



REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (29 June – 6 July)

OSCE Reform Report: Sense of Common Purpose Key to Effective OSCE

VIENNA - The OSCE needs to create a stronger sense of common purpose among the 55 participating states in order to increase its effectiveness, says a report on OSCE reform, presented on 30 June in the Permanent Council. According to the report drawn up by the Panel of Eminent Persons tasked to discuss OSCE reform, the Organisation can achieve this by focusing on areas in which it has comparative advantages and where it can add value. The report points out that new global challenges and threats call for a comprehensive approach involving all three dimensions of OSCE operations. The Panel, headed by Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, recommends *inter alia* that the Organisation should seek to change its status into a full-fledged international organisation. Furthermore, a clearer line should be drawn between the tasks of the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office Attends OSCE PA Meeting

WASHINGTON - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel urged delegates at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on 1 July to thoroughly study the proposal for reform of the Organisation, as the OSCE is facing a crucial period. The Organisation has done a good job in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, but the situation in Uzbekistan is not so optimistic, he said in his address in Washington, D.C. The truth about the 13 May events in Andijan is still unclear, and will continue to be until there is an independent international inquiry, he said, urging Uzbek authorities to co-operate. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office was more upbeat about the Caucasus, as Georgia and Russia are starting to talk about troop withdrawal, and Nagorno-Karabakh, where he hopes high-level talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan will be successful. For Kosovo, too, dialogue is vital, he said, and the OSCE can play an important role in the next few months as its future is being debated. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office address at the OSCE PA was one of the stops on his tour of North America. He has also met US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Secretary General of the Organisation of American States Jose Miguel Insulzo and Deputy US National Security Adviser Jack Dyer Crouch.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office and US Secretary of State Discuss Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

WASHINGTON - Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan topped the agenda as OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel met US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on 1 July in Washington. The Chairman-in-Office told the press after the meeting that Chairmanship's views on the situation in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, where the government is considering deporting further 29 Uzbek refugees, got full US support. In reference to the meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana the Chairman-in-Office said a situation similar to that in Maastricht and Sofia when no Ministerial Declaration was adopted, should be avoided.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SREBRENICA, 11 July - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel is to attend a commemoration on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the massacre in Srebrenica.