

OSCE HIGHLIGHTS

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Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

Russian Foreign Minister to address OSCE security review conference

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will address the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference which starts in Vienna tomorrow.

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Photo: OSCE/Antonios Doykas

OSCE BACKGROUND

Co-operative security focus of Annual Security Review Conference

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Russian Foreign Minister to address OSCE security review conference

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will address the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference which starts in Vienna tomorrow.

The two-day meeting provides a framework for enhancing security dialogue and for reviewing security work undertaken by the OSCE and its 56 participating States. This year's Conference will concentrate on the concept of co-operative security.

In the various sessions, participants will discuss OSCE activities in the area of early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation with a focus on the protracted conflicts; politico-military aspects of security, including arms control and CSBMs; and finally, the Organization's approach to preventing and combating terrorism and related threats.

EVENTS CALENDAR

VIENNA, 23-24 June Annual Security Review Conference

High-level participants from OSCE countries gather in Vienna to review the Organization's security work and hold a dialogue on security. Contact Susanna.Loof AT osce.org. Conference website: www.osce.org/conferences/asrc_2009.html

TASHKENT, 23-25 June Training on identifying drug precursors

The OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit is supporting the OSCE Project Co-ordinator to train Uzbek officials in detecting and identifying chemical precursors used for drug production and conducting backtracking investigations to trace chemicals diverted from the legal market. A similar course was successfully held in Turkmenistan in mid-June, and in total some 50 officials from both countries will have been trained through this initiative. Contact press AT osce.org

CORFU, 27-28 June Informal Meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers

Hosted by the Greek OSCE Chairmanship, the meeting will provide an informal framework to consider matters related to security in Europe and the OSCE's role. Contact press AT osce.org

TIRANA, 29 June Observation of the parliamentary elections

The election observation team will present its preliminary findings and conclusions from the 28 June elections. Contact: press AT osce.org

VILNIUS, 29 June-3 July OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Annual Session

"The OSCE: Addressing New Security Challenges" is the main theme of the Annual Session in Vilnius, Lithuania. It is the first time it is being held in a Baltic country. Almost 300 parliamentarians are set to participate. Contact Klas Bergman, klas AT oscepa.dk

KYIV, 30 June Public hearing on the draft law on combating trafficking in human beings

A public hearing organized by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the Ukrainian Ministry for Family, Youth and

Minister Lavrov will speak during the opening session, which is open to journalists and is set to start at 10 am on 23 June in the Hofburg Conference Centre's Neuer Saal. A news conference will follow.

Contact [Susanna.Loof AT osce.org](mailto:Susanna.Loof@osce.org)

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Co-operative security focus of Annual Security Review Conference

This year's Annual Security Review Conference, to be held 23-24 June in Vienna, has the theme "Co-operative Security: Concept and Commitment – Achievements, Challenges and Prospects".

The annual review meetings, established by the OSCE Ministerial Council in 2002, aim to enhance the dialogue on security among the 56 participating States and to review the Organization's work in this area. During these meetings, countries can raise any security concerns they may have.

In addition to reviewing OSCE activities, the Conference also aims at promoting the exchange of information and co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations and institutions. A topic expected to be touched upon this year is the future of European security, which is also the focus of an informal OSCE Foreign Ministers' meeting to be held on 27 and 28 June in Corfu, Greece.

Agenda items include the OSCE's approach to and work in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as a session on the politico-military aspects of security, particularly arms- control arrangements and security- and confidence-building measures, during which participants are expected to pay particular attention to the state of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. The OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative approach to preventing and combating terrorism and related threats will be discussed at the third session.

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OSCE to hold energy security conference in Bratislava on 6-7 July

Energy security represents a key component of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security, and access to affordable, reliable energy and an efficient energy sector are critical to economic growth and sustainable development. The OSCE, which brings together states which are major energy consumers, producers and transit countries, is a logical forum to discuss energy security challenges and identify possible solutions.

The OSCE will hold a conference on strengthening energy security in the OSCE area on 6 and 7 July in Bratislava. Organized by the Greek OSCE Chairmanship and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities with the Slovak foreign ministry, the event aims to bring together experts and representatives of participating States to discuss ways to ensure energy security, prevent tensions or supply disruptions and explore ways of mutually beneficial collaboration.

Participants will also address the future evolution of the energy market – the expected continued dominance of fossil fuels for the next decades, development of liquefied natural gas and wider use of renewable energy sources.

Contact [press AT osce.org](mailto:press@osce.org)

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OSCE-supported community policing stations open in Armenian capital

Yerevan residents have two new police stations of a different kind at their disposal, thanks to an initiative by the OSCE Office in Yerevan and the Armenian Police to promote community policing.

Sports will provide an opportunity for state and non-governmental stakeholders to discuss the draft comprehensive anti-trafficking law prior to its submission to the Cabinet of Ministers. Contact [Tetyana.Rudenko AT osce.org](mailto:Tetyana.Rudenko@osce.org)

ASTANA, 1 July High-level regional meeting on law enforcement co-operation in Central Asia in combating organized crime

Organized by the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Astana and the Kazakh Interior Ministry, the conference will focus on measures to enhance regional law enforcement co-operation in Central Asia to fight organized crime, including trafficking in drugs and human beings. Contact [press AT osce.org](mailto:press@osce.org)

BALKANABAT, Turkmenistan, 1-2 July Seminar on strengthening co-operation at railway border crossings in Central Asia

Organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities with the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat and the Government of Turkmenistan and with the support of UNECE and the International Rail Transport Committee, the seminar will bring together senior customs and railway officials from all five Central Asian countries as well as experts from across the OSCE region to explore practical means and tools to facilitate cross-border railway operations in Central Asia. Contact [press AT osce.org](mailto:press@osce.org)

SOFIA, 5 July Observation of parliamentary elections

A limited election observation mission will observe the 5 July elections. Contact [press AT osce.org](mailto:press@osce.org)

BRATISLAVA, 6-7 July Conference on strengthening energy security in the OSCE area

Organized by the Greek OSCE Chairmanship, the Slovak Foreign Ministry and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, the conference aims to bring together experts and representatives of participating States to discuss ways to ensure energy security, prevent tensions or supply disruptions and explore ways of mutually beneficial collaboration. Contact [press AT osce.org](mailto:press@osce.org)

VIENNA, 9-10 July Meeting on freedom of religion or belief

Organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the day Supplementary Meeting will focus on freedom of religion and belief. Contact [odhr.pl](mailto:odhr@odhr.pl)

Two recently opened outreach stations in the Arabkir district are staffed by officers who have been trained in community policing by the OSCE. Working from the stations, located strategically to ensure high visibility, the police are able to assist the population better in solving local problems and contribute to an atmosphere of trust.

The OSCE supports community policing, which aims to promote a police-public partnership by offering a transparent and accountable police service to the people, through projects in several field operations. The Organization has also published guides on the topic, including the 2008 Good Practices in Building Police-Public Partnerships, Good Practices in Basic Police Training and a Guidebook on Democratic Policing. (<http://www.osce.org/spmu/publications.html>)

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OSCE media freedom office provides training to journalists, government officials

The Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is providing training in participating States in two priority fields - media self-regulation and interaction between government press officers and journalists.

As part of its broader campaign to promote the mechanisms of media self-regulation, the Office participated in four local training seminars for some 100 journalists in Albania in March, as well as a similar seminar in Moldova. At the events international and local experts conducted sessions on journalists' responsibilities and presented different models of self-regulation.

On 19 June, the Office also brought together journalists, editors, media professionals and experts from both the OSCE Mediterranean Partner States and OSCE participating States for a discussion about media self-regulation.

The training courses follow the 2008 publication of the OSCE Media Self-Regulation Guidebook, available in seven languages on the Office's website at http://www.osce.org/fom/item_11_30697.html.

Fostering effective ties between government bodies and journalists and increasing access to official information is the focus of another series of training courses by the Office. Recent seminars have been held in Karaganda, Kazakhstan, and in Belgrade.

The Office will hold further courses on both subjects in coming months in several participating States, including Azerbaijan and Belarus as well as additional regions of Serbia.

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New OSCE good practices guide to combating violence against women

The OSCE's Gender Section has issued a compilation of good practices for combating violence against women in the OSCE region.

The publication, Bringing Security Home: Combating Violence against Women in the OSCE Region, documents more than 95 good practices to help eliminate gender-based violence, including in conflict situations. The resource book highlights the impact of the presented practices in preventing violence against women, protecting victims and prosecuting offenders. Strategies for involving men and young people in anti-violence activities are also described.

The compilation is part of a Gender Section project on innovative approaches to combating violence against women in the OSCE area which is funded by the Governments of Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Greece.

Copies of Bringing Security Home can be requested from the Gender Section in the OSCE Secretariat by emailing equality@osce.org. It is also available on the OSCE website: <http://www.osce.org/item/38013.html>.

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BISHKEK, 24 July Observation of the presidential election

The election observation team will present its preliminary findings and conclusions from the 23 July election. Contact press AT osce.org

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OSCE Mission in Kosovo trains women politicians

Women represent more than half of Kosovo's population and they actively participated in the November 2007 municipal and central elections. But they remain underrepresented in positions of political leadership and very few women serve on the executive boards of political parties.

Following consultations with presidents of local women's forums and representatives of political parties, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo has responded to their request for support with a series of training sessions to help build capacities locally.

The Mission is holding the 10 two-day training sessions in all five regions within Kosovo. The courses, which continue until 15 July, aim to reinforce leadership and communication skills, including media communication and voter outreach, of women active in politics. It will also help prepare them to better formulate their visions and take a more prominent role in local politics.

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Central Asia law enforcement co-operation to combat organized crime

The OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) works with participating States to step up effective co-operation to investigate transnational organized crime and the many linked security threats, including illicit drugs, terrorism, illicit trade in arms, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.

That is the objective of a high-level regional meeting on law enforcement co-operation in Central Asia, which will be held in Astana on 1 July and was organized by the OSCE SPMU with the OSCE Centre in Astana and the Kazakh Interior Ministry.

Participants will discuss the latest organized crime trends connected with the Central Asian region, as well as possible steps to set up legal and operational tools to enhance regional law enforcement co-operation to investigate transnational crimes.

The event, financed by contributions from Norway and Belgium, will provide an opportunity for deputy ministers and other senior experts to review existing co-operation mechanisms and to suggest ways to effectively implement the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime's articles on law enforcement co-operation.

Contact press AT osce.org

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OSCE Project Co-ordinator supports development of comprehensive anti-trafficking law in Ukraine

In line with the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, which encourages States to bring national legislation into compliance with international standards, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator is co-operating with the Ukrainian Family, Youth and Sports Ministry to promote discussion as well as provide expert and technical support to develop comprehensive national anti-trafficking legislation.

An OSCE-supported multi-agency working group, which also includes representatives from key non-governmental and international stakeholders, prepared the draft Law of Ukraine "On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings".

The law aims to introduce a system of tools to prevent and prosecute the crime and to assist victims according to the best international human rights standards. Additionally, it provides guidelines for institutional, analytical, logistical and financial support for a national anti-trafficking response.

A public hearing on the draft law will be held on 30 June.

OSCE assistance is provided as part of a project funded by the Danish Foreign Ministry under the Danish Programme against Human Trafficking in Eastern and South Eastern Europe.

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