



Jiří Parkmann assumed the post of **Head of the OSCE Office in Prague** on 1 October, succeeding Ambassador Jaromír Kvapil. Both are from the Czech Republic.

Prior to his OSCE appointment, Ambassador Parkmann served as Deputy Chief of the Czech Mission in Paris (2004-2008) and as General Consul of the Czech Republic in Montreal (1999-2003).

Most recently, he was Head of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) Unit in the Foreign Ministry during the EU Presidency of the Czech Republic. Earlier positions included Adviser to the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Commission for Public Awareness in the context of the Czech Republic's accession to NATO and Adviser responsible for foreign relations to the Minister without Portfolio.

He is a graduate of the Economics University in Prague, with a degree in international business studies, and pursued

postgraduate studies at Charles University.

"Once the seat of the Secretariat of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the Prague Office has been serving as the guardian of the Organization's historical legacy since 1991, and I hope to steer its activities in the right direction," says Ambassador Parkmann. "As the central repository of ever-expanding historic documents, we have a special responsibility to keep the OSCE's institutional memory alive by assisting historians, scholars and participants in our Researcher-in-Residence Programme to study our invaluable records."

Ambassador Parkmann is keen to strengthen the Prague Office's oral history project, which aims to gather a collection of recordings of interviews with CSCE delegates who contributed towards the making of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. Another focus is the Organization's transition phase in the 1990s — from the CSCE to the OSCE.

The Office is also the focal point for records management of both paper documents and digital files, and in this connection works closely with the Secretariat in Vienna. It assists in organizing the meetings of the Economic and Environmental Forum when they are held in Prague.

Janie McCusker assumed the post of **Head of Security Management** at the Secretariat in Vienna on 1 October.

Prior to her OSCE appointment, she was Senior Security Co-ordinator and Head of Security at the United Nations Population Fund in New York, where she established its security structure and capacity and advised senior management on strategic, policy and operational matters concerning security.

A British citizen, Ms. McCusker's career in security management spans more than 30 years. As a police counter-intelligence specialist with the British Royal Air Force for 22 years, she served in a number of locations in the United Kingdom and Germany and with NATO in the then-Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

After joining the United Nations as a Field Security Co-ordination Officer in 2001, she was assigned to Uzbekistan until 2003.

The role of Security Management in the OSCE is to ensure that the

Organization can carry out its tasks effectively and efficiently with the help of a properly-functioning security system. Underpinning the system is the OSCE's duty to care for its staff by regularly assessing security threats and risks and putting every possible reasonable measure in place to enable personnel to carry out their tasks.



"It is an honour for me to be appointed to this position," Ms. McCusker said. "Building on the work of Declan Greenway, my predecessor, I hope to carry out a review of security policies, procedures and practices to determine how we can improve them and to create a more streamlined approach to security. I

look forward to working with colleagues both in the Secretariat and in the field."

Ms. McCusker holds a master's degree in conflict resolution and a post-graduate certificate in business management and has had extensive training and experience in negotiation and mediation.

OSCE PREVIEW CALENDAR (early 2010)

- Observation of presidential election **Ukraine, 17 January**
- Chairmanship workshop on combating illicit crop cultivation and enhancing border security and management: **Thailand as a case study Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, Thailand, 24 to 28 January**
- OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Part I: Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region **Vienna, 1 and 2 February**
- Chairmanship international expert workshop on combating modern slavery: national, regional and international experiences **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 9 and 10 February**
- Public-private expert workshop on protecting non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks **Vienna, 11 and 12 February**

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 August:** 35th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act (1975)
- 19 November:** 20th anniversary of the signing of the CFE Treaty (1990)
- 21 November:** 20th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990)

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