the former Soviet Republics with tackling the new challenges they face in ensuring border security and managing migration flows while complying with international human rights standards.**

In this context, the ODIHR has supported the reform of the Azerbaijani border service by drawing on the experiences made by Poland. The ODIHR has facilitated co-operation between the two border services and the participation of young border guards from Azerbaijan in a one-year training programme in Poland. A regional training seminar for border guards from Central Asia was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

In order to improve cross-border co-operation between OSCE countries, the ODIHR co-organized an international workshop in Prague in June. The workshop served to exchange experience between the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia on models of organizational structures in migration management and on collecting and sharing migration-related information.

As part of its efforts to assist with the reform of restrictive registration systems inherited from the Soviet Union, the ODIHR this year has focused on Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine by providing expertise during the drafting of legislation aimed at ensuring freedom of movement. In addition, a regional roundtable was held in Kyrgyzstan on registration of foreigners. It was agreed to develop a model registration system and a strategy to harmonize registration requirements in the region.

In Georgia and Azerbaijan, the ODIHR has successfully concluded a project aimed at reviewing compliance of domestic legislation in the region with relevant international principles and developing recommendations on how to improve the normative frameworks for the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

## FOCUS ON SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

As part of its regional focus on south-eastern Europe, the ODIHR supports confidence-building, reconciliation and stabilization processes throughout this region. This Office particularly concentrates on enhancing democratization processes, institution-building, human rights and the rule of law.

The Programme load, scope of work and demand from host countries and partners for co-ordination and implementation have rapidly developed and increased in both sophistication and amount, resulting in some 35 projects being implemented throughout the region in the years 2001 and 2002.

**The ODIHR has supported confidence-building, reconciliation and stabilization processes throughout south-eastern Europe, in particular with regard to enhancing democratization processes, institution-building, human rights**

## and the rule of law.

To improve efficiency and create synergies and co-ordination between the OSCE missions and institutions in the region, the ODIHR has adopted a co-ordinating role within the OSCE on human dimension issues in the region. During 2002, four regional co-ordination meetings as well as a number of expert meetings took place.

This year has seen the launch of *Legislationline.org*, a free-of-charge legislative online database designed to provide easy access to international and national legislation related to OSCE human dimension commitments. The database targets in particular lawmakers in south-eastern Europe.

Prison services in south-eastern Europe have continued to benefit from the ODIHR's support this year.

There has been an emphasis on the training of prison staff and the exchange of expertise and information. In 2002, these activities focused on Montenegro/FRY and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The ODIHR ran a series of workshops on effective crisis management to remedy the lack of communication between local administrations and security forces in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This issue had been exposed by the crisis in 2001. In addition, the ODIHR supported the reform of the Macedonian police by assisting the local authorities in developing specialized police training courses.

In Kosovo, this Office has supported the establishment of a Civil Society Academy to develop competencies of potential NGO leaders. Similarly the ODIHR provided assistance for an initiative to re-establish civil dialogue between NGOs from Kosovo and Serbia; training courses for future Roma community advocates; and the Ombudsperson's office.

Following the transfer of the ODIHR's Office in Montenegro to OMIFRY at the end of 2001, the ODIHR has continued the successful co-operation with the local authorities and other actors to strengthen the democratization processes in the Republic.

## CONTACT POINT FOR ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES

**The ODIHR Contact Point has worked through a wide**

Headed since 1999 by Mr. Nikolae Gheorghe, a renowned Roma activist from Romania, the Contact Point works to promote 'full integration of Roma and Sinti communities into the societies they live in, while preserving their identity'. To realize this goal, a work programme is being implemented focusing on the advancement of the political rights of Roma and Sinti in the OSCE area, on acute crisis prevention and crisis management in post-conflict areas of south-eastern Europe, and on fostering and supporting civil society development among Roma communities.

**range of projects this year. Meanwhile it remains an important channel of information on Roma and Sinti issues, and continues ongoing activities such as advising governments on Roma-related policies.**

In the context of its work to advance political rights of Roma, the Contact Point has organized training workshops for Romani voters and candidates. It has also assessed the participation of Roma in elections in Central and south-eastern Europe.

In order to prevent or diffuse tension over housing-related issues in municipalities with Roma inhabitants several roundtables in Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia were held.

The Contact Point also addressed the controversial issue of legal and illegal migration of Roma to Western European countries and the involvement of some of these migrants, both as victims and perpetrators, in trafficking in human beings.

The establishment of a network of local Roma community advocates throughout the countries of south-eastern Europe has also been supported. This facilitates contacts between Roma communities and state authorities.

Other projects have focused on capacity-building for Roma NGOs, training of Roma women on NGO building, and equal access to health services for Roma. In Montenegro a roundtable was organized to address the situation of Internally Displaced Roma and explore possible durable solutions.

The Contact Point has also supported initiatives to establish a pan-European Roma assembly and played an important role in brokering a preliminary agreement on some of the assembly's modalities.

## MONITORING AND SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

In 2002, the ODIHR and the OSCE chairmanship held the an-

The Monitoring Unit within the ODIHR follows and analyses human rights developments and compliance with OSCE human dimension commitments by participating States. It also organizes OSCE meetings on the implementation of human dimension commitments by participating States. As an early warning function, it alerts the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to serious deteriorations in human rights.

nual OSCE *Human Dimension Meeting in September*. It was held under an improved set of rules and attracted a record number of over 700 participants. The ODIHR also organized the *Human Dimension Seminar* in April and three *Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings* in March, June and October.

The ODIHR's 2002 death penalty report, which was presented at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September, has confirmed the ongoing trend towards the abolition of capital punishment in the OSCE region.

In line with the OSCE's focus on preventing terrorism, the ODIHR this year increased its project activities aimed at promoting freedom of religion and belief. Several legislative reviews have been conducted and a number of meetings organized aimed at promoting religious freedom and tolerance. These included a regional conference in Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan, roundtables in Almaty, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, as well as a major OSCE conference on religious freedom and combating terrorism in Baku, Azerbaijan, in October. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a new draft law on religious associations was prepared with ODIHR support.

### TOLERANCE AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

Following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the threat posed by terrorism inspired by fundamentalism and extremism of any kind is as obvious as is the need to counter that threat. At the same time, it is recognized that any measures combating terrorism need to be carried out strictly within the boundaries of international human rights commitments, including rights to the freedom of religion and belief.

Against this background and in response to many requests, the ODIHR in 2002 increased its project activities aimed at promoting freedom of religion and belief.

OSCE



Participants discuss freedom of religion in Central Asia at a regional conference organized by the ODIHR and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan.

# HCNM

## The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

### CONTEXT

Ethnic conflict is one of the main sources of large-scale violence in Europe today. This issue has been addressed by an OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities since 1993. Rolf Ekéus has been the High Commissioner since July 2001.

#### *Instrument of conflict prevention*

The High Commissioner's function is to identify – and seek early resolution of – ethnic tensions that might endanger peace, stability or friendly relations between the participating States of the OSCE. His mandate describes him as an instrument of conflict prevention at the earliest possible stage.

Although the title of his post sometimes creates the impression that the High Commissioner is intended to function as a national minorities ombudsman or as an investigator of individual human rights violations, this is not the case. In other words, he is the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities and not for National Minorities.

#### *Aims of the High Commissioner*

He has a two-fold mission: first, to try to contain and de-escalate tensions and, second, to act as a 'tripwire', meaning that he is responsible for alerting the OSCE whenever such tensions threaten to develop to a level at which he cannot contain them with the means at his disposal.

During the reporting period, the High Commissioner has continued pursuing the goal of starting, maintaining and enhancing a process of exchanges of views and co-operation between the parties, leading to concrete steps calculated to de-escalate tensions and, where possible, resolve underlying issues.

This year the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities visited Turkmenistan for the first time.

### CENTRAL EUROPE

#### HUNGARY

The *Act on Hungarians Living in Neighboring States* was one of the areas of greatest concern to the High Commissioner during the reporting period. He issued a statement on *National Minorities, Sovereignty and Responsibility* which stressed that 'responsibility for the protection of minorities lies with the State where minorities live'. This is a message which he emphasized to the Hungarian Government, even after the *Act on Hungarians Living in Neighboring States* took effect on 1 January 2001.

The High Commissioner sustained efforts to ensure that implementation of the Act would not violate international standards, harm bilateral relations between Hungary and its neighbours or exacerbate inter-ethnic relations in countries with sizeable Hungarian minority populations. He made a series of recommendations to amend the Act in order to limit any discriminatory or extra-territorial effects. He also made several visits to Budapest, Bucharest and Bratislava to meet with Governments and minority representatives.

In Hungary, the High Commissioner raised the need for anti-discrimination legislation and resolution of the issue of minority representation in Parliament. In addition, he familiarized himself with the reform of minority self-governments.

#### SLOVAKIA

The High Commissioner has kept in regular contact with the Slovak Government and representatives of the Hungarian minority concerning their views on the *Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries*. He also provided advice on anti-discrimination and kept abreast of developments concerning minority-language tertiary education.

## SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

### CROATIA

The HCNM visited Zagreb and the Danube Region at the end of February 2002. The visit coincided with the decision of the Government to withdraw a draft *Constitutional Law on National Minorities* from further procedures and to prepare a completely new draft. The draft Law which was withdrawn incorporated most of the recommendations put forward by the Council of Europe's Venice Commission and the HCNM and would have been an important step in creating a legislative framework for enjoyment of minority rights in Croatia. During this visit the HCNM also focused on issues connected with refugee return, such as repossession of property.

After his visit in February the High Commissioner closely followed the process of the preparation of the new Constitutional Law. His experts visited Croatia in May 2002 and, when the new draft had been finally prepared, on 26 July 2002 the HCNM sent his comments to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia. The High Commissioner returned to Croatia in September 2002, noting little progress on the adoption of the law.

During this visit he noted that the Croatian authorities had not taken any action to address the issue of by-elections in those municipalities, towns and counties in which the May 2001 local elections did not result in the election of a number of minority representatives proportional to the population.

The HCNM funds and monitors the *Knin Legal Aid Project* and, in co-operation with the Joint Council of Municipalities, a similar project in the Danube region. The objective of the projects is to provide legal aid and representation in courts and during administrative procedures for minority members (mostly Serbs and returnees) in order to help them return to their apartments and houses and to recover their property.

### FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

The High Commissioner visited Novi Sad (capital of Vojvodina) and Belgrade in November 2001, with the issue of Vojvodina autonomy and its inter-ethnic dimension at the top of his agenda.

The HCNM Office assisted the Federal Ministry of National and Ethnic Communities in the preparation of the draft *Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities*. The Law was finally adopted on 26 February 2002. In his letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of FRY, Goran Svilanovic, the HCNM congratulated the Government and the Parliament of the FRY on the adoption of the law and offered his assistance in the process of its implementation.

The HCNM has continued to work closely with Yugoslav authorities on implementation of this Law. In this respect, a full-time professional staff member was deployed to Belgrade as the HCNM Liaison Officer with a view to improving the assistance the HCNM could render to the Government and generally to support the improvement of inter-ethnic relations.

The HCNM visited Montenegro in November 2001 for the first time. The political agenda there was dominated by the issue of the 'state status' of Montenegro. A productive environment exists for OSCE involvement there, due partly to its permanent presence on the ground. The HCNM intends to continue his involvement and to monitor the situation closely, in particular the inter-ethnic aspects of discussion on Montenegrin independence, especially the issue of Sandzak.

The High Commissioner followed closely the discussion on the *Constitutional Charter of the Union of Serbia and Montenegro*. On 28 August, in a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the HCNM expressed the hope that minority rights would find an appropriate place in the Constitutional Charter and that the standards of minority protection achieved in the new Federal Law would not be jeopardized. One of the HCNM's concerns was the effective implementation of the *Law on the Protection of National Minorities* with a view to ensuring continuity in the protection of minority rights in Serbia and Montenegro. In the reply received on 30 September 2002, the HCNM was assured that minority rights in the redefined Union of Serbia and Montenegro would not be less than those already existing in the FRY.

During his visits to FRY the HCNM also discussed the situation in the Presevo region. The entire peace process there can be considered a significant achievement and step forward. In co-operation with the Ministry for National and Ethnic Communities, the HCNM has been implementing a number of minority-oriented projects in this region in order to build confidence between different ethnic groups.

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#### FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The HCNM visited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia twice in November 2001 to be updated on the latest developments in the country and to establish personal contact with the main actors. The HCNM's contribution since the adoption of the *Framework Agreement* has focused on decentralization, education and the census. There was a follow-up visit almost a year later.

The HCNM continues his involvement with regard to the census through participation in the Steering Committee to oversee and to give political guidance to the process. The census was finally conducted between 1-15 November 2002. It was taken under good conditions, without any serious incidents or problems. According to international monitors, significant progress was made in comparison with the 1994 census.

The adoption of the law on local self-government at the beginning of 2002 has only begun the process of decentralization. It has to be accompanied by a broader legislative package including the *Law on Self-Financing and the Law on Territorial Division*. During his visits to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the HCNM offered his assistance in the preparation of these laws in order to reach a compromise on this issue, in particular regarding revision of boundaries of municipalities.

The HCNM attended the official opening of the South-Eastern Europe (SEE) University and joined its Board. The SEE University is a multicultural and multilingual institution open to all students regardless of their ethnic backgrounds. At the beginning of 2002/2003 academic year it was educating approximately 2,400 students, about 10 percent of whom were non-Albanian.

The High Commissioner also promotes and supports the *Transition Year Programme*, which seeks to increase the number of Albanians being admitted to university by providing intensive examination preparation courses in the Macedonian language for Albanian students in the fourth year of secondary school. At present the programme reaches all seven Albanian-language gymnasias. Given that the SEE University became fully operational in 2002, the programme was adapted accordingly.

## THE BALTIC COUNTRIES

#### ESTONIA

In Estonia the High Commissioner has continued to follow a number of issues such as election laws, language certificates and minority education reform. The High Commissioner paid a visit in spring 2002 to meet the new Estonian government and to acquaint himself with its priorities regarding national minority issues and social integration. The High Commissioner welcomed the legislative initiatives of the government extending the validity of language certificates as a good step in the right direction. He also commended the decision taken to make the implementation of minority education reform more flexible.

The High Commissioner continues to follow the implementation of the integration and the naturalization processes in the county.

#### LATVIA

The High Commissioner has concentrated his efforts on stressing the need to amend the Election Laws to remove linguistic requirements for persons standing for a seat in parliament.

He remains engaged in a dialogue with all parties in Latvia on issues such as the slow pace of naturalization, the social integration process and the ratification of the Council of Europe's *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*.

## EASTERN EUROPE

#### GEORGIA

In 2002, the High Commissioner visited Georgia twice (in February and November) in order to learn more about the situation in all parts of Georgia including South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Pankisi Valley, and Samtskhe-Javakheti. The HCNM paid particular attention to the latter region, a part of Georgia mainly populated by ethnic Armenians and relatively isolated from the rest of the country.

Economic, communication and political links of this region with the Georgian capital Tblisi are particularly weak. Primarily due to poor knowledge of the State language, the local population relies on the Russian military base in Akhalkalaki and the Armenian press as their main sources of information regarding Georgian affairs. The economy is directed towards Russia and Armenia and the Russian Rouble is the main currency. Complicating the situation is the prospective return of the Meskhetians, who were deported from the region in 1944.

In order to support the integration of the region, raise public awareness about minority issues, and promote respect for minority rights, the HCNM has implemented three ongoing projects in Samtskhe-Javakheti. One supported teaching of the State Language to civil servants. Another project collected information on interethnic relations. Finally, a Development Support project served as a vehicle for developing a package of project proposals to further support the integration of Samtskhe-Javakheti into Georgia.

The HCNM also provided advice and technical assistance to Georgia in the elaboration and implementation of legislative reforms. In particular, the HCNM Office provided several comments on the Draft Law on the State Language.

#### **MOLDOVA**

The High Commissioner visited Moldova for the second time in April 2002 to address some of the language and education issues which have been a source of disagreement between the country's Moldovan- (Romanian-) and Russian-speaking communities.

Throughout the year he continued to support a project, initiated by the HCNM in 2000, to improve the teaching of the State language to children from minority communities. He also provided recommendations to the Moldovan Government on language issues and closely followed the debate about the status of the Russian language. In 2002 he commissioned a team of experts to report on the contentious issue of history teaching and curriculum and made recommendations for possible steps to reduce tensions on this subject. With the UNHCR and the OSCE Mission, he monitored the situation of schools in Transnistria that are trying to teach Romanian in the Latin script in the face of heavy resistance from the local authorities.

In April 2002 his office co-hosted a seminar on language and integration. He subsequently advised the Moldovan Government to consider implementing a social integration strategy.

#### **ROMANIA**

As with Slovakia, the High Commissioner's involvement in Romania has centered on the views of the Romanian Government and Hungarian minority concerning the *Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries*. He also paid attention to issues of Romanian-speakers and ethnic Romanians living in neighbouring countries, for example by providing advice on a bilateral treaty on national minorities, which has been adopted by Romania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

#### **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

In October 2001, the High Commissioner visited Moscow for meetings with officials, parliamentarians and representatives of national minority groups and academics. In June 2002, he returned to Moscow for discussions on a variety of topics, in particular the Meskhetian issue.

#### **UKRAINE**

The High Commissioner visited Kyiv in February for discussions with the President and other high officials concerning a variety of issues affecting relations with national minorities. In June, the High Commissioner travelled to the country again to learn more about the situation of different ethnic communities in the Republic of Crimea, and in particular how the return of formerly deported peoples was affecting the area. Following meetings in Kyiv, he travelled to Simferopol for discussions with representatives of the local government and parliament and with representatives of national minority communities.

The High Commissioner initiated a project designed to provide support for the Ombudsman to help to protect the rights of national minorities at a regional level in Ukraine. A series of training seminars on international standards in the area of the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities was held, with the assistance of the Council of Europe, for the network of regional experts engaged in the project. The High Commissioner also provided support for the publication of a commentary for government officials on the new *Law on Citizenship* and a brochure in Ukrainian and Russian languages to inform those seeking citizenship in Ukraine about procedures and their rights.

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## CENTRAL ASIA

### KAZAKHSTAN

The High Commissioner undertook a visit to Kazakhstan in May. During the visit, he met a number of officials to discuss issues of education, the media and legislation affecting national minorities and also the media. The High Commissioner has continued to support a project to monitor inter-ethnic relations in Kazakhstan.

### KYRGYZSTAN

In December 2001, the High Commissioner met the President and other high officials following the *Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia* to learn more about a range of issues concerning the situation of national minorities. In October 2002, the High Commissioner visited Kyrgyzstan to discuss inter-ethnic matters in light of political developments in the country. During this visit, he also travelled to Osh, in the south of the country, for discussions with local officials and minority representatives. Meetings focused on educational and linguistic issues.

The High Commissioner continued to work with the Assembly of the People of Kyrgyzstan during the year. In September, the Office of the High Commissioner, together with the Assembly, conducted a seminar entitled *Legislation and the Protection of National Minorities: International Norms and Practice*. The seminar was attended by a wide variety of officials, parliamentarians, minority representatives and representatives of NGOs.

The High Commissioner also supported a project designed to monitor inter-ethnic relations in the southern regions of Kyrgyzstan. The monitoring provided the Kyrgyz Government and the OSCE with regular and detailed information and analysis of inter-ethnic relations in the South.

The High Commissioner also continued his support for a project to help to train government officials in the management of inter-ethnic relations and minority issues. This project is conducted with the Academy of Management under the President of Kyrgyzstan.

### TURKMENISTAN

In November, the High Commissioner made his first visit to Turkmenistan. During the visit, he had the opportunity to discuss a variety of issues affecting national minorities in the country. He also met members of the international community working in Ashgabad.

### UZBEKISTAN

In October, as part of his intention to improve his engagement with the Central Asian states, the High Commissioner travelled to Uzbekistan for meetings with high officials about a range of minority issues. He also met representatives of minority communities in the Ferghana Valley.





# The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

## CONTEXT

Freedom of expression, encompassing freedom of the media, is one of the most basic of human rights. To ensure a high level of commitment with the norms and standards agreed by the OSCE participating States, the position of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM) was established in December 1997.

Freimut Duve has been the Representative since the role began.

### *The aims of the RFM*

The main function of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is to monitor relevant media developments in the OSCE participating States with a view to providing early warning on violations of freedom of expression.

The Representative's second task is to assist participating States by advocating and promoting full compliance with OSCE principles and commitments regarding freedom of expression and free media.

### *Rapid response*

The Representative concentrates on rapid response to serious non-compliance with OSCE principles and commitments by participating States. In case of serious problems caused – for instance, by obstruction of media activities and unfavourable working conditions for journalists – the Representative seeks direct contacts with the participating State and other parties involved, assesses the facts and contributes towards the resolution of the issue.

### *Collecting information on media situation*

The Representative collects and receives information on the situation of the media from all *bona fide* sources. Participating States and other interested parties (for example, organizations or institutions, media and their representatives, relevant NGOs) may forward their requests, suggestions and comments related to strengthening and further developing compliance with OSCE principles and commitments, including alleged instances of intolerance by participating States (hate speech).

### *Restrictions*

The mandate underlines that the Representative will neither communicate with nor acknowledge communications from any person or organization that practises or publicly condones terrorism or violence.



### *Yearbook 2001/2002: Freedom and Responsibility*

In June, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media presented his fourth yearbook. The publication not only outlined in detail the activities of the Representative and his Office but also provided a forum for authors on such topics as the impact of the events of 11 September on the media, young people in the Balkans and media in Central Asia and Belarus. *The Yearbook* also featured an overview of country-related activities.

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## Selected Country-Related Activities

### BELARUS

In Belarus, in 2002, the authorities have continued to pressure independent media, violating numerous commitments they had signed up to as an OSCE participating State. Among the cases raised by the OSCE Representative were the following:

The Editor-in-Chief of *Pahonya* newspaper, Nikolai Markevich, and journalist Pavel Mozheiko faced criminal charges of libeling the president. In his comments at the OSCE Permanent Council, the Representative underlined that journalists, who practise in line with international standards and conventions, should neither be prosecuted for what they write nor face prison. He also noted that heads of state should not receive undue protection from media reporting on their activities.

On 29 March, the Belarusian Ministry of Justice also issued a written warning to the Minsk daily *Narodnaya Volya* threatening it with closure.

On 6 April, police arrested a dozen journalists who had demonstrated in Grodno against the closure of *Pahonya* and against the criminal prosecution of their colleagues. Six of these journalists were given sentences ranging from three to ten days in prison.

A Minsk-based independent newspaper, *Myestnoye Vremya* (*The Local Times*), was founded in October and was closed by the Belarusian Information Ministry on 27 November after publishing only three issues. The reasons given for its closure concerned its rental space – reasons which the Belarusian Association of Journalists has said are legally groundless.

### ITALY

Special attention should be paid to media freedom and the independence of the media in the discussion on a *European Constitution*. This was stressed by the OSCE Representative in an appeal sent on 11 March 2002 to Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Chairman of the *Convention on the future of the European Union (EU)*.

The Representative has pointed out that in Italy, a founding member of the EU, the present political leadership has not been following the constitutional tradition of Europe. In particular, the Representative has suggested that the pluralism of the broadcasting media is in jeopardy because of an ownership situation that has allowed the executive to control both public and private broadcasting media.

The Representative has appealed to members of the Convention to ensure the binding force of the EU *Charter of Fundamental Rights*. He is convinced that a strong Charter would be seen as a code of conduct by EU Member States and as an important signal to OSCE participating States, some of which have the executive still controlling the media.

The Representative stresses the importance of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. In Article 11, the Charter confirms each person's right to freedom of expression.

### KAZAKHSTAN

In Kazakhstan, in early 2002, the newspapers *Vremya Po*, *Respublika – Delovoye Obozreniye* and *Sol Dat* could not find publishers willing to print them. A political talk show on Channel 31 was taken off the air; another channel, *Tan*, had its licence suspended in March.

In a letter to Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev on 2 August 2002, the Representative requested more information about the case of the death of Leyla Bayseitova, daughter of Lira Bayseitova, who is editor of the newspaper *Respublika-2000*.

'These cases present alarming signals about the state of the media in Kazakhstan... (it puts) into question the chances for free media in Kazakhstan.'

Excerpt from a letter from the Representative on Freedom of the Media to the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan

Procedural mistakes and contradictions had been alleged in the case; the verdict had been suicide by hanging. Lira Bayseitova had been investigating corruption allegations in Kazakhstan and had been threatened in connection with her professional work. *Reporters sans frontières* has issued a substantive report on the case in August 2002.

### MOLDOVA

In September 2002, the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media undertook an assessment visit to Moldova. Although this OSCE participating State still enjoyed relative freedom of expression, certain recent tendencies are cause for concern. One of the major issues was the newly adopted law on transforming the state company *Teleradio Moldova* into a public broadcaster.

Both the Council of Europe and the Representative have been concerned that its provisions have left room for political influence on the editorial policy of *Teleradio Moldova*. However, several parliamentarians have said they would look into changing the provisions regulating the appointment of the broadcaster's Administrative Council, a major concern of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

In January 2002, the Representative raised two cases in Russia. Grigory Pasko, a military journalist, was convicted in late December 2001 of treason by a military court in Vladivostok and sentenced to four years in prison. He had been accused of providing a Japanese television company with footage of the Russian navy dumping nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean. Pasko appealed his sentence.

In Belgorod in late December 2001, a local court sentenced Olga Kitova, a reporter for *Belgorodskaya Pravda*, to a suspended sentence of 2.5 years for libel and for using force against government representatives. Kitova had been active in investigating corruption in her region. She also appealed and her sentence was reduced by the Russian Supreme Court to two years. The OSCE Representative underlined that her case could be described as a watershed; the results of this appeal might influence other journalists in Russia who have also been actively investigating corruption.

On 29 April 2002, Valeriy Ivanov, a leading journalist and editor of *Tolyatinskoye Obozreniye*, was killed in Togliatti. An unidentified assailant shot him in the head at point-blank range. On 3 May, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media addressed the Russian Minister of Press, TV and Radio Broadcasting, Mikhail Lesin, noting that he was informed that this murder was allegedly connected to Mr. Ivanov's professional activities, since his newspaper had been known for its coverage of local organized crime, drug trafficking and corruption.

*'A very well respected NGO, the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, had recently stated that Russia has become one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists. Although I may not necessarily share this sentiment, I do believe it is now up to the Russian authorities to prove otherwise.'*

*Freimut Duve*

In May 2002, in a letter to Carla Del Ponte, Chief Prosecutor of the *International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia* (ICTY) in The Hague, the Representative raised the cases of the murder of Russian journalists Victor Nogin and Gennadii Kurennoi, who had been killed in Croatia in September 1991. Both were reporting from an area where there was ongoing fighting between Croatian forces and Serb militia. The OSCE Representative noted: 'The circumstances of their deaths are still sketchy, but a number of Russian journalists investigated the case and have come up with a plausible scenario of what had actually happened to Nogin and Kurennoi. One of the individuals who can shed light on their murder is Milan Martić, currently in the custody of the ICTY.'

Martić had been indicted in 1995 for the Zagreb bombing. However, there have also been public allegations connecting Martić to the killings of Nogin and Kurennoi. 'Without prejudicing the judicial process, I would encourage Your Excellency to take a closer look at these allegations,' wrote the Representative. 'I would suggest interviewing Russian journalist Vladimir Mukusev who has conducted his own investigation, and if you find the evidence convincing enough, indicting Martić for these murders. An indictment of an official by an international tribunal for the murder of a journalist would be an important precedent especially with the establishment of the International Criminal Court.'

## UKRAINE

A Ukrainian journalist was found dead in November 2002; the circumstances surrounding this tragedy are still unclear. The OSCE Representative has asked the authorities to provide his Office with additional information regarding the recent discovery in Belarus of the body of Mikhailo Kolomiets, head of the Ukrainian news agency *Ukrainski Novyny*. Kolomiets had disappeared on 21 October and his news agency had reported him missing on 28 October. Ukrainian Interior Minister Yuri Smirnov announced the discovery of Kolomiets' body on 18 November in Belarus, hanging from a tree in a forest near the town of Molodeshno. The Representative has also continued to monitor the case of Georgiy Gongadze, who was murdered in 2000 and whose killers are still at large.

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## Special Projects of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media



Lubomir Kolek/OSCE

The Fourth Central Asian Media Conference was held on 26 and 27 September 2002 in Tashkent. The theme was corruption. It brought together about a hundred journalists from the region. There was frank discussion of grave problems in the media situation in Central Asia.

### PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS IN CONFLICT ZONES

In the Russian Federation, in February 2002, a two-day workshop on Security of journalists working in war zones, was organized by the Office of the Representative and the Centre for Journalism in Extreme Situations (CJES) of the Russian Union of Journalists at the Moscow House of Journalists. The workshop's focus was survival techniques in conflict areas. The activity was funded by voluntary contributions from the United Kingdom and the United States.

A manual was produced for the seminar. Seventeen journalists from regional Russian media, including newspapers and TV stations working in southern Russia, the Volga region and the Urals took part in the workshop. All the participants had had experience working in Chechnya or Afghanistan, or had job assignments as war reporters.

Russian journalists have agreed that the workshop, Security of journalists working in war zones, was a success since its agenda embraced the full scope of information and skills that journalists may need in conflict areas. Outstanding war reporters and legal, medical and military experts took part in the workshop.

### CENTRAL ASIA MEDIA CONFERENCES

On 10 and 11 December 2001, the Third Central Asian Media Conference was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. It was organized by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the OSCE Centre in Almaty in co-operation with the International Foundation for Protection of Freedom of Expression, *Adil Sot*, and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Two previous conferences had taken place earlier – in 1999 in Bishkek, and in 2000 in Dushanbe. This time, more than 75 journalists, government officials, parliamentarians and NGO representatives from all five Central Asian States participated in the debate on media developments in the region, especially in light of the events of 11 September.

Journalists, officials and parliamentarians have adopted the Almaty Declaration on Freedom of the Media in Times of Anti-Terrorist Conflict: *'The governments of the Central Asian States should not take the new conflict situation as a justification for repressive steps against opposition media. On the contrary, they should use it as a catalyst for further steps toward creating a free media landscape in their societies.'*

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media also issued a written statement to the *Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia*, held on 13 and 14 December 2001.

The sessions focused on problems journalists faced when trying to uncover instances of corruption and what measures could be taken to improve investigative reporting. The journalists adopted the *Tashkent Declaration on Freedom of the Media and Corruption*.

The Office had issued media reports on the five Central Asian States in September 2002. Many of the participants at the conference reiterated concerns raised in the reports. The reports have been published as a book in both Russian and English. All reports provide country-specific recommendations to the governments on what can be done to improve the situation.

The state of affairs in Turkmenistan is still the most alarming: one of practically total control has deteriorated even further. Subscriptions to foreign newspapers have not been delivered since mid-July, cable transmissions have been shut down and a Russian-American journalist was arrested in November.

Overall, some positive developments have been noted recently in Central Asia. These include the dropping of criminal charges against Tajik journalist Dododjon Atovulloev, the issuing of licenses to three independent radio stations in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and the banning of official censorship in Uzbekistan.

## LEGAL SUPPORT TO PARTICIPATING STATES

### *Croatia*

An analysis of media legislation was commissioned to assist the Croatian authorities and media professionals in the process of transforming broadcasting legislation.

The analysis recommended that a number of key amendments to the laws be adopted in order to provide Croatian Television and Radio (HRT) with the legal basis to move successfully towards an independent public broadcasting service. The Law Croatia adopted in February 2001 was a step forward, but it crucially failed to detach HRT from the influence of the Government and the parliament of the day.

The development of a separate broadcasting law has been encouraged. This would establish a fully-fledged, independent broadcasting regulatory body responsible for overseeing all broadcasting stations, including HRT.

### *Ukraine*

Three legal reviews of media legislation have been carried out and forwarded to the authorities. As a follow-up to the analysis of the broadcasting laws, the Office of the Representative conducted a seminar in Kiev in December 2001 with the Council of Europe. The seminar brought together international experts and relevant Ukrainian partners from government and parliament to discuss the amendments recommended in the analysis, as well as ways to move forward with changes in media legislation.

In September 2002, the Office of the Representative, with the Council of Europe, the Verhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conducted a seminar dealing with the review of two media-related laws. However, the recommendations have still not been implemented.

Media legislation has also been reviewed in Armenia (draft law on media), Russia (amendments to the media law) and Tajikistan (all media legislation). The reviews of the draft media law in Transnistrian region and the Moldovan draft law on broadcasting were finalized in December 2002.

## TRAINING JOURNALISTS

In response to a request from the OSCE Office in Baku, the Representative organized a two-day seminar on *Developing Freedom and Responsibility of Media in Azerbaijan*. More than 30 young, working journalists took part. Two international journalists, from Finland and the United Kingdom, led the seminar.

The seminar focused on the critical importance of free media in a democratic society and the need for a higher level of professionalism and a sense of responsibility in Azerbaijani media. Seminar topics included developing standards of conduct, access to information and the upcoming generation of journalists.

On 13 February 2002, in St. Petersburg, Russia, a two-day seminar on *Freedom and Responsibility in Russian Journalism* was held under the auspices of the Office of the Representative. It was funded by the United Kingdom and organized by the St. Petersburg Union of Journalists. Thirty-four journalists from several cities in the Russian northwest and from St. Petersburg, as well as eight, separately-financed young journalists from Baltic countries participated. Discussions were held on the new relationship between journalists and media proprietors, the differences between journalism and public relations and the need for objectivity in Russian journalism.

The seminar concluded that only economic independence would guarantee freedom of information and that the survival of journalism in small Russian cities was especially problematic.

## MEDIA IN MULTI-LINGUAL SOCIETIES

The ongoing project on *Freedom and Responsibility: Media in Multi-lingual Society*, aims to overcome prejudices and intolerance in the media against citizens who are members of minorities. The project points out the constructive role media could and should play in combating discrimination, promoting tolerance and building stable peace in multi-lingual societies. The project will investigate the practical working environments of the media in some OSCE participating States: Luxembourg, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Southern Serbia), former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and Switzerland.

At the end of the project, country reports will be produced. A concluding conference, to take place in Switzerland in March 2003, will summarize the results and identify the need and desire for more projects.

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Asia-Plus, the first independent radio in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, went on the air on 9 September 2002, with support from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

**FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA AND THE INTERNET**

On 30 November 2002, a workshop on *Freedom of the Media and the Internet* was held in Vienna. The workshop featured six experts from Europe and the United States. They discussed the possibilities and challenges posed by the new information and communication technologies to freedom of expression and the media in the OSCE region. The participants of the workshop included experts from UNESCO, Council of Europe, online media, Internet service providers and specialized NGOs. Scholars and advisers from the Office of the Representative also took part.

This workshop was a preparatory event for a conference on *Freedom of the Media and the Internet* that is intended to provide a broader context for a public debate on the challenges to freedom of expression and freedom of the media posed by the new information and communication technologies. The conference will be organized by the Representative in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in summer 2003.

**MOBILE.CULTURE.CONTAINER**



Alexander Nitzsche/OSCE

The *mobile.culture.container* is in its second year and has concentrated on developing youth newspapers. Initiated by the Representative in 2001, it also held discussions, workshops and events about the future. It visited Mostar, Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Skopje and Bitola (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Mitrovica (Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro) and Novi Pazar (Serbia).

In 2001, school newspapers were founded in Cacak, Gorazde and Visegrad. Newspapers were established in 2002 in Mostar, Stolac, Blagaj, Banja Luka, Jajce, Skopje and in Mitrovica. Participants in the video and radio workshops were also able to present their achievements through public broadcasts on local radio and TV stations.

The *mobile.culture.container* visit to Mitrovica in Kosovo was of special importance. During its five weeks, the project brought together young Albanians and Serbs from both parts of the city. The 20 participants in the workshop broadcast in Kosovo their own bilingual programme (in Albanian and Serbian) for four hours daily, six days a week.

The experiences of the past two years have helped develop the continuation of this project for 2003. In the future, the *mobile.culture.container* will operate as a media container. The youth newspaper network will be at the centre of its activities.

**BROCHURE ON OSCE COMMITMENTS**

In January 2002, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media published a brochure entitled *Freedom of Expression, Free Flow of Information, Freedom of Media*. CSCE/OSCE Main provisions 1975-2001. The booklet outlines all the organization's commitments in the mentioned fields, from the *Helsinki Final Act* to the OSCE *Istanbul Summit*. It is published in both Russian and English and is being distributed to OSCE field missions. Additional copies can be requested from the Representative's Office.



OSCE

Youth in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, participate to a video workshop in the framework of the *mobile.culture.container* 2002 tour.

# PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



*In its ten years of existence, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has been an impressive example of how impetus and support can be given to the work of the Organization.*

German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, at the 11th Annual Session of the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly, July 2002

# Parliamentary Assembly

## CONTEXT

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – created as part of the ‘institutionalization’ of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe at the 1990 Paris Summit – occupies a unique place in the structure of the Organization.

As specified in the *Rules of Procedure of the Assembly*, its primary task is to support the strengthening and consolidation of democratic institutions in the OSCE’s participating States, to develop and promote mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and to contribute to the development of the institutional structures of the OSCE and of relations and co-operation between existing OSCE Institutions.

A dialogue aimed at further strengthening ties and co-operation between the inter-governmental and parliamentary OSCE branches has been positive and productive. The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has continued to participate regularly at the political level in the OSCE, including Ministerial Troika meetings and the Ministerial Council. The Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the staff of the Assembly’s International Secretariat, located in Copenhagen, work closely with the OSCE Secretariat and with the other OSCE Institutions.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has a unique structure. The President of the Assembly is elected each year, by majority vote of the Assembly, to provide political leadership, chair meetings and act as the high representative of the Assembly. The President is assisted by nine elected Vice-Presidents and an elected Treasurer.

## Ministerial Council Meeting, Porto, December 2002

### ***The President calls for reform of mechanisms***

In his address to the Tenth Ministerial Council, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Bruce George, emphasized the readiness of the PA to be supportive of OSCE activities. PA President George regretted that very few citizens and political officials knew about the OSCE. He emphasized the need to enhance the OSCE’s visibility, calling for the establishment of OSCE information offices in all OSCE participating States similar to those the EU has established in its member and applicant countries. These would have the dual objective of increasing the visibility of the OSCE and reducing the apparent ‘stigma’ of some participating States that host OSCE offices or missions.

Speaking on the role of the OSCE in the new European security architecture, Bruce George stressed that the OSCE must continue to reform and adapt its mechanisms and procedures with a view to upholding its efficiency and credibility. In connection with the reform process, he stressed that while the requirement for consensus had its strengths in reinforcing the sense of an OSCE community, it also had costly side effects. PA President, George said: ‘Consensus has its price. If that price is the absence of taking the right and necessary decisions or to postpone or dilute the right decisions, one may wonder if the price to be paid is too high.’

## Annual Session, Berlin, July 2002

### ***Addressing terrorism: a global challenge***

At its Eleventh Annual Session, the Assembly focused on *Confronting Terrorism: a Global Challenge in the 21st Century*. More than 300 parliamentarians adopted the *Berlin Declaration*, covering a wide range of political, economic and human rights issues, as well as resolutions on specific topics such as *Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*, *Anti-Semitic Violence in the OSCE Region* and the *Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines*.

In keeping with established practice, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, along with the OSCE Secretary General and the Heads of OSCE Institutions, addressed the Annual Session in Berlin and answered questions from the floor. Bruce George, MP (United Kingdom) was elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The Assembly also elected three Vice-Presidents: Barbara Haering (Switzerland); Ihor Ostash, MP (Ukraine) and Gert Weisskirchen, MP (Germany). The three General Committees – on Political and Security Affairs, Economic and Environmental Affairs and Human Rights – also elected their officers for the coming year.

## Winter Meeting, Vienna, February 2002

### ***Closer interaction between governmental and parliamentary dimensions***

The objectives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Winter Meeting are to follow up on the previous year’s Declaration, prepare for the upcoming Annual Session and hear reports from leading OSCE officials, providing a unique opportunity to debate OSCE issues and priorities.

Discussions at the first Winter Meeting in February 2002 focused on the global fight against terrorism and closer interaction between the governmental and parliamentary dimensions of the OSCE. The three General Committees were briefed on current OSCE developments.



## Election Observation

The Parliamentary Assembly has continued to make important contributions to the OSCE election observation efforts by providing the expertise parliamentarians have acquired as elected officials.

### **Effective collaboration between institutions**

The *Agreement between the Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)* has been designed to enhance the working relationship between these two important OSCE Institutions. Under this agreement, senior members of parliament are appointed to lead election monitoring operations and to present the conclusions of the OSCE observers.

### **Monitoring activities**

Since November 2001, the Assembly has carried out election monitoring missions in Kosovo (over 50 parliamentarian observers), Ukraine (over 50 parliamentary observers), former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (over 40 parliamentary observers), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (over 25 parliamentary observers).

## Parliamentary Field Visits

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has organized regular parliamentary visits to OSCE field offices and missions to enable parliamentarians to observe the activities of the OSCE in the field and to support the important work of the Missions. So far visits have been organized to the OSCE field presences in Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan.

## Ad Hoc Committees

During the past year, five OSCE PA *Ad Hoc* Committees continued to make a positive contribution to the work of the OSCE.

### **Initiatives for Transparency and Accountability**

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Transparency and Accountability in the OSCE organized a retreat in Salzburg for members of the leadership of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and members of the OSCE Permanent Council. During the retreat, future co-ordination and co-operation between the two OSCE dimensions was discussed. As a direct result of the *Ad Hoc* Committee's initiatives, the OSCE Secretary General briefed parliamentarians for the first time on the proposed OSCE budget for the following year, at the Standing Committee meeting in October. The President formed an informal consultative group that presented its comments on the OSCE draft budget to the governmental side of the OSCE.

### **Facilitating dialogue in Belarus**

During the past year, the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Belarus continued to pursue its aim of facilitating dialogue between the Government and the opposition in Belarus through three visits to Minsk.

### **Resolving the status of Transnistria**

In pursuit of its particular priority, a Parliamentary Team visited Moldova twice to continue contacts and dialogue with parliamentarians, political leaders and authorities in Chisinau and Tiraspol.

### **Assessing democratization in Kosovo**

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Kosovo visited the area in May and December 2002 to assess progress made in the fields of democratization and institution-building and to consider the possibility of further OSCE PA involvement in parliamentary capacity-building.

## Meetings, Conferences & Seminars

### **Seminar with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre**

The topic of a seminar held in Belgrade was *Democratic Control of Armed Forces* and the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*. It aimed to promote awareness of the parliamentary responsibilities outlined in the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* and to foster dialogue between parliamentarians involved in oversight of the armed forces and senior military personnel.

### **Standing Committee Meeting and Conference on the Mediterranean**

More than 200 parliamentarians from 45 OSCE participating States participated in the Conference in Madrid in October. It focused on ensuring peace, democracy and prosperity in the Mediterranean region. Current challenges to Mediterranean security and international initiatives on the Mediterranean were discussed, including managing migration flows and democratic development.

## Other Activities

### **Parliamentary Assembly meetings**

Since 1 November 2001, regular meetings of the leadership of the Parliamentary Assembly have taken place in Vienna (Standing Committee), Copenhagen (Expanded Bureau), Berlin (Bureau, Standing Committee, Annual Session), Madrid (Standing Committee) and Porto (Bureau).

### **Journalism Awards**

At its Annual Session, held in Berlin, the Parliamentary Assembly awarded the Seventh OSCE *Prize for Journalism and Democracy to Journalists* Friedrich Orter (Austria) and Pavel Sheremet (Belarus). Mr. Orter was commended for promoting OSCE Principles on human rights and democracy through his comprehensive and impartial reporting in the Balkans and more recently in Afghanistan. Mr. Sheremet was praised for demonstrating admirable courage in his independent and reliable reporting on the lack of free expression in Belarus and on violations of human rights, including disappearances of opposition politicians and journalists.

# THE WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT



Alexander Nitzsche/OSCE

# The Secretariat: A Year of Change & Reform

This has been a year of real change and reform for the OSCE.

A key focus has been the process of enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the political and administrative management of the Organization, involving the participating States, the Chairmanship, as well as the Secretariat, OSCE Institutions and field operations and activities. The guiding principle is to consolidate the Organization and enable it to respond more quickly and efficiently to modern and changing security threats and challenges and to any tasks entrusted to the OSCE by its political decision-making bodies.

Bold steps have been taken and progress has been achieved – under the responsibility of the Secretary General – in the following areas:

- The improvement of the Organization's management
- The building-up substantive capacities
- The strengthening of co-operation and co-ordination with our partners.

## **Improving the OSCE's management**

The OSCE has taken major strides in strengthening its operational and managerial capacity. After the administrative and management difficulties encountered a few years ago – primarily as a result of the exponential increase of the OSCE's field operations in a short period without the underpinning strengthening of OSCE managerial structures and procedures – the Organization has now engaged in addressing most of these problems in earnest. The fact that the Swedish external auditors have given the organization a clean bill of health for a second year can serve as proof of this improvement.

But it doesn't stop there. With the participating States, the Secretariat is now in the process of developing a new management concept for the Organization. Through this *OSCE Management Agenda*, responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities within the OSCE are clarified – a prerequisite for streamlining work and business processes.

As part of this, an **Integrated Resource Management** system, known as IRMA, will be implemented. It will increase the Organization's capability to manage human and material resources in order to apply them rapidly where and when needed, as decided by the participating States, while maintaining the highest international administrative and managerial standards. In-house communications and document management are being streamlined in order to make accumulated knowledge and experience available to participating States, as well as to safeguard coherence and continuity of the OSCE's activities and action.

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## **IRMA: Changing the way the OSCE does business**

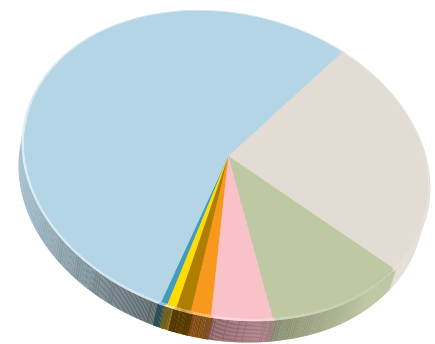
IRMA – Integrated Resource Management – is being developed as an organization-wide system for the efficient, effective and transparent management of the OSCE's resources. It will ensure that operational objectives are explicitly linked to the budget process and will administer the human, financial and material resources that are assigned to these programmes.

The OSCE is often called upon to react swiftly to new political developments and to accomplish tasks at short notice. During 2001-02 it responded to tasks such as organizing municipal elections in Kosovo (the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), implementing border controls in the Caucasus and establishing multi-ethnic policing in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Much of the success of these operations was dependent on the ability and capacity of the OSCE to launch them within days of being approved by the Permanent Council.

To ensure that the OSCE can respond quickly requires two key inputs:

- a clearly defined operational task and its associated outcomes
- the often overlooked, but no less essential, structure of common operational, managerial and administrative systems and standards.

It is this structure that will underpin the delivery of the political objectives and provide the embodiment of the organization's strength and experience in a single model of best practice.



**Revised OSCE Unified Budget for the year 2002**

	Revised Budget in €	
<i>Large Missions and Projects</i> (BiH, Kosovo & Skopje)	96.688.100	55,3%
<i>Other Missions and Field Operations</i>	44.631.000	25,5%
<i>General Fund (Secretariat)</i>	20.318.800	11,6%
<i>ODIHR</i>	8.533.900	4,9%
<i>HCNM</i>	2.118.900	1,2%
<i>Minsk Conference</i>	1.614.800	0,9%
<i>RFM</i>	706.400	0,4%
<i>Action against Terrorism Fund</i>	337.200	0,2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 174.949.100</b>	

Decisions and steps taken by the participating States and by the Secretary General are strengthening the OSCE as an organization in dealing with the complex and comprehensive security challenges of the world today and tomorrow. In this spirit, the important decisions the Permanent Council has taken in approving IRMA and providing a new vision for the improved budgetary management – a key tool for this Organization – have been well received. The 2003 *Programme Overview* discussion has provided a sharper, realistic and forward-looking assessment of how the OSCE, including its Institutions and Missions, intend to implement their mandates.

Proposals have also been made for further strengthening of **Internal Oversight** in the areas of investigations and evaluations. During 2002 an external validation confirmed that good progress had been made in establishing a sound base for this important function. This external review also confirmed that the medium term plan for the period 2003-2005 was well conceived.

The *Management Agenda* and the continued migration towards improved programme budgeting and greater delegation dictate the need to improve evaluation and monitoring at all levels of management throughout the OSCE.

The **REACT/Mission Staffing Information System**, initiated in April 2001, is operational and continues to provide the Organization with the means to rapidly deploy civilian and police expertise for any new activities that might be established in the future. In addition, it serves as the mechanism to fill regularly occurring vacancies in existing field missions. For example, the *Strategic Police Matters Unit*, in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources, has formulated the skills profiles of policing experts required for short-term critical evaluation, which have been circulated to participating States via the REACT system. By the end of this reporting period, forty-one participating States had developed systems and procedures to support the REACT programme.

Eight developed national web sites for direct contact with candidates, thirty-one are receiving applications via the OSCE web site and two provided contact details for display on the web site. Of the fourteen remaining participating States, ten are countries that do not traditionally propose candidates for secondment.

Within the context of reform of the OSCE and the ongoing efforts to improve the quality of mandate and programme delivery, it is essential that the performance of all staff, whether seconded or contracted, in Missions or in the Secretariat and Institutions, be evaluated so that the necessary performance feedback can be provided to the staff, management and participating States. The Secretariat has developed a performance evaluation system that will apply to all staff and mission members, and it is envisaged that this will be introduced OSCE-wide in January 2003.

## The Yellow Laptop: doing the job better and faster



IRMA will provide the common managerial and administrative component of the OSCE structure. It is a management tool that will enable the Organization's managers, whether in the Secretariat, the Institutions or field operations, to do their job better and faster. It will support them as they start up a new programme or field operation, conduct the day-to-day business of managing and provide the means of relevant information. To open up this management tool, all that will be needed is a dedicated laptop computer – that is, the Yellow Laptop – and a telephone line.

Once a new programme is decided upon, the programme manager simply needs to have access to a Yellow Laptop. With this tool, work can begin right away in any location, such as in a field office or in a hotel room. Programme managers, the Secretariat and participating States will have, at their finger tips, information on all aspects of resource usage. Through the centrally managed approval of programme budgets and the issuance of expenditure authorizations, IRMA will grant programme managers the flexibility to implement their budgets while ensuring strict budgetary discipline.

IRMA is imbedded into a larger management reform – the OSCE *Management Agenda*. For IRMA to work successfully, three aspects of the Management Agenda are of utmost importance:

- IRMA is based on a system of clearly assigned individual responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities
- Key work processes will be made shorter and easier
- The OSCE will streamline the managerial and administrative support that programme managers need.

With the help of IRMA and the Yellow Laptop, the OSCE will be able to conduct its business much more effectively, efficiently and transparently. The costs for managerial and administrative support will decrease while the management of OSCE's human, financial and material resources will increase in quality and speed. This will give programme managers the managerial flexibility they need to have to support their operational objectives.

IRMA will give programme managers the time needed to concentrate on what really matters: accomplishing the task entrusted to them by the Permanent Council.

It is a firm conviction of the Secretary General that the efficient functioning of the entire Organization relies much upon its ability to master properly and in a timely manner the resources and potential of all its integral parts and transform their activities into focused and coherent action. In this regard, the achievement of better inter-action and synergy between the Chairmanship-in-Office, the Secretariat and other OSCE bodies, including the Parliamentary Assembly, is paramount. The 2002 start of work of the Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna was an important step. The Secretariat is ready to increase its contribution to the efforts of the Chairmanship-in-Office to improve management of the Organization's current business, including improvement of the co-ordination between different parts of the Organization.

Numerous proposals to this end have been made by several delegations throughout the period under review.

#### ***Building up substantive capacities***

The evolving international environment requires not only an improvement in the management of the OSCE, but also the strengthening of some of the Organization's existing capacities and capabilities and the building up of new ones.

The OSCE's capacity in policing and police reform and training comes first in this regard. Following the respective Bucharest Ministerial Council decision, this was significantly strengthened in 2002.

**The Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU)** led by the Senior Police Adviser and created in the Secretariat earlier this year, has for the first time in the life of the OSCE provided a specialized centre of expertise and a focal point for the co-ordination and organization of the OSCE's policing activities. It has from the very beginning been engaged in practical daily work and the first concrete results are already visible.

One example is the assessment missions to a number of countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus at their request, resulting, *inter alia*, in the launching of a pilot project in Kyrgyzstan; another is the internal meeting of OSCE police and law enforcement experts which took place in Vienna in October, as well as efforts to strengthen ties and co-operation with other national and international structures.

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### **Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU)**

The OSCE has strengthened its police-related activities to improve the protection of participating States against the emerging new risks and challenges posed by trans-national and organized crime, drug and other forms of trafficking, failure to uphold the rule of law and human rights violations.

The Organization now has police advisers and police assistance programme in several of its Missions and frequently responds to requests from participating States for specific expert advice on policing and police-related activities. Outlines of police-related activities within Missions can be found in the Activities in the Field section of this report.

The enlargement of the OSCE's police-related tasks in the Balkans, the development of comprehensive programmes of police-related assistance in the States of Central Asia and the Caucasus and the Unit's proposed mode of operation now offer potential for systematic improvement in policing methods both within and between participating States, with substantial benefits for collaboration with other international organizations concerned with police-related matters.

### **Highlights of the SPMU's Activities**

The SPMU has a self-imposed obligation to formulate generalized policies and procedures that will progressively build confidence in the OSCE's competence to strengthen security amongst its participating States.

The decision to place tangible policing resources in the OSCE Secretariat, in order to increase or promote co-operation among participating States, has coincided with its fresh focus on the security situations confronting the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. At the invitation of the governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the Unit has undertaken preliminary assessment visits with ministers, senior law enforcement officials and other national and international figures. The resulting information has provided a basis for enabling specific police partnerships in each country.

The SPMU formulated its first concept of operations for a *Programme of Police Assistance to Kyrgyzstan*, the assessment phase of which began in October. The programme will modernize the major elements of territorial policing in specific locations and will lay the basis for wider implementation of improvements throughout the Kyrgyz police service. Similar concepts for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are being developed.

An assessment of critical expert needs for Tajikistan's border policing issues began in October 2002. This concept is also capable of being developed into a comprehensive model for implementation in collaboration with experts from countries and organizations already active in the country.

It has become clear in the short time since the SPMU has been in existence that there is a widespread wish among the OSCE participating States to modernize their police services and that the SPMU can play a key role in providing advice and support.

A comprehensive report on the *Strategic Police Matters Unit* documents this and provides a good overview of the work and achievements of the OSCE in this area. The OSCE's expertise and authority in the area of policing are widely recognized. In 2003, the OSCE is to hold its first annual meeting of police experts from the participating States and representatives of other relevant specialized international and regional organizations and initiatives.

The ability to efficiently deal with preventing and combating terrorism is another critical capacity that has been built up during the reporting period.

**The Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU)**, established within the Secretariat in line with the Bucharest decisions, has become a functional and active structure. As a focal point for co-ordination and liaison, the ATU is facilitating OSCE action against terrorism. It liaises on relevant issues with international partners, first and foremost with the UN Counter Terrorism Committee and the UN/ODCCP in Vienna.

The goal is to develop a comprehensive checklist and an overview of measures taken by international, regional and sub-regional organizations within the OSCE area to implement UN and OSCE commitments.

In close consultation with the UN-CTC, this would facilitate co-ordinating a response to requests from our participating States for technical assistance.

A comprehensive and detailed *Report on Actions of OSCE Bodies and Institutions to Prevent and Combat Terrorism, including Implementation of the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the Bishkek Programme of Action* has been compiled and distributed to the participating states and partner organizations.

Both in the areas of policing and preventing and combating terrorism, the OSCE strives to be pragmatic and implement concrete programs and projects at the request of, and in co-ordination with, the participating States and aims to bring concrete results. For that, funding is needed. A list of relevant OSCE projects, many of which have been initiated by participating States, is in the OSCE Project Database on the OSCE's public website.

The fight against trafficking in human beings is another area of increased attention. The OSCE takes a multidisciplinary approach to this complex problem and develops anti-trafficking activities in various areas, with the Secretariat playing its part. It has also strengthened contacts with other international organizations on activities in the area of trafficking in human beings to streamline the international response to this repulsive crime, for example with the Anti-Trafficking Task Force of The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

### The Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

Providing equal opportunities for women and men in the Organization and integrating gender equality into policies and practices are core tasks of the Secretariat. The Senior Adviser on Gender Issues has continued to monitor the situation of women within the Organization.

Women's representation in professional contracted posts increased by 0.9% to 29.9% in 2002, but the percentage of female mission members fell by three percent to 25%. The relatively low number of women seems to be a direct result of the low number of female applicants and nominations.

The Gender Adviser briefs newly recruited mission members in induction courses about the importance of the highest standards of personal and professional conduct. Their conduct, both on and off duty, must be in line with the goals of the OSCE and its democratic values, including equality and rule of law. Mission members learn about the problem of trafficking in human beings and the link between trafficking and the presence of large international missions in the field.

The Adviser participated regularly in meetings of the *Informal Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking* and informed delegations about the latest developments regarding equality issues and the implementation of *PC Decision No. 426 on Trafficking in Human Beings*, which calls for the development of common standards among international organizations. Training on gender issues and trafficking in human beings was further developed.

### The Action against Terrorism Unit

Established this year, the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) serves a permanent co-ordinating role in the overall efforts of the OSCE in preventing and combating terrorism.

Highlights of activities include:

- Supporting the Participating States, Chairmanship, Representative of the Chairman-in-Office and Secretary General in activities geared towards preventing and combating terrorism
- The compilation of a comprehensive overview of OSCE activities in this area: *Report on Actions of OSCE Bodies and Institutions to Prevent and Combat Terrorism, including Implementation of the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the Bishkek Programme of Action*
- Effectively presenting all anti-terrorism project proposals to OSCE delegations to enable participating States to offer assistance more easily
- Assisting the initiation of a joint framework, with ODIHR and UNODC, for the creation of national anti-terrorism legislation in participating states
- Development and drafting of relevant guidance for the OSCE field operations
- Regular overviews of the ratification status of the 12 *UN Conventions and Protocols* by the OSCE participating States. This is important in reflecting the commitment pledged at the Ninth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Bucharest 2001
- Establishment and maintenance of working-level ties with the UNCTC and other relevant International Organizations.

In 2002, the OSCE's work on the economic and environmental dimension of security received more attention from the participating States. In his turn, the new **Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities** has been supporting the participating States and the Chairmanship in a number of ways.

These include preparing the Economic Forum and working for its follow-up activities, providing input to the work of the Economic Subcommittee of the Permanent Council.

The Co-ordinator has also helped launch new initiatives, such as a workshop on combating money laundering and financing terrorism or identifying environmental threats in south-eastern Europe and Central Asia.

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## Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)

The work of the OCEEA became increasingly operational in 2002 and was characterized by a number of important developments. The creation of the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council at the *Ninth Ministerial Council in Bucharest* in December 2001 was a milestone for the economic and environmental dimension and provided a new and important tool. The fact that participating States also agreed to a substantive staffing increase within OCEEA clearly illustrates the political will to rebalance the three dimensions and will allow the economic and environmental aspects to fully support the organization's comprehensive approach to security.

### Environmental Activities

In 2002, two seminars in Zamora, Spain, and Baku, Azerbaijan, focused on the preparatory process of the 10th *Economic Forum* entitled *Co-operation for the Sustainable Use and the Protection of Quality of Water in the Context of the OSCE*, held in Prague, Czech Republic, in May 2002. Several follow-up activities as well as a number of other environmental projects, partially in co-operation with field offices, were launched. These include:

- In co-operation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan: providing assistance in setting up an interstate water commission on the Chu and Talas rivers
- In co-operation with NATO in the South Caucasus: managing the *South Caucasus River Monitoring* project with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
- In Eastern Europe: facilitating the discussion on the current legal status of relationships between Moldova and Ukraine on transboundary water issues. The OCEEA supported the final elaboration, signing and ratification of the *Dniestr Convention*
- In south-eastern Europe, in support of The Stability Pact: initiating a process that culminated in establishing an interstate water commission on the Sava River between Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Serbia and Montenegro)
- With the UN Environment Programme and the UN Development Programme: launching a joint partnership initiative on *Environment and Security in Southeast Europe and Central Asia*. The implementation of the first phase will be presented at the *Environment for Europe Ministerial Meeting* in Kiev, Ukraine, in May 2003.

### Economic Activities

A seminar on *The Socio-Economic Impact of Disarmament* was held in Paris, France, in March, and a follow-up Seminar to the Ninth OSCE *Economic Forum on Co-ordinating Regional Efforts to Increase Transparency and Facilitate Business* was organized in Bucharest, Romania, in July.

Following a special session at the Economic Forum, two *National Workshops on Combating Money Laundering and Suppressing Financing of Terrorism* were held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and Astana, Kazakhstan. Further workshops in other countries will be held in 2003.

A study visit was organized for senior officials and experts from border regions of Central Asia to various bodies and joint projects in the three-country region of Germany-France-Switzerland.

The OCEEA organized a working-party meeting to support the GUUAM countries in implementing the Free Trade Agreement signed in July 2002 by the Heads of States of Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan.

The first seminar preparatory to the 11th *Economic Forum, Trafficking in Human Beings, Drugs, Small Arms and Light Weapons: National and International Economic Impact*, took place in Sofia, Bulgaria in November 2002.

The OCEEA has identified the *YES (Youth Entrepreneurship Seminars) Programme*, developed and implemented by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a successful and valuable programme of best practices worthy of replicating in other mission areas. The one-day training on market principles and the fundamentals of starting one's own business is seen as a means to develop human resources and to keep the younger generation (15 – 25 years of age) in countries with economies in transition from leaving. The programme is being adapted for the Central Asian republics and the Caucasus, to be implemented by the OSCE Centres in co-operation with local partners.

Further details of the activities of the OCEEA within the Missions can be found in the *Activities in the Field* section.

## Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)

**Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC):** supporting overall implementation of OSCE tasks in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

This year the CPC focused on providing direct substantive support to the Secretary General, the OSCE Chairmanship and on its mission-related tasks. This included the building-up and winding-down of existing field activities, specifically in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia and Chechnya.

The department also continued to provide active staff support to OSCE negotiating and decision-making bodies. OSCE project activities, largely funded by extra-budgetary contributions, became a growing issue for CPC in 2002. Its Mission Programme Section (MPS) played an active role in setting up and launching the Organization-wide OSCE Projects Database.

A new Director, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier of Italy, was appointed to head CPC and the Centre took on additional staff to meet its increasing workload.

**Mission Programme Section (MPS):** the primary point of co-ordination in the OSCE Secretariat of all OSCE mission activities

A greater coherence between the budget process and implementation of mission priorities was achieved this year. The MPS contributed frequently with expert advice and technical assistance in support of the process of political consultations. It also lent its expertise to enhance the newly-established budget procedures, guiding missions during the preparation of the *Programme Outlines* and through subsequent phases of the budget process.

The Mission Programme Officers (MPOs) frequently visited their respective mission areas. They provide guidance on Ministerial or Permanent Council decisions, convey key messages from the Chair and Secretary General and assist on specific issues and mission priorities.

The MPOs lead Secretariat Task Forces including on south-eastern Europe (SEE), Central Asia and the Caucasus. These have actively sought effective resolutions to ongoing issues within mission areas. Task Force meetings have been vital in harmonizing various inputs from the OSCE bodies, translating them into unified policies and, ultimately, ensuring coherent application.

MPS also organized, participated in or provided key input for various high-level meetings and consultations within the OSCE and with international partners. During 2002 the MPS became even more actively involved in project management issues, not only with the establishment of the OSCE Projects Database but also regarding the transfer of more OSCE resources for projects in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

**Field Security of Mission Staff:** a continuing management priority

As a new initiative, Field Security became a sub-programme within CPC under the direction of the Senior Security Co-ordinator. In addition to the expert work already underway in south-eastern Europe, full-time Mission Security Officer posts were filled in Tajikistan and Georgia. This now ensures that there is at least one full-time Security Officer in each of the main geographic regions where the OSCE has field activities.

**Operation Centre:** pursuing key tasks and continuing overall support to the Conflict Prevention Centre and the Secretariat

The Operation Centre continued to fulfil its role, as envisioned by the *Charter for European Security*. It gave both the Secretariat and the Conflict Prevention Centre the additional capacity they need to tackle more efficiently the profusion of tasks.

Highlights this year included visits by the Head of the Operation Centre leading OSCE delegations and experts to:

- Georgia: to assess the possibilities of geographical expansion of the current border monitoring operation to the Dagestan segment of the Georgian/Russian Federation border
- The border between Moldova and Ukraine: to assess the level of co-operation of border and customs controls
- The OSCE Missions in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo: to gain first hand information for a study on lessons learnt and best practices following several enhancements to the Spillover Mission to Skopje during 2001. Subsequent material has resulted in significant initiatives being put in place which further streamline mission procedures.

As part of the Centre's role of supporting Missions, the Head of the Operation Centre stood in as Deputy Head of the Spillover Mission to Skopje, during a six-week gap between outgoing and incoming incumbents for the post.

Important developments in liaison were driven forward during the reporting period. The Operation Centre Liaison Officer visited UNDPKO in March in order to establish first operational contacts with respective Heads of Sections and Units. In May the Head of the Centre and the Liaison Officer participated as observers in the first EU exercise, CME 02. More generally a number of visits were made during the year to NATO and European Union interlocutors. Regular staff-level meetings organized and co-ordinated by the Operation Centre took place in both Vienna and Brussels. In addition, there was participation in a number of other conferences and symposia dealing with operational liaison issues.

For 2003 it is foreseen that the role of the Operation Centre will continue to diversify, with significant additional responsibilities being assumed in the fields of analytical capacity and border related issues in general.

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**The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)** has, under its new Director, continued to provide advice to the Chairmanship and active support to all OSCE missions and field activities.

The CPC has continued its support to field activities, as well as providing the operational planning function for the Organization as a whole. Furthermore, the CPC has begun to look more closely at border security, monitoring and border management matters. It is sensed that the OSCE will have to become even more actively involved in these issues.

All these recurrent and new tasks, including an increased demand to provide back-ground, analytical and operational support to the Chairmanship-in-Office, make it necessary to strengthen this department in the Secretariat.

The CPC also fulfils a key function in the political-military dimension of security, an area that in many aspects has seen something of a renaissance during the past year. CPC staff will continue to support actively the specialised work of the Forum for Security Co-operation, while also continuing important field projects on the OSCE

Code of Conduct, on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and other related issues.

***Strengthening co-operation and co-ordination with partner countries and organizations***

This element of OSCE development in 2002 will be covered in the next part of this report.

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**Situation/Communications Room: essential support for the Organization through round-the-clock screening of incoming information**

The Situation/Communications Room continued to serve as a central point of contact, including in emergencies, between all OSCE Field Operations, the Chairmanship-in-Office, delegations and partner organizations, particularly outside working hours. Most importantly, the department provided support to Missions in both the co-ordination of medical evacuations and with daily security checks and reports to and from Missions in the field as and when necessary.

**Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit (FSC): increasing its output**

The FSC stepped up its activity and productivity, partly as a result of the Organization's focus on combating terrorism and partly because of the changes in the Forum's way of functioning. The FSC Support Unit provides additional technical and analytical support as well as undertaking project-related activities designed to assist participating States in meeting their politico-military commitments.

Both the *Bucharest Plan of Action* and the *Bishkek Programme of Action* have given a central role to the FSC within the Organization's anti-terrorism effort. The Unit's work on two key OSCE Documents – *The Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)* and *The Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* – constituted its primary contribution to combating terrorism.

The Unit was, *inter alia*, heavily involved with:

- preparation of the Forum's workshop to review implementation of the *OSCE Document on SALW* held on 6 – 7 February and expert meeting on combating terrorism within the politico-military dimension held on 14 – 15 May
- preparation of a comprehensive overview of the information exchanged on SALW
- development of special guidance for participating States information exchange and a set of best practice guides on SALW control measures

- conducting a number of project-related activities, including hosting a Central Asian regional meeting in Almaty in May, to improve the capacity of participating States to implement the *Document on SALW*
- providing a cross-border training programme on combating SALW trafficking for Uzbek officials at the Termez-Hayraton checkpoint with Afghanistan;
- facilitating discussion during the *Third Follow-Up Conference on the Code of Conduct* through the preparation of an overview of relevant annual information exchanged by participating States.

The FSC Support Unit responded to calls made during the Conference for increased awareness of the Code and proceeded with the practice of providing assistance in implementation of CSBMs through various seminars and roundtables for parliamentarians, military personnel and government officials. The Unit has also:

- organized national workshops on the Code in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and all Caucasus participating States
- held jointly with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly a regional seminar on democratic control of armed forces and the Code of Conduct in Belgrade
- facilitated information exchanges prescribed in the Vienna Document 1999 and other OSCE documents dealing with politico-military aspects of security.

The Unit also successfully advised the FSC in taking an unprecedented number of decisions regarding political oversight of the Communications Network. As the representative of the Secretary General for the Chairmanship-in-Office, the Unit chaired the OSCE Communications Group, which addressed all related issues and re-organized its sub-working groups, thereby increasing their effectiveness.

The FSC Support Unit encouraged and facilitated the delegations' efforts to modernise the network and made significant efforts to expand the number of OSCE States connected to it.

# OSCE PARTNERSHIPS FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION

*Multilateral institutions and regional security organizations  
have never been more important than today.*

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General

Ayhan Erarsel/OSCE



*OSCE meeting with regional and subregional organizations and initiatives on preventing and combating terrorism, Vienna, September 2002.*

Annual Report on Interaction between 97  
Organizations and Institutions in the OSCE Area

Annual Report on Interaction with Mediterranean 102  
and Asian Partners for Co-operation  
and Organizations and Institutions  
Outside the OSCE Area

# Annual Report on Interaction between Organizations and Institutions in the OSCE Area

Co-operation between the OSCE and its international partners in 2002 developed against the background of the international fight against terrorism and an ensuing need for increased co-ordination of international efforts. The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 were a strong additional catalyst for reviewing the existing co-operative instruments and looking into ways of improving interaction among international, regional and subregional organizations and initiatives. As OSCE Chairman-in-Office in 2002, Portuguese Foreign Minister Antonio Martins da Cruz, put it, preventing and combating terrorism is a 'fight that cannot be won by any single State or Organization'.

The OSCE's co-operation with partner States, organizations and institutions in this area was driven in particular by decisions of the 2001 Ministerial Council meeting in Bucharest and the 2002 Ministerial Council meeting in Porto.

*The Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism* of late 2001 gave new impetus to the OSCE's external interaction and co-operation. In Bucharest, the OSCE participating States pledged to 'reinforce and develop bilateral and multilateral co-operation within the OSCE, with the *United Nations* and with other international and regional organizations, in order to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations'. In line with the 1999 *Platform for Co-operative Security*, the OSCE was offered as the Organization that 'can take on a co-ordinating role for inter- and intra-regional initiatives'. The OSCE stressed its intention to 'promote dialogue within the OSCE area' as well as 'broaden dialogue with partners outside the OSCE area'.

Within days of the *Bucharest Ministerial Council*, the OSCE and the then UNODCCP (now UNODC) jointly organized the *Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter terrorism*. In a final declaration, participants underlined their determination to combat terrorism while fully respecting human rights and the rule of law.

The *Bishkek Programme of Action* identified specific measures to combat and prevent terrorism while paying particular attention to the challenges faced by the countries of Central Asia.

OSCE co-operation with other international organizations in the fight against terrorism culminated in a landmark high-level meeting on preventing and combating terrorism, which was organized and hosted by the Portuguese OSCE Chairmanship in June in Lisbon. The participants – among them representatives of the *Council of Europe*, NATO, the UN, the *European Union*, the *Commonwealth of Independent States* (CIS), the *Financial Action Task Force* (FATF), *Interpol* and many others – agreed on the need to reinforce the sharing of information and expertise. They confirmed their focus on strengthening co-operation in order to tackle effectively the problems which terrorism feeds upon, in particular: trafficking in arms, drugs and human beings; organized crime; money-laundering; and persistent regional conflicts and sources of instability.

To drive forward the implementation of the various documents, a Personal Representative on Matters related to Preventing and Combating Terrorism was appointed for 2002. A new unit – the *Action against Terrorism Unit* (ATU) – was established within the Secretariat to co-ordinate with international organizations on this issue.

With terrorism firmly on the agenda, the Porto Ministerial adopted the OSCE *Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism*, which, recalled the OSCE's role as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the

*United Nations Charter* and reiterated the OSCE's commitment undertaken in the framework of the *Charter for European Security* 'to co-operate more actively and closely...with other international organizations to meet threats and challenges to security'. For the first time, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives within the OSCE area, as well as partners outside the OSCE, were invited to participate in an OSCE Ministerial Council meeting.

In fighting trafficking in human beings, the OSCE continued to co-operate with other organizations within the framework of The Stability Pact *Trafficking Task Force*. The OSCE Gender Adviser participated regularly in meetings of the Task Force and in September she participated as a trainer in a seminar which launched the *Comprehensive Programme for Training, Co-operation and Exchange* to counter trafficking in human beings. Other areas of successful co-operation with The Stability Pact were parliamentary co-operation, gender issues, combating organized crime, media-related activities and Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Traditional meetings between the OSCE and its partner organizations continued. The annual target-oriented Tripartite Meeting and the High-level Tripartite Meeting have become symbols of the value the OSCE attaches to the inter-institutional consultation process. The aim is to improve co-ordination and co-operation in areas of common concern and to exchange information on major developments in the partner organizations. The Tripartite Meetings – organized and chaired on a rotating basis by the OSCE, the UN and the *Council of Europe* – were convened and hosted in

*Europe is on the move, its institutions and organizations have an established practice of discussions and coordination, by using their respective comparative advantages for joint action*

Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

February 2002 by the *Council of Europe* in Strasbourg. The *European Commission*, the *International Organization for Migration* and the *International Committee of the Red Cross* also participated. The General Secretariat of the Council of the EU will join this forum in 2003. Discussion focused on the fight against terrorism, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and on practicalities of co-operation on the ground, including research and training.

Closer links at all levels with the OSCE's **traditional partner organizations** remained at the core of the OSCE's external co-operation.

This is directly reflected in the work of the *Section for External Co-operation* which bears primary responsibility for implementing co-operation in conjunction with other substantive units of the Secretariat. Its tasks have expanded considerably. To further increase efficiency, a system of desk officers was introduced over the past year and the Section was also tasked with more co-ordinating and analytical functions.



The OSCE's long-standing co-operation with the **United Nations** and its specialized agencies continued to advance and was strengthened by a variety of means outlined in the *Platform for Co-operative Security*, as well as the *Framework for Co-operation in Peace-building* that was presented at the Fourth High-level Meeting between the *UN and Regional Organizations* in December 2001, in New York.

Apart from participation in the high-level Tripartite Meeting, the OSCE Secretary General held regular consultations with principals of various parts of the UN System. In particular, in the aftermath of 11 September, a discussion was initiated with the UN Secretary-General on the OSCE's role in the context of events in Afghanistan and the process of development and stabilisation in Central Asia. Reciprocal high-level contacts were extended to the respective governmental bodies, the UN General Assembly and the OSCE Permanent Council.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Secretary General addressed the UN General Assembly (the latter in December 2001), while both the outgoing and incoming High Commissioners for Human Rights and the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva were invited to address the OSCE participating States in the course of the year.

As a regional arrangement under the terms of the *Charter of the UN*, the OSCE was frequently invited to contribute to the work of various UN bodies, such as the *UN Commission on Human Rights*. Reciprocally, relevant UN agencies took active part in a number of regular events in the OSCE calendar, such as the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* and the *Economic Forum*, as well as regular meetings of heads of OSCE missions. Similar regular consultations and co-ordination processes were enacted on the ground between OSCE field missions and UN regional missions and offices.

However it was primarily working level contacts with the UN that took on a new dimension in 2002, in the spirit of the *Framework for Co-operation in Peace-building*. Firstly, a delegation of senior officials from the OSCE Secretariat visited the UN and UNDP Headquarters in December 2001, leading to a number of agreements on issues such as sharing relevant internal reports, as well as exchanging staff, lessons learned and training. It was the first time such structured bilateral consultations were held between the two organizations and it was agreed that they should become part of a regular, annual process. In the same vein, the OSCE participated in a working-level follow-up meeting between the *UN and Regional Organizations* in New York from 30 April to 2 May 2002, focusing on the practicalities of implementing the Framework. Finally, a catalogue of concrete methods of co-operation was established between the OSCE and the *UN Economic Commission for Europe*.

Such contacts between the respective Headquarters were complemented by a number of concrete projects aimed at addressing security-related issues under the respective organizations' mandates. Many of the several hundred projects at various stages of development in OSCE field missions were elaborated in partnership with other organizations and institutions.

A major study on *Trafficking in Human Beings in Europe*, for example, was published by ODIHR, in conjunction with the UNHCHR and UNICEF. The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities conducted a joint conference, *Promoting Integration and Development in the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region of Georgia*, with the UNDP, in November 2002. The main aim of the conference was to draw the attention of the international community to the problems facing that region.

Arguably the key event in 2002 was the Bishkek Conference, organized jointly by the OSCE and the UNODCCP (now UNODC), leading to the adoption of the *Bishkek Plan of Action*.

It was in south-eastern Europe (SEE) in particular that the OSCE – through its field operations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia and Montenegro – and the UN worked together more closely. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) is the institution-building pillar of UNMIK, the UN Mission in Kosovo. Throughout the region, co-operation and co-ordination among the various players from the international community is part of a closely knit framework. This takes the form of inter-institutional working groups, task forces and principals' boards that meet regularly to co-ordinate policy, elaborate road maps and provide division of labour on the many issues facing the international community's efforts to consolidate the peace and stabilisation processes in SEE. In addition, a large number of joint projects are implemented throughout SEE in each of the three dimensions of security.



The OSCE Secretary General, Ján Kubis, and the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.



The OSCE Mission in Kosovo is the institution-building pillar of UNMIK, the UN Mission in Kosovo.

The agenda for the future of OSCE-UN co-operation in SEE will be determined by the rapidly evolving situation, in view of the momentous improvements in stability across the region, the considerable progress achieved through the signing by Croatia and Albania of *Stabilization and Association Agreements* with the EU and the need to reallocate tasks as some organizations begin their disengagement process.

In South Caucasus, the OSCE is actively supporting the UN-led peace process in Abkhazia, Georgia aimed at a peaceful resolution of the conflict. In addition, the OSCE Mission to Georgia is seconding staff to the UN Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia (HROAG) and is ready to make a secondment to a prospective HROAG to be opened in the Gali district of Abkhazia, in accordance with the recommendation of the Joint Assessment Mission that visited the region in November 2000.

In their important efforts to assist the five Central Asian participating States in complying with OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of security, the OSCE field presences in Central Asia have established close partnerships with UN agencies active in the region.

As part of its increasing efforts to assist the Central Asian States in implementing commitments enshrined in the OSCE *Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons*, the OSCE organized the first regional seminar on small arms, aimed at establishing inter-governmental institutionalized dialogue and co-ordination on small arms trafficking in

the region. As part of the follow-up to the seminar, the OSCE contributed a specialized training course to a UNODC-led inter-agency cross-border training initiative at the Termez checkpoint on the border between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

In a further effort to promote inter-state co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension, the OSCE and the UNECE jointly assisted the governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in setting up an inter-state water commission on the Chu and Talas rivers, in order to secure effective implementation of the trans-boundary water agreement signed between the two countries.



Co-operation with the **Council of Europe** continued over the reporting period on the firm foundations that have been in place for several years, both at headquarters and in the field. At the headquarters level, the OSCE attaches great importance to the continued organization of frequent high- and senior-level co-ordination meetings. The OSCE '3+3' senior

level meeting in July proved its great value as it drew attention to the organizations' individual and joint actions in the fight against terrorism. It also touched upon the topics of trafficking in human beings, policing, election observation and multi-cultural and inter-religious dialogue in a regional context.

The organizations' Secretaries General addressed respective meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna and the Committee of Ministers at the level of deputies in Strasbourg. They briefed on relevant political developments, such as the outcome of Ministerials and reported on topical issues of co-operation between the two organizations. Both underlined their commitment to building upon the bedrock of interaction that has been developed over the years.

The two organizations are in close direct contact and both regularly participate in seminars and meetings. One result of a joint working effort in the area of training will be the publication of a *European Human Rights Field Mission Manual* by mid-2003.

*The OSCE field presences in Central Asia have been very active in promoting human rights and democratic reform as crucial elements in the promotion of a holistic concept of human security, and our co-operation with them has been very fruitful. This has been particularly true in Tajikistan, where the OSCE field presence and the UN Tajikistan Office for Peace-Building support each other in implementing common human rights programs and collaborate in dealing with individual cases.*

Mary Robinson, The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Both organizations have continued to engage in concerted efforts and build on each other's specific experiences and strengths in the field. The support from, *inter alia*, the CoE for the continuation of the activities of the OSCE and its presence in Belarus was strong and visible and will remain of critical importance in the future.

With South Caucasus increasingly a priority also for the CoE, it is interesting to note that the OSCE Representatives in Armenia and Azerbaijan shared premises with CoE staff in Yerevan and Baku respectively, throughout 2002. This 'co-habitation' led to greater co-operation and consultation over the whole range of joint activities in the legislative, elections, anti-corruption, media and monitoring spheres. It has enabled both organizations to present a common position on issues of relevance to their mandates and thus constituted a further example of successful co-operation.

In the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, the OSCE and the CoE were the only international organizations with permanently deployed staff over the course of 2002. The OSCE field presence and the CoE experts deployed in the office of the Russian Federation President's Special Representative on the Protection of Human Rights in Chechnya, were both based in the village of Znamenskoye in the north of the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, which guaranteed a constant exchange of information between them.

The *Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights* (ODIHR) closely co-operated with a range of organizations during election observation missions in the field and at headquarters level to ensure that international observers gave a coherent message. In this area, it has worked closely with, *inter alia*, the Parliamentary Assemblies of both the OSCE and the CoE, the CoE *Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe* (CLRAE), and with the *European Commission* (EC) and Parliament.

In order to increase the co-ordination and strength of international parliamentary projects, all Parliamentary Assemblies are represented in Parliamentary Troikas. A Parliamentary Troika worked with the OSCE Presence in Albania to help the Albanian Parliament develop democratic parliamentary practices and to help enact a new Constitution. At the same time, a Parliamentary Troika including the OSCE PA *Ad Hoc* Committee on Belarus was engaged in an effort to promote dialogue and democratic development in Belarus and in south-eastern Europe. The Parliamentary bodies made joint efforts to establish a parliamentary dimension within *The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe*. After the OSCE and the CoE, it will be the turn of the European Parliament to assume the Chair of the Parliamentary Troika from the start of 2003.

Given the evolving security situation in the OSCE area and with an increasing number of OSCE participating States becoming members of the EU and NATO, co-operation and co-ordination with these two organizations at all levels will become even more important in the future.



When the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the **European Union** (EU), Javier Solana, addressed the OSCE Permanent Council (PC), he confirmed that the OSCE and the EC are natural partners. He also stated that co-operation between the EU and OSCE, especially in view of EU enlargement, will strengthen and deepen throughout the coming years.

In the area of civil conflict management, the OSCE was able to share its experiences and discuss future co-operation when EU representatives visited the Secretariat on two occasions during the reporting period. An important step forward in relations between the OSCE and the EU was taken when the EU *Political and Security Committee* (PSC) Troika visited Vienna, as it was the first such ambassadorial level visit.

As the OSCE's field presence expanded over the past years, co-operation between EU and OSCE missions developed significantly. 2002 marked the first time that the Head of the EC Delegation to a country was invited to address an informal meeting of the participating States, together with the OSCE Head of Mission. In this case it was the Head of the EC Delegation to Croatia who spoke alongside the OSCE Head of Mission in Croatia. The EC Head of Delegation described the co-operation between EU and OSCE as a 'win-win' situation, with the host country being the third winner.

In Central Asia, co-operation between the EU and the OSCE also reached a significant level during 2002. Almost half of the projects of ODIHR in Central Asia during 2002 were EU-funded. ODIHR and the EC continued their second joint programme for advancing human rights and democratization in Central Asia. The new projects covered two main themes: strengthening the rule of law by providing assistance to the reform of the region's penitentiary system, human rights bodies and relevant legislation; and building capacity within civil society through human rights monitoring training and other assistance projects.

OSCE representatives were invited to visit Brussels on a number of occasions. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Secretary General met the EU Ministerial Troika in Brussels and OSCE officials were repeatedly invited to address the *Council Working Group on the OSCE* (COSCE). It is anticipated that co-operation at the working level will be enhanced during 2003 by the introduction of regular meetings at a senior official level. These will complement day-to-day co-operation by means of regular informal contacts at expert level between the Commission and Council Secretariat and OSCE Secretariat.

Policing issues were one of the priorities in 2002. The OSCE Senior Police Adviser held consultations with police representatives from the EC on planned co-operation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. These discussions resulted in a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) between the OSCE and the EC on police-related issues in that country.

The EU also supported the OSCE as relations between the OSCE Assistance and Monitoring Group and the Belarusian authorities came under pressure in the course of 2002, culminating when the last remaining international mission member left Belarus after having been denied extensions of its accreditation at the end of October. The EU issued a number of statements expressing support for a continued OSCE field presence in Belarus.



Co-operation with the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** (NATO) was especially active

in the field. Throughout south-eastern Europe, the OSCE liaised with NATO and others to organize elections, promote cross-border co-operation and border management issues. NATO was instrumental in providing a secure environment for OSCE activities in former crisis areas. One of the priorities was the working relationship between the OSCE and NATO in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, including NATO *Civilian*, NATO *Amber Fox* and NATO *Task Force Fox*. Co-operation has been close and boosted the Mission's ability to implement tasks as outlined in the *Ohrid Framework Agreement*. This strong link, along with those to the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) and the European Union Special Representative (EUSR), proved vital to the return of 24-hour policing in the former crisis regions and to continued efforts in confidence building and implementing the policy of community based policing.

With Tajikistan joining NATO's *Partnership for Peace Programme* on 20 February 2002, all five Central Asian participating States have now a close link with NATO. The OSCE will look into possibilities for possible further co-operation. The importance which the Central Asian participating States attach to NATO was reflected by their high-level representation at the *Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council Summit* meeting in November 2002.

The OSCE's Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and NATO's Science for Peace joined forces in support of the *South Caucasus River Monitoring Project*. The operational phase of the project started in December.

The purpose is to overcome gaps in unified water standards and bring about a consistent application of international standards throughout the region and to re-establish regional water-monitoring systems and databases.

At the headquarters level, regular OSCE/NATO staff-level meetings took place in both Vienna and Brussels, which substantially improved information sharing on the organizations' respective activities in the field and on general issues of common interest.

In accordance with established practice, partner organizations were invited to the OSCE's regular Heads of Mission Meetings.

In 2002, the OSCE reinvigorated co-operation with **regional and subregional organizations and initiatives** within its area. The OSCE moved decisively towards establishing itself as a 'forum for subregional co-operation' – a mandate that was approved by the participating States in the 1999 *Charter for European Security*, which recognized subregional co-operation as 'an important element in enhancing security across the OSCE area.'

In line with this mandate and in implementation of the *Bucharest Plan of Action*, the OSCE Secretary General convened a meeting of Heads of regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives to exchange information on their activities in preventing and combating terrorism and to identify areas for future co-operation. The meeting, which took place in Vienna in September, was attended by representatives of some 25 organizations and initiatives. Among them were the OSCE traditional partner organizations (UN, CoE, EU, and NATO) and practically all regional and subregional groupings operating in the OSCE area, such as the *Council of the Baltic Sea States* (CBSS), *Central European Initiative* (CEI), the *Organization of the Black Sea*

*Economic Co-operation* (BSEC), *Southeast European Cooperative Initiative* (SECI), *Organization of Central Asian Co-operation* (CAC), GUUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova), and many others.

This marked the first such gathering in this format. Participants discussed a number of concrete steps to improve co-operation among themselves and the OSCE. In particular, it was agreed to appoint liaison officers/contact points to maintain regular working-level functional links between relevant permanent structures and working bodies, to improve exchange of information and co-ordination of activities and events. Having recognized the meeting as a very successful and useful event, participants agreed to convene a follow-up meeting at the level of heads of organizations and initiatives in the second half of 2003 to discuss progress achieved and identify next steps to be taken.

'Bilateral' links with regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives were also strengthened. A representative of the Chairman-in-Office attended the summit of the *Central European Initiative* in November 2002 in Skopje, while the OSCE Secretary General represented the OSCE at the *First Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia* (CICA) in Almaty in June, and at the GUUAM Summit in Yalta in July. In June, a representative of the OSCE Secretariat attended the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of participating states of the *South East European Cooperation Process* (CEECP). After being asked to provide support to the GUUAM countries on implementation of the *Free Trade Agreement* signed last July by the Heads of State of Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan, the OSCE Secretariat's Office of the Coordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEAA) organized a working party in Kyiv, Ukraine in November.

*NATO and the OSCE do indeed reinforce each other, towards our common goal: the creation of a Euro-Atlantic area whole, free, at peace and respecting the fundamental human rights of all.*

Günther Altenburg, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs

# Annual Report on Interaction with Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and Organizations and Institutions Outside the OSCE Area

## Co-operation with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation

Within the framework of the OSCE's Mediterranean dialogue, the Organization continued to foster relations with its **Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation** (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia). The OSCE Secretariat's External Co-operation Section supported the Netherlands Chairmanship of the *Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation* in enhancing dialogue with them. During the period under review, meetings of the Contact Group – which bring together participating States and *Mediterranean Partners* – focused on addressing: new challenges and their effect upon the security, economy and social structures; the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*; small arms and light weapons; and economic and environmental issues. Representatives from the EU Presidency, NATO and the CoE Secretariats were invited to elaborate on their organizations' framework of co-operation with their respective *Mediterranean Partners*.

The annual OSCE Mediterranean Seminar, *Media and New Technologies: Implications for Governments, International Organizations and Civil Society* was hosted by the Government of Greece on the island of Rhodes. A clear message emerging from the Seminar was that new media and technologies could be an important vehicle for closer cooperation and interaction between peoples, as well as broader dissemination and understanding of OSCE ideas, values and principles. The *Mediterranean Partners* participated in other OSCE activities throughout the year, such as the Economic Forum.

As one of the innovations set for 2002, the OSCE will initiate a number of outreach activities to the Mediterranean Partner States.

The *Mediterranean Partners* and the OSCE **Partners for Co-operation in Asia** (Japan, Korea and Thailand), meeting on the eve of the Ministerial Council in Porto with the OSCE Troika, headed by the Portuguese Chairman-in-Office, assessed current relations with a view to their enhancement. Rethinking relations with the *Partners for Co-operation* also led to practical suggestions on setting up a Contact Group with the *Asian Partners for Co-operation*.

Partners provided international polling supervisors for the municipal elections held in Kosovo in October 2002.

The Thai Government hosted an OSCE Thailand Conference in Bangkok on the human dimension of security, with a focus on networking, security-related issues, human trafficking and terrorism. Various recommendations were made including: the establishment of intellectual and academic networks between the OSCE and Asia; increasing co-operation in confidence-building measures, sharing of experience on security-related issues between the ARF and the OSCE; the reconciliation of terms of human security and the human dimension of security; the establishment of a human trafficking information network, the sharing of expertise on legislation related to trafficking and terrorism; as well as training programmes for law enforcement agencies. One of the main issues for further discussion is preventive diplomacy. This will be explored ahead of the next OSCE *Partner Conference* scheduled to take place in Tokyo, Japan early in 2004.

All Partners were invited to participate at OSCE Permanent Council meetings, such as special PC meetings on combating terrorism and on OSCE – EU relations.

## Co-operation with Organizations and Institutions outside the OSCE Area

In the aftermath of 11 September 2001, the *Bucharest Plan of Action on Combating Terrorism* adopted at the 2001 *Bucharest Ministerial Council Meeting* called for a broadening of the dialogue with **partners outside the OSCE area** 'to exchange best practices and lessons learned in counter-terrorism efforts for application within the OSCE area.' The Organization also focused on inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue in its contacts with partners.

Headway was made in relations between the OSCE and regional organizations outside the OSCE area. Although a number of them had formerly expressed interest in becoming better acquainted with OSCE structures and negotiating bodies, contacts in the past had been sporadic and *ad hoc*. In 2002, a number of significant steps were taken towards laying the foundations to increase interaction and intensify co-operation. Even greater potential exists to extend the level of co-operation in 2003, with a number of initiatives already under consideration.

In the period under review, the OSCE Secretariat intensified relations with the *Organisation of African Unity/African Union* (OAU/AU), the *Organization of the Islamic Conference* (OIC) and the *League of Arab States*. An OSCE workshop on the Helsinki Process took place at OAU/AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa in February 2002, during which representatives of the AU Secretariat expressed interest in maintaining contacts and regular exchange of information. Moreover, following a visit paid by the OAU/AU to the OSCE Secretariat in June 2002, further interest was expressed in experience gained by the OSCE in crisis management, combating terrorism, small arms and light weapons, confidence building measures, as well as field activities and election observation. Both the visit and the workshop were sponsored by the Austrian Government.



The OSCE Secretariat (External Co-operation Section) hosted a delegation from the Secretariat of the *Organization of the Islamic Conference* (OIC) in July 2002. The OIC identified a number of areas of particular interest where further co-operation would be desirable, including the struggle against terrorism, dialogue of civilizations, cultures and religions, economic and environmental issues, small arms and light weapons and mission readiness techniques.

Furthermore, the OSCE Secretary General met the Secretary General of the *League of Arab States*, in May 2002. They agreed to exchange focal points between the two organizations with a view to facilitating the exchange of information.

Further contacts with organizations outside the OSCE area included a meeting between the OSCE Secretary General and Foreign Minister Namhong of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in his capacity as President of the *Association of South East Asian Nations' Regional Forum* ASEAN/ARF, who in Porto emphasized that the ARF had moved a step forward in enhancing the role of its Chair in interacting with external partners, regional groupings and international organizations alike.

With regard to the *Organization of American States* (OAS), regular annual discussions on freedom of the media issues take place between the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion. In 2002, participants discussed regional developments in Africa and the ASEAN region. Final Declarations adopted by the three representatives included statements on: countering terror and protecting human rights; broadcasting and the internet; the administration of justice; commercialization and freedom of expression and criminal defamation.

Overall, during the reporting period, the OSCE's co-operation with partner organizations became more operational, reflecting the importance the Organization attaches to the close link between the development of policies at headquarters and their subsequent implementation in the field.

Closer co-ordination of programmes and projects in regions of common interest has increasingly become a distinctive feature of partner relations. The OSCE has established new contacts, such as those with partners outside the OSCE area, in addition to intensifying and making more operational the existing relationships.

Under the guidance of the Netherlands Chairmanship in 2003, the OSCE will continue to strengthen co-operation and harmonize co-ordination with other international, regional and subregional organizations and initiatives as well as Partners for Co-operation in accordance with the decisions of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto.

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### EASTERN EUROPE

#### OSCE Office in Minsk

(came into existence 1 January 2003)

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#### OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus (closed on 31 December 2002)

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#### OSCE Centre in Tashkent

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For more information, please visit the OSCE website: [www.osce.org/field\\_activities/](http://www.osce.org/field_activities/)

## Abbreviations

<b>ABA</b> American Bar Association	<b>NATO</b> North Atlantic Treaty Organization
<b>AG</b> OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya*	<b>NGO</b> Non-governmental organization
<b>AMG</b> OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus*	<b>NPMS</b> Non-Participating Mediterranean State*
<b>BiH</b> Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>NRC</b> Norwegian Refugee Council
<b>BSEC</b> Black Sea Economic Co-operation	<b>OAS</b> Organization of American States
<b>CBMs</b> Confidence-Building Measures* see CSBMs	<b>OCEEA</b> Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
<b>CBSS</b> Council of the Baltic Sea States	<b>ODCCP</b> Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention* see UNODC
<b>CFE</b> Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (Treaty)	<b>ODIHR</b> OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
<b>CEDAW</b> UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	<b>OECD</b> Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>CEELI</b> Central and East European Law Initiative	<b>OFE</b> Office for Free Elections*
<b>CiO</b> Chairman-in-Office (of the OSCE)	<b>OGRF</b> Operational Group of Russian Forces (in Moldova)
<b>CIS</b> Commonwealth of Independent States	<b>OHR</b> Office of the High Representative (in BiH)
<b>CoE</b> Council of Europe	<b>OMiFRY</b> OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*
<b>CPC</b> Conflict Prevention Centre (of the OSCE)	<b>OMIK</b> OSCE Mission in Kosovo
<b>CSCE</b> Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe*	<b>OSCE</b> Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>CSBMs</b> Confidence- and Security-Building Measures	<b>OSCC</b> Open Skies Consultative Commission
<b>CSO</b> Committee of Senior Officials* Dayton (Peace Accords) see GFAP	<b>PA</b> Parliamentary Assembly (of the OSCE)
<b>EAPC</b> Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council	<b>PC</b> Permanent Council (of the OSCE)
<b>EAR</b> European Agency for Reconstruction	<b>PR</b> Personal Representative (of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office)
<b>EBRD</b> European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	<b>REACT</b> Rapid Expert Assistance Co-operation Teams (of the OSCE)
<b>EC</b> European Commission	<b>RFOM</b> OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
<b>EUMM</b> European Community Monitoring Mission	<b>SAM</b> Sanctions Assistance Mission*
<b>EU</b> European Union	<b>SC</b> Senior Council* (of the OSCE)
<b>FoA</b> Friends of Albania	<b>SECI</b> South-eastern European Co-operative Initiative
<b>FRY</b> Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*	<b>SFOR</b> Stabilization Force (in BiH)
<b>FSC</b> OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation	<b>TACIS</b> Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>fyROM</b> former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<b>UNDP</b> United Nations Development Programme
<b>GFAP</b> General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (also known as Dayton/Paris Peace Accords)	<b>UN-ECE</b> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>HCNM</b> OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities	<b>UNHCR</b> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>HLPG</b> High-Level Planning Group	<b>UNHCHR</b> United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>HoM</b> Head of Mission (of the OSCE)	<b>UNODC</b> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>HROAG</b> UN Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia	<b>UNOMIG</b> United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
<b>ICRC</b> International Committee of the Red Cross	<b>UNTAES UN</b> Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (Croatia)*
<b>ICTY</b> International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia	<b>USAID</b> United States Agency for International Development
<b>IDP</b> Internally Displaced Person	<b>WEU</b> Western European Union
<b>ICMP</b> International Commission on Missing Persons	<b>WTO</b> Warsaw Treaty Organization*
<b>IFES</b> International Foundation for Electoral Systems	
<b>IOM</b> International Organization for Migration	
<b>JCG</b> Joint Consultative Group	
<b>JCC</b> Joint Control Commission (Georgia)	
<b>KFOR</b> Kosovo Force (NATO-led protection mission)	
<b>KVM</b> Kosovo Verification Mission*	
<b>MPCs</b> Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation	
<b>MG</b> Minsk Group (of the OSCE)	

\* Abbreviations of bodies no longer in existence or whose names have changed

### About the front cover main picture:

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo has conducted three consecutive electoral operations in the province since 2000. This includes Municipal Elections in 2000 and 2002, as well as the Kosovo-wide Assembly Election in 2001. To ensure that all polling station committee members adhere to the procedural rules governing polling activities, OSCE international polling station supervisors ran through a series of simulations in preparation for election day.

### About the back cover main picture:

The OSCE Mission to Moldova verifies the removal of Russian military equipment from the Transnistrian region of Moldova. A train – with 47 open platforms loaded with 77 military trucks – left Tiraspol on 16 December, followed by 29 rail cars carrying bridge-building equipment and other material on 24 December. These activities were undertaken as part of the Russian Federation's Istanbul Summit commitments.

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