

OSCE HIGHLIGHTS

21 January 2010

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Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

OSCE Chairperson to attend Troika meeting with EU in Brussels, present Kazakhstan's priorities for 2010 in Washington and UN Security Council

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Photo: OSCE/ Susanna Lööf

OSCE BACKGROUND

Kazakhstan's OSCE Chairmanship furthers Corfu Process on European security dialogue

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THE OSCE AT WORK

OSCE partner Thailand hosts workshop on combating opium cultivation and managing border security

OSCE Mission in Kosovo to hold regional training on property expropriations and human rights implications

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine takes training for election commission members forward

OSCE Chairperson to attend Troika meeting with EU in Brussels, present Kazakhstan's priorities for 2010 in Washington and UN Security Council

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kazakh Secretary of State and Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev, will travel to Brussels, Washington and the UN Security Council in New York to discuss Kazakhstan's Chairmanship priorities for this year.

Minister Saudabayev will participate in an EU meeting with OSCE Troika in Brussels on 26 January and will meet top EU officials.

He will be in Washington from 1 to 4 February to meet high-level officials and address the U.S. Helsinki Commission, an independent U.S. government agency responsible for monitoring and encouraging compliance with the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE commitments. He will travel to New York to address the UN Security Council on 5 February.

Minister Saudabayev will also attend the London conference on Afghanistan on 28 January.

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kazakh Secretary of State and Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 14

EVENTS CALENDAR

GENEVA, 28 January Geneva Discussions

The Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Protracted Conflicts, Ambassador Bolat Nurgaliyev, will co-chair the 9th round of the Geneva Discussions along with the UN and European Union. Contact: press AT osce.org

CHIANG MAI and CHIANG RAI, Thailand, 24-28 January Combating illicit crop cultivation and enhancing border security management: Thailand as a case study

This 2010 OSCE Chairmanship workshop and field trips will bring participants to the locations where opium cultivation, human and drug trafficking took place along the border areas between Chiangmai and Chiangrai provinces and Myanmar. It provides the opportunity for an exchange of expertise and best practices as well as expert networking between participating States and Partners for Co-operation on the basis of Thailand's experience and OSCE tool box. Contact: press AT osce.org

VIENNA, 1-2 February 18th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum - Part 1

Organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental, the theme of this year's Forum is "Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region". Contact: press AT osce.org

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia, 9-10 February Combating modern slavery: national, regional, international experiences

This 2010 OSCE Chairmanship expert workshop aims to promote deeper understanding of the existing problems and

January: http://www.osce.org/cio/item_1_42306.html

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Kazakhstan's OSCE Chairmanship furthers Corfu Process on European security dialogue

The 56 OSCE Foreign Ministers adopted a Ministerial Declaration and Decision at the Athens Ministerial Council in December to further the Corfu Process, the OSCE-anchored dialogue on the future of European security.

This year Kazakhstan's OSCE Chairmanship will take the Corfu Process forward through informal, regular and open-ended meetings, at the level of Permanent Representatives in Vienna, reinforced by capitals as appropriate. The meetings aim to extend the areas of agreement with aim of building consensus.

The Chairmanship has also indicated that activities under the Corfu Process should contribute to deliberations on the substance of an OSCE Summit, which Kazakhstan has proposed to be held in the second half of 2010. A summit would also help ensure continuation of the Corfu Process beyond 2010 as an effective tool in addressing the most important issues of the future of the European security.

The Corfu Process was launched in June 2009 at an informal meeting of OSCE foreign ministers on the Greek island of Corfu. It aims to restore confidence and take forward dialogue on wider European security.

For more information on the Corfu Process:
<http://www.osce.org/cio/42119.html>

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OSCE partner Thailand hosts workshop on combating opium cultivation and managing border security

Thailand, an OSCE Partner for Co-operation, will share its experience with successfully combating illicit crop cultivation and managing border security at an OSCE workshop in the Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces of Thailand from 24 to 28 January.

According to the UNODC, narcotic crop cultivation in the northern part of Thailand has been virtually eliminated. Human and drug trafficking have also been reduced dramatically, and the once-notorious "Golden Triangle" area has been transformed into a tourist destination.

The 2010 OSCE Chairmanship workshop on "Combating illicit crop cultivation and enhancing border security management: Thailand as a case study" will offer participants the chance to learn how Thailand developed measures to combat the problem, and to exchange expertise and best practices.

Workshop attendees, including participants from Afghanistan, another OSCE Partner for Co-operation, will take part in field trips to locations where opium cultivation, human and drug trafficking had taken place along the border areas with Myanmar.

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OSCE Mission in Kosovo to hold regional training on property expropriations and human rights implications

Through its monitoring activities, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo has identified a number of problems related to property and expropriation issues in Kosovo. Challenges include a lack of transparency and weak mechanisms for involving the affected population, in particular displaced persons and vulnerable communities, deficient property-expropriation and environment-related legislation and inadequate law implementation are among them.

encourage the exchange of information and views and sharing of best practices for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings at the national, regional and international levels. The workshop will address how the OSCE's and the Asian Partners' work in combating human trafficking contributes to global efforts. Contact: press AT osce.org

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In response the OSCE Mission has developed a training programme to address patterns of problems linked with property expropriation processes during large-scale infrastructure development projects. The training seminars will be held from 25 January to 6 February, and will be conducted for all five regions in Kosovo. They will target municipal human rights units, municipal officials dealing with expropriations and central level representatives.

The seminars aim to enhance the monitoring and assessment of municipalities' human rights compliance in expropriation procedures, improve the referral of individuals with outstanding claims to the appropriate authority and support the property settlement process.

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OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine takes training for election commission members forward

More than 2,600 district and 90,000 precinct election commission members in Ukraine took part in training seminars held by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) and Ukraine's Central Election Commission on how to organize and conduct voting and counting ahead of the 17 January presidential election.

The seminars were part of a continuing project to further strengthen election processes in Ukraine implemented by the PCU. This is the third election for which the PCU has organized seminars to train election commission members.

For the seminars, the PCU developed materials, which included a training manual, special process flow-charts and a film. Some 100,000 copies of these materials were distributed to the participants. The support provided to date aims to enable the CEC to continue to conduct such training seminars on its own using OSCE assistance.

Further capacity building of election commissions is a priority of the co-operation between the OSCE and the CEC and a key recommendation of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which monitored the elections.

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