



**Report on the meeting between the OSCE Ministerial Troika  
and the Asian Partners for Co-operation  
on the margins of the Dublin Ministerial Council**

The annual meeting between the OSCE Ministerial Troika and the Asian Partners for Co-operation, with the participation of the OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, took place on 7 December 2012, on the margins of the Dublin Ministerial Council. The meeting was chaired by Joe Costello, Minister of State of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland.

In opening the meeting, Minister of State Joe Costello noted that during its Chairmanship Ireland has worked towards enhancing the Partners' involvement in the OSCE meetings and activities. He praised the Asian Partners' contributions to the OSCE work and further described the Asian Partnership as a mutually beneficial process for exchanges of views on issues of common interest and for practical co-operation in addressing shared security challenges.

Representing the Chair of the Asian Contact Group, Lithuanian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Evaldas Ignatavičius appreciated the work done by the group throughout the year. The Contact Group meetings provided opportunities for briefings by and exchanges with representatives of international organizations, NGOs and OSCE experts. Contributing to a more secure Afghanistan constituted a priority for Lithuania and the projects initiated by Mongolia, for a training of Afghan diplomats, and Thailand, for sharing their approach to countering drugs production with alternative and sustainable development initiatives, were highly appreciated.

Ambassador of Australia David Stuart noted that his country supported a number of OSCE projects and planned to continue contributing to the work of the Organization of which Australia shared the values. Australia appreciated in particular the OSCE innovative approach as well as its co-operation with civil society and believed that the OSCE could be a source of inspiration for other regions, especially when considering regional security arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region. He also provided more information about Australia's offer to host the 2013 OSCE Conference with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, which will focus on gender issues.

Mr. Kazuya Shimba, Japanese Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that Japan's contribution to the OSCE was based on two main pillars: active participation in OSCE meetings and financial support to projects, especially related to Central Asia and

Afghanistan. The OSCE experience was considered of significance in building a multilateral security framework in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Cho Hyun mentioned that his country had long considered how to apply the OSCE multilateral approach to security to Northeast Asia and the Six-party talks. The Mongolian experience, as a Partner becoming an OSCE participating State, suggested the possibility of following the same path, which would have an effective impact if also other actors would consider it. Korea was very satisfied with the level of co-operation with the OSCE, especially on addressing non-traditional security threats and soft security issues.

Mr. Sarun Charoensuwan, Director-General of the Department of European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, stated his Government's continued support to co-operation with the OSCE and in particular with Afghanistan. As Europe and Asia faced common challenges and their security was interdependent, they were natural partners. Thailand would support a stronger co-operation between the OSCE and ASEAN; in particular, it would encourage closer networking with ARF. Thailand would be ready to serve as bridge builder in this respect. Thailand also considered of great importance the OSCE work in the human dimension and hoped that co-operation in this field would be intensified.

Ambassador of Ukraine Ihor Prokopchuk, representative of the incoming 2013 OSCE Ukrainian Chairmanship, mentioned that he looked forward to enhancing co-operation with the Asian Partners both in Vienna and in the capitals, in order to fully implement the Vilnius Ministerial Council decision on the Partners.

The OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier expressed his satisfaction with the positive assessments made of the Asian Partnership. Encouraging developments in 2012 included the informal exchanges held in Vienna between the Secretary General and the Partners and the intensification of Partner-to-Partner co-operation. He also briefed about the progress being made on the OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. He supported an even stronger engagement of the Partners in the OSCE dialogue, including in the Helsinki+40 process on the future agenda and vision of the OSCE role and expanding the dialogue to include the civil society through wide Track II initiatives.

All participants commended the successful 2012 OSCE Thailand Conference and thanked Australia for offering to host the Conference in 2013. They also thanked the Secretary General for initiating a process of informal consultations with the Partners, in implementation of the Vilnius Decision No. 5/11. The admission of Mongolia to join the OSCE as new participating State was welcomed as a sign of continued relevance of the Organization.

In concluding, Minister of State Joe Costello noted that the Asian Partnership was widely considered as a mutually beneficial and that the Helsinki+40 process could be expected to bring forward such relationship.