

OSCE HIGHLIGHTS

4 September 2008

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Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

OSCE has opportunity for larger role in Kosovo, UNMIK head says

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Lamberto Zannier, the Special Representative for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), at the OSCE Permanent Council, in Vienna, 4 September 2008. Photo: OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev

OSCE BACKGROUND

OSCE Mission to Georgia

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THE OSCE AT WORK

500th flight under Open Skies treaty

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EVENTS CALENDAR

MOSCOW, 8-9 September Visit of ODIHR Director Janez Lenarcic

Janez Lenarcic, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), is scheduled to travel to Moscow for talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and other officials. Contact: jens.eschenbaecher AT odihhr.pl

HELSINKI, 10-11 September Successful Prosecution of Human Trafficking – Challenges and Good Practices

Organized by the Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship, the conference aims at enhancing national capacities to successfully prosecute cases of all forms of human trafficking, taking into account the need for trafficking victims to be protected and assisted. Contact: blanca.tapia AT osce.org

PRISHTINE/PRISTINA, 15 September Visit of high-level delegation from Greece

A high-level delegation from Greece, which will take over the annual OSCE Chairmanship from Finland on 1 January 2009, will visit Kosovo to meet the senior management of the OSCE Mission as well as Kosovo authorities. Contact: elli.flen AT osce.org

VIENNA, 15-16 September 2008 Follow-Up OSCE Conference on Public-Private Partnerships in Countering Terrorism

Organized by the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit, the conference aims to take stock of developments in the area of public-private partnerships (PPP) in combating terrorism since the 2007 high-level OSCE PPP Conference, and to further explore the concrete potential for such co-operation. Contact:

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He said the OSCE had already left an important legacy in terms of contribution to peace and security and noted that the Organization was well-positioned to carry out what he called "soft intervention" in the field of civil administration by continuing to develop strong personal ties at the local level through an advising, mentoring and mediating role.

UNMIK also considered stronger joint action with the OSCE essential in the fields of protection of minority communities and of returns of displaced persons, Zannier said.

The changes affecting UNMIK presented the OSCE with opportunities and challenges, Zannier said, adding that stronger co-operation was needed. For more information, visit the website www.osce.org/item/32819.html

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OSCE Mission to Georgia

With tensions between Georgia and Russia rising last month, the OSCE Mission to Georgia worked intensively to defuse the situation.

The OSCE Mission to Georgia has been present on the ground since 1992, with a field office in Tskhinvali since 1997. The field office was operational until it could be evacuated in the afternoon of 8 August.

Prior to the conflict, the Mission had some 200 staff, including eight unarmed military monitoring officers mandated to carry out continuous monitoring in the zone of conflict and report back to the OSCE Chairmanship and participating States in Vienna. On 19 August the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna agreed to increase the number of OSCE monitors in the Mission to Georgia to up to 100.

The decision called for 20 unarmed military monitoring officers to be deployed immediately to "areas adjacent to South Ossetia"; most of these monitors, recruited from OSCE participating States, are on the ground, while consultations on the modalities for the remaining monitors are under way.

Permanent Council Decision on increasing the number of military monitoring officers in the OSCE Mission to Georgia: www.osce.org/item/32615.html

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500th flight under Open Skies treaty

A Benelux flight over Bosnia and Herzegovina on 20 August was the 500th flight conducted under the Open Skies treaty, which allows State Parties to carry out unarmed observation flights over each other's territories. Observers from Canada, Norway and the Czech Republic also took part in the flight.

The Open Skies treaty was negotiated under OSCE auspices and entered into force in January 2002. It was designed to enhance mutual understanding and confidence by giving all participants the possibility to obtain information on military or other activities of concern to them. Open Skies is the most wide-ranging international effort to date to promote openness and transparency of military forces and their activities.

The treaty continues to serve as a useful and efficient confidence-building tool, even with the availability of satellite technology. It has made a significant contribution to security and stability in the European area and beyond. The

VIENNA, 18 September Presentation of the Annual Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality

The OSCE Secretary General will present the evaluation report to the Permanent Council. The aim of the report is to analyze to what extent the goals, activities and tasks of the Action Plan have been implemented, to identify challenges to implementation, and to provide recommendations to address these. Contact: press AT osce.org.

TORONTO, 18-21 September Fall Meetings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The OSCE PA's 2008 Fall Meetings will be hosted by the Parliament of Canada. The meetings include an inter-parliamentary conference focused on the OSCE in an Open World: Trade, Migration, and Security, a session of the Assembly's Standing Committee of Heads of Delegations and a Forum on the Mediterranean. Contact: klas AT ocepa.dk

MINSK, 29 September Preliminary findings from 28 September Belarus parliamentary elections

The International Election Observation Mission deployed to monitor the 28 September parliamentary elections in Belarus to announce preliminary findings and conclusions. Contact: jens.eschenbaecher AT odih.r.pl

TASHKENT, 29-30 September Police and Inter-agency Co- operation in the Fight against Terrorism in Central Asia

This regional workshop, organized by the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit in co-operation with the Action Against Terrorism Unit and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, aims to explore and discuss ways to identify and improve co-operation among national stakeholders in the Central Asia region, not only in the prevention and investigation of terrorism, but also on how to better co-ordinate efforts in case of an attack. Contact: manuel.marion AT osce.org

Open Skies flights have been used to address threats posed, for example, by natural disasters.

The treaty depositaries are Canada and Hungary. All are OSCE participating States.

For more information about the Open Skies Treaty, the OSCC, and the observation flights, please see: www.osce.org/about/13516.html Contact: press AT osce.org

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OSCE Project Co-ordinator helps former military pilots start civilian careers

A joint project by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator and the Ukrainian Defence Ministry is helping former military pilots and technical staff to succeed in civilian life.

Recent graduates, including 16 former military pilots and 14 technical staff, have found work with the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency Situations' newly established Special Airplane Fire-Fighting Division. They underwent a three-month training programme that included practical training and flight practice.

Training military pilots requires substantial financial resources and the project, aimed at supporting reform of Ukraine's armed forces, helps them use their skills in a similar, but civilian, capacity.

The project is funded by U.S. Mission to the OSCE, the Finnish Mission to the OSCE and by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. Last year 1,044 military servicepersons in 25 cities throughout Ukraine received training, and nearly nine in ten trainees found new jobs.

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OSCE assists Albanian courts to put domestic violence law into practice

The OSCE Presence in Albania and the United States Agency for International Development have published a judicial manual to help courts implement the country's law on domestic violence.

The Albanian Judicial Bench Book on Protection Orders provides judges with guidance in interpreting and implementing the law, which entered into force last June. It also provides tips on how to hold protection order hearings and issue civil protection orders against perpetrators of abuse.

The book and standard protection order forms have been distributed to judges throughout Albania. The manual can also be found on the Presence's website www.osce.org/albania.

As part of the same project, called Women's Access to Justice, the OSCE Presence, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, the Albanian School of Magistrates, the Justice Ministry and the Interior Ministry, has trained 300 judges, lawyers, police officers and civil society representatives on the domestic violence law.

The Presence also prepared and published the handbook, Seeking Protection from Domestic Violence, and assisted in the drafting of the law, the first of its kind in Albania.

Contact Fabiola.Haxhillari AT osce.org

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WARSAW, 29 September-10 October

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting is the largest human rights conference in Europe. For two weeks, OSCE delegations, intergovernmental agencies, and NGOs come together to discuss the implementation of OSCE commitments on the protection of human rights, the rule of law, and democracy. Contact: jens.eschenbaecher AT odihr.pl

MINSK, 6-7 October

Regional workshop on improving energy efficiency in Central and Eastern Europe

The Conference Hall of the Minsk Foreign Ministry will be the venue for an expert workshop organized by the OSCE Office in Minsk, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the Foreign Ministry and the Energy Ministry. Experts from the region and professional organizations based in Europe will discuss best strategies and practices on improving energy efficiency. Contacts: patrice.dreiski AT osce.org francois-vadim.de-hartingh AT osce.org

ONLINE, 13-24 October

Workshop on countering sexual exploitation of children on the Internet

The first online conference in the history of the OSCE - the workshop "Countering the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet" takes place from 13 to 24 October. Each session is planned to last for the two weeks and will be moderated by the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit with the co-operation of the office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Contact: anette.keloneva AT osce.org

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The summer camp aimed to give youth from different ethnicities the opportunity to exchange experience and gain new knowledge. Participants learned about human rights as well as first aid and orienteering, with the OSCE, the Kosovo Scout Association and the municipal Red Cross leading the courses.

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