



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Conflict Prevention Centre
Operations Service

Programme for the workshop “Towards a Strategy for Reconciliation in the OSCE Area”

*18 December 2012, Vienna
(Hofburg, Neuer Saal)*

08:30 Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:00 Opening Session

The keynote speeches will set the general tone for the main themes discussed in the workshop. They will comment on why reconciliation is important and what makes it successful. Historical examples will be briefly outlined demonstrating how reconciliation has worked in practice.

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Panel 1: Reconciliation and Convergence – Building the foundation for a security community

This panel will provide the conceptual basis for the themes discussed in the Workshop building on the keynote speeches, elaborating on the concept of reconciliation and identifying those processes that make reconciliation work. Drawing on examples from the OSCE area and beyond for conceptual purposes, the panel will also explore the linkage between reconciliation and the establishment of a security community, focusing in particular on why reconciliation process is essential for achieving such a community.

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 Panel 2: Historical Reconciliation – Lessons learned and best practices

This panel will present successful cases of historical reconciliation in the OSCE area. It will look in particular at past and on-going examples of reconciliation, such as the Franco-German experience or the Russian-Polish one. Panelists will identify how these reconciliation efforts have been shaped; what core fundamental processes have been important; and in what way these processes have contributed to

making reconciliation a success. Challenges as well as difficulties that had to be overcome to have positive outcomes will also be addressed.

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Panel 3: Breaking the Vicious Circle – Reconciliation and conflicts in the OSCE area

This panel will explore how confidence-building and reconciliation efforts can be applied in concrete conflict settings, particularly in the OSCE area. It will also provide an overview of various efforts already underway, either through OSCE field operations and institutions or other actors, such as individual governments and non-governmental organizations. Particular examples of activities and projects carried out will inform the discussions. Prospects and limits to reconciliation will also be debated in a frank manner.

17:30 Conclusions: Prospects and Challenges

The concluding panel will sum up some of the core issues and principal questions identified in the Workshop. This panel will also layout what the OSCE can and should do in the future. Moreover, the concluding panel is intended to underline some of the concrete activities that participating States and other Workshop participants have proposed during the course of discussions. This is also an opportunity to float new ideas for adapting the OSCE to these challenges.

18:00-19:30 Reception