

OSCE HIGHLIGHTS

8 February 2011

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Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

OSCE Chairperson in Ukraine, Moldova to meet top officials, discuss protracted conflicts

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Photo: OSCE/Susanna Loof

OSCE BACKGROUND

Working with participating States to fulfil OSCE commitments and strengthen the Organization

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THE OSCE AT WORK

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Investigating and prosecuting sexual abuse of children over the Internet

OSCE Chairperson in Ukraine, Moldova to meet top officials, discuss protracted conflicts

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis is in Ukraine and Moldova this week to meet with leaders and discuss OSCE work in the countries as well as efforts to resolve protracted conflicts in the region.

In Kyiv Ažubalis met President Viktor Yanukovich, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, Foreign Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Parliament Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn as well as representatives of political parties. Ukraine's preparations for the 2013 OSCE Chairmanship and the OSCE's work in Ukraine were also discussed.

On 8 February, Ažubalis is in Moldova, where he will discuss efforts to bring progress to the Transnistrian settlement process and other topics. Ažubalis will meet Acting President/Parliamentary Speaker Marian Lupu, Prime Minister Vlad Filat, Foreign Minister Iurie Leanca and the Moldovan chief negotiator, Deputy Prime Minister Eugen Carpov as well as representatives of political parties. He is also expected to meet the leadership of Transnistria. In addition, a discussion with civil society representatives is scheduled.

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

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EVENTS CALENDAR

VIENNA, 10 February

Address by the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus

The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Peter Semneby, will address the OSCE Permanent Council. Contact: press AT osce.org

LVIV, Ukraine, 14-16 February

Scenario Workshop "Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe"

The event will gather experts from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine to discuss the potential long-term consequences of climate change on food security in these Eastern European countries. The scenario workshop will be carried out by the OSCE, under the direction of the European Environment Agency. Contact: Raul.Daussa AT osce.org

VIENNA, 24-25 February

Parliamentary Assembly 2011 Winter Meeting

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's tenth Winter Meeting will include meetings of the Standing Committee, each of the three General Committees, and joint sessions of the General Committees. The two-day Meeting provides an opportunity for Committee Rapporteurs to discuss their draft reports for the upcoming Annual Session, to be held this year 6-10 July in Belgrade. The theme of the Winter Meeting's special debate, being held on 25 February, is "Immigration, Integration and Multi-Ethnic Dialogue in the OSCE". Visit www.oscepa.org, or contact: neil@oscepa.dk.

VILNIUS, 3-4 March

Women's entrepreneurship in the OSCE: trends and good practices

Organized by the OSCE Gender Section, in co-operation with the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour and the University of Vilnius/Gender

Working with participating States to fulfil OSCE commitments and strengthen the Organization

Just one month after taking over as this year's Chairperson-in-Office, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis began a series of visits to countries hosting OSCE field operations. The visits represent an important responsibility and investment of time and resources on the part of the Chairmanship, to hear first-hand from local leaders about what the OSCE can do to support their countries fulfil OSCE commitments, and about how the work of the Organization generally can be improved.

During such visits, the Chairperson meets top officials – foreign ministers, speakers of parliament and sometimes also presidents and prime ministers as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations and leaders of political parties. The Chairperson also meets with the staff of OSCE field operations to get an in-depth view of the operations' activities.

In addition to visiting countries that host OSCE field operations, the Chairperson also travels to other OSCE participating States. Last week, Ažubalis was in Moscow, where he discussed the OSCE's work in 2011 with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and other officials. He will travel to Washington, the UN Security Council and Brussels in his capacity as OSCE Chairperson in coming months.

For more information, please see:
<http://www.osce.org/cio>

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Sustainable energy in the spotlight at first meeting of Economic and Environmental Forum

This year's Economic and Environmental Forum began with the first preparatory meeting focusing on sustainable energy, energy security and OSCE support. The two-day meeting, which concludes on 8 February, brings together participants from the OSCE's 56 participating States, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and partner countries.

Topics include energy efficiency and sustainable use of traditional and new energy sources, effective national policies for sustainable energy, good governance and transparency in the energy field, and regional and sub-regional co-operation.

The theme of the Nineteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum is "Promotion of common actions and co-operation in the OSCE area in the fields of development of sustainable energy and transport". The Second Preparatory Meeting on development of sustainable transport will be held in Druskininkai, Lithuania on 4 and 5 April, to be followed by the concluding Meeting in Prague on 14 to 16 September.
Contact: press AT osce.org

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OSCE Centre in Bishkek works with international partners to support post-conflict reconciliation in Kyrgyzstan

Following the violence in Kyrgyzstan in June 2010, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek in co-operation with UNDP and the EU Delegation created the Reconciliation, Conflict Prevention and Peace-Building coordination mechanism (RECAP). The overall purpose of the mechanism is to share information and expertise to improve co-ordination and co-operation in areas including reconciliation, conflict transformation, conflict prevention (including aspects of security sector reform), peace building and human rights protection. A matrix listing the concrete activities of all participants in these areas has been developed and is being kept up-to-date.

RECAP is also examining the scope for supporting an enhanced national crisis management mechanism, operated by Kyrgyzstan's authorities, which utilizes the diverse conflict-prevention, resolution and mediation structures developed

Studies Centre, the conference will bring together experts and businesswomen to explore trends and good practices and initiate debate on how to enhance economic growth through women's entrepreneurship in the OSCE area. A regional focus will be on women entrepreneurship in the South Caucasus and Central Asia including Afghanistan. However, good practices will be presented from across the OSCE participating States. Contact: equality AT osce.org

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by international partners and civil society.

In addition, following the initial unrest in April, the OSCE Centre initiated regular co-ordination meetings with the UN, the EU and other international organizations and diplomatic missions to ensure vital information is shared to reinforce common positions, speak with one political voice and identify gaps and avoid duplication. This co-ordination as of February 2011 can include the participation by videolink of counterparts based in Osh.

The Centre will also further support activities to promote gender equality and women's rights in peace-building, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction, including through the development and implementation of a new National Action Plan for the Achievement of Gender Equality.

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OSCE Mission in Kosovo works with police to counter violent extremism and terrorism

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo, aiming to increase police's capacities in countering violent extremism and terrorism, is organizing two one-week training sessions in Vushtrri/Vučitrn.

Approximately 40 participants from the directorate of counter-terrorism within the Kosovo police are attending the training, which will continue until 11 February. The participants will gain additional information and knowledge on terrorism's exploitation of religion and approaches to prevent terrorist activities within Kosovo. Topics include the history of religious groups in Kosovo; radicalization and de-radicalization processes; characteristics of terrorists; the structure of extremist groups in Kosovo as well as the strategy and action plan against terrorism.

Special advisers of the Department of Security and Public Safety within the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and local experts are leading the training sessions. A specialized and advanced follow-up course on this issue will be held for the same participants in June 2011.

The OSCE Mission helped establish the Kosovo police service school in 1999. It now supports advanced and specialized training of the police and develops community safety platforms.

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Investigating and prosecuting sexual abuse of children over the Internet

The production and dissemination of child abuse images is a serious crime, and perpetrators have exploited the technology and anonymity of the Internet for the transnational criminal distribution of images depicting the sexual exploitation of children.

The OSCE's Strategic Police Matters Unit is holding an online workshop on "New Challenges in Investigation and Prosecution of Sexual Abuse of Children on the Internet" from 21 February to 4 March.

The workshop will focus on three central areas - pertinent legislation and co-operative programmes for mutual legal assistance; social networks on the Internet and their abuse in victim "grooming" by perpetrators engaged in these criminal efforts; and the commercial and amateur production of child abuse material and use of the Internet for distribution networks.

The online workshop aims to reach a wider criminal justice audience and provide police experts the opportunity to share securely their practical experience in investigating cases related to the sexual abuse of children.

This online discussion and workshop, the first of a three-part project including a meeting in Vilnius and a study tour, is organized using POLIS (Policing Online Information System, <http://polis.osce.org>).

Contact: press AT osce.org

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