

OSCE HIGHLIGHTS

18 October 2010

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Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

Vienna Review Conference on political-military, economic and environmental dimensions of security opens

The second segment of a three-part Review Conference, with a focus on the political-military and economic and environmental dimensions of the OSCE's work, begins in Vienna today. [Read more >>](#)



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OSCE BACKGROUND

OSCE Review Conference

The 1992 Helsinki Document and the 1994 Budapest Document mandate the OSCE with holding review conferences before meetings of OSCE Heads of State and Government. According to the Helsinki Document, review conferences will "review the entire range of activities within the CSCE [now OSCE], including a thorough implementation debate, and consider further steps to strengthen the CSCE process". [Read more >>](#)

THE OSCE AT WORK

OSCE discusses comprehensive strategies for countering terrorism

OSCE holds experts workshop on reducing supply of synthetic drugs

OSCE holds training course on investigating cybercrimes in South-Eastern Europe

OSCE Centre in Bishkek supports empowerment of rural women in Issyk-Ata

OSCE Mission to Serbia supports multicultural study visits and training on gender, youth activism

OSCE Mission in Kosovo enhances skills of women and youth forums representatives

Vienna Review Conference on political-military, economic and environmental dimensions of security opens

The second segment of a three-part Review Conference, with a focus on the political-military and economic and environmental dimensions of the OSCE's work, begins in Vienna today. The Vienna part of the conference, which takes place from 18 to 26 October, will review the implementation of OSCE commitments by the 56 participating States in these areas and identify ways forward, in preparation for the OSCE Summit in Astana on 1 and 2 December.

The participants will discuss topics including transnational threats; early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; Afghanistan and the OSCE's contribution to stability in the region; and arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes.

Economic and environmental challenges under discussion include strengthening good governance through promoting transparency, as well as combating corruption; transport and energy security; migration; ensuring sustainable development and economic growth through promoting technological innovation; capacity-building for environmental governance;

EVENTS CALENDAR

VIENNA, 18-26 October Review Conference

The second part of the Review Conference ahead of the OSCE Summit in Astana is taking place in Vienna and will focus on politico-military security and economic-environmental matters. Contact: press AT osce.org

VIENNA, 29 October Regional meeting of national co-ordinators to combat trafficking in human beings

The OSCE Special Representative will convene a one-day meeting to improve co-operation between National Co-ordinators and similar national mechanisms and structures responsible for ensuring that anti-trafficking responses are coherent and efficient. The meeting will address the challenges in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of cases of trafficking for labour exploitation, and access to justice and compensation for trafficked persons, as well as assistance to labour trafficking victims. Contact: Caraigh.McGregor AT osce.org

BAKU, 8 November Observation of parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan

The international observers will present their preliminary findings and conclusions from the 7 November elections. Contact: press AT osce.org

TBILISI, 11-12 November 7th South Caucasus Media Conference

The two-day event will provide a forum for discussion on media developments and challenges that journalists face in the region, with a focus on issues related to access to information and new technologies, including the Internet. Agenda topics include international standards on access to information, Internet development and regulation and access to

protecting the environment; sustainable use and management of natural resources and preventing pollution, land degradation, ecological risks, natural and man-made disasters.

Separate sessions will focus on external co-operation, legal and institutional matters. They include enhancing the role and further strengthening capabilities of the OSCE executive structures, co-operation with Partner countries, international and regional organizations, decision-making processes within the Organization, and the OSCE's legal framework.

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

[To top](#)

OSCE Review Conference

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The Warsaw part of the 2010 Review Conference, which was held 30 September to 8 October, and the forthcoming Astana segment from 26 to 28 November, focus on commitments related to the human dimension of the OSCE work, namely the set of norms and activities concerning human rights, the rule of law, and democracy that are one of the three pillars of the OSCE's comprehensive security concept. The human dimension sessions of the Review Conference are being held this year in place of the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Europe's largest annual human rights conference.

The other two pillars - the political-military and the economic and environmental dimensions, are the topics to be addressed during the Vienna segment of the Conference.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations will be able to attend and contribute to the working sessions of the Review Conference dealing with the human and the economic and environmental dimensions, and the part of working sessions on OSCE structures and their activities dealing with lessons learned from field activities.

For more on the Review Conference:

Warsaw: http://www.osce.org/conferences/revcon_1_2010.html

Vienna: http://www.osce.org/conferences/revcon_2_2010.html

Astana: http://www.osce.org/conferences/revcon_3_2010.html

[To top](#)

OSCE discusses comprehensive strategies for countering terrorism

Transnational and global terrorist threats can only be dealt with effectively when all actors - governments, international and regional organizations, business, religious and civil society groups - unite, co-ordinate and harmonize their efforts to fight them.

A recent two-day OSCE expert conference in Astana brought together some 200 senior experts from OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, international and regional organizations, as well as academia to discuss successful strategies, effective policies and best practices to prevent terrorism. The discussions will contribute to the second part of the OSCE Review Conference to take place in Vienna on 18 to 26 October.

A joint initiative between the Russian Federation and the United States within the OSCE Framework to implement a public-private partnership project to enhance security in the tourism sector was also discussed at the conference, including plans to hold a seminar on the topic in Vienna in early 2011.

The conference, held by Kazakhstan's OSCE Chairmanship with the support of the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit, resulted in an Astana Declaration by the OSCE Chairperson-in Office outlining possible follow-up activities for consideration by the participating States:

http://www.osce.org/documents/osce/2010/10/47138_en.pdf

information in the South Caucasus region. Contact: Jean-Christophe.Peuch [AT osce.org](mailto:AT@osce.org)

ASTANA, 26-28 November Review Conference

The third and final part of the Review Conference ahead of the OSCE Summit is taking place in Astana and will focus on the human dimension. Contact: [press AT osce.org](mailto:press@osce.org)

CHISINAU, 29 November Observation of early parliamentary elections in Moldova

The international observers will present their preliminary findings and conclusions from the 28 November elections. Contact: [press AT osce.org](mailto:press@osce.org)

ASTANA, 1-2 December OSCE Summit

OSCE heads of state and government will meet in Astana. Contact: [press AT osce.org](mailto:press@osce.org)

VIENNA, 9-10 December Meeting on freedom of religion and Conscience

Organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, this Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting will focus on freedom of religion and conscience. Contact: [Jens.Eschenbaecher AT odihr.pl](mailto:Jens.Eschenbaecher@odihr.pl)

MINSK, 20 December Observation of parliamentary elections in Belarus

The international observers will present their preliminary findings and conclusions from the 19 December elections. Contact: [press AT osce.org](mailto:press@osce.org)

[To top](#)

Contact: Tatyana.Baeva AT osce.org

[To top](#)

OSCE holds experts workshop on reducing supply of synthetic drugs

The growing abuse of illicit synthetic drugs – artificially-produced substances manufactured from chemical compounds, such as amphetamines and benzodiazepines – poses a grave threat, with more synthetic drugs used worldwide than cocaine and heroin combined, and an estimated 12 million users of amphetamines in Europe alone.

Synthetic drugs are cheaply and easily produced, and the illicit market and its suppliers show high levels of innovation in terms of production and marketing opportunities, demonstrating the ability to adapt quickly to control measures. A record number of new drugs were officially reported in 2009 via the EU early-warning system on new psychoactive substances.

The OSCE, in co-operation with UNODC, is holding a high level expert's regional workshop on reducing the supply of synthetic drugs in Vilnius on 20 and 21 October. Experts from countries in the Baltic region, Europol and international organizations will take part.

Contact: Valery.Korotenko AT osce.org

[To top](#)

OSCE holds training course on investigating cybercrimes in South-Eastern Europe

A regional training course on investigating cybercrimes, organized by the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit, the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Serbian Ministry of Interior, will be held from 1 to 19 November in Belgrade.

The course will focus on the forensic evidence aspects of computer crimes, with leading investigators from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia expected to participate.

It will be led by University College Dublin's School of Computer Science and Informatics, and will include a train-the-trainer component. The course is held as part of the European Union's ISEC Programme 2008, designed to improve the capacity of police to prevent and investigate cybercrimes.

Contact: Tim.DelVecchio AT osce.org

[To top](#)

OSCE Centre in Bishkek supports empowerment of rural women in Issyk-Ata

More than 50 craftswomen from over ten villages in Kyrgyzstan's northern Issyk-Ata district gathered in Kant on 15 October, the International Day of Rural Women, to start work on a Tush-Kiyiz wall hanging at a celebration organized by local non-governmental organization Alga with support from the OSCE Centre in Bishkek

When completed, the intricate wall hanging will feature motifs from the women's lives embroidered on a background of soft cloth. Tush-Kiyiz are traditionally used to decorate the interior of yurts.

The event, which aimed to highlight the contribution of women in rural development, also featured the work of more than 200 rural women, who presented agricultural and creative skills they learned through OSCE-supported training courses, held as part of a project to empower rural women in Issyk-Ata district.

The women from Issyk-Ata appealed to the state authorities to include the International Day of Rural Women in the calendar of national holidays.

[To top](#)

OSCE Mission to Serbia supports multicultural study visits and training on gender, youth activism

The OSCE Mission to Serbia is working with local youth offices in areas with large minority populations to help young people to exchange knowledge and experiences on participation in local decision-making, addressing gender and the impact of discrimination in society and advocating for increased youth activism.

As part of the project study visits from four municipalities in south and southeast Serbia – including Bujanovac, Bosilegrad, Presevo and Dimitrovgard - to youth offices in Vojvodina - Senta, Sombor, Backi Petrovac and Zrenjanin - are being organized by the OSCE Mission. The majority of young people from south and southeast Serbia have few opportunities to travel, and the initiative will provide an important opportunity for cultural exchange and education.

Contact: ppiu-serbia AT osce.org

[To top](#)

OSCE Mission in Kosovo enhances skills of women and youth forums representatives

Women and youth groups in Kosovo are often marginalized within political party structures and are rarely part of decision-making processes. In most party committees, only a few seats are reserved for women and young people, and most of those seats are allocated to forum leaders.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo is working with women and young people to further promote and strengthen the role of these two groups within political party structures. A series of five, three-day training sessions on leadership and communication skills for representatives of women and youth forums of branches that are represented in municipal assemblies are being held in the regions of Prishtinë/Priština, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Prizren, Pejë/Peć and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica until the end of October.

The participants, including 20 representatives per region from different communities, will gain theoretical and practical knowledge on addressing potential voters, drafting policy papers and issuing recommendations to address local challenges and obstacles, as well as on communicating effectively with the media.

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[To top](#)

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe works for stability, prosperity and democracy in 56 states through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.
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