



The Palić Process

Since its arrival in Croatia in 1996, the most important task of the OSCE Mission was transcending the problems left by the war while promoting democratization of its main areas - political, educational, institutional, administrative, informative etc. However, more striking than these deficiencies were the ones arising from the two great misfortunes of those years: the fact that a large number of refugees and displaced persons had to leave their homes and the necessity of bringing war criminals to justice, in addition to the death toll of more than 13,000 in Croatia alone.

The Sarajevo Process, initiated in 2005 in order to find a way to alleviate the first one of these problems, has been the object of repeated reflection in the past issues of the Courier. A short time before, in November 2004, a process oriented to stimulate co-operation in the judicial area began in the Serbian city of Palić, with the participation of judges and public prosecutors of the three countries of the region - today four - as well as OSCE and ICTY experts.

Calendar

Activities

The Palić Process

3 March - Working Group Meeting on issues related to war crimes prosecution and lunch with a group of Spanish journalists in Zagreb

5-6 March - HoO presented his report to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna

7 March - Press Conference on Status Report and briefing of the Diplomatic Corps on Status Report

11 March - HoO attended the conference "Croatia and NATO: What Membership Brings", invited by *Konrad Adenauer Foundation* and *Media Service*. Lunch with Nadan Vidošević, President of the Croatian Chamber of Economy

15 March - Ambassador Fuentes attended a jazz concert on occasion of the Days of Francophony organised by the Canadian Embassy

26-28 March - Ambassador Fuentes attended the Official closure of Field Office Zadar and met with the Archbishop of Zadar, Msgr. Ivan Prenđa, Zadar County Prefect, Stipe Zrjlić and Mayor of Zadar, Zivko Kolega

2 April - Lunch with new Ambassadors of Italy, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, B&H and India

3 April - Joint field visit with State Secretary Milivoj Mikulić to Glina and Gvozd

12 April - Diplomatic outing to Lika sponsored by President and Mrs. Mesić: Plitvice Lakes National Park, "Lička kuća", Kozjak Lake, the Great Waterfall, Nikola Tesla Memorial Center in Smiljan, Gacka Valley and the Gacka fish pond

15 April - Ambassador Fuentes attended the Day of Co-ordination of Zagreb's 17 national minorities

16 April - HoO's visit to Koprivnica City Hall, meeting with Deputy Mayor, Vesna Zeljeznjak, visit of Generalić Naive Art Gallery, Hlebine Naive Art Gallery and Podravska Klet

17 April - Ambassador Fuentes met Luka Bebić, Speaker of the Croatian Parliament. Lunch with Mr. Tomislav Jakic, President Mesić's Adviser for Foreign Policy

21-22 April - SE Europe Heads of Mission Meeting in Vršac (Serbia)

23 April - Dinner for Amb. Fuentes hosted by Embassy of Finland (OSCE Chairmanship)

25 April - Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Uzelac

In the following years, these specialist meetings were held in Mostar (October 2005), Novi Sad (April 2006) and Zagreb (June 2007), on which occasions the urgency of elevating the dialogue to the political level became evident to the participants.

In fact, effort in this sense was undertaken in June 2005 and as many as seven Ministers of Justice - three from Bosnia and Herzegovina, three from Serbia and Montenegro and one from Croatia - met in Brijuni, where they achieved important dialogue, although it turned out to be impossible to reach consensus on a document, due fundamentally to the lack of agreement on key issues such as the extradition of nationals, acceptance of foreign verdicts, exchange of evidence, victim/witness support and cross border witness location. It would be essential to resolve all these deficiencies in order to surpass the "impunity gap" that leaves a considerable number of possible war criminals at liberty. The good co-operation among the state prosecutors achieved up to now does not eliminate the need to proceed with the constitutional review which would make possible the accomplishment of the mentioned objectives.

Almost four years after its initiation, the Palić Process continues to be necessary and there is more recognition than ever that the dialogue on the level of experts has been exhausted. In 2006 and 2007 an attempt was made to elevate it above the ministerial level since a conviction was reached that only the Prime Ministers or Heads of State would have the power to arrive at political decisions that the Ministers of Justice would subsequently apply.

Efforts in that direction were made by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and the Missions. There was even an idea of organizing an informal meeting of the four Speakers of national parliaments on the margins of the autumn Meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

in Portorož. That encounter also turned out not to be possible.

In this way, we entered 2008 without it having been possible to convene this very high level meeting which prompts regional co-ordination of war crime trials, and both the CPC and the Missions involved in this issue in the four countries continue contemplating the need to encourage the process which will be decisive for achieving social reconciliation in a region whose members are all oriented, with greater or lesser efficiency, towards the completion of the Euro-Atlantic integration process. In this sense, regional co-operation should be able to surpass a number of other deficiencies that future members of the EU and NATO should not ignore: organized crime, terrorism and trafficking in human beings.

Ambassador Jorge Fuentes,
Head of Office



Ambassador Fuentes at a meeting with the new ICTY Chief Prosecutor, Serge Brammertz, Zagreb 29 February 2008.

Activities

Presentation of the last Mission's and the first Office's Status Report to the OSCE Permanent Council

The Finnish Chairmanship assigned the 6th of March for general reporting to the OSCE Permanent Council. While the date, only two months after the launching of the new Office in Zagreb, could have been perceived as premature for a first report on the Office's results, it was soon realized that it could not have been chosen more opportunely. The short distance with the PC Decision to close the Mission, with the annual HoMs meeting, and with the entry into function of the new elected Government in Croatia, provided an excellent opportunity for a historic Status Report that will, at the same time, present the results achieved by the Mission under its final stage, and the strategies to address the new mandate of the Office. Transition and evolution could also be clearly reflected and, accordingly, its two main chapters were finally named from the Rule of Law to the War Crimes Monitoring and from the Refugee Return to the Housing Care.

The Status Report prepared was finally longer than expected. It was a natural consequence if we take into account that we had to address the last three months of the Mission and its final stage, the first three months of the Office and its future perspectives, how

it all happened and, finally, it had also to explain the manner in which we were executing the downsizing in personnel, equipment, vehicles, facilities, Field Offices, etc, from a Mission that had once been one of the largest to an Office with only one location and 34 staff members.

Council that had Croatia as its first point in the agenda. During his presentation, Ambassador Fuentes did not forget to say some kind farewell words to the Croatian Ambassador, H.E. Vladimir Matek, who was soon to leave the OSCE Council to take on the co-ordination of the Croatian activities as member of the UN Security Council.



As usual, the presentation of the Status Report was preceded by a meeting on the previous day where the delegations had an opportunity to be briefed, discuss and pose detailed and technical questions to Ambassador Fuentes. Finnish First Secretary Ms. Mäki-Leppilampi, chaired this working-level meeting. The following day, the representative of the CIO in Vienna, Ambassador Turunen, opened the 704th meeting of the 56 Ambassadors of the Permanent

Back in Zagreb the following day, 7th March, the HoO received the Ambassadors of the international community and international organizations accredited to Zagreb to brief them about the Status Report and gave a press conference to the Croatian media.

J. Enrique Horcajada-Schwartz
Head of the Executive Unit

Photo Story

Beau geste

During the two years that Ambassador Radivoj Cvjetičanin was representing Serbia in Croatia, he developed a good friendship with our HoO as the photo taken during the closing of our project "Children Together" proves.

In March 2008 when he was called for consultations by his Government, Ambassador Cvjetičanin came to the OSCE office to say goodbye. A gesture of good diplomatic manners that honours the Ambassador.

We hope to see Ambassador Cvjetičanin back at his post in Zagreb soon.



Activities

Ambassador Fuentes and State Secretary Mikulić visit former OTR holders in their newly allocated apartments in Gvozd and Glina

On 3 April 2008, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, Head of the OSCE Office in Zagreb, and Mr. Milivoj Mikulić, State Secretary in the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management visited a site in Gvozd where three buildings are under reconstruction. Around 15 flats in these buildings should be allocated to former OTR holders for housing care. They also visited three recipients of housing care in Glina and Gvozd in their newly allocated flats. These Serb returnees are former occupancy/tenancy right holders who lost the right to use the flats in which they had resided until August 1995. The whole trip aimed to verify the GoC efforts on the implementation of the housing care programme for former occupancy/tenancy right holders following the 2007 benchmark of 1,400 beneficiaries.

tenancy right should receive housing care. After the reconstruction and allocation of flats, the beneficiaries will be entitled to buy them under very acceptable conditions and below the market price. It is expected that the first group of the beneficiaries will move in the flats during the summer 2008, when the reconstruction works on two out of the three buildings should be completed.

Mrs. Ljubica Bekić is a former OTR holder who left Croatia on the eve of the operation Storm in August 1995. She returned to Gvozd in 1997 and applied for housing care since the flat where she had lived was occupied when she returned. By the end of 2007 she was offered a flat in a building and accepted it. Mrs. Bekić is 89, but a very vital lady who wrote a book in the late eighties. She was satisfied with the provided

and weak during our visit, and not really able to talk.

The last spot of the trip was an APN house allocated to Mrs. Anka Divjakinja, a lady who returned from Serbia and lives with her son and daughter-in-law. A small house in the suburbs of Glina should be reconstructed, which is an obligation of the RODPR. The representatives of the RODPR during our visit promised they would complete the works by summer 2008.

LEFT: Ambassador Fuentes and State Secretary, Milivoj Mikulić with their respective staff.

RIGHT: OSCE's Jasmin Mahmić and Momir Vukmirović visiting Mrs. Vilić's flat in Glina



At the construction site in Gvozd, accompanied by Mr. Branko Jovičić (SDSS), the Mayor, Ms. Ana-Marija Radić, Advisor in the Ministry, and Mr. Zeljko Softić, Head of the RODPR in Petrinja, Mr. Mikulić emphasised that the role of local authorities in the housing process for former OTR holders is very important. The local self-government units are therefore advised to transfer the ownership over the buildings in their possession to the Ministry. Once the Ministry allocates them for housing care, the beneficiaries will be offered to buy the received flats. The money collected will be paid to the LSGUs. In the three buildings 15 Serb returnee families who had occupancy

accommodation, though she needs some furniture. Mrs. Bekić said she would be very grateful if someone could donate a refrigerator and an armchair. Following an initiative of Ambassador Fuentes, the Housing Care Unit is actively trying to find a donor who would donate some furniture.

Mrs. Danica Vilić was our first host in Glina. Only a week before the visit she moved in the flat which was allocated in December 2007. Mrs. Vilić invested on her own in order to perform smaller repairs in the flat, but now she has a decent dwelling. Unfortunately, due to health problems Mrs. Vilić was dizzy

The above three housing care beneficiaries are amongst those 800 provided with housing care within the ASSC. During a working lunch in Petrinja the State Secretary informed Ambassador Fuentes about the plans which should resolve the housing care problem of the former OTR holders inside and outside the ASSC by the end of 2010. Ambassador Fuentes emphasised the need to strengthen the efforts in order to accommodate this largest remaining homeless category of Croatian citizens, and promised the OSCE support and assistance.

Momir Vukmirović
National Programme Officer

Activities

OSCE Gender Focal Points' Annual Meeting Vienna 31 March - 1 April

The newly appointed OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Ms. Jamila Seftaoui and the Gender Section within the Secretariat in Vienna, organized the Meeting of Focal Points for Gender Issues in Vienna's Hofburg Palace on 31 March and 1 April 2008.

There were 47 participants from all OSCE field operations, the Secretariat, the Office of HCNM, the ODIHR and the OSCE PA.

The Meeting focused on following issues: the Chairmanship priorities on gender issues, the Gender Section priorities in 2008, the establishment of regional thematic working groups to mainstream gender into projects in the economic and environmental as well as political and military dimensions and preparation for the annual 2008 Gender Report. Also, a very impressive presentation of best practices and a visit to the Department of Women's Affairs in the City of Vienna was also organized.

The 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality

The initiative to deal with the gender issue as such started already at the Istanbul Summit in 1999, when the OSCE participating States agreed that the full and equal exercise of woman's human rights is essential in achieving a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area.

Afterwards, in the year 2000, the OSCE adopted its first Action Plan for Gender Issues, followed by a more comprehensive plan in 2004 endorsed at the Sofia Ministerial Council meeting. The 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality states that gender equality contributes to security in three Organization's areas of work: the political and military, the economic and environmental, and in the human dimension.

The Action Plan calls on the OSCE to promote gender equality both within the Organization and its participating

States. It has three main goals: to promote gender equality projects within priority areas, to incorporate gender perspective into all OSCE activities, and to ensure responsibility for achieving gender representation balance among OSCE staff and professional working environment where women and men are treated equally.

The implementation of the Action Plan is monitored regularly and reviewed through the Secretary General's Annual Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan.

Finnish Chairmanship and Gender Issue

At the beginning of its term of office, the present Finnish Chairmanship of the OSCE announced its dedication to focus on three questions related to human rights: combating trafficking in human beings, promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, in particular with regard to the Roma and Sinti people and gender mainstreaming in all OSCE activities. All of these areas relate to the core task of the OSCE to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of all citizens in the OSCE area.



Meeting of Focal Points for Gender issues in Vienna's Hofburg Palace.

The OSCE aims to provide equal opportunities for women and men, as well as to integrate gender equality into policies and practices, both within participating States and

the Organization itself. With local partners, the OSCE initiates and runs projects across the OSCE region to empower women, and build local capacities and expertise on gender issues. It co-operates with authorities in reviewing legislation and assists in building national mechanisms to ensure equality of women and men. The Organization also promotes gender balance among OSCE staff at all levels and aims to ensure professional working environment where women and men are treated equally.

The Gender Section in the Secretariat

The Gender Section in the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, supports the Secretary General in promoting gender equality within the Organization mainly by assisting OSCE staff in implementing the Action Plan. In addition to preparing the Annual Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan, the Section reports about and highlights gender issues at various forums.

Furthermore, the Section co-operates with other international organizations such as the United Nations. It shares information and co-operates regularly with the gender focal points appointed in each field operation, institution and Secretariat department to assist in promoting gender equality, with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) where it initiates and supports gender projects carried out by field operations, as well as with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly which appointed a Special Representative on Gender Issues.

The OSCE is responsible for ensuring professional working environment where women and men are treated equally and with due respect. Gender mainstreaming is simply a strategy used to achieve gender equality. The OSCE Action Plan makes the gender mainstreaming of all activities, projects and programmes a requirement.

Ankica Kuna
Political Affairs Assistant

Extracurricular activities



The Courier readers could perhaps be tired of seeing too many photos of the Office members performing serious tasks, participating in official meetings, judicial monitoring, field visits aimed at checking the allocation of housing to returnees etc.

On this occasion, *The Courier* ventures to present a series of extracurricular activities practiced by Ambassador Fuentes during his years in Croatia: presentation of his novel "The Summit" - along

with other essays on the OSCE - at the Embassy of Finland; singing "Besame Mucho" in a duet with the former Minister Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović along the coast of Istria; at the inauguration of his exhibition of paintings "The Man and the City" with the Minister of Culture, Mr. Biskupic, and the Director of the Museum of Naive Art, Mr. Crnković; addressing a large public gathering on Human Rights Day at the Ban Jelačić Square; celebrating the end of the Mission and the

beginning of the Office with a Havana cigar; participating in a cooking contest in Zadar together with the Prefect and other local authorities; listening to "Happy Birthday" for the fourth year in Zagreb.

OSCE Office in Zagreb - the new structure



The OSCE presence in Croatia has undergone many changes over the years. Most of them were, obviously, work and mandate related changes but not less important were the changes of staff. The gradual downsizing of the OSCE staff in Croatia is reaching its final stage these days with the latest changes occurring as a result of the closure of the Mission and the opening of the Office.

The latest review sees **Ambassador**

Jorge Fuentes of Spain as the Head of Office, **Enrique Horcajada** of Spain as the Head of the Executive Unit, **Mary Wyckoff** from the USA as the Head of the Prosecution of War Crimes Unit, **Leos Javurek** from the Czech Republic as the Head of the Housing Care Unit and **Mike Sams** from the USA as the Head of Administration.

The new Executive Assistant to the Head of Office is **Biserka Sanković** and the new focal point for all

media and press related enquiries is the Public Information Assistant, **Dorijan Klasnić**.

The above image, the "Family Photo" as we like to call it, was taken in April 2008 on one of the rare occasions when most of the Office's staff managed to gather at the same time. Several members are engaged in travelling across Zagreb and Croatia and their busy schedule leaves little room for gatherings like this.

Farewell to our dear colleagues



In March and April the OSCE Office in Zagreb honoured two groups of its employees by organising a farewell party in which each, now former, member was presented with a gift and appropriate speeches. The first photo portrays the first group including Distribution and

Records Unit Supervisor Sanjin Džeko, Registry Clerk Goran Barić, Personnel Assistant Sunčica Šamec, Senior Secretary Jasmina Kovačević, Communications Assistant Ivica Maltar and Finance Assistant, Zvonko Laća. The second group portrays IT Assistnat Daniel

Stojisavljević, Spokesperson Ljerka Draženović, Personel Assistant Ivanka Golić and Procurement and Supply Assistant Valerija Mišić all of them being honoured by emotional words from the Head of Office, Ambassador Fuentes.

Photo Gallery



HoO presented his report to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, 5-6 March 2008.



The President of the Croatian Chamber of Economy, Nadan Vidošević, accompanied by his advisor Daria Krstičević invited the HoO and Mr. Horcajada to lunch in the elegant *Art Nouveau* quarters of the Chamber, Zagreb, 11 March 2008.



Ambassador Fuentes attended the Official closure of Field Office in Zadar and met with the Archbishop of Zadar, Msgr. Ivan Prenda, Zadar County Prefect, Stipe Zrilić and Mayor of Zadar, Živko Kolega in Zadar, 27 March 2008.



Diplomatic outing to Lika sponsored by the President and Mrs. Mesić, Lika County, 12 April 2008.
Photo by Josip Kopy, courtesy of the office of the President of the Republic



Ambassador Fuentes and 16 other ambassadors represented their respective minorities at the celebration "Day of the National Minorities of the City of Zagreb". On this occasion the HoO represented the Roma Minority in Zagreb 15 April 2008.



SE Europe Heads of Mission Meeting held in Vršac (Serbia), 22 April 2008.