



# Annual Report 2009



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Edited by Sharman Esarey  
Co-edited by Curtis Budden  
Designed by Nona Reuter  
Maps by Nona Reuter

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# Message from the Secretary General



OSCE/FRANZ JOHANN MORGENBESSER

**T**he evolution of the OSCE in 2009 tells a surprising story. The year began inauspiciously. The participating States did not reach consensus on extending the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Georgia which expired on 31 December 2008. An energy crisis struck some participating States in the coldest winter months. The impact of the global financial crisis translated into an economic downturn affecting all parts of the OSCE region. The unified budget was adopted only in April.

Yet despite this tumultuous start, the OSCE soon began to make progress on its core job of establishing and embedding security in Europe.

While agreement remained out of reach on a renewed OSCE presence in Georgia, the Greek Chairmanship actively co-chaired the *Geneva Discussions* and secured progress on issues relating to water and gas distribution that mattered to people on the ground. The OSCE continued to lead in seeking the settlement of long-running conflicts in our region, such as in Transdniestria, through active engagement and steps towards confidence-building and reduction of tensions. The OSCE Minsk Group worked hard to create the conditions for progress towards the settlement of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Throughout 2009, OSCE action continued to derive strength and continuity from a process of constant interaction with the participating States — especially in countries where field operations are deployed. Tajikistan saw the inauguration of the OSCE Border Management Staff College. In Ukraine, the OSCE launched its largest-ever project to clean up the country's stock of a toxic rocket fuel component.

OSCE action was not limited to countries east of Vienna. Human trafficking and terrorism, for example, are challenges facing all of the participating States. OSCE activities to promote media freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination have a similar scope.

In key areas, the OSCE continued to play a leading international role — notably, in support of electoral processes, where co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has been vital. In this respect, an election-support team was deployed in the run-up to the elections in Afghanistan.

But as important as these successes were, the Corfu process took much of the spotlight — as the symbol of the participating States' renewed pursuit of common goals underpinned by a fresh unity of purpose. At the informal *Ministerial Meeting* organized there in June by the Greek Chairmanship, OSCE ministers gave impetus to a renewed European security dialogue, initiating the Corfu process that continued in Vienna in the run-up to the Athens *Ministerial Council* meeting.

All participating States embraced the Corfu process, demonstrating the political will to reaffirm the principles that underpin

The Secretary General answers a question during an interview with a journalist in Belgrade on 16 December. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)



our Organization and to strive together towards comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security across the OSCE area. The ideas put forward by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and others provided the catalyst for this dialogue, which has remained informal and open-ended.

The aim of the Corfu process is to take stock of the state of European security today and to strengthen our ability to deal effectively with traditional and new challenges, while preserving the common achievements of the 56 participating States — including the commitments undertaken and the roles of the Secretariat, field operations and institutions.

During the discussions at the heart of this process, it became ever clearer that the OSCE is the only venue of its kind that joins the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian spaces. On many issues, the OSCE is *the* forum for engaging on issues of democracy, prosperity and security, and for grappling with the complexity of a diverse community of States. This is a real resource for European security.

The adoption by the OSCE *Ministerial Council* in Athens of a *Decision* and a *Declaration* furthering the Corfu process showed that the Organization is on the right track. Under the leadership of Kazakhstan, the dialogue is set to become more targeted in 2010.

The year culminated in a raft of strong *Decisions* and *Declarations* at the Athens

*Ministerial Council* that will take the OSCE agenda forward across the three dimensions of security. As a demonstration of the participating States' seriousness in making this happen, the unified budget was agreed on time, breaking with the negative trend of the last several years.

Throughout the year, the staff of the Secretariat, ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE field operations worked devotedly to fulfil their respective mandates.

The diversity of tasks and activities undertaken under the OSCE's mandate to build comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security is striking. This Annual Report opens a window into the ambitions that lie at heart of this unique Organization.

*Marc Perrin de Brichambaut*  
*Secretary General*

# Executive Summary

## **New European security dialogue.**

Building on a successful and well-regarded high-level multilateral discussion on the future of European security at the Helsinki Ministerial Council meeting in December 2008, the OSCE participating States continued discussions at a joint Permanent Council — Forum for Security Co-operation meeting on **18 February** and at the Parliamentary Assembly's *Winter Meeting* on 19 and 20 February. These discussions would be carried forward at the informal Ministerial Meeting in Corfu in June. (see *Message from the Secretary General*, p. 4; *Corfu informal Ministerial Meeting* below; *Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office*, p. 8; *Interaction with organizations and institutions in the OSCE area*, p. 104).

**Geneva Discussions.** A further five sessions of the *Geneva Discussions* (see *Message from the Secretary General*, p. 4; *Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office*, p. 8; *Interaction with organizations and institutions in the OSCE area*, p. 104), foreseen in the 12 August six-point agreement that brought the 2008 large-scale military confrontation in Georgia to an end, kicked off on **18 February**. The OSCE, together with the United Nations and the European Union, co-chaired the talks, which involve participants from Georgia, Russia and the United States, as well as from Tskhinvali and Sukhumi. The discussions centre on security and stability as well as on humanitarian issues, including issues related to internally displaced persons and refugees. The Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Charalampos Christopoulos, put special emphasis on solving practical humanitarian issues to the mutual benefit of local communities. In particular, he facilitated the resumption of the gas supply to Tskhinvali on 25 January.

**Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRMs).** At the **18 February Geneva Discussions**, participants reached agreement on the establishment of joint IPRMs, which are designed to respond swiftly to local security incidents. The second joint mechanism (which held its meetings in Ergneti and Dvani) held six meetings with the participation of the OSCE and the European Union Monitoring Mission. The participants made important steps, such as: establishing hotlines; sharing information on incidents and planned military exercises; defining

a common policy in dealing with cases of the accidental crossing of the administrative boundary line; promoting the free and safe access of farmers to their fields close to the administrative boundary line; and studying proposals for granting the populations free and safe access to cemeteries and religious places. At year-end, the Chairmanship was actively promoting the resumption of the activities of this joint mechanism which were suspended on 22 October.

**Human dimension events.** The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights organized three *Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings* in Vienna: on hate crimes and the effective implementation of legislation, on **4 and 5 May**; on freedom of religion or belief, on 9 and 10 July; and on gender equality, with a special focus on combating violence against women, on 5 and 6 November. The 2009 *Human Dimension Seminar*, held in Warsaw from 12 to 14 May, dealt with strengthening the rule of law in the OSCE area. The *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*, held in Warsaw from 28 September to 9 October, helped to take stock of where the participating States stood in putting commitments into practice. The Greek Chairmanship also organized an expert seminar on election management bodies in Vienna on 16 and 17 July. (see *Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights*, p. 76).

**Border Management Staff College.** The OSCE College was inaugurated on **27 May** and launched its first course in Dushanbe on 6 October, offering a leadership and management seminar for senior border officers from the region. The College will help train border-security managers and promote co-operation between OSCE States and partner countries (see *Office in Tajikistan*, p. 68; *Conflict Prevention Centre*, p. 96).

**High Commissioner on National Minorities.** The High Commissioner continued to address ethnic tensions within and between States. He examined minority situations in many participating States and advised them on how to improve inter-ethnic relations. The High Commissioner also assisted a number of countries in their bilateral dialogue on national minority issues. The High Commissioner

promoted the *Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations* as a tool to facilitate such dialogue through a series of regional roundtables (see *High Commissioner on National Minorities*, p.79).

**Combating violence against women.** A symposium in Vienna on **8 June** brought together experts working to combat violence against women. On this occasion, the Gender Section launched the publication *Bringing Security Home: Combating Violence Against Women in the OSCE Region. A Compilation of Good Practices* (see *Gender Section*, p. 91).

**OSCE-Japan Conference.** The annual OSCE conference with the Asian Partners was held in Tokyo on **10 and 11 June**, the third time Japan has hosted the event (see *Interaction with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE area*, p. 110). The venue was symbolic, as it was Japan that, in 2000, launched the now-traditional annual OSCE conferences with the Asian Partners.

**Annual Security Review Conference.** The *Annual Security Review Conference*, which took place in Vienna on **23 and 24 June**, focused on the theme of comprehensive and co-operative security. The meeting contributed to a fresh debate on the future of European security. Russian Federation Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, the event's high-level guest, elaborated on Russian proposals for a legally binding European security treaty.

**Corfu informal Ministerial Meeting.** The Greek Chairmanship-in-Office followed up on the discussions mentioned above under *new European security dialogue* with the first-ever informal Ministerial Meeting on the Greek island of Corfu on **27 and 28 June**. This innovative event provided strong impetus to drive forward discussions on the topic. It was followed in autumn by a pioneering series of weekly ambassadorial-level thematic meetings from 8 September through 10 November, during which the Chairmanship breathed new life into the OSCE's spirit of comprehensive and co-operative security. The *Decision on Furthering the Corfu Process* and the *Ministerial Declaration on The OSCE Corfu Process*, adopted

in December at the *Ministerial Council*, also reflected enhanced confidence among the participating States. (see *Message from the Secretary General*, p. 4; *Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office*, p. 8; *Interaction with organizations and institutions in the OSCE area*, p. 104).

**18th Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly.** Held in Vilnius from **29 June to 3 July**, the 213 parliamentarians from 50 OSCE countries attending the 18th Annual Session adopted the *Vilnius Declaration*, with 28 resolutions for participating States covering issues such as strengthening the OSCE, election observation and food security (see *OSCE Parliamentary Assembly*, p. 25).

**Economic and environmental dimension events.** Two innovative conferences addressed strengthening energy security in the OSCE area and the security implications of climate change, in Bratislava on **6 and 7 July** and in Bucharest on **5 and 6 October**, respectively. The 17th *Economic and Environmental Forum*, held in Vienna on 19 and 20 January and in Athens from 17 to 20 May, focused on migration management (see *Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities*, p. 99).

**Field operations reach anniversaries.** Six OSCE field operations celebrated their 10th year of service in 2009. In Central Asia, the Centre in Ashgabat, the Centre in Astana and the Centre in Bishkek reached their 10th anniversaries since deployment in 1999, the result of Permanent Council *Decisions* on **23 July** 1998. Further *Decisions* in 1999 established offices in Kosovo, Yerevan and Baku. The OSCE also celebrated the 15th anniversary of field presences in Tajikistan and Ukraine.

**9th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference.** The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings promoted the exchange of best practices and lessons learned through the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, which she chairs, held in Vienna on **14 and 15 September** (see *Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*, p. 94). The Alliance looked at the global economic crisis's role in reducing legitimate employment opportunities and increasing the vulnerability of millions. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in a video address opening the two-day conference, urged OSCE participating States to redouble prevention efforts.

**Strengthening co-ordination within the OSCE.** To reinforce co-ordination within the OSCE, the Secretariat and the institutions held their first two director-level meetings, in addition to existing meetings between the Secretary General and the heads of institutions. This new forum took up matters of an administrative nature, such as performance indicators and the budget, as a complement to the policy issues discussed in the existing format.

**Engagement with Afghanistan.** The OSCE launched a number of border-security and -management initiatives to tackle border threats and challenges between Afghanistan and its Central Asian neighbours (see *Office in Tajikistan*, p. 68; *Conflict Prevention Centre*, p. 96, *Interaction with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE area*, p. 110). Five out of the seven border projects designed for implementation outside Afghanistan were implemented in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. The aim is to strengthen the capacity of border guard services and customs departments of Central Asian participating States with the inclusion, where possible, of Afghan representatives through joint training at the border.

**Mediation retreat.** The OSCE held a first-ever retreat on mediation in Vienna on **22 and 23 October**, a hands-on event where current and former OSCE mediators and staff and representatives of the present and two incoming Chairmanships discussed mediation experiences and identified opportunities and challenges.

**20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.** Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who served for 18 years as German foreign minister, including when the Berlin Wall fell on 9 November 1989, visited the OSCE on **6 November**, where he addressed more than 600 guests at Vienna's Hofburg to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the event. Mr. Genscher played a leading role in the OSCE's forerunner, the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and later served as its first Chairperson-in-Office. The Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Michael Spindelegger, and the Greek Alternate Foreign Minister, Dimitris Droutsas, also spoke.

**10th anniversary of the Vienna Document 1999.** The *Vienna Document 1999*, adopted **16 November** 1999 in Istanbul, a major document of the OSCE *acquis*, remains a key tool for security- and confidence-building measures (CSBMs) and increased military transparency

among the 56 participating States. In 2009, over 170 military inspection and evaluation visits were conducted. On 14 December, the representatives of national verification agencies gathered in Vienna for the third time to share views on the practical aspects of CSBM implementation at which a symposium to mark the 10th anniversary was organized.

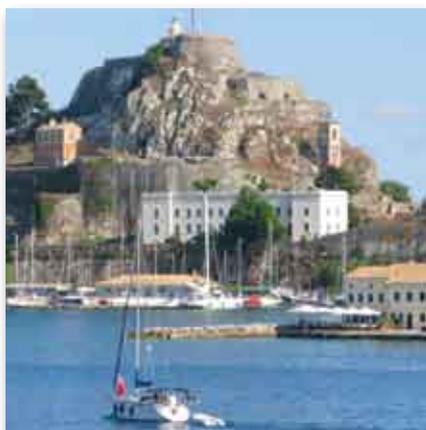
**Freedom of the media: decriminalizing defamation.** On **17 November**, the United Kingdom, following long-standing support from the OSCE's Representative on Freedom of the Media, decriminalized defamation. At year-end, there were 10 OSCE participating States that do not criminalize defamation. The UK is the first among the western European participating States to officially decriminalize. This is a crucial achievement in an area of considerable concern for the Representative, as such laws in other countries are often punishable by imprisonment, substantially chilling critical speech in the media (see *Representative on Freedom of the Media*, p. 83).

**Melange disposal in Ukraine.** On **21 November**, the OSCE launched its largest-ever donor-financed project to clean up Ukraine's entire stock of *melange*, some 16,000 tons of highly toxic rocket fuel component used by the Soviet and Warsaw Pact armies. The first train with 470 tons of *melange* was shipped out for recycling into chemical products for civilian use at specialized enterprises in the Russian Federation (see *Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine*, p. 53; *Conflict Prevention Centre*, p. 96).

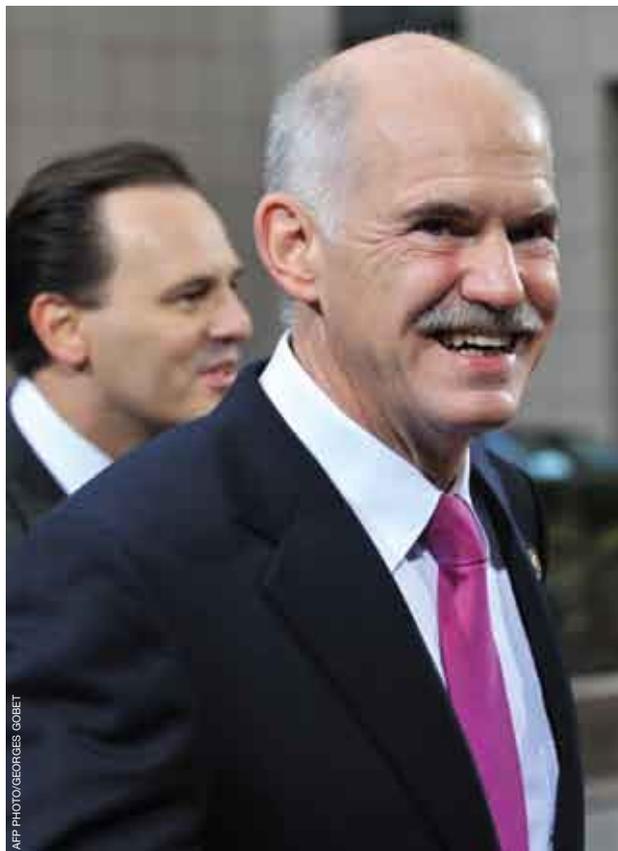
**Ministerial Council meeting.** The Chairman-in-Office, George Papandreou, hosted the 17th *Ministerial Council* at the Hellinikon Centre in Athens on **1 and 2 December**, where the first overarching declaration since 2002 was agreed, the *Ministerial Declaration on The OSCE Corfu Process* (see *Message from the Secretary General*, p. 4; *Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office*, p. 8).

**OSCE Mediterranean Conference.** On **14 and 15 December**, the annual OSCE *Mediterranean Conference* was held in Cairo (see *Interaction with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE area*, p. 110). It was the second time the event was held in the format of a conference rather than a seminar. Egypt hosted the event for the fifth time, underscoring its commitment to the OSCE.

# Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office



Photos: OSCE/George Kontarinis, OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev and the Greek Tourism Board



AFP PHOTO/GEORGES COBIET



Greece took up the 2009 OSCE Chairmanship intent on making the most of the unparalleled assets of the OSCE — its experience, diverse toolbox and comprehensive approach to security — to advance a renewed dialogue on European security and, through concrete steps in the field, build security from the ground up. I committed myself to carrying this vision forward when I assumed my responsibilities as Chairman-in-Office on 6 October. I am grateful to my predecessor, Minister Dora Bakoyannis, for laying the groundwork for a number of our successes.

Chief among these was the launch in June of a renewed, inclusive and meaningful dialogue on European security at an innovative informal *Ministerial Meeting* on the island of Corfu. In December in Athens, ministers charted the path ahead for this dialogue, aptly dubbed the Corfu process, with a *Decision* and an ambitious *Declaration*, themselves a tribute to a new spirit of co-operation among participating States.

My team also worked tirelessly to embed stability and security in the Caucasus region, especially in Georgia. Regrettably, despite intensive consultations, the OSCE presence in Georgia closed down at the end of June. However, we worked hard to build long-term stability in the country at the *Geneva Discussions*, which we co-chaired with the United Nations and the European Union. We sought to rebuild elements of confidence between the local communities, solving urgent humanitarian issues, notably re-establishing the gas supply.

We set and achieved a number of core priorities across the three OSCE dimensions, advancing this agenda through 16 *Decisions* at the Athens *Ministerial Council* meeting.

The Chairmanship's intervention during the year also dramatically improved co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in election observation, one of the Organization's emblematic activities.

This year we took important steps to ensure the OSCE lives up to its full potential. We will lend our support to future Chairmanships as they work to ensure the OSCE's place as a cornerstone of stability for intra-state and inter-state relations, the place where all Europe's security actors come together to work in concord.

2009

*Chairman-in-Office*  
George Papandreou

# Report of the Chairmanship-in-Office

Greece assumed the Chairmanship-in-Office in January determined to revitalize the OSCE's historic mission to foster and safeguard European security. Through innovative retreats for ambassadors, a first-ever informal *Ministerial Meeting* and a series of weekly ambassadorial-level thematic meetings, the Chairmanship-in-Office breathed new life into the OSCE's spirit of comprehensive and co-operative security, deftly building momentum and channelling dialogue towards an exploratory review of OSCE security commitments, tools and processes. The aim was nothing less than the rejuvenation of the OSCE's quest to create a "just and lasting order of peace for a united, democratic Europe" amid the recognition that this remained a lofty goal rather than a reality nearly 20 years after participating States agreed the *Charter of Paris for a New Europe* in 1990.

The time was ripe. Unease gripped the Organization. The conflict in Georgia in August 2008 created shock waves, laying bare the seriousness of the challenges that remained for the OSCE to address. It also sounded a call for action: the OSCE's work was urgent; much was still to be done.

## Corfu process

The Greek Chairmanship-in-Office took up the challenge. It built on a successful and well-regarded initiative, the first high-level multilateral discussion of the future of European security at the Helsinki *Ministerial Council* meeting in December 2008, itself inspired by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's call in June of that year for a pan-European summit that would frame negotiations on a legally binding European security treaty. The Chairmanship-in-Office declared its willingness to gauge the participating States' appetite for discussions on European security within the OSCE framework.

For much has changed in Europe. A major period of state-making and -breaking has taken place: 22 new States have joined the OSCE. International law, alliance systems, the concept of neutrality and perceptions of security have all changed significantly.

1 Permanent Council Chairperson Ambassador Mara Marinaki (l), Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger (c) and Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (r), at a conference on *European Security Dialogue* in Vienna on 8 May. (Holzner/Hopi Media)

2 Permanent Council Chairperson and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at the *Annual Security Review Conference* in Vienna on 23 June. (OSCE/Susanna Loof)

3 The Chairperson-in-Office Dora Bakoyannis (r) with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Joao Soares, at the Assembly's *Winter Meeting* in Vienna on 19 February. (OSCE/Antonios Doykas)



The Chairmanship counselled that the dialogue was to be guided by a triptych of S's: symmetry of efforts to deal with new and old challenges; synergy of all participating States in promoting security; and strategy on ways to achieve this common goal.

An expert meeting, organized by the Austrian Ministry of European and International Affairs and held in Vienna on 8 May, lent critical support to this exploratory phase. Discussions took place in a number of other key OSCE forums, including the February joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and Permanent Council, the Parliamentary Assembly *Winter Meeting* and the *Annual Security Review Conference* in June.

The Greek Chairmanship offered, with increasing certainty of conviction, a pioneering mid-year informal *Ministerial Meeting* to invest the dialogue with high-level political guidance. At the *Corfu Meeting* on June 28 and 29, the Chairperson-in-Office ushered in the next phase of these talks, during which the 56 participating States were to agree an agenda and structure. The Chairperson urged participants to dispense with the unilateral and frequently confrontational approaches of recent years and to reach out for common solutions, acknowledging that the path would be arduous, that bridging differences required time and effort. The Chairperson reminded participating States that more than 2,400 meetings were held to deliberate on 4,660 proposals before the heads of state and government could gather in Helsinki in 1975 to sign the *Helsinki Final Act*.

Following Corfu, OSCE ambassadors met weekly in Vienna to try to sort through, in a structured manner, the priorities for discussion. They considered experts' contributions. Delegations put forward their approaches to improve and strengthen European security. Through a series of food-for-thought and perception papers, the Chairmanship gave shape to these talks, weaving them into coherent themes, shepherding disparate views towards consensus.

George Papandreou, who was sworn in as Greece's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on 6 October, addressed the Permanent Council later in the month as the new Chairperson-in-Office. In his first statement to this forum, he described the Corfu process as an important collective achievement.

Harkening back to a time of great hope for the future of European security, the Chairmanship-in-Office, together with Germany and host country Austria, commemorated the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in November. Former German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who played a leading role in developing the CSCE, addressed some 600 guests, saying that the OSCE remained a wonderful platform for shaping the future of Europe.

The process culminated in the Athens *Ministerial Council* meeting, where foreign ministers from the 56 participating States agreed 16 *Decisions* and five *Declarations*, including a *Decision on Furthering the Corfu Process*, as well as an overarching political declaration, the *Ministerial Declaration* on the OSCE Corfu process,

both eloquent testimony to the fact that the dialogue undertaken had already enhanced confidence among the participating States.

In the *Declaration*, ministers expressed concern "that the use of force has not ceased to be considered as an option in settling disputes; that the danger of conflicts between states has not been eliminated, and armed conflicts have occurred even in the last decades."

Bolstered by the Organization's improved mood, Kazakhstan, which takes up the OSCE Chairmanship in 2010, the first Central Asian state to hold the office, offered to hold an OSCE summit in 2010, which would be the first since 1999. In Athens, ministers noted with interest Kazakhstan's proposal.

The *Corfu Decision* drew a roadmap for the actual substantive talks, which will be launched in 2010, saying the dialogue should focus on eight areas: implementation of all OSCE norms, principles and commitments; role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; role of the arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes in building trust in the evolving security environment; transnational and multidimensional threats and challenges; economic and environmental challenges; human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as democracy and the rule of law; enhancing the OSCE's effectiveness; and interaction with other organizations and institutions, on the basis of the 1999 Platform for Co-operative Security.



The Secretary General (l), Greek Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis (c) and the Chairperson-in-Office at the informal *Ministerial Meeting* of OSCE foreign ministers in Corfu on 28 June (OSCE/George Kontarinis)



## Corfu process: setting the agenda, determining priorities

Following the Corfu informal *Ministerial Meeting* in late June, the permanent representatives of the OSCE participating States met weekly in Vienna from 8 September through 10 November to consider various aspects of comprehensive and indivisible security in an attempt to structure the actual debate on European security due to take place in 2010. These sessions were organized around input from internal and external experts. The schedule of speakers and topics follows:

**8 September** *Common Foundations and Commitments in the OSCE area – Session I on Implementation of norms and principles of International Law in the OSCE area*  
*Speaker: Ambassador Herbert Salber, Director of the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre*

**15 September** *Common Foundations and Commitments in the OSCE area – Session II on Co-operative security versus unilateralism and Different levels of security in the OSCE area*  
*Speaker: Dr. Wolfgang Zellner, Deputy Director of the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg and Head of the Centre for OSCE Research*

**22 September** *Common Challenges of a politico-military nature – Session I on Arms control and CSBMs arrangements and instruments and their impact on building trust and confidence*

*Speaker: Dr. Pal Dunay, resident faculty member at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and Director of the International Training Course in Security Policy*

**13 October** *Common Challenges of a politico-military nature – Session II on Non-proliferation, Illicit arms transfers, Terrorism and risks arising from criminal activities and Cyber-security*

*Speaker: Dr. Walter Kemp, Spokesman and Speechwriter, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

## Corfu process: an exchange of views

The Chairmanship-in-Office launched the Corfu process, a groundbreaking initiative in which the participating States engaged in a review of the OSCE's current role in securing a Europe whole and at peace. Though still in the early stages, the discussions have already helped to dissolve some of the accumulated mistrust and to re-establish a co-operative spirit. The following timeline presents just a few quotes — from the Chairmanship-in-Office, expert advisers and delegates of participating States — to illustrate the gathering momentum behind the Corfu process from January, as well as the breadth and tenor of the discussions.

**1 January.** "The OSCE plays a crucial role in regional security, working for stability, prosperity and democracy throughout its 56 participating States. It is an irreplaceable forum for dialogue in our region and does valuable practical work on the ground. We will try to strengthen the OSCE's role at the heart of European security."

—Dora Bakoyannis, Greek Foreign Minister, on assuming her new role as OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

**19 February.** "We parliamentarians must do what we can to keep the OSCE as an effective forum for dialogue. The Georgia debate in Toronto was an important contribution. Our debate tomorrow on security architecture will be equally important. Some governments have objected to us even discussing this, but I think there is nothing more important that we could do. And I pledge that I will continue to work to encourage debate on the most difficult security topics facing us all."

—OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Joao Soares in an address to the Assembly's *Winter Meeting* in Vienna

**25 February.** "Over the last ten years, European security policy has been increasingly dominated by unilateral and frequently confrontational approaches. This is a far cry from the principle of co-operative security to which the OSCE States committed themselves in the 1990 Charter of Paris."

—Wolfgang Zellner, Director, Centre for OSCE Research, Hamburg, Germany, in an address to the Forum for Security Co-operation

**27 April.** "Important challenges remain in all three dimensions, including, *inter alia*, the need to resolve protracted conflicts, to revitalize arms control and CSBM [confidence- and security-building measures] regimes, to deepen co-operation in addressing threats arising from outside the OSCE area and new forms of threats (such as cybercrime), to address economic and environmental challenges (including energy and water), and to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to counter intolerance and discrimination."

—Summary by the Greek Chairmanship of the OSCE Ambassadors' Retreat on 24 and 25 April in Stegersbach, Austria

**30 April.** "In Romania's point of view, any such debate should cast no doubt on the efficiency of the existing security arrangements... The existing institutions and structures have indeed served us well, and our priority should be to seek ways for strengthening them. A better use of existing mechanisms at our disposal would have allowed for some recent crises to be avoided."

—Romanian Minister for Foreign Affairs Cristian Diaconescu in a speech to the OSCE's Permanent Council

**8 May.** "We want to give the dialogue on European security a targeted impulse with this event. In this way we are substantiating the process that the OSCE foreign ministers began at their meeting in Helsinki last December... We need an open and direct debate on the security challenges of the future. The OSCE is the right framework for this... We do not require new treaties and structures — the point is much more to use and apply the existing mechanisms of the OSCE effectively."

—Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs Michael Spindelegger at the start of an expert meeting on security, sponsored by Austria

**23 June.** "Today we are coming up against no less dangerous threats of a global nature and these challenges require genuine collective responses. However, to create the basis for seeking such responses we will have to tackle the systemic shortcomings which we have seen in Euro-Atlantic security... The most important systemic shortcoming remains the fact that in the past 20 years, we have not been able to work out guarantees for the principles of indivisible security."

—Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, high-level guest at the OSCE's 2009 *Annual Security Review Conference*

**27 and 28 June.** Discussions at the informal *Ministerial Meeting* were not recorded. Here are contributions made by several foreign ministers, as noted down by those present and published in the *OSCE Magazine*:

- Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Stubb said that the launching of a serious discussion on security policy in Europe had brought new dynamism to an organization that he felt had been "quasi-dead" just a few years before.
- Kazakh Minister for Foreign Affairs Marat Tazhin reviewed the security challenges and issues that were of concern to the OSCE community and that would be dealt with by the Kazakh Chairmanship in 2010.
- Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs Miguel Angel Moratinos looked forward to the Chairmanship's structuring of the discussions and to the dialogue also being pursued by Kazakhstan's Chairmanship.

**20 October** *Conflict Resolution in the OSCE Area – Session on Peaceful settlement of disputes, Early warning and conflict prevention including mediation, Crisis management, Post-conflict rehabilitation and Protracted conflicts in the OSCE area*

Speakers:

- Ambassador Herbert Salber, Director of the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre
- Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

**27 October** *Common Challenges in the Human Dimension – Session I on Human rights and fundamental freedoms, Democratic institutions and the rule of law and Tolerance and non-discrimination*

Speakers:

- Ambassador Janez Lenarcic, Head of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
- Miklos Haraszti, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

**3 November** *Review of the Chairmanship's Food-for-Thought Paper on Sailing to Athens: the future of the Corfu Process and Follow-up of the discussion at the Ambassadors' Retreat on 31 October*

**10 November** *Common Challenges in the Economic and Environmental Dimension – Session on Security implications of migration, Energy security and Security-related implications of climate change and other environmental challenges*  
Speaker: Goran Svilanovic, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**28 June.** "We just completed a fascinating, wide-ranging and frank discussion on the future of European security... We agreed on the need for an open, sustained, wide-ranging and inclusive dialogue on security and concurred that the OSCE is a natural forum to anchor this dialogue, because it is the only regional organization bringing together all States from Vancouver to Vladivostok on an equal basis."

—Dora Bakoyannis, Chairperson-in-Office, at the close of the Corfu informal Ministerial Meeting

**13 September.** "I believe that participating States have no choice but to co-operate to reduce the threats posed by terrorists and criminal groups. These are transnational threats that require a multilateral response. No participating State is immune... Tactically, closer co-operation among participating States in addressing some of the most salient issues confronting them all — namely organized crime and terrorism — would generate the confidence and trust to move ahead in other areas."

—Dr. Walter Kemp, Spokesman and Speechwriter, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in an address to a Corfu process meeting

**15 September.** "The Corfu process, like it was for the Helsinki process, needs to be gradual, inclusive, comprehensive, transparent and open. It must be anchored in the OSCE but could also benefit from other complementary formats, provided that the core debate remains in its natural forum: [the] OSCE."

—Delegation of Italy non-paper entitled *The Corfu Process: towards a more secure and Peaceful Europe*

**22 September.** "Those who have observed the OSCE for a long time now know that the disappointment, if not the disenchantment, of some participating States stems from the perception that the security situation changed to their disadvantage and those who do not share the same perception do not even want to discuss this matter. This demonstrates that co-operative security has declined in the OSCE. Without regaining it, the OSCE will face similar troubles [to those] it experienced during the last decade or so."

—Dr. Pal Dunay, resident faculty member at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and Director of the International Training Course in Security Policy, in an address to a Corfu process meeting

**19 October.** "We offer the following as a conceptual framework for a new conflict prevention and crisis mechanism that will complement the OSCE's existing *acquis* and increase the organization's effectiveness in overcoming acute threats to security and stability... We look forward to a productive exchange of views on this topic, which we believe is at the heart of making the OSCE a more effective contributor to European security."

—Delegation of the United States, food-for-thought paper

**29 October.** "Irrespective of the diverging views on the root causes of tensions, we need to break the deadlock of mistrust. We must do so by invigorating co-operation and solidarity. And we must do so, because instability between our neighbouring states, and thus security in Europe, is closely interlinked with the security in our neighbouring regions."

—George Papandreou, Greek Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, in his first address to the Permanent Council after taking over as Chairperson-in-Office on 6 October

**31 October.** "It is safe to conclude that there is emerging consensus on the value of the Corfu process and the need to continue it in the next year and beyond. Delegations pointed out that it has already contributed to a positive change in the OSCE atmosphere, in an effort to reverse the widespread political assumption that our Organization is not in the best shape possible. In this vein, there seems to be consensus in favour of a *Ministerial Declaration* on the Corfu process in order to voice out a strong political message..."

—Greek Ambassador Mara Marinaki, concluding remarks at the second Ambassadors' Retreat in Krems, Austria, on 31 October

**5 November.** "We find the Corfu process extremely useful in terms of identifying and articulating problematic areas of common concern and in finding answers to the existing security vacuum with full engagement of all key actors... The key to improving a dialogue and to fashion it into genuine security partnership will lie in restoring the viability of the CFE [*Treaty on Conventional Armed Force in Europe*], and in mustering the political will to find solutions for protracted/frozen conflict on the European continent in accordance with international law."

—Croatian Minister for Foreign Affairs Gordan Jandrokovic in an address to the Permanent Council

**16 November.** "Greece will be as ambitious in Athens as it has been throughout the year. We will seek a substantive decision on the follow-up to the Corfu process. Greece looks forward to the support and backing of European Union partners in the endeavour."

—Greek Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs Dimitris Droustas, following an EU-OSCE Troika meeting in Brussels

**16 November.** The Delegation of the Russian Federation put forward a proposal calling for participating States to apply unified principles of conflict prevention equally to all crisis situations in the OSCE area.

**2 December.** "...we already felt the mitigating effect of the Corfu process during our meetings both yesterday and today. I detected an unprecedented degree of goodwill and a spirit of consensus-building in our deliberations here in Athens."

—George Papandreou, Greek Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson, at the *Ministerial Council* meeting in Athens

## Protracted conflicts

**Georgia.** The eruption of violence in Georgia in 2008 brought home to the OSCE the danger that protracted conflicts in its area might yet spiral out of control. The Greek Chairmanship-in-Office therefore redoubled its efforts to resolve them. In line with past practice, the Chairperson-in-Office also appointed a Special Representative for protracted conflicts, Ambassador Charalampos Christopoulos.

After the Permanent Council was unable to reach consensus to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Georgia beyond its 31 December 2008 expiration, the Chairperson took over the reins of negotiations to try to find a mutually acceptable solution for a continued OSCE presence on the ground. The Mission to Georgia itself, established in 1992 and one of the OSCE's largest field operations, entered the phase of discontinuing its activities.

On 12 February, the OSCE Permanent Council extended the mandate of 20 unarmed military monitoring officers in the areas adjacent to South Ossetia until the end of June, a move that the Chairperson called a "recognition of the need for an OSCE presence on the ground". The Chairperson travelled to Tbilisi on 23 March, meeting Prime Minister Nika Gilauri, Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze and State Minister for Reintegration Temuri Yakobashvili. "There is no doubt

that the OSCE's work to promote stability in the region is crucial," the Chairperson said.

Following five months of intense negotiations to try to ensure a meaningful and cross-dimensional OSCE field presence, the Chairmanship-in-Office suspended talks, on 14 May, after participating States failed to reach consensus on its proposal, based on a "status-neutral" formula, although it was supported by the vast majority of the participating States. The mandate for the 20 unarmed military monitoring officers in Georgia expired on 30 June and, with it, the Mission to Georgia was completely shut down. On 6 August, the Chairperson said: "We remain focused on finding a solution that would enable the OSCE to have a strong presence in Georgia, and we hope that despite the difficulties so far, we will be able to find a consensus on a format for such work. The Chairmanship's status-neutral proposal for the mandate remains on the table."

Throughout the year, the Chairmanship engaged, along with the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU), in co-organizing the *Geneva Discussions* and co-facilitating the meetings of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms. Ambassador Christopoulos co-chaired, together with his UN and EU colleagues, the *Geneva Discussions*, which involve participants from Georgia, Russia and the United States, as well as from Tskhinvali

and Sukhumi. The *Geneva Discussions*, foreseen in the 12 August six-point agreement and the subsequent implementing measures of 8 September that brought the 2008 large-scale military confrontation in Georgia to an end, address security and stability in the region, as well as humanitarian questions, including on internally displaced persons and refugees.

Under the co-chairmanship of Ambassador Christopoulos, five rounds of *Geneva Discussions* were held: on 18 February, 18 and 19 May, 1 July, 17 September and 11 November. Prior to each round, Ambassador Christopoulos travelled to Tbilisi, Tskhinvali and Sukhumi together with the EU and UN co-chairmen with a view to holding preparatory consultations.

"Ultimately, stability and security in this troubled region depend on the ability of the participants to keep in mind the bigger picture as well as the important details of any agreement. In this respect, the *Geneva Discussions* are the best — indeed the only — way ahead as we seek to ensure stability in the region," Ambassador Christopoulos said.

Within the framework of the *Geneva Discussions*, Ambassador Christopoulos emphasized in particular the need to solve practical humanitarian issues for the population living in the conflict-affected areas. Within days of taking up his office, he addressed the disruption of gas supplies to Tskhinvali. To this end, he deployed an



The Chairperson-in-Office (l) meets with the head of the OSCE Mission to Georgia (r) and the Mission's staff in Tbilisi on 23 March. (OSCE/David Khizanishvili)



The United Nations Special Representative to Georgia (l), the European Union Representative for the Crisis in Georgia (c) and Charalampos Christopoulos (r), Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, address the media after the fifth round of the *Geneva Discussions*. (AFP/Fabrice Coffrini)

independent expert who co-operated with the relevant energy structures on both sides of the South Ossetian administrative boundary line. The flow of gas resumed on 25 January.

Ambassador Christopoulos re-deployed the same expert to undertake technical assessments of the drinking-water and irrigation-water distribution networks, as well as of the gas-distribution network to and within the Akhgori district. The expert's findings were presented to the participants of the *Geneva Discussions*, where Ambassador Christopoulos made several proposals for joint actions to solve these urgent humanitarian issues. During the consultations, Ambassador Christopoulos invited the participants to also take advantage of the confidence-building component of the proposed joint actions.

Another humanitarian issue that Ambassador Christopoulos paid special attention to was the sensitive question of missing persons and detainees. To this end, Ambassador Christopoulos promoted, within the framework of the *Geneva Discussions*, the establishment of an informal group of contact persons on missing people. This group met twice on site.

Throughout the second half of the year, Ambassador Christopoulos held extensive consultations with Tbilisi and Tskhinvali on various proposals aimed

at strengthening the role of the OSCE within the joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism. The fourth round of the *Geneva Discussions*, held on 18 February, resulted in the establishment of joint mechanisms to tackle security-related incidents on the ground. The first joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (which held its meetings in Gali) held its first meeting on 14 July and since then has been meeting every second Tuesday under the chairmanship of the UN. The second joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (which held its meetings in Ergneti and Dvani) met for the first time on 23 April and has met six times to date. The meetings are co-organized and co-facilitated by the EU Monitoring Mission and the OSCE. Within the framework of this joint mechanism, important steps have been taken such as: establishing hotlines; sharing information on incidents and planned military exercises; defining a common policy in dealing with cases of the accidental crossing of the administrative boundary line; promoting the free and safe access of farmers to their fields close to the administrative boundary line; studying proposals for granting the populations free and safe access to cemeteries and religious places, among others. At year-end, the Chairmanship was actively promoting the resumption of the activities

of this second joint mechanism which were suspended on 22 October.

**Moldova.** Ambassador Christopoulos travelled to Moldova for a four-day visit in February and held talks with the leaderships in both Chisinau and Tiraspol, intent on finding an approach that would restart the Transdniestrian settlement process in the “5+2” format, in which the mediators — the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE — and the observers — the EU and the US — are joined by the parties to the conflict, Moldova and Transdniestria. Formal negotiations in this format have been stalled since February 2006.

“Together with the OSCE Mission here on the ground, the Greek Chairmanship will work with both sides towards reaching a genuine settlement. This settlement should be negotiated freely and peacefully; it should confirm Moldova’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and also earn the support of the Transdniestrians by guaranteeing them real autonomy that is properly respected, with real rights,” Ambassador Christopoulos said.

Throughout the year, the mediators and observers stressed the importance of direct contacts between the sides at all levels, including the Joint Expert Working Groups on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs), and they called for the reactivation of the work of these groups. In support of this endeavour, the Chairmanship, together with the OSCE Mission to Moldova, held a seminar on CSBMs in the military sphere that took place in Mauerbach, Austria, on 21 and 22 June, with the participation of experts and political representatives to the 5+2



format. The seminar discussed a package of CSBMs elaborated by the OSCE in consultation with Russian and Ukrainian experts and originally presented to the sides in 2005. The participants called for OSCE assistance in developing co-operation between their law-enforcement structures.

On the margins of the CSBM seminar, Ambassador Christophoulos chaired an informal 5+2 meeting to discuss the next steps in the negotiation process on a comprehensive settlement of the Transdnestrian conflict. The participants discussed the need for direct contacts between the sides to resolve a series of outstanding issues, and the need to resume formal negotiations in the 5+2 format.

On 6 November, at the initiative of Greek Alternate Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas, Special Envoy of the Chairperson-in-Office, the mediators and observers held further consultations with the political representatives of both sides during an informal 5+2 meeting in Vienna.

“The Greek Chairmanship strongly supports the efforts of the mediators and observers of the 5+2 format and calls on the sides to negotiate, without preconditions, in good faith and result-oriented spirit, to conclude a comprehensive, lasting, mutually acceptable political agreement resolving the conflict,” Minister Droutsas said.

At this meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Victor Osipov — Moldova’s new chief negotiator in the settlement process — and his Transdnestrian counterpart, Vladimir Yastrebchak, agreed to establish a regular, confidential channel to resolve outstanding problems within the framework of the



General Sir John McColl (r), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, takes part in discussions on security and defence matters at the Forum for Security Co-operation in Vienna on 16 September. (OSCE/Sarah Crozier)

5+2 process. They held their first such formal session on 27 November at the OSCE Mission’s offices in Bender.

On 8 and 9 November, Ambassador Christophoulos attended the opening and closing sessions of an expert-level seminar on co-operation between the law-enforcement bodies of the sides in Vadului-Voda and Tiraspol organized by the OSCE Mission to Moldova in response to the request of both sides at the CSBM seminar in Austria in June. The event was attended by representatives of the Moldovan police and Transdnestrian militia,

with the participation of international law-enforcement experts, including the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit. The seminar ended with an agreement to implement or update previous documents on law-enforcement co-operation after each side carried out internal reviews.

On 9 November, the mediators and observers met with the new leadership in Chisinau and representatives of the five parliamentary factions. On the same day, on the margins of the seminar on law-enforcement co-operation, the 5+2 held an informal meeting in Tiraspol — the first

### Handing over the reins

The four parties to Article IV, Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords, under which the *Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement* was elaborated, opted to continue downsizing their military manpower in 2009, although it had already dropped well beneath limits set at the *Agreement’s* signing. The four parties — Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia — also voluntarily reduced by 218 their heavy weapons in 2009, although the official reduction period had ended in October 1997.

The 18 inspections carried out in 2009 were conducted in an environment of trust and transparency, without any problems.

Since 1996, when the *Agreement* was signed, the four parties have destroyed an impressive 9,271 heavy weapons. Twenty-nine OSCE participating States provided 1,100 international assistants who conducted 624 regular inspections and 129 reduction inspections/visits.

Given these successes, the OSCE’s Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office encouraged the parties to strengthen their own voice in the *Agreement’s* execution with a view to achieving full au-

tonomy. He presented a two-phased plan. The first phase foresees the transfer of some technical functions that are currently provided by the Office of the Personal Representative to the parties by the end of 2011. The aim of the second phase is to arrange the necessary measures to be prepared to grant the parties full autonomy at a time to be determined.

The two-phased plan is supported by the OSCE community, in particular the Contact Group countries Germany, France, Italy, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the recommendation to proceed gradually and in close co-operation with the parties.

In the course of the 43rd meeting of the *Sub-Regional Consultative Commission*, which took place in Novi Sad, Serbia, on 3 and 4 November, the parties agreed that the two-phased plan proposed by the Personal Representative represented a good basis to proceed with the process and approved an *Action Plan* to take over the new responsibilities. They also confirmed their commitments to gradually assume these obligations.



The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group in discussion at a meeting in Vienna on 23 October (OSCE/Susanna Loof)

5+2 meeting in Tiraspol since early 2006. The Transnistrian side presented a list of its priorities for discussion in the bilateral channel. On 17 November, the Moldovan side communicated its list to the Transnistrian side.

At the Athens *Ministerial Council*, Ambassador Christopoulos chaired discussions among the mediators, observers and Moldova on a regional statement on Moldova. However, consensus was not

reached. Following the Athens *Ministerial Council*, Ambassador Christopoulos paid a final visit to Chisinau and Tiraspol from 21 to 23 December. The aim of the visit was to prepare the handover from the Greek to the Kazakh Chairmanship.

**The conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference.** In Athens on 1 December, the Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk group, the foreign ministers

### **Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference**

**Negotiations** towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict intensified in 2009. The presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia met six times during the year, reflecting the intensity of the negotiation process. Their respective foreign ministers also continued their meetings and negotiations towards reaching an agreement on the *Basic Principles*. The Personal Representative, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, participated in the meetings. He kept the Chairmanship and the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group informed of developments on the ground.

The Personal Representative and his Office continued the mandated task of monitoring the front lines to assess the military situation and to assist in reducing tension. The Personal Representative intervened at the highest military and political levels on a number of occasions to reduce tension.

Contact was maintained with international organizations and NGOs with relation to the major problems of internally displaced persons and refugees, prisoners of war, missing persons and detainees, as well as mine clearance. In 2009, the Personal Representative was active alongside the International Committee of the Red Cross on the issue of detained persons.

The Office assisted in the visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to the region and also the visits by the Co-Chairs and other OSCE delegations.

The overall security situation remained stable, although localized incidents continued to be reported occasionally on the Line of Contact throughout the year. The Office registered two incidents that occurred during regular monitoring activities in February and December.

The Office facilitated the crossing of the Line of Contact by intellectuals and journalists from both communities by conducting monitoring that provided the necessary security guarantees from the parties.

### **High-Level Planning Group**

**The Group**, in accordance with its mandate, supported the Chairmanship-in-Office by preparing for the establishment and deployment of a multinational OSCE peacekeeping operation in the area of conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference. The Group provided advice to the Chairmanship on several military aspects of a possible OSCE-led peacekeeping mission to the area and continued to review the four existing peacekeeping options and related supporting documents.

The Group also provided assessments to the Chairmanship and the Secretariat on the key challenges involved in the planning, establishment and deployment of an OSCE-led peacekeeping mission to the area of conflict.

Since March, the Group, at the direction of the Chairmanship, has provided military advice to the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group and to the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on specific military aspects related to the area of conflict.

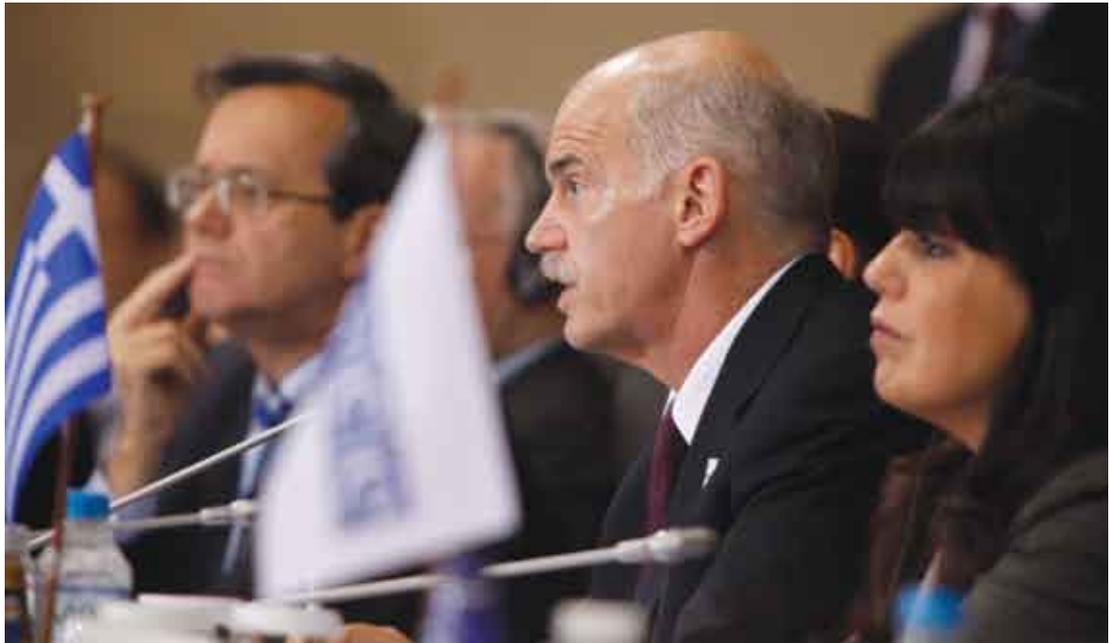
of the Russian Federation and of France and the Deputy Secretary of State of the United States, issued a joint statement following a meeting with the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

They pointed to a positive dynamic in the talks to resolve the conflict, demonstrated through six meetings during the year between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan. The increasing frequency of these meetings, they agreed, significantly contributed to an enhanced dialogue between the parties and forward movement towards finalizing the *Basic Principles for the Peaceful Settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict*, proposed in Madrid in November 2007.

The foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan reported on progress made in 2009 in achieving common understandings on points of the *Basic Principles* and reaffirmed their commitment to work intensively to resolve the remaining issues.

In Athens, the OSCE ministers welcomed the above joint statement in their own *Ministerial Statement* in which they urged the parties to sustain this positive dynamic. The ministers said they were convinced “there is today a real opportunity to build a future of peace, stability and prosperity for the entire region.”

Chairman-in-Office George Papandreou addresses the closing session of the *Ministerial Council* in Athens on 2 December. (OSCE/George Kontarinis)



### Chairmanship work across the dimensions

The Athens *Ministerial Council* meeting brought to fruition the Chairmanship's security work across the OSCE's traditional three dimensions — politico-military, economic and environmental and human — throughout the year. The ministers agreed 16 *Decisions* in the Chairmanship's priority areas that pointed the way forward, as well as five *Ministerial Declarations* or *Statements*.

They also named Ireland to hold the 2012 OSCE Chairmanship, following Kazakhstan in 2010 and Lithuania in 2011, and made Australia the Organization's 12th Partner for Co-operation.

#### Politico-military dimension

Using the OSCE's potential as a forum for dialogue to foster co-operation, the Chairmanship pursued the Organization's work on non-military aspects of security, focusing on border management, counter-

terrorism, policing and combating organized crime. The participating States' signaled their heightened interest in this field with the adoption of three related Athens *Ministerial Council Decisions*.

The inauguration of the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe on 27 May was a highlight of the Chairmanship. The College trains border officers from all participating States and Partners for Co-operation, including Afghanistan, and promotes cross-border co-operation in Central Asia.

### Athens *Ministerial Council Decisions, Declarations and Statements*

**Decision No. 1:** Furthering the Corfu Process

**Decision No. 2:** Further OSCE Efforts to Address Transnational Threats and Challenges to Security and Stability

**Decision No. 3:** Further Measures to Support and Promote the International Legal Framework against Terrorism

**Decision No. 4:** The Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension

**Decision No. 5:** Migration Management

**Decision No. 6:** Strengthening Dialogue and Co-operation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area

**Decision No. 7:** Women's Participation in Political and Public Life

**Decision No. 8:** Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Ensure Roma and Sinti Sustainable Integration

**Decision No. 9:** Combating Hate Crimes

**Decision No. 10:** OSCE High-Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

**Decision No. 11:** Travel Document Security – ICAO Public Key Directory

**Decision No. 12:** OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2012

**Decision No. 13:** Granting of the Status of Partner for Co-operation to Australia

**Decision No. 14:** Time and Place of the Next Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council

**Decision No. 15:** Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition

**Decision No. 16:** Issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation

**Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Corfu Process: Reconfirm-Review-Reinvigorate Security and Co-operation from Vancouver to Vladivostok**

**Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation**  
**Ministerial Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the adoption of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment**

**Ministerial Declaration on the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of the End of the World War II**  
**Ministerial Statement**



The Permanent Council Chairperson (l) with the Tajik Foreign Minister at the inauguration of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe on 27 May (OSCE/Firuza Gulomaseinova)

these complex issues, and in this respect convened a *Chairmanship Conference on Strengthening Energy Security in the OSCE Area* in Bratislava on 6 and 7 July.

These efforts culminated in the adoption of a *Ministerial Decision on Strengthening Dialogue and Co-operation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area*.

The signature event of the economic and environmental dimension's annual calendar, the 17th *OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum*, held in Vienna on 19 and 20 January and in Athens from 17 to 20 May, dealt with *Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region*. Uncontrolled migration raises daunting questions that stretch across the three OSCE dimensions and involve all participating States, their border-management systems and their judiciaries. The Chairmanship therefore was particularly pleased that ministers in Athens agreed a *Decision on Migration Management*.

Following a year-long debate, ministers in Athens also agreed that recommendations on the future orientation of this dimension would be identified and adopted by the end of 2010, based on a report by the Greek Chairmanship.

### Human dimension

The Greek Chairmanship worked across the entire spectrum of the human dimension, on human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and democratic institutions, as well as on tolerance and non-discrimination, the latter a particular focus of its efforts.

The Chairmanship devoted one *Supplementary Human Dimension*

To combat terrorism, the Chairmanship organized a workshop to examine ways to prevent the abuse of NGOs to finance terrorism and an expert workshop on public-private partnerships aimed at discussing how best to engage with the media in countering terrorism. It also set up national expert-level workshops, such as one in Zagreb against terrorist use of the Internet.

In policing, the *Annual Police Experts Meeting* concentrated on hate crimes and effective law-enforcement co-operation. An expert workshop examined how to combat cyber-threats, including cyber-terrorism, cyber-crime and threats to cyber-defence.

The three *Decisions* are aimed at promoting the international legal framework against terrorism — an area in which political impetus from the OSCE has proven markedly effective — enhancing police-related work and promoting travel-document security. In addition, the *Decision* on transnational threats highlighted the participating States' keenness to enhance programmatic co-ordination in the field of transnational threats and implementation of the 2003 *OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century*, including the OSCE contribution to addressing cyber-threats, threats to energy security, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and organized crime, including illicit arms transfers, drugs trafficking and trafficking in human beings. The political

will to engage further in these fields was also reflected in their inclusion in the priority areas for European security, discussed in the context of the Corfu process.

### Economic and environmental dimension

With the consequences of the global financial crisis rippling through the OSCE region, the economic and environmental dimension assumed particular importance in 2009.

The Chairmanship called on all members of the OSCE family to monitor the fallout from the crisis carefully throughout the year in order to address, early on, any new forms of instability arising as a result. The Chairmanship watched with concern the intermingling of the economic crisis with problems of energy security. It reminded the participating States of the commitments agreed in the *OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension*, adopted in Maastricht in 2003, which provides a starting point to undertake working-level dialogue on



The Chairperson-in-Office (c), the Secretary General (r) and the Permanent Council Chairperson (l) at the *Economic and Environmental Forum* in Athens on 18 May (OSCE/Antonios Doykas)



Roma school children from Kosovo on an OSCE-supported study visit to a castle on 7 April (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)

Meeting to freedom of religion or belief and took aim at hate crime, in response to the recent increase in violent manifestations of intolerance across the OSCE area, through another such *Meeting* that looked at the effective implementation of legislation targeting hate crimes and hate crime reporting. It also co-sponsored, together with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the second *Annual Meeting on the National Points of Contact on hate crimes*. Following a Chairmanship proposal, ministers in Athens adopted a *Decision on Combating Hate Crimes*.

Greece also appointed three Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office: Rabbi Andrew Baker, on Combating Anti-Semitism; Ambassador Adil Akhmetov, on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination Against Muslims; and Mario Mauro, on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions. A *Decision* to hold a high-level OSCE conference on tolerance and non-discrimination in 2010, taken by the Athens *Ministerial Council*, lent further impetus to this area.

The Chairmanship made early education for Roma and Sinti children the topic of a special day at the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* as a follow-up to a 2008 *Ministerial Council Decision*. In an effort to respond to the recent rise in violence against this large minority in the OSCE area, ministers in Athens adopted a *Decision*, based on a Chairmanship proposal, to enhance OSCE efforts to achieve

sustainable integration for Roma and Sinti.

In the field of gender equality, the Chairmanship took up the issue of combating violence against women as the topic of the November *Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting*. Ministers also adopted a *Decision* in Athens on promoting women's participation in public and political life, in line with a Chairmanship proposal.

The Chairmanship also devoted time to issues on freedom of the media, the topic of a special day during the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*, and the rule of law, the subject of the annual *Human Dimension Seminar*. In Athens, the Chairmanship proposed a draft *Decision* on fostering media freedom and enhancing pluralism, aimed at strengthening and updating existing OSCE commitments. It came close to adoption, but in the end two delegations voiced reservations. The *Seminar*, which followed up on a 2008 *Ministerial Council Decision*, focused on effective administration of justice, homing in on issues such as the independence of the judiciary and the investigation of complaints of torture or ill-treatment. In this context, ministers in Athens agreed a *Declaration* on the occasion of the adoption of the United Nations convention against torture.

The Chairmanship also paid particular attention to election-related issues, including election observation. Through its interventions, the Chairmanship succeeded in substantially improving the effective co-operation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and ODIHR, the two arms of the OSCE's election observation activities.

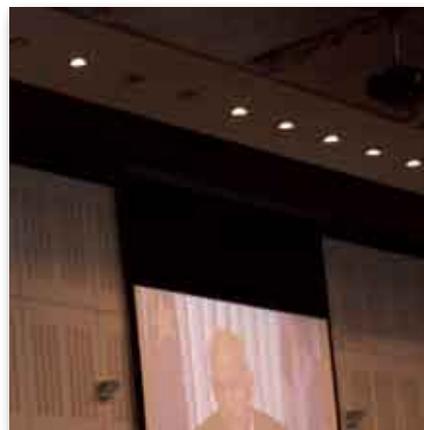
The Chairmanship also organized an expert seminar on electoral-management bodies. It brokered a Permanent Council *Decision* for ODIHR to send an OSCE election-support team to Afghanistan to provide support in the August presidential elections. A report and recommendations were provided to the Permanent Council in December.

### Work with Partners for Co-operation

The June *OSCE-Japan Conference*, which brought together the OSCE and its five Asian Partners, analysed the link between security in the OSCE region and Asia from the point of view of the three dimensions of security, focusing on enhancing confidence-building through military transparency; dialogue on energy security; and civil society development, including the media. Participants mooted the possibility of a joint Japan-OSCE workshop on freedom of the media, as well as a study tour in the northern region of Thailand to share experiences on alternative development projects to counter illegal crop cultivation and drugs trafficking.

At the December *OSCE Mediterranean Conference* in Cairo, Egypt, the OSCE and its six Mediterranean Partners further studied the ties between European and Mediterranean security. Experience and ideas were exchanged on two key issues: politico-military aspects of security and the implications of the current financial crisis on migration. Future prospects for OSCE-Mediterranean co-operation were also discussed.

# Permanent Council



The Chairman-in-Office delivers a video address to the Permanent Council in Vienna on 29 October (OSCE/Susanna Loof)

The Permanent Representative of Greece, Ambassador Mara Marinaki, presided in 2009 over the Permanent Council, the OSCE's principal body for political consultation and decision-making.

At the start of the year, the Chairmanship declared its intention to make optimal use of the three-committee structure, rather than setting up informal working groups, to promote transparency and greater political oversight by participating States. The committees, it said, contribute to better preparation of Permanent Council debates, conclusions and decisions.

The work of the three committees — in the politico-military, economic and environment and human dimensions — centre on initial follow-up to *Ministerial Council Decisions*, implementation of the OSCE's commitments and

recommendations, as well as the preparation of decisions and the development of possible new initiatives, taking into account the Chairmanship's priorities and objectives.

The Chairmanship guided the committees' work, discussing the agendas in advance with the Chairpersons. To illustrate the importance the Chairmanship accorded the committees, a representative of the Chairmanship attended and participated in all committee meetings throughout the year.

At the outset, the Chairmanship planned for each committee to meet at least once monthly, but later in the year, as the preparations for the *Ministerial Council* meeting accelerated, they met more frequently.

In addition, the Chairmanship continued to organize joint Permanent Council meetings with the Forum for Security

Co-operation on matters of common concern, in particular on topics such as crisis management and conflict resolution, where the distinction between political and military issues was blurred.

The Greek Chairmanship entrusted the chair of the security committee for the year to the Permanent Representative of Hungary, Ambassador Gyorgy Molnar. The Permanent Representative of Romania, Ambassador Cornel Feruta, chaired the economic and environmental committee, and the Permanent Representative of Lithuania, Ambassador Renatas Norkus, led the human dimension committee.

### Guest speakers at the Permanent Council in 2009

15 January: (Special PC) Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece **Dora Bakoyannis**

22 January: Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office **Charalampos Christopoulos**

29 January: Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic **Karel Schwarzenberg**

11 February: (Joint meeting with the Forum for Security Co-operation) Head of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia **Hansjoerg Haber**

18 February: (Joint meeting with the Forum for Security Co-operation) Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation **Alexander Grushko**

30 April: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania **Cristian Diaconescu**. Separately, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office **Charalampos Christopoulos**

14 May: First Deputy Head of the State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan **Kasym Gafarov**

28 May: EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus **Peter Semneby**

4 June: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia **Samuel Zbogar**. Separately, State Secretary – Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation **Grigory Karasin**

17 June: Co-Chairs of the Geneva Discussions: **Charalampos Christopoulos**, Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office; **Pierre Morel**, EU Special Representative for the crisis in Georgia; and **Johan Verbeke**, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia. Separately, the Head of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, **Hansjoerg Haber**

30 July: High Representative and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Valentin Inzko**

24 September: Interior Minister of Kyrgyzstan **Moldomusa Kongatiev**

22 October: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania **Vygaudas Usackas**

29 October: Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece **George Papandreou** (video address)

5 November: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia **Gordan Jandrokovic**

6 November: (Special PC) Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece and Special Envoy of the Chairperson-in-Office **Dimitris Droutsas**

12 November: Minsk Group Co-Chairs: Russian Ambassador **Yuri Merzlyakov**; French Ambassador **Bernard Fassier**; US Ambassador **Robert Bradtke** and Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office **Andrej Kasprzyk**

# Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC)



Destruction of shoulder-fired missiles conducted at the Kalo Chorio range in Cyprus on 12 June. (OSCE/Anton Martynyuk)

*The Forum for Security Co-operation, chaired successively by France, Georgia and the United Kingdom, continued to focus on core politico-military issues. In an active year with a busy agenda, the Forum adopted 12 Decisions. Some of these updated supplementary measures to support existing commitments in fields such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (CoC). Others introduced new areas of work for the Forum.*

Throughout the year, the Forum engaged in an intensive and vigorous dialogue on arms control and CSBMs, underscoring its importance as a platform to address and discuss such issues. Presentations and discussions on several topical issues for European security dialogue enhanced debate. In the framework of this dialogue, discussions were held on *United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security* and how women's involvement in security issues can have a benefit in terms of conflict settlement.

All three Forum Chairmanships continued working on strengthening co-operation between the Forum and the Permanent Council as part of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. Five joint Forum for Security Co-operation-Permanent Council meetings

were held during 2009 to address relevant cross-dimensional issues.

Discussions continued on several proposals to improve implementation of the *Vienna Document 1999*. This resulted in a new *Decision on a Best Practice Guide for Implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 Chapter IV, Contacts*.

The 19th *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM)* provided an opportunity for experts from participating States to exchange experiences, make suggestions and assess the implementation of OSCE commitments in this area. The meeting of heads of verification centres was held in December, separating it for the first time from the AIAM in order to allow time for the development of ideas between the two events.

Intensive discussions on the implementation of the OSCE CoC resulted in the

Lieutenant General Jim Dutton, Deputy Commander of the NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, addresses a joint Forum for Security Co-operation – Permanent Council meeting in Vienna on 14 October. (OSCE/Jonny Perfect)



adoption of a *Decision* on an important technical update of the *Questionnaire on the CoC*.

In March, the Forum held a *Workshop on a Comprehensive OSCE Approach to Enhancing Cyber Security*, with the participation of relevant international organizations, which provided for a useful exchange of views on this emerging challenge.

The Forum's contribution to the *Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC)*, held in June, consisted of politico-military elements that served as suggestions for topics of discussion. Debate at the *Conference* on the current politico-military situation and the value of the OSCE's security dialogue, arms-control arrangements and CSBMs in the OSCE area revealed the continuing relevance of the *Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe*.

The *OSCE Documents on SALW and on SCA* continued to receive considerable attention, and the need for their continued and enhanced implementation was noted. A meeting was held in September to review the *OSCE Document on SALW and its supplementary decisions*. This rigorous and extensive examination by participating States, together with relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, provided the basis for a range of potential actions that the Forum could take in 2010 and beyond.

The implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on SALW and SCA remained one of the most dynamic areas of practical activity. Two

new requests for assistance were received, and significant progress was made in addressing earlier requests. In Tajikistan, the comprehensive programme on SALW and Conventional Ammunition was completed. In Cyprus, the Forum assisted with the destruction of 324 man-portable air defence systems, completing this programme in June. In Albania in July, the OSCE destroyed stocks of the rocket fuel *melange*. In Ukraine in November, the OSCE launched its largest-ever donor-financed project to dispose of over 3,000 tons of *melange*. The OSCE continued the implementation of two joint assistance programmes with the United Nations Development Programme, in Montenegro and in Belarus. Unfortunately, there was a significant reduction in financial support from donors for projects in 2009.

Work continued on supporting the implementation of *UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)* on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Participating States are discussing the preparation of a suite of best-practice guides for its implementation. One such guide on *Resolution 1540 export controls and transshipment* was adopted by the Forum. At a meeting of the Forum in March, a number of high-level experts on counter-proliferation discussed the way forward on this *Resolution* and the OSCE's relevance in the progress already made. The Forum Chairmanship held a special security dialogue in October that concentrated on the *Resolution* and included presentations by invited experts.

# OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)



The Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Session was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 29 June to 3 July. (OSCE/Klas Bergman)

# OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

*The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, established by the Paris Summit in 1990, includes 320 members of parliament. Its primary role is the promotion of dialogue among elected parliamentarians in the OSCE region on issues related to all three OSCE dimensions of security. Through its annual Declaration adopted at its Annual Session, it provides recommendations to OSCE institutions, as well as to the governments and parliaments of the participating States.*

*In 2009, the Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Session took place in Vilnius, hosted by the Lithuanian Parliament. The Winter Meeting was held, as usual, in Vienna in February, and the Assembly had its Fall Meetings in Athens in October. In addition, Dublin was the host in May of the Assembly's Economic Conference, which is held every two years.*

## Presidency

President Joao Soares focused on two priority areas throughout 2009: improving transparency and flexibility within the Organization and supporting the OSCE's work in the field.

Re-elected during the Assembly's *Annual Session*, President Soares also sponsored a resolution that laid out proposals to improve the functioning of the Organization. His recommendations, which were adopted by the Assembly, included modifying the OSCE's consensus decision-making procedure and opening up Permanent Council meetings to the media.

President Soares participated in the informal *Ministerial Meeting* in Corfu in June, and addressed the OSCE *Permanent Council* in November and the *Ministerial Council* in Athens in December. President Soares has regularly called on the Organization to provide more support to field operations by improving staffing procedures, ensuring more effective mandates and providing more budgetary support. As a sign of his continued efforts in this area, he visited 10 OSCE field operations during the year.

## Parliamentary Dialogue

**18th Annual Session, Vilnius, 29 June to 3 July.** More than 200 parliamentarians from 50 countries gathered for the 18th *Annual Session* from 29 June to 3 July in Vilnius, Lithuania, the first Baltic country to host this Assembly meeting. Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus and the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis, addressed the *Session*.

The main theme of the meeting was the OSCE's role in addressing new security challenges.

The Assembly adopted the *Vilnius Declaration*, which outlines a set of policy recommendations for the OSCE and its participating States on a wide range of issues, including the need to improve transparency within the Organization in order to enhance its legitimacy and relevance.

In addition, the Standing Committee approved the budget for 2010, and the Assembly re-elected President Soares for a second one-year term and elected three new Vice-Presidents and a new Treasurer. The Assembly's three General Committees also elected new officers for the coming year.

## Fall Meetings, Athens, 9 to 12 October.

The *Fall Meetings* focused on the topic of energy security and the environment and also included a meeting of the *Mediterranean Forum* and a session of the Assembly's Standing Committee. Nearly 200 parliamentarians from 50 countries met in Athens, where they discussed a range of issues, including regional co-operation in the area of energy security, climate and environmental policy leading up to the *United Nations Climate Change Conference* in Copenhagen in December and how best to use natural resources to ensure human security.

Speakers included the President of the Hellenic Parliament; the Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece; the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental



The leader of the Assembly's election-observation delegation to the 23 July Kyrgyz presidential election visits a polling station in Bishkek. (OSCE/Andreas Baker)



1 The Assembly's Special Co-ordinator for Moldova's parliamentary elections delivers the preliminary post-election statement at a news conference on 5 April. (OSCE/Petra Jezkova)

2 The Assembly's Special Envoy on Georgia and Special Representative on Nagorno-Karabakh talks to reporters in Tbilisi during a visit to the Caucasus in February. (OSCE/Tina Schoen)

3 Before the special debate on European security architecture at the *Winter Meeting* in Vienna in February, the Assembly President (c) talks with the two main speakers: the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister (l) and the Deputy Director for Political and Security Affairs at the French Foreign Ministry (r). (OSCE/Klas Bergman)

4 The Assembly President (r) with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (l) during his official visit to Moscow in September (OSCE/Semyon Dzakhayev)

Activities; and experts from Greece, Russia and Ukraine.

**Economic Conference, Dublin, 27 to 29 May.** Nearly 100 parliamentarians from 38 participating States gathered for the Assembly's sixth *Economic Conference* in Dublin, where the topic of discussion was the world financial crisis. Participants debated a number of issues, including responses to the crisis such as free trade versus protectionism, as well as financial regulation and good governance and the social consequences of the crisis, which focused on migration.

The meeting was addressed by Ireland's Finance Minister, Brian Lenihan, and by President Soares, who said that the topic of the meeting was evidence of the Assembly's willingness to engage with new challenges.

**Winter Meeting, Vienna, 19 and 20 February.** The Assembly's second-largest event of the year, the *Winter Meeting*, provided a good opportunity for members to interact directly with senior OSCE officials and leaders and discuss follow-up to the Assembly's 2008 *Astana Declaration*. A number of senior officials addressed the meeting, including: Chairperson-in-Office Bakoyannis; John Tanner, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin

de Blichambaut and the heads of several OSCE institutions.

The meeting provided a forum to follow up on proposals by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and French President Nicolas Sarkozy for new European security arrangements. An open debate on security within the OSCE area was held, involving prominent guest speakers from Russia and France and almost 50 of the 250 parliamentarians participating in the meeting.

### Election Observation

In 2009, the Assembly participated in six OSCE election observation missions in co-operation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and with other parliamentary assemblies. The Assembly remained the largest of any parliamentary organization in election observation, having conducted 100 such missions involving over 3,000 parliamentarians since 1993.

The Chairperson-in-Office appointed the following senior Assembly representatives as Special Co-ordinators to lead all short-term OSCE observers and deliver the preliminary post-election statement on the day after the elections:

- Danish parliamentarian Pia Christmas-Moeller for the parliamentary elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 22 March;

- Slovenian parliamentarian Roberto Battelli for the parliamentary elections in Montenegro, 29 March;
- Greek parliamentarian Petros Efthymiou for the parliamentary elections in Moldova, 5 April and 29 July;
- Austrian parliamentarian Wolfgang Grossruck for the parliamentary elections in Albania, 28 June; and
- Canadian Senator Consiglio Di Nino for the presidential election in Kyrgyzstan, 23 July.

### Regional Focus, Field Work

Assembly committees and representatives work with field operations to promote parliamentary dialogue on a wide range of political issues.

To follow up on the discussions that the Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, US Representative Alcee L. Hastings, held during a visit to five of the six OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation at the end of 2008, Congressman Hastings convened a seminar in Washington in July under the auspices of the US Helsinki Commission on engagement with the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners. Congressman Hastings also held extensive meetings with the parliamentary delegations from the partner countries at the Assembly's *Winter Meeting* and the *Annual Session* and chaired the *Mediterranean Forum* held in Athens in October.

Voting during the Parliamentary Assembly's *Annual Session* in Vilnius, Lithuania, in July (OSCE/Klas Bergman)



The Special Representative on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, President Emeritus Goran Lennmarker, continued promoting parliamentary dialogue in Armenia and Azerbaijan in order to support the peace process led by the Minsk Group. He visited both countries in February to discuss peace proposals and to urge the parliaments of both countries to support the peace process.

The Special Representative on Gender Issues, Vice-President Tone Tingsgaard, delivered her yearly report at the *Annual Session* and again called for more women in leadership positions in the OSCE. Ms. Tingsgaard co-hosted the *Annual Working Lunch on Gender Issues*, which focused on the different effects of the economic crisis on men and women and the special situation of women labour migrants. Ms. Tingsgaard also addressed the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* in Warsaw and participated in several international meetings on gender issues, several of which were organized by OSCE field missions.

The Assembly's Special Representative for Central Asia, Kimmo Kiljunen, organized a regional parliamentary seminar on labour migration in April in Dushanbe in co-operation with the Parliament of Tajikistan and with the support of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan. The seminar focused on the effects of labour migration on the wider region, migration management, legislative frameworks and trafficking in human beings. Participants, including parliamentarians from Finland, France,

Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Poland, and Tajikistan, agreed on a general set of recommendations that were incorporated into a resolution on labour migration in Central Asia adopted at the Assembly's *Annual Session*.

The Assembly's Special Representative on South East Europe, Roberto Battelli, visited the region several times, including as a member of election observation missions to Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania. Mr. Battelli also represented the Assembly at meetings on regional initiatives, including a *Seminar on the Code of Conduct* in Sarajevo. In May, he joined President Soares on a field visit to the OSCE Missions in Serbia and Kosovo, as well as to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania.

During the year, President Soares appointed Dutch parliamentarian Kathleen Ferrier as the new Special Representative on Migration, and he re-appointed US Congressman Christopher Smith as Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues.

The Assembly's Working Group on Belarus, led by Uta Zapf of Germany, organized a joint seminar in Minsk with the Assembly's delegation from Belarus, in co-operation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the OSCE Office in Minsk. The March seminar, which focused on improving the climate for foreign investment in Belarus, brought together representatives of the European Union, the Belarusian business community, parliamentarians from the OSCE area and representatives of

civil society and the media in Belarus. The Working Group also travelled to Minsk in December, meeting with relevant Ministries, representatives of the political opposition, and civil society, and encouraging the Belarusian authorities to co-operate closely with OSCE institutions. During the visit, it was agreed to organize a joint parliamentary seminar in Minsk in 2010.

The incoming and outgoing members of the OSCE Parliamentary Team on Moldova, including the new chair, Walburga Habsburg Douglas, met during the *Fall Meetings* in Athens for an exchange of views. In connection with the *Ministerial Council* meeting in Athens, Ms. Habsburg Douglas also met with the Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova for a detailed briefing on the situation in the country and on how the team can support the Mission's work.

Parliamentary Assembly President:  
**Joao Soares**, re-elected in 2009  
Secretary General: **R. Spencer Oliver**,  
re-elected in 2005  
Budget: €2,855,985  
[www.oscepa.org](http://www.oscepa.org)

# Field Operations



The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje's Situation Centre was the core of its monitoring activity during election day on 22 March. (OSCE/Eberhard Laue)



# Presence in Albania

Head of Presence: Ambassador Robert Bosch

Budget: €3,401,800

[www.osce.org/albania](http://www.osce.org/albania)

*The Presence in Albania, including through its four Project Offices, supported the strengthening of the host country's public institutions, focusing on judicial, legislative and electoral reform, parliamentary capacity-building, anti-trafficking, police training, destruction of surplus arms, good governance, property and regional reform activities. It also supported media independence and worked to help strengthen gender and civil society structures. A highlight was a major technical-assistance project that supported the modernization of Albania's civil registration and address systems, which greatly improved voter registries for parliamentary elections held in June.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Strengthening the police.** The Presence assisted the border and migration police in implementing their *Integrated Border Management Strategy* through facilitation of joint border co-operation meetings, training courses and the development of cross-border agreements with neighbouring countries. It installed solar generator systems and universal power supplies at border crossings to ensure an uninterrupted power supply for the Total Management Information System, which tracks the movements of all people entering or leaving Albania. The System's accuracy and security are critical to the success of the country's visa liberalization process.

The Presence provided second-language courses at seven locations, training 90 police officers in targeted English-language skills. Prior to the parliamentary elections, it also trained 5,750 police officers on the specific duties given to the police in the *Electoral Code*. Forty-eight police instructors, including police from neighbouring countries, also received advanced-level training in teaching skills. The Presence supported the state police in developing a recruitment programme to increase the number of applications from women and ethnic minorities. To increase public awareness, the Presence facilitated workshops on democratic policing, public-police partnership and the rights of minors.

**Support for the destruction of surplus arms.** The Presence supported the OSCE's Forum for Security Co-operation in assisting Albania with the disposal of *melange* rocket fuel and surplus conventional ammunition. By July, all 34,000 litres of toxic fuel stock had been destroyed in a project funded by Greece, Denmark, Finland and Sweden. In December, further support was given through the provision of equipment for arms destruction, funded by Denmark.



The Presence assisted Albania in the disposal of *melange* rocket fuel and surplus conventional ammunition. By end July, all 34,000 litres of the toxic fuel stock had been destroyed. (OSCE/Jack Bell)



1 A polling station in Elbasan during Albania's parliamentary elections on 28 June (OSCE/Roberto Berna)

2 The electronic National Register of Citizens, created with the help of the Presence, is the data source for many public services, including the identification-card application process, as seen in this photograph taken in Tirana on 14 January. (OSCE)

3 A television journalist reports from a ceremony in Tirana where 50 Albanian women received certificates from the President on 16 June for their participation in a Presence project to enhance the role of women in governance. (OSCE/Fabiola Haxhillari)

4 Managers at Telejoni TV in Saranda, southern Albania, discuss the establishment of a self-regulatory media body on 18 August. The Presence supported the new body, which was set up in January 2010, through an awareness-raising campaign. (OSCE/Suela Shala)

## Economic and environmental activities

**Supporting decentralization and regional reform.** The Presence continued, with the Council of Europe, to implement a local-government leadership project for senior officials from three pilot municipalities, focusing on the use of performance-management and budgetary-planning tools.

**Promoting good governance.** The Presence assisted Albania's Financial Intelligence Unit in training 70 officials of reporting institutions, such as banks, on the *Law on Preventing Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism*. It organized workshops with staff from the Property Registration Office to help them more effectively report suspicious real-estate transactions. It provided support to the High Inspectorate for the Declaration of Assets and Audit by training 550 public administrators on the conflict-of-interest legal framework. It also organized a seminar with civil servants and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to strengthen anti-corruption efforts.

**Supporting property reform.** The Presence assisted the Property Registration Office with the first registration of coastal properties, and supported the Property

Restitution and Compensation Agency to better manage its own claims data.

**Fighting human trafficking.** The Presence supported the delivery of training courses to 120 judges, prosecutors and students in magistrates school on the rights of victims of trafficking. It provided 12 workshops for regional anti-trafficking committees to increase their ability to effectively respond to trafficking. It assisted the National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator in organizing a cross-border meeting with Greece to improve co-operation in the protection of trafficking victims. It helped establish a municipal Child Protection Unit in Vlora and published a study on the re-integration of victims. Another project in this field focused on improving economic opportunities for women in northern Albania.

**Promoting better environmental management.** In line with *Aarhus Convention* recommendations on strengthening citizen participation, the Presence registered Aarhus Information Centres in Vlora and Shkodra as NGOs and signed an agreement with the Ministry of Environment on further co-operation. It trained 140 representatives from the public and private sector, as well as civil society, on their roles regarding public participation. The Information Centres facilitated meetings

for public officials and NGOs on local issues and also conducted events that were open to the public in order to increase awareness.

## Human dimension activities

**Furthering electoral reform.** The Presence assisted Albania in modernizing its civil registration and address systems, which greatly improved voter registries and the data used for the production of identification cards, helping to ensure that the voter-identification process in June's parliamentary elections was reliable. It then helped create an electronic National Register of Addresses, as well as build skills and professionalism at the General Directorate for Civil Status and the Data Protection Commissioner's Office in a project funded by the European Commission.

It supported the Central Election Commission in the preparation of parliamentary elections by delivering seminars to trainers who then trained election commissioners throughout the country. On voter education, support was provided in producing television spots that encouraged voters without a valid passport to obtain an identification card. It also facilitated a poster and house-to-house campaign, discouraging the practice of family voting.

Unresolved property issues in the coastal area of Albania hinder the legal certainty of ownership necessary for a viable land market. (OSCE/Darcie Nielsen)



**Justice reform.** The Presence supported Albania in developing a national probation service by: helping draft secondary legislation; delivering seminars for probation officers, judges and prosecutors on the legal changes to the execution of alternatives to imprisonment; and publishing a training manual for probation officers. It supported the Civil Service Commission's efforts to protect civil servants' rights by offering training for 100 local-government officials to stress the proper application of civil-service-related legislation. It provided technical assistance in the drafting of a significant number of laws relating to justice reform.

**Human rights.** The Presence provided technical assistance in the drafting of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, in accordance with European requirements, which the Albanian Assembly was considering at year-end. It also co-ordinated donor responses on all Roma-related issues.

**Strengthening parliament.** To modernize the parliament, the Presence focused on developing its senior-management practices in a multi-year project funded by the Netherlands. Each staff member was provided with an up-to-date job description, the first step in further modernizing the parliament's day-to-day management practices. It continued to build the skills and professionalism of the Parliamentary

Library, Parliamentary Archives and Research Department, in co-operation with the Dutch and Italian parliaments. Work on an information-technology network continued, and information-technology and English-language training were provided to key staff. It also facilitated co-operation with parliaments in the region.

**Supporting the media.** The Presence helped establish a self-regulatory media body, with a group of media professionals in a project funded by the European Commission. It held a series of expert seminars nationwide on media self-regulation. It discussed a draft strategy on digitalization with the media community at a roundtable funded by Austria. It supported Albania in establishing a task force to implement the strategy, which the Presence has been invited to participate in.

**Advancing gender equality.** To promote an increase in the number of women in parliament and in local government, the Presence held seminars for women from political parties, public administration, civil society and business, funded by the Netherlands and Sweden. It provided assistance to victimized women in Kukes through the Women's Counselling Centre in Kukes, with funding from Germany. It supported the equal-opportunities department in the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities by

facilitating a regular newsletter and a brochure promoting their work.

**Promoting civil society.** The local Civil Society Development Centre, the municipal government, civil society and the Presence helped run a local civil society development fund in Korca to enhance local citizen engagement. The project was funded in part by Germany.



# Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Head of Mission: Ambassador Gary Robbins

Budget: €15,160,900

[www.oscebih.org](http://www.oscebih.org)

*The Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina launched a comprehensive local-governance support project, focusing on economically weaker and neglected municipalities. The Mission also continued its involvement in the effective processing of war crimes and related legislative and judicial reforms. Good governance and citizen involvement in education were among the Mission's priorities. The Mission also supported Bosnia and Herzegovina's increased capacity for democratic control of the security, defence and intelligence sectors, and compliance with its politico-military commitments.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Increased capacity.** The Mission continued to assist the country's authorities to develop their skills and professionalism in ensuring democratic political control of the military, internal security forces and the State Intelligence-Security Agency. Emphasizing that security is both comprehensive and indivisible, the Mission gathered professionals from civilian and military life at more than 80 OSCE-supported events that were designed to increase and improve the knowledge, skills and perspective required to implement the country's security policy, the *Dayton Peace Agreement* and OSCE politico-military commitments.

**Compliance with commitments.** With the Mission's assistance, the country's authorities succeeded in raising awareness about OSCE politico-military commitments both through institutionally supported events and media reporting. Two inter-ministerial roundtables resulted in the designation of a lead agency and the shaping of a collaboration process to complete annual exchanges of information with other OSCE participating States. As a related practical exercise, the Mission organized a seminar on the implementation of arms-control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures.

**Arms control.** The Mission remained at the forefront of efforts to support the improved management of the country's surplus weapons, ammunition and explosives, including also the implementation of *Article IV, Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords*. Together with its strategic international partners and members of parliament, the Mission urged the authorities to dispose of the country's surplus armaments responsibly, preferably by



Young people attend a job fair in Bijeljina. (OSCE/Will Richard)



1 Secondary-school students from both entities in discussions at a *Culture of Tolerance* event in Cazin in May, one of more than 80 such events held around the country aimed at fostering tolerance in schools. (OSCE/Milenko Buzadzija)

2 At a regional *Intelligence Oversight Conference* in Sarajevo in May, South-Eastern European States continued to work towards their common goal of improving parliamentary oversight of intelligence services. (OSCE/Vedran Pribilovic)

3 Following a visit to the field, parliamentarians discuss their impressions of border security with reporters. (OSCE/Jasna Dragicevic)

4 The Mission, in co-operation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, organized a *Regional Workshop on Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Knowledge-Transfer Methodology on Processing War Crimes* in Sarajevo in May. (OSCE/Vedran Pribilovic)

destroying them. In addition, the Mission provided logistical, administrative and interpretation support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation in eight *Article IV* inspection missions, as well as for four events organized under the auspices of the Chairmanship's Personal Representative for *Article IV*. This multi-year collaboration was brought to a successful conclusion, and Bosnia and Herzegovina will, as of January 2010, conduct *Article IV* implementation activities without the Mission's assistance.

**Parliamentary oversight.** The Mission continued its support to the State parliament, working to enhance the capabilities of parliamentary committees responsible for the oversight of the State's defence, security and intelligence institutions. The Mission's leadership led to the appointment of the country's first Parliamentary-Military Commissioner, improvements to laws on secret-data protection and military intelligence, State-level control of the movement of weapons and dangerous goods and a law on parliamentary oversight.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Jobs and the economy.** The country's municipalities started to assume responsibility for organizing job fairs and youth entrepreneurship training workshops during the year, organizing 10 out of 35 dedicated OSCE events. More than 400 young people attended entrepreneurship training and 2,000 participants visited the job fairs where over 700 job vacancies were offered. As a result of the training courses and job fairs, over 300 people either found employment or started a new business.

## Human dimension activities

**War crimes.** Supporting implementation of the *National Strategy for Processing War Crimes*, the Mission provided technical assistance for national juridical institutions, enhancing their ability to engage in judicial outreach and respect the rights of victims. The Mission shared and discussed with national counterparts findings from monitored war-crimes cases to encourage closer co-operation among the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, State and entity jurisdictions.

**Judicial reform.** The Mission continued support for the implementation of the *National Justice-Sector Reform Strategy*, while engaging in the monitoring of prisons

and providing support for the establishment of independent domestic monitoring mechanisms.

**Equality and non-discrimination.** The Mission supported a consultative process for adoption of the *Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination*, followed by detailed technical assistance to raise awareness of the law and its content, including conducting training sessions, running a series of radio shows and producing promotional material.

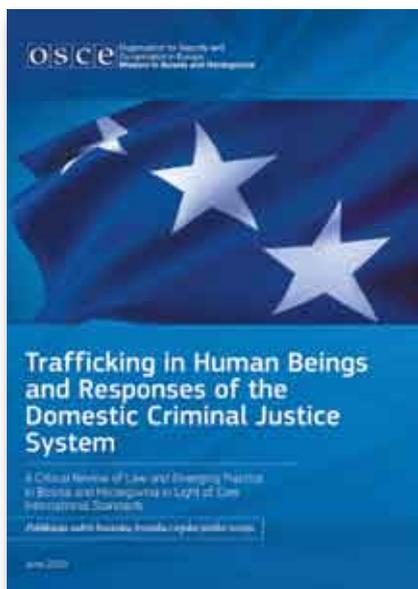
**Social protection and housing.** The Mission engaged with government ministries for substantial reforms of the inequitable social protection system. It also delivered human rights training for social workers and supported the development of a national housing strategy.

**Rights of national minorities.** The Mission advocated for effective implementation of the *Roma Action Plans on Housing, Health and Employment*, and for increased budgetary resources to the Councils of National Minorities. Additionally, it trained a group of young Roma activists as human rights advocates.

**Sustainable return.** Support for the work of the *State Commission for Refugees and Displaced Persons* continued; the Mission also lobbied for adoption of the

*Revised Strategy for Implementation of Annex VII.* Moreover, it advocated for the closure of collective centres and supported sustainable-return initiatives.

**Gender equality.** Working with local gender-equality bodies, the Mission undertook awareness-raising and training initiatives, including on how to use the recently launched OSCE publication on municipal gender-equality commissions. The Mission also monitored institutional responses to domestic violence and supported initiatives to improve communication between responsible agencies.



**Human trafficking.** A public report on trafficking in human beings was published, identifying areas for improvement in existing co-ordination mechanisms, the appropriate qualification of crimes and sentencing policies. The Mission also supported the production of a television documentary raising awareness on domestic trafficking issues.

**Promoting local ownership and sustainability.** In January, local partners assumed responsibility for funding and administering the country's *Beacon Scheme*, designed to recognize and reward excellence at the municipal level. Over 75 per cent of all municipalities have now participated in the Scheme in some way since its inception. In November, Beacon status was awarded to eight municipalities by the two entities representing the second tier of the country's government, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska.

After five years of leading the *Open Parliament* project, the Mission transferred ownership of the initiative to the State parliament in June. To date, over 3,600 youth between the ages of 16 and 30 have had the opportunity to interact directly with their members of parliament (MPs) and discuss parliament's work through visits and television debates.

**Increasing institutional responsiveness and effectiveness.** In March, the Mission launched its latest local-governance initiative, *Local First*, aiming to increase the responsiveness of municipal governments and deepen citizens' engagement. Particular attention was devoted to less-developed municipalities, improving the effectiveness of municipal councils and developing the capacity of local governments to identify and meet their own development needs through learning networks and partnerships.

The Mission also supported the State parliament in increasing its transparency and effectiveness through the development of a new Information and Communication Technology Strategy to digitize paper-based work procedures. Improved risk-management and internal-communication procedures were also introduced. The Mission also provided support to amend the rules of procedure, to develop the parliament's website and to facilitate expert-level discussions on key issues.

**Promoting active citizens.** Strengthening citizens' engagement is a key aspect of *Local First*. The Mission launched more than 60 projects with particular attention placed on increasing participation of rural communities, youth, returnees and minorities.

To increase women's participation in public life, the Mission held in October the second regional conference of women parliamentarians, gathering female MPs from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia, together with representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina's entity parliaments, State institutions, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and international organizations.

**Supporting the Central Election Commission.** At the request of the Central

Election Commission, the Mission continued to provide expert advice on subject-specific issues in its daily work. Particular focus was attached to amending electoral legislation, specifically the *Law on Political Party Financing* and the *Law on Conflict of Interest*.

**Promoting good governance and the rule of law.** Following a successful *Good Governance* pilot initiative last year, Republika Srpska and West-Herzegovina Canton began implementing the project in 2009. As a result, school-board members in more than half of the country now have access to basic training materials, including a school-board training manual, serving to make them more democratic. School directors, with the help of the Mission, made progress towards establishing State-level associations. The Mission supported the work of the State-level Education Agency for Pre-, Primary and Secondary Education by organizing dozens of roundtables and an expert conference on the role and responsibilities of this new agency.

**Encouraging inclusion and diversity in schools.** In 27 participating municipalities, all 120 schools implemented the *Index for Inclusion*, a tool allowing schools to assess their own level of inclusiveness and react accordingly, which was launched in 2008. The Mission promoted awareness of the country's 17 national minorities through the publication of a workbook on national minorities. Two conferences with strong regional involvement focused on history teaching and on good practices of diversity education and inclusion.

**Supporting civic involvement.** The Mission also invested efforts to build the capacity of civic bodies and increase citizen engagement in education. Around 100 schools throughout the country marked International Day for Tolerance, organizing dedicated events in their local communities. Peer-education and peer-mediation initiatives served to build sustainable mechanisms for involvement and conflict resolution in schools.



# Mission in Kosovo

Head of Mission: Ambassador Werner Almhofer

Budget: €26,910,000

[www.osce.org/kosovo](http://www.osce.org/kosovo)

*The Mission in Kosovo continued its core work in human rights monitoring and institution-building<sup>1</sup>, placing special emphasis on promoting respect for the rights of all communities.*

*The OSCE, the international civilian actor with the most extensive field presence throughout Kosovo, was largely regarded as the institution-building and monitoring arm of the international community. The Mission took up an enhanced early-warning and reporting role, especially in light of the reconfiguration of the international civilian presence.*

## Human dimension activities

**Community rights.** The Mission continued its pro-active monitoring and reported on access to rights and services for non-Albanian communities, in particular in the areas of returns, housing, registration, health, employment, education and participation. The Mission issued a report on the quality of education for non-majority children and another on the need for the relocation of displaced Roma in northern Kosovo. The Mission assisted with the development and implementation of policies and procedures to create conditions for sustainable returns, and reached out to all municipalities and communities to assess those conditions.

**Property rights.** Another focus area was the protection of housing and property rights. The Mission organized regional roundtables on the work of the Kosovo Property Agency, which, upon the Mission's recommendation, signed a memorandum of understanding with the police on improving co-operation in the evictions process.

**Human rights.** The Mission continued to support Kosovo institutions in improving their compliance with human rights standards. Specialized training was delivered to all ministry-based human rights units, providing them with the basic tools needed to advise on human rights issues. In order to protect children's rights, the Mission teamed with police to prevent forced child begging and exploitation in the streets. The project focused on raising public awareness of the problem and strengthening the link between police and the institutions taking care of child victims.



<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo institutions/leaders refer to the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government.

Representatives from the OSCE, Kosovo police, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the international NGO Terre des Hommes talk to the media at the launch of an OSCE-sponsored campaign to combat child begging in Prishtine/Pristina on 9 October. (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)



## Kosovo Assembly elects first local Ombudsperson

On 4 June, the Assembly of Kosovo elected Sami Kurteshi as the first local Ombudsperson. The Mission welcomed his appointment, and supported the Institution's subsequent two-month media outreach campaign to non-Albanian communities. Launched on 2 September, the campaign included multilingual TV spots, billboards, posters and media conferences in areas where non-Albanian communities live. The campaign boosted the number of visitors to the Ombudsperson Institution by more than half again in its first month, and pushed complaints up by nearly three-quarters.

Following a news conference organized by the Ombudsperson Institution and the Mission as part of an outreach campaign to non-Albanian communities, a local Serb files a complaint with Kosovo's first local Ombudsperson (r) in Caglavice/Caglavice on 8 September. (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)

The Mission strengthened the Ombudsperson Institution, emphasizing the relevance of the Ombudsperson's statutory independence. It played an important role in advocating for the appointment of a competent Ombudsperson and highlighted the importance of representation of non-majority communities within this institution.

**Rule of law.** The Mission continued its activities as one of the international organizations responsible for legal-system monitoring, bringing issues of concern to the attention of institutions and the public. The Mission analysed the compliance of judicial practices with human rights standards, especially in interethnic cases such as improper handling of fraudulent property-transaction cases, handling of election-fraud cases or impediments that adversely affected the rule of law in Kosovo such as insufficient numbers of judges and prosecutors. Further, the Mission continued to monitor and assist in the development of a human-rights-compliant police service. By using a co-operative approach, the Mission aimed at promoting change from within the police and achieving sustainability. Lastly, the Mission assisted the Kosovo Judicial Institute to administer preparatory examinations for candidates for judges and prosecutors.

**Anti-trafficking.** The Mission organized training for police units controlling entrance to the territory of Kosovo to help them identify and refer, as well as establish effective operating procedures for, victims of trafficking. The Mission produced leaflets on how to identify and treat victims of trafficking and on victims' rights and distributed them to all these police units.

The Mission organized a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign to end violence against women, with rock concerts attended by over 6,000 people altogether held in Prizren on 4 December, in Mitrovica/Mitrovice on 5 December, and in Prishtine/Pristina on 10 December.

**Good governance.** The Mission organized a Kosovo-wide conference — the first of its kind — between the Ministry of Local-Government Administration and civil society actors representing non-Albanian communities in an effort to increase public participation and engagement in local-government reform and the decision-making process. The conference recommendations included increasing civil society engagement in policy formulation by government structures and the strengthening of the central-local-level dialogue. The outreach work was complemented by a series of regional and municipal workshops that led to the strengthening of consultative committees in all municipal assemblies in Kosovo.

## OSCE launches first Kosovo Communities Profiles

The Mission published its first-ever *Kosovo Communities Profiles* in September. The profiles include demographic, socio-economic, political and cultural data on Kosovo's diverse communities. They offer a comprehensive picture of the challenges affecting communities' enjoyment of basic rights and services and are intended to contribute to a better understanding of their specific concerns.

Through its *Municipal Leadership Forums* project, the Mission facilitated dialogue on local-governance reform between the central and local levels, resulting in the timely preparation and submission of municipal budgets to the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

**Higher education.** The Mission strived to improve access for all Kosovo communities to quality higher education, focusing on Bosnian-language teacher education at the University of Prishtine/Pristina. It facilitated the signing of co-operation agreements between the University of Prishtine/Pristina and three universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the lack of teaching staff for Bosnian-language teacher-training programmes in Kosovo. As a result, as of the 2009 academic year, seven professors from the Universities of Tuzla and of Mostar provided Bosnian-language lessons at the Faculty of Education in Prizren. Their lectures were complemented by distance-learning courses through a videoconferencing system and an e-learning platform — also made possible by the Mission.

## Supporting independent institutions

**Media.** The Mission's continued support to media institutions, including the broadcast regulator, resulted in the launching of a relicensing process and the issuance of long-term licences to broadcast media. The Mission provided legal expertise to the Assembly of Kosovo in bringing public-broadcaster legislation in line with European best practices. The Mission worked to strengthen the Press Council of Kosovo in advocating for media freedom



1 A rock band performs at an OSCE-organized concert as part of the awareness campaign to end violence against women in Prishtine/Pristina on 10 December. (OSCE/Besfort Oruci)

2 The Kosovo Police Service and Fire Rescue Service simulate a traffic accident after the OSCE donated first-aid kits to the Vushtrri/Vucitrn Fire and Rescue Station on 9 March. (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)

3 A municipal-court judge in Prishtine/Pristina shares her views on women's right to own and inherit property during a Mission-organized workshop on 30 October. (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)

4 A Mission officer (r) listens to a resident of Gracanice/Gracanica describing his living conditions on 18 June. (OSCE/Hasan Sopa)

and ensuring adherence of print media to the *Press Code*. Through televised debates on freedom of expression, the Mission raised awareness of the importance of an independent media free from political interference, which triggered an extensive public debate.

**Elections.** The OSCE provided technical support and advice to the Central Election Commission and its Secretariat to implement the 2009 election operation plan. The Mission also helped the Election Complaints and Appeals Commission with procedures in order to allow a timely and effective redress mechanism during the election process.

**Assembly committees and Independent Oversight Board.** The OSCE supported the Assembly of Kosovo by providing expertise to strengthen the oversight capacity of Assembly committees through facilitating the exchange of best practices. An example was the visit of the Assembly Human Rights Committee to the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to discuss policy and legislative options to combat discrimination. The Mission also worked to strengthen the role of the Independent Oversight Board, responsible for oversight of the civil service and revision of government appointments. In 2009, the Assembly of Kosovo elected six new members to the Board,

including a Kosovo Bosniak and a Kosovo Serb member. The government officially agreed to the establishment of a working group to draft a new law on the Independent Oversight Board, as the Mission consistently advocated. The working group finalized the first draft of the law, which will help secure the political and financial independence of the Board.

### Politico-military dimension activities

**Improvement of public safety.** The Mission created and conducted training courses and other activities to set up information-management systems and to upgrade the communication skills of the staff of public-safety agencies such as fire and rescue brigades, the ambulance service and the situation centre. The Mission also developed a strategy to establish a modern training facility for all fire fighters in Kosovo.

The Mission advised the Kosovo Centre for Public Safety Education and Development on compliance with recommendations by the International Accreditation Agency that must be fulfilled before the Centre is accredited and certified. As part of its ongoing support to the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, the Mission helped in the establishment of the Senior Police Appointments and Disciplinary

Committee, which monitors hearings on disciplinary cases.

**Police-public partnerships.** The promotion of police-public partnership remained an important focus in 2009. The Mission offered advanced community-policing training courses to police officers and strengthened local public-safety committees by helping them establish a joint executive council to co-ordinate their work. The Mission also fostered the creation of several new committees comprised of community and police representatives, with special attention given to representation of non-majority communities and gender balance.

On a regional level, and in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, the Mission supported and facilitated the development of strategies for combating terrorism, organized crime, drugs trafficking and illegal migration, as well as on monitoring and collection of small arms and light weapons.



# Mission to Montenegro

Head of Mission: Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu

Budget: €2,318,300

[www.osce.org/montenegro](http://www.osce.org/montenegro)

*The Mission to Montenegro continued to assist the host country in strengthening existing and newly established institutions, responding to Montenegro's evolving needs as it progressed in its reform agenda. The year saw a number of achievements in partnership with the host country: the recommendations by an international anti-corruption expert, commissioned by the Mission, were all implemented, along with recommendations stemming from the Mission's Court Monitoring Project. The Mission also considerably strengthened co-operation between law-enforcement bodies; it assisted in the setting up of a tripartite Commission for the Supreme Court, the Supreme State Prosecutor and the Police Directorate.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Politico-military affairs programme.** The Mission focused on the two remaining components of the *Montenegro Demilitarization Programme*, a €4.5 million joint Government, OSCE and United Nations Development Programme project, which improved stockpile management and destroyed surplus conventional ammunition. The Mission supported the Ministry of Defence's efforts to increase public participation in the process of defence reform through the organization of regular media briefings.

**Organized crime and corruption.** The Mission supported the Organized Crime Department by delivering specialized training programmes on cyber-crimes, corruption and financial crimes, controlling precursors for the production of narcotics and the recruitment and handling of informants. It also helped establish the Undercover and the National Co-ordination Units.

**Anti-trafficking.** The Mission facilitated the drafting of the 2010-11 action plan against trafficking in human beings, and helped promote the SOS hotline for victims.

**Border policing.** The Mission facilitated the process of signing the *Bilateral Co-operation Agreement and Protocols on Joint Patrols and Regular Exchange of Information* among Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, and organized training for management and patrol officers.



Members of a journalism club at a school in Ulcinj are interviewed by a journalist from Montenegro's public-service broadcaster in Podgorica on 6 May. (OSCE/Dragan Mijatovic)



1 The first joint border patrol of Montenegrin and Albanian police at Skadar Lake on 15 January (OSCE)

2 Project-management training for gender focal points in Becici on 25 June (OSCE/Vanja Radojevic)

**Community-oriented policing.** The Mission successfully completed the countrywide implementation of the project, with more than 130 contact police officers trained and deployed in all 21 municipalities. At year-end, the project was expanding into the border police with three pilot sites.

### Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Anti-corruption and anti-money laundering.** The Mission worked to enhance the institutional framework for anti-corruption efforts through a number of activities that resulted in the adoption of guidelines for state auditors, recommendations to remove potentially corruptive business barriers at the local level and better communication between anti-money-laundering authorities.

**Environmental issues.** The Mission organized a roundtable to enable discussion on the practical implementation of the recently ratified *Aarhus Convention*.

### Human dimension activities

**Parliamentary support.** The Mission's four-year *Parliamentary Support Project*, funded by Austria with support from Germany, worked to bring the parliamentary library up to professional standards. A professional librarian, trained by the Mission, was taken on as a permanent parliamentary staff member, library holdings increased and members of parliament and staff were introduced to the improved library service.

**Good governance.** The *Code of Conduct* and *Code of Ethics for municipal employees and elected officials*, drafted by the Mission and the Council of Europe (CoE), were

unanimously accepted by the Union of Municipalities, and will be adopted by all 21 Montenegrin municipalities.

**Civic participation.** The Mission, with its civil society partner and the Municipality of Bijelo Polje, opened the first Municipal Youth Office in Montenegro to address the needs of young people and encourage their participation in the development of the municipality.

**Gender equality.** The Mission and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights supported the development of 10 local gender *Action Plans*.

**Domestic violence.** Together with other national and international stakeholders, the Mission worked to raise awareness about domestic violence, including the *16 Days Campaign against Domestic Violence*, with the support of the President of Montenegro.

**Judiciary reform.** The Mission supported international and regional judicial co-operation in: criminal matters, development of a system of free legal aid, the process of rationalization of the judicial network, processing of war-crimes cases, promotion of mediation, and adoption of domestic-violence legislation.

**Reform of the criminal-justice system.** The Mission supported preparations for the implementation of the new *Criminal Procedure Code* and the amendment of the *Criminal Code*. The Mission's *Court Monitoring Project*, funded by the Netherlands, helped establish tools for efficient implementation of fair-trial principles.

**Strengthening human rights institutions.** The Mission assisted the Constitutional Court to assume its responsibilities

as the nation's highest human rights institution. The Mission also helped the Ombudsman Institution to become the national preventative mechanism according to the *Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*.

**Fight against corruption and organized crime.** The Mission assisted in increasing co-operation and co-ordination in the fight against corruption and organized crime, and was actively involved in drafting the related national action plan.

**Media laws.** The Mission, with the Government, the CoE and the European Commission Delegation, provided advice and recommendations to relevant institutions on the Draft Law on Electronic Media. The implementation of the *Law on Free Access to Information* was also supported through education and awareness campaigns.

**Media development.** The Mission published a brochure and facilitated a debate on the *Code of Ethics* to strengthen media self-regulation and provided training to support professional development of the public-service broadcaster, RTCG, and other media. The Mission worked to improve the communication between the media, police and judiciary through training public-relations officers from the courts, a debate on the *Criminal Procedure Code* and publishing a media-police co-operation guide.



© Mission to Serbia

## Mission to Serbia

Head of Mission: Ambassador Dimitrios Kypreos from 21 September, succeeding Ambassador Hans Ola Urstad, whose mandate ended on 13 September  
 Budget: €7,855,300  
[www.osce.org/serbia](http://www.osce.org/serbia)

*The Mission assisted Serbia in building independent, accountable and effective democratic institutions. It contributed to a broad reform of the judiciary, implementation of the Law on National Minority Councils and the signing of an updated strategic framework on police reform. A major milestone in its work to maintain stability in south Serbia was the brokering of an agreement between the Government of Serbia and political leaders from the south to reconstruct the Co-ordination Body for Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja. The Mission also encouraged Albanian leaders from the south to establish an Albanian national minority council.*

**“A** successful police service cannot exist without citizens’ confidence in police work. Transparency of work, greater openness of the police towards citizens and better co-operation with media are duties of the police as a citizens’ public service.”

—Ivica Dacic, Interior Minister of the Republic of Serbia

### Politico-military dimension activities

**Combating organized crime.** The Mission provided expert advice in developing the *National Strategy for Combating Organized Crime* and related *Action Plan*. It enhanced Serbia’s ability to combat organized crime by providing expertise in drafting laws on Asset Seizure and on a Special Imprisonment Regime. In addition, it organized training for the judiciary and police on asset forfeiture and financial investigations.

**Economic transparency and anti-corruption.** The Mission facilitated implementation of the *National Anti-Corruption Strategy*, supported institutions established under related laws and enhanced the capacities of the institutions fighting economic crime and financing of criminal activities. It provided expertise for implementing new public-procurement legislation. Working with non-governmental organizations in south and southwest Serbia, it assisted local governments in running municipal anti-corruption councils.

**Police reform.** The Mission and the Interior Ministry agreed on an updated strategic framework on police reform that put a new emphasis on police outreach to citizens and the media.

### Environmental dimension activities

**Environmental affairs.** The Mission organized training for 262 lower-court judges and 146 environmental inspectors to assist local authorities in implementing newly adopted environmental laws. It further helped identify and resolve local environmental security threats in seven municipalities in south and south-east Serbia.



The Speaker of the Parliament of Serbia addresses high school students from south Serbia during a visit organized in November as part of the Mission’s *Public Access to State Institutions* programme. (OSCE/Milan Obradovic)



### *Serbian police forensic laboratories reach international standards*

The number of Serbian police laboratories equipped to carry out modern forensic analyses rose to three thanks to a donation from Norway.

In May, the National Laboratory joined the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, an event marking Serbia's achievement in bringing its forensic capabilities up to international standards. Over the past five years, the Mission has built Serbian forensic capabilities with expertise, advice and funds donated by Norway and Sweden. This success brings the Mission's forensic assistance programme to a close.

## Human dimension activities

**War crimes.** The Mission monitored 16 war-crimes trials, including six new cases in 2009. It continued enhancing the skills and professionalism of the witness/victim support service in the Belgrade War Crimes Chamber. It also supported the War Crimes Prosecutor's Office and the National Council for Co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in a public information campaign on domestic war-crimes trials and co-operation with the ICTY, which particularly targeted youth.

**Democratic governance.** The Mission helped the parliament and other State institutions to advance their public access programme and assisted the Vojvodina Assembly in upgrading its human resources management. It provided technical support to parliamentary committees on oversight and legislative procedures. The Mission supported the country's decentralization and assisted with the implementation of local-self-government legislation. It supported citizens' engagement at the local level through institutionalized participation mechanisms and monitoring.

**Refugee return and integration.** The Mission worked with Serbia's institutions to facilitate the return and integration of refugees within the framework of the Sarajevo Ministerial Declaration on refugee issues, and helped internally displaced persons gain better access to their rights.

**Human rights and anti-trafficking.** The Mission supported the drafting of the first national multi-year *Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*. Demonstrating the effectiveness of Mission support, by end-October key agencies had

identified 95 human-trafficking victims, compared with 55 for all of 2008. The Mission made a breakthrough in encouraging reform of Serbia's reporting mechanism to meet international requirements.

**Equal opportunities.** The Mission supported the passage and implementation of the *Law on National Minority Councils*. It helped minority municipalities develop local youth offices and worked to increase Roma participation in public life. The Mission also supported municipal gender focal points and teamed with law faculties to develop minority rights and anti-discrimination coursework.

**Judicial reform.** The Mission supported **minority inclusion** in the judicial system through bar-exam mentoring. To enhance transparency, it provided public-relations training to spokespersons of courts and prosecutors' offices, and developed the Constitutional Court's outreach strategy. Three important activities included: **assisting the prosecutors association** in drafting rules to evaluate prosecutors' work; delivering peer-to-peer training to the judges association on the reform process; training judges and prosecutors on plea bargaining and environmental laws. The Mission established a pilot victim/witness support service with the District Court in south-west Serbia.

**Legal reform.** The Mission enhanced law-drafting through support to elaborating a model law on unified law-drafting and promoting the use of Regulatory Impact Analysis, which provides drafters a detailed and systematic appraisal of the potential effects of a new law.

**Human rights institutions.** The Mission raised citizens' awareness of the new Office of the Protector of Citizens

(ombudsperson). It also continued assisting the Vojvodina provincial Ombudsperson.

**Prison reform.** With Mission expertise, Serbia worked to bring to international standards its legal framework for enforcement of penal sanctions. Further, the Mission provided training to the Prison Administration to implement alternative sentencing, and judges imposed the first alternative sentences during the year.

**Media legislation.** The Mission helped the Government's working group to draft and amend media legislation and to finalize the draft *Law on Prevention of Media Concentration and Ownership Transparency*. Its recommendations for changes to the *Public Information Law* drew widespread attention.

**Enhancing media skills.** The Mission trained some 200 media professionals in reporting on economics, politics, corruption and war crimes, and on the implementation of media laws. It strengthened the skills of television reporters and the sustainability of local outlets and helped build the capacity of journalists' associations. Continuing support to the regional public broadcaster in Vojvodina, the Mission contributed to improved news programming, including minority-language services. The Mission backed the establishment of a press council in Serbia.

**Freedom of the media.** The Mission continued to monitor and support compliance with commitments on freedom of the media. The Mission supported campaigns promoting media freedoms during the Exit music festival and on World Press Freedom Day and the Right to Know Day.



© Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje  
• Field Office

# Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

Head of Mission: Ambassador Jose Luis Herrero Ansola from 11 January

Budget: €8,539,900

[www.osce.org/skopje](http://www.osce.org/skopje)

*A key priority for the Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje remained monitoring and supporting implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, which ended the hostilities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2001, in close co-operation with the other security principals: the European Union Special Representative, the United States Embassy and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Representative in Skopje. The Mission co-operated with local counterparts on long-term reform processes in areas such as the judiciary, police professionalization and election conduct. The Mission monitored the security environment of the presidential and municipal elections and continued to support the community-policing process in order to promote confidence-building between the police and public.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Monitoring.** The Mission continued its monitoring activities with a focus on the north-western part of the country. Particular attention was paid to the security situation, as well as to developments concerning both inter- and intra-ethnic relations. In addition, the Mission's monitoring officers continued to perform a confidence-building role, exercising mediation tasks to address tensions, such as in the case of interethnic disputes related to education.

The Mission also monitored the security environment surrounding the March presidential and municipal elections, both during the campaign and on election day. To defuse the type of tensions that occurred between party activists during the 2008 elections, the Mission, working in close co-operation with the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, organized roundtable meetings with candidates and local party leaders to discuss their responsibilities in well-run elections at the local level and in controlling their activists. After the elections, the Mission monitored allegations of election-related intimidation. The monitors also followed developments in municipalities where the political affiliation of local authorities changed in order to observe how this affected public administration and the composition of staff, particularly in the education sector.

**Police development.** The Mission focused on furthering partnerships between the police and the public through institutionalizing community-policing practices. As part of this effort, the Mission supported the training of 160 community-based officers. The



A police officer involved in a community-policing project talks to local residents in the mainly Roma settlement of Topaana in Cair municipality on 27 October. (OSCE/Eberhard Laue)



1 OSCE staff attend the police open day in Radovis on 19 May. (OSCE)

2 A participant at an OSCE-supported training course on good governance for newly elected municipal councillors in Skopje on 24 September (OSCE/Mirvete Mustafa)

3 A voter casts his ballot at a polling station in Petrovec during the second round of the presidential and municipal elections on 5 April. (OSCE/Eberhard Laue)

4 Border police are instructed on how to identify stolen vehicles in Skopje on 24 June. (OSCE/Eberhard Laue)



establishment of local prevention councils, which promote co-operation between local police and municipalities, progressed, and 77 of 84 municipalities had such councils at year-end. The consolidation of citizens advisory groups, which enable citizens to voice their safety concerns to police, also continued, with 140 in operation throughout the country. To further support decentralization of the police service, the Mission signed an agreement with the Interior Ministry on implementation of community-policing mechanisms at the regional level.

To support the development of a professional, accountable and transparent police service, the Mission participated in an Interior Ministry working group to monitor the implementation of the *Law on Internal Affairs*. The Mission provided assistance and training programmes to build police skills and professionalism and develop a sustainable human resources management structure. The Mission also delivered specialized training to more than 400 police officers on subjects like organized crime, crime-scene investigations, domestic violence and election security. In a joint effort with the Interior Ministry, it elaborated standard operating procedures for investigating organized crime.

The Mission also initiated a strategy to assist training co-ordinators in delivering in-house police training. Through technical and logistical assistance, the

Mission continued to support the build-up of a national network of police trainers. A comprehensive trainer-development programme was elaborated, and a series of train-the-trainers and curriculum-development courses were held.

### Human dimension activities

**Political system.** In co-operation with the other security principals, the Mission participated in a dialogue with the Government on reviewing the state of the implementation of the *Ohrid Framework Agreement*, a key component of the Mission's mandate. To advance its implementation, the Mission enhanced co-operation with the relevant government Secretariat and parliamentary committee.

**Public administration.** To promote the professionalization of the public administration, the Mission trained staff in four pilot municipalities on the role of the civil service and the impact of EU integration. It trained the Public Administration Reform Unit on effective management, strategic planning and European models of administrative reforms. The Mission also trained 140 municipal councillors from 24 municipalities on the process of decentralization, financing of local self-government units and general management skills. The Mission financed intermunicipal projects to foster co-operation among

municipalities with different ethnic compositions. Finally, the Mission presented an annual survey on the decentralization process, with an emphasis on implementation of the *Ohrid Framework Agreement* in areas like equitable representation, inter-ethnic relations and the use of languages.

**Electoral reform.** The Mission participated in working groups on election legislation, election administration, voters' lists and voter intimidation, which were established by the government to follow up OSCE election recommendations. In addition, the Mission supported the State Election Commission by providing software solutions for voters' lists and organizing a survey and workshops to evaluate the work of the lower-level election administration. In an outreach effort on electoral standards, the Mission translated six OSCE election-related publications into local languages. During the presidential and municipal elections, the Mission provided assistance to domestic election monitors and involved key stakeholders in roundtables on the importance of peaceful elections.

**Rule of law.** To assist in the Government's comprehensive justice-system reform, the Mission supported the drafting of a new Law on Criminal Procedure and amendments to the *Criminal Code* through participation in government working groups.

Pedagogy students from Skopje University discuss working with children of other ethnic communities during an OSCE-supported workshop in Bitola in July. (OSCE/Eberhard Laue)



The Law, expected to be adopted in 2010, will significantly alter investigation and court-hearing procedures, while a new provision in the *Criminal Code* allows aggravated sentencing for hate-based crimes. The Mission initiated training courses to introduce the Law's innovations to lawyers, judges and prosecutors. The Mission also educated legal stakeholders on fair-trial standards to address deficiencies identified through monitoring and the increasing number of applications to the European Court of Human Rights.

The Mission facilitated the preparation of a comprehensive draft Law on Promotion and Protection against Discrimination and continues to support its harmonization with international standards. The Mission supported the development of the 2010 gender-equality action plan and trained more than 100 judges, prosecutors, lawyers and the Ombudsman staff on the *UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* and its domestic legislation. This training module was incorporated into the curriculum for continuous education of judges and prosecutors. The Mission also supported initiatives to build the skills, professionalism and sustainability of human rights protection institutions and civil society organizations.

**Anti-trafficking.** The Government adopted in September a 2010-2012 national action plan to combat human trafficking, a policy initiated by the Mission and local stakeholders. The Mission helped build the skills and professionalism of the national rapporteur for trafficking. The Mission also strengthened local skills to identify and protect victims of trafficking through a series of training courses for state labour inspectors and social workers, as well as through facilitating the creation and adoption of several policy papers regarding coordination and assistance for street children. Additionally, the Mission assisted in developing and implementing specialized courses for the police on organized crime and anti-trafficking.

**Education.** The Mission, in close cooperation with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, focused on integration through education, professionalization of education stakeholders and continuous assessment of educational reform. The Mission trained 140 future teachers on intercultural teaching methods and 50 municipal education officers on mediation and conflict resolution and strengthened the debating skills of 150 students from ethnically mixed areas.

**Roma inclusion.** The Mission, intent on promoting Roma integration in the education system, focused on participation

from the preschool level. In this context, it supported the expansion of a government project for preschool education for Roma children to 18 municipalities. The Mission also supported community roundtables on Roma access to the mainstream education system. The Mission continued to promote Roma issues through citizens advisory groups, as well as interactive forums between the Roma and local authorities.

**Media development.** The Mission participated in activities related to revising broadcasting legislation. These consisted of discussions with stakeholders and the organization of three roundtable discussions on the most critical issues for the media community in the country: copyrights, enforcement mechanisms and media concentration and pluralism. The project aimed at providing an analysis of the current application of the broadcasting legislation and to involve all relevant parties in suggesting improvements. The Mission also continued to monitor developments in the public-service broadcaster.



• Office in Zagreb

## Office in Zagreb

Head of Office: **Ambassador Enrique Horcajada Schwartz** from 11 May, succeeding **Ambassador Jorge Fuentes**, whose mandate ended on 10 May

Budget: €2,312,800

[www.osce.org/zagreb](http://www.osce.org/zagreb)

*The OSCE Office in Zagreb continued covering and advancing residual issues in its two remaining work areas — war-crimes accountability and housing care — following the completion of the former Mission to Croatia’s mandate in 2007. As a result of discussions via the Platform, a special framework that has regularly brought together the Office and the main Government stakeholders at ministerial-level plenary meetings since 2006, a significant number of proposed measures were adopted and implemented in 2009. Chief among these were the two important Action Plans on War Crimes Accountability, including the revision of in absentia convictions from the early 1990s, as many of these convictions were seen by the public as unfair and served to foment ethnic tensions. The Office helped promote housing care programmes through its continuous field verification visits of allocated housing facilities to eligible refugee beneficiaries.*

*The Office’s mandate received high-level political endorsement during the year, when a new Prime Minister, appointed in July, reconfirmed three ministers directly charged with OSCE portfolios: the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Co-ordination of Refugee Return, an ethnic Serb and member of the Serb Party, and the Justice and the Interior Ministers. This considerably facilitated the advancement of the Office’s work.*

### Human dimension activities

**War-crimes accountability.** The Office continued comprehensive monitoring of all national war-crimes proceedings, with more than 115 cases involving 415 individuals in 16 courts. The OSCE continued to monitor two categories of cases referred to Croatia by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for further processing. Its commitment regarding the first category — at the indictment stage — was almost fulfilled this year, pending only the Supreme Court’s final ruling in the sole remaining case. In the second category of monitoring — during the investigation phase — other evidence provided by the ICTY continued to be followed up nationally.

The Office’s discussions with Croatian authorities intensified in 2009 through its Platform, the ICTY Liaison Office and the delegation of the European Commission (EC), even as the issue of war crimes gained increasing attention in the process of Croatia’s accession to the European Union. Out of the six original war-crimes agenda items, only two remained key issues at the beginning of the year: *in absentia* convictions and unprosecuted war crimes. The issues of adequate defence, integrity of witnesses, use of video-link and interstate co-operation between Croatia and its counterparts in other States of the former Yugoslavia, in particular with Serbia, were considered completed or referred to the technical level.



Office war crimes monitors and the head of Office in discussion in front of the Karlovac County Court before they attend a hearing in a war crimes trial on 30 November. (OSCE)

Office housing monitors show the head of Office a new apartment building constructed in Dubovac as part of Croatia's work within the *Housing Care Programme for Former Occupancy/Tenancy Rights Holders*. (OSCE)



One of the year's highlights after nearly three years of discussion within the Platform were the two *Action Plans* issued by the chief state attorney and the police director to address the remaining outstanding issues. These *Plans*, implemented during the first half of 2009, improved Croatia's system of war-crimes accountability and countered concerns spotted by the Office in its monitoring activities. The OSCE, however, will continue providing assistance to ensure that the year's momentum, driven by the *Action Plans*, is exploited in 2010 to achieve further progress.

One of the most visible successes of the *Action Plans* promoted by the Office was the Croatian decision to review *in absentia* convictions from the early 1990s despite their political sensitivity. During the year, State attorneys reviewed *in absentia* convictions passed against 465 people. As a result of changes to the *Law on Criminal Proceedings*, authorities requested that 93 convictions in 16 cases be subjected to judicial review based on new facts or evidence.

**Training and support projects.** The Office continued providing support and financial assistance to national non-governmental organizations (NGO) in their monitoring and advocacy activities in relation to war-crimes accountability. In 2009, the

Office began transferring know-how and building the legal, technical and analytical skills of NGO staff through monthly joint legal discussions with the Office's monitors. In addition, the Office, together with the ICTY Liaison Office, the Delegation of the EC and Zagreb-based embassies, participated in a *Steering Board* that coached NGO directors on outreach, management and advocacy activities. Thanks to international funding, the NGOs had enough resources at year-end to monitor all war-crimes trials in Croatia, though they would benefit from further strengthening of their analytical and legal skills. Their monitoring will continue once the Office is closed down upon successful completion of its mandate.

**Access to housing.** The impact of State budget cuts designed to fight the global recession on refugee-return programmes was discussed at one of the Platform's plenary meetings, attended by four ministers, with the three participating international organizations, the OSCE, EC and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The cuts mainly affected areas of the refugee effort other than the residual one followed by the Office. As a result of these discussions, the Government proposed to parliament a 2010 State budget that significantly increased funding for the return of expellees, refugees and displaced persons and enlarged by 43 per cent the allocation

for the housing care programmes followed by the Office.

The Office continued supporting the Government's work to supply housing for former Occupancy/Tenancy Rights Holders (OTR) intending to return to Croatia, as stipulated in its three annual benchmarks (2007-2009). The difficult economic situation in the building sector slowed new construction and delayed the achievement of the numbers targeted in the 2009 benchmark, the last phase of the programme, pushing the overall final target into 2010. Over the programme's duration, Croatia plans to provide housing care to as many as 5,000 former OTR holders. To help monitor the programme and verify these figures, the Office visited, during the year, more than 1,000 recipients of housing care in war-affected areas, remote municipalities and urban areas, covering the entire territory of Croatia. The visits not only verified the allocation to returnee families, they also assessed the housing conditions and whether recipients used to have tenancy rights over socially owned flats. The OSCE found the quality of housing care acceptable and verified that the majority of beneficiaries were minority returnees to Croatia.



## Office in Minsk

Acting Head of Office: Mr. Jandos Asanov

The mandate of the former Head of Office, Ambassador Hans-Jochen Schmidt, ended on 1 October.

Budget: €1,032,700

[www.osce.org/belarus](http://www.osce.org/belarus)

*The Office in Minsk pursued co-operation in the fields of environment and ecology, emphasizing transboundary environmental-impact assessment, promotion of energy efficiency and alternative energies. The rehabilitation of Chernobyl-affected areas remained among the Office's priorities. The Office promoted anti-trafficking initiatives, gender awareness and the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Belarusian society. Monitoring activities continued. The Office was also active in the media sector.*

### Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Promoting transboundary environmental-impact assessment.** The Office, in co-operation with Belarus's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, organized a workshop on the conduct of transboundary environmental-impact assessments with reference to the *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*, to which Belarus is a party. The case of a planned hydropower station to be built near the city of Grodno not far from the Lithuanian border was considered.

**Promoting best policies for energy efficiency and alternative energies.** In co-operation with the National Department for Energy Efficiency under the State Committee for Standardization and the International Sakharov Environmental University, the Office organized a series of workshops, bringing in university experts and policymakers, focusing on policies and tariffs for the development of alternative energies.

**Promoting dialogue at the regional level on the security of energy infrastructure.** The Office organized a workshop for Eastern European experts on the security of energy infrastructure. Participants at the workshop, organized in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Affairs, discussed opportunities to enhance regional co-operation between suppliers, transit countries and users.



OSCE staff visit a greenhouse that is part of an Office-supported project for agri-business development in the Stolín district of the Chernobyl-affected territories on 8 May. (OSCE)



1 On a study visit to Cyprus on 27 October, a group of Belarusians visit the NGO Cyprus Aid during the implementation of an OSCE project on the interaction between the State and NGOs. (Cyprus Aid/Lorraine Marriott)

2 An Office staff member delivers a lecture, entitled Values and Co-operation, at the Faculty of Philosophy and Sociology at Belarusian State University on 26 November. (OSCE)

**Rehabilitation of Chernobyl-affected areas.** The Office teamed with national and regional authorities and local civil society representatives to support projects in the regions affected by the Chernobyl disaster, aiming to enhance entrepreneurship skills among rural youth and promote best practices for sustainable agro-business development.

**Promoting understanding of current challenges amid the global economic crisis.** The Office organized a conference for students and staff on current threats to trans-European security in the context of global economic and ecological challenges in co-operation with the Faculty of International Relations of the Belarusian National University. A student essay competition was also organized on the same theme, with the winners awarded a study tour to the OSCE Secretariat.

## Human dimension activities

**Strengthening local partners.** The Office supported further development of working relations between the authorities and civil society. To this end, with the assistance of the World Alliance for Citizen Participation, it initiated a project assessing the development of civil society in Belarus, aiming at enhancing co-operation between the State and civil society groups. The Office also supported the Ministry of Justice in organizing a conference on the role of NGOs in modern societies.

The Office stepped up efforts to enhance the rule of law and institution-building through project activities with the Government and civil society. It held follow-up training courses and sessions on sharing international practices for members of public commissions monitoring the penitentiary system. It organized a second European Union (EU) study visit and an international conference within

the framework of an e-government project launched in 2008. The Office offered a training course for border guards on border-risk analysis and invited foreign experts to share best practices. It selected a group of journalists from State-run and independent media for the second year within the framework of the *On-site Research Project*. The journalists visited EU countries to assess best practices in journalism and upon their return published articles in their respective media on the results of their research. The Office provided a forum for the parliament, judiciary, the Government and relevant NGOs to engage in joint discussions on a possible moratorium on the death penalty and provided input from other OSCE participating States on best practices. It supported a roundtable on the rights of people with disabilities organized by the Belarusian Association of People with Disabilities.

### **Anti-trafficking and gender equality.**

The Office supported activities of the International Training Centre on Migration and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Minsk and invited officials and NGOs to participate in relevant international forums. Together with the International Organization for Migration, the Office conducted a project on direct assistance to victims of human trafficking in Belarus.

The Office supported the government and NGOs in addressing gender issues and promoted gender awareness by co-sponsoring a public campaign against domestic violence.

**Outreach activities.** To promote OSCE values and commitments, the Office presented the Organization and its activities to university students. It published a manual for secondary-school teachers on teaching human rights and distributed it to schools.

The Office organized follow-up public discussions on freedom of information and Internet regulation with State officials and independent civil society groups.

**Monitoring activities.** The Office continued to observe court hearings related to freedom of association, the right to peaceful assembly and the right to a fair trial. The Office also monitored public demonstrations and related legal cases.

**Individual complaints.** As in previous years, the Office received a number of individual complaints, most pertaining to the work of the judiciary and to alleged violations by law-enforcement agencies. Every complaint was considered, and in cases falling under its mandate, the Office raised concerns with the competent authorities.

**Media-sector work.** Together with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office co-sponsored a seminar training course on media self-regulation, which attracted over 60 Belarusian media professionals and officials. The discussion centred on ethical standards in journalistic practice.



# Mission to Moldova

Head of Mission: Ambassador Philip Remler

Budget: €1,960,100

[www.osce.org/moldova](http://www.osce.org/moldova)

*The Mission to Moldova's activities in 2009 focused especially on elections. After parliamentary elections in April, the Communist-majority parliament failed to elect a president. New elections in July produced a majority for the four-party Alliance for European Integration, but this parliament, too, failed to elect a president, and the country faces elections again probably in 2010. Aside from work on the elections and related rule of law and human rights issues, Mission activities focused on measures to enhance confidence between the Moldovan and Transnistrian sides and to renew negotiations. The Mission organized meetings of representatives to the "5+2" format, meetings of joint working groups on confidence-building measures, seminars on confidence-building in the military and law-enforcement fields and a lecture series on power-sharing models.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Political-settlement process.** Formal negotiations in the so-called 5+2 format in which the mediators — the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE — and the observers — the European Union and the United States — are joined by the parties to the conflict, Moldova and Transnistria, have been suspended since 2006. In 2009, Mission activities focused on informal talks to build political confidence between the sides and lay the groundwork for a return to formal negotiations on a political resolution of the conflict. The Mission organized three informal 5+2 meetings over the year, mostly on the margins of confidence-building seminars: on 21 and 22 June outside Vienna on the margins of an OSCE Seminar on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Military Field; on 6 November in Vienna in a meeting called by Greek Alternate Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas; and on 9 November in Tiraspol on the margins of an OSCE Seminar on Co-operation Between Law Enforcement Bodies.

At the 6 November informal 5+2 meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Victor Osipov — Moldova's new chief negotiator in the settlement process — and his Transnistrian counterpart, Vladimir Yastrebchak, agreed to establish a regular, confidential channel to resolve a number of outstanding issues hampering the development of confidence between the sides. The two had held their first informal discussions the day before, at a session organized by the Mission. They held their first formal session in this channel on 27 November at the Mission's offices in Bender.

**Confidence- and security-building.** The Mission, in co-operation with the Greek Chairmanship, held a seminar on military and security aspects of confidence- and



A Mission member (l) assists with missiles disposal. (Rainer Radloff)



The Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for protracted conflicts, the head of Mission and officials from Moldova and Transnistria at an OSCE-sponsored seminar on law-enforcement co-operation in Vadul lui Voda in November. (OSCE/Kelsey Harris-Smith)

security-building measures in Austria in June. The sides were represented by senior military and security officials, who agreed on the need to include law-enforcement co-operation within the framework of these measures. The Mission organized a follow-up seminar on this theme in Moldova in November. The OSCE and other international experts took part in both seminars.

In February and July, the Mission facilitated meetings of joint Moldovan and Transnistrian working groups to discuss co-operation in the fields of health, infrastructure development, normal functioning of railway lines, economics and trade, and the environment.

Along with the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, the Mission continued its collaboration with the Moldovan Ministry of Defence to develop projects to improve stockpile management of small arms and light weapons and ammunition in line with OSCE best practices.

The Mission maintained frequent patrols in the security zone and throughout Transnistria.

**Joint Control Commission.** The Joint Control Commission, established to oversee the 1992 ceasefire agreement, met regularly throughout the year, and Mission members attended all sessions and chaired a sub-group on non-peacekeeping posts in the security zone. The Commission continued to monitor the situation in the security zone and to provide guidance to the Joint Military Command of the Joint Peacekeeping Force (JPKF). In 2009, after a break of several years, joint training

activities by all three contingents of the JPKF resumed.

The Commission continued discussions on issues such as freedom of movement of people, goods and services; removal of non-peacekeeping posts from the security zone; improving co-operation between the Moldovan and Transnistrian law-enforcement structures in the Bender area; and increasing the effectiveness of the military observers.

**Freedom of movement.** The Mission facilitated discussions between the sides, which resulted in a commitment to continue the mechanisms agreed in 2006 to allow Moldovan farmers access to their land on the Transnistrian-controlled side.

**Withdrawal of Russian ammunition and equipment.** The Mission maintained its readiness to assist the Russian Federation to fulfil its commitment to withdraw ammunition and equipment from Transnistria. No withdrawals took place in 2009. The Voluntary Fund retains sufficient resources to complete withdrawal tasks.

**Public lectures on power-sharing models.** As an outreach activity, the Mission organized a series of seven lectures on different power-sharing models in the OSCE area, including autonomy, federalization, dependencies and devolution. The lectures were held by internationally known experts of political science and international law and attended by students and the general public both in Chisinau and Tiraspol. The lectures stimulated

academic discussion about possible ways of resolving the Transnistrian conflict.

## Human dimension activities

**Elections and electoral reforms.** The Mission worked closely with the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on monitoring the 5 April and 29 July elections and the adoption of amendments to the *Electoral Code*. The Mission supported election-monitoring projects aimed at improving the overall quality of elections and promotion of electoral rights.

**Monitoring and promoting human rights.** The 5 April elections were followed by complex disturbances in which at least one person died, hundreds were arrested, and many detainees were beaten. The Mission was heavily involved in visiting places of detention and holding discussions with the Ministers of Internal Affairs and Justice and with the Prosecutor-General to determine facts, call for de-politicization of prosecutions and ensure humane treatment for detainees.

Throughout the year, the Mission responded to human rights complaints and monitored several high-profile court cases, including cases raising issues of the right to a fair trial, torture, religious freedom and minority rights.

The Mission continued to raise awareness of human rights and promote freedom of assembly through projects aimed at building the skills and professionalism of police officers.

1 During patrols in the Security Zone and Transdniestria, mission members follow developments in the agricultural sector. (OSCE/Jelle Marseille)

2 From her office window, an OSCE staff member photographs riot police on their way to quell post-electoral unrest in Chisinau on 7 April. (OSCE/Ecaterina Leuca)



The Mission supported small-scale projects aimed at promoting human rights and tolerance across the Dniester/Nistru River and strengthening the capacities of non-governmental organizations.

**Providing legal expertise and strengthening the rule of law.** The Mission worked closely with parliament on legal reforms and provided expertise on draft legislation. The Mission trained law-enforcement officials in freedom of assembly and mediation. The Mission contributed to the publication of a manual about mediation in criminal cases to be used by police investigation officers. A comprehensive analysis of the legislative-institutional reasons for the sentencing of Moldova by the European Court of Human Rights was carried out and published with Mission support.

**Trial monitoring.** The final report of the *Trial Monitoring Programme*, carried out in co-operation with ODIHR, was published in December. The programme aims to enhance Moldova's compliance with OSCE commitments and other international standards on the right to a fair trial.

**Promoting freedom of the media.** The Mission followed developments on the Internet and in other electronic media, attending the sessions of the Audiovisual Co-ordination Council and the Supervisory Board of the public broadcaster. Two roundtables with the participation of donors and media NGOs were organized to share information about ongoing media projects. In co-operation with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Mission organized a training seminar on media self-regulation, contributing to the founding of a Press Council that started work in December.

**Protecting language rights.** The Mission continued to work with Moldovan and Transdniestrian authorities to ensure the functioning of Moldovan Latin-script schools in Transdniestria. The Mission began the process of facilitating dialogue between the schools and the local authorities.

**Preventing human trafficking and promoting gender equality.** The Mission played a leading role in organizing monthly co-ordination roundtables among state and non-state actors working on anti-trafficking and gender in Moldova. It supported projects such as the interactive play *7th Kafana*, which raised public awareness of the threat of trafficking. Television programmes, social theatre and activities in high schools were used to prevent trafficking, in particular among youth in rural areas. Seminars, university lectures, a television talk show and exhibitions were organized as part of the global campaign *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*. The Mission co-operated with the OSCE's Strategic Police Matters Unit and the NGO La Strada to organize training seminars and curricula for judges, prosecutors, police and the National Institute of Justice on victim-centred approaches to investigating trafficking. The Mission continued to advocate for the adoption of a comprehensive law on anti-discrimination and the effective implementation of the *Law on Family Violence*.



© Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

# Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Project Co-ordinator: Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj

Budget: €2,758,500

[www.osce.org/ukraine](http://www.osce.org/ukraine)

*The Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine worked closely with Ukrainian authorities to assist domestic efforts aimed at institution-building, strengthening human rights protection, combating human trafficking, promoting economic development and tackling environmental threats.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Aiding social adaptation of discharged military personnel.** The Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the Ministry of Defence, organized retraining and employment assistance for 1,107 discharged military officers, 78 per cent of whom subsequently found employment. More than 800 active senior military officials were trained in social rights and guarantees for personnel discharged due to military restructuring.

**Capacity-building for border guards.** Seventeen work stations were equipped at the State Border Guard Service's newly created criminal- and risk-analysis unit. More than 120 border officers were trained on risk analysis and 12 border officers on criminal analysis.

**Melange disposal.** The Project Co-ordinator supported OSCE efforts to assist Ukraine in the implementation of a project to safely dispose of its stockpiles of the toxic rocket fuel *melange*, with 470 tons shipped out for disposal in 2009.

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Supporting local economic development.** The Project Co-ordinator helped local governments in two pilot regions develop ICT-based programmes that encourage economic development, accountability and transparent decision-making. It co-operated



Orphans at a Project Co-ordinator-supported life skills training session (OSCE)



1 Police cadets at the Dnipropetrovsk State University of the Interior role-play scenes of combating domestic violence on 25 November. (OSCE/Alla Galych)

2 Participants work in small groups during an anti-trafficking training course organized by the Project Co-ordinator for the heads of police precincts in Kherson on 13 July. (OSCE/Tetyana Rudenko)

with regional authorities to introduce e-governance practices that give citizens electronic access to government services and enable village councils to provide community services online.

**Promoting environmental education and sustainable development.** The Project Co-ordinator supported the development of Ukraine-specific multimedia educational materials entitled “Green Pack,” which promote sustainable development and raise environmental awareness. The toolkit will be introduced in Ukrainian secondary schools beginning in 2010.

**Promoting environmental protection.** The Project Co-ordinator supported the activities of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in the Moldovan-Ukrainian joint management on the Nistru/Dniestr River basin by improving legal frameworks, co-operation on health issues and information exchange and by raising public awareness. It also drafted a project document aimed at building a framework and institutional expertise to detect and prevent the illegal transboundary transport of hazardous waste.

## Human dimension activities

**Anti-trafficking support.** The Project Co-ordinator assisted in drafting a comprehensive anti-trafficking law according to international human rights standards. To raise awareness and eliminate stigmatization of trafficked persons, over 1,400 governmental, judiciary and civil society representatives were trained. Focusing on prevention of trafficking in children, the Project Co-ordinator trained over 210 service providers and business representatives on employment of orphans and produced

31,000 copies of publications targeting both professionals and children at risk.

**Combating domestic violence.** The Project Co-ordinator helped develop a specialized course on combating domestic violence for police cadets and facilitated the establishment of an interactive video training room at the Interior Ministry’s university. Through sharing of best practices from the OSCE region, the Project Co-ordinator assisted in the development of a Ukrainian methodology on corrective work with domestic-violence perpetrators.

**Administrative-law reform.** The Project Co-ordinator continued to assist in developing a legislative framework for Ukraine’s administrative-law reform, as well as popularizing human rights protection mechanisms. It also facilitated the development of numerous amendments to existing legislation regulating citizen-State relations, and training courses for judges.

**Legal education.** The Project Co-ordinator helped to improve the legal education system in Ukraine and ensure its compatibility with current international requirements in the field of higher education through comprehensive review and analysis of the Administrative Law Curriculum.

**Legislative support.** The Project Co-ordinator continued co-operation with the Ukrainian parliament, reviewing 79 legislative acts and submitting recommendations to bring the legislation more in line with international standards and OSCE commitments. It also supplied the parliament with necessary guidelines on methodology for reviewing nascent legislative proposals with the European *acquis*. In addition, the Project Co-ordinator began

to cascade the positive experience gained in previous years at the national level to local government, helping to enhance local government’s legislative capacity.

**Detention monitoring.** The Project Co-ordinator continued to support the development of national preventive mechanisms against torture and ill-treatment (NPM). Monitoring mobile groups, made up of civil society representatives and police officers, undertook more than 390 visits to Ukrainian detention facilities, which house prisoners awaiting or on trial. Special training courses in the sphere of human rights and preventing ill-treatment were conducted by NPM representatives for police and penitentiary-system officers. The Project Co-ordinator also expanded its monitoring into the penitentiary system, where prisoners serving out their sentences are held, conducting over 20 civil monitoring visits to penitentiary facilities.

**Strengthening of democratic practices.** The Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine continued its assistance in strengthening electoral processes in Ukraine, specifically in establishing a State voter register, assisting in drafting a unified *Electoral Code* and training election officials. The Project Co-ordinator provided more than 900 computers and 500 multifunctional printers for the register and trained over 2,200 employees of the local register maintenance bodies on the use of the register system. More than 80,000 election officials were trained by the January 2010 presidential election.



© Office in Baku

## Office in Baku

Head of Office: **Ambassador Bilge Cankorel** from 10 April, succeeding **Ambassador Jose Luis Herrero Ansola**, whose mandate ended on 10 January

Budget: €2,673,800

[www.osce.org/baku](http://www.osce.org/baku)

*The Office in Baku supported Azerbaijan with its election-related commitments for the March constitutional referendum and the December municipal elections, as well as with respect to implementation of the Electoral Code. The Office provided assistance on the Law on Freedom of Assembly, reform of the police and the judiciary and promoted freedom of the media, good governance, environmental awareness and regional economic development.*

### Politico-military dimension activities

**Community policing.** The Office contributed to the expansion of community policing in Azerbaijan by posting community-policing experts to the cities of Mingachevir and Devechi. The Office established a programme of monthly consultation and educational visits to 10 cities identified by the Government as the next stage in the implementation of community policing.

**Training of police and security services.** The Office continued its support for basic police training, including monitoring and mentoring within the expanded curriculum at the police school. The Office facilitated additional training and consultation for the police and security services on public-assembly management, combating trafficking in human beings, best practices in border-control management, anti-corruption, combating terrorism and internal oversight.

### Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Good governance and anti-corruption.** The Office continued to provide free legal advice for ordinary citizens' corruption complaints at the Guba and Sheki advocacy and legal-advice centres, operated by Transparency Azerbaijan. The Office also enhanced transparency in property transactions by publishing a guidebook explaining the related legal requirements.



The OSCE-funded Shamakhi Centre for Gender and Democracy hosts a discussion on domestic-violence issues in the region on 24 June. (OSCE/Matthew Bach)



1 A participant discusses the identification of forged documents at a cross-border management workshop at an Azerbaijani-Turkish border-crossing point on 31 March. (OSCE/Anar Karimov)

2 A lawyer provides legal advice for visitors at the OSCE-funded Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre in Sheki. (OSCE/Robert Zahn)

3 The head of the Office with members of a local NGO, Women Media Watch, in Baku on 13 July (OSCE/Rashad Huseynov)

4 Participants from military, social and welfare associations discuss activities relating to democratic control of the armed forces at a workshop organized by the Office on 18 February. (OSCE/Anar Kerimov)



**Entrepreneurship.** The Office provided training and individual counselling for some 300 individuals in business development to support entrepreneurs and small businesses in Sumgait, Ganja, Sheki, Barda and Baku. It also trained business instructors from the Ministry of Economic Development and from non-governmental organizations so that they could better support the expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises.

**Environmental awareness and participation.** The Office launched the *Civic Action for Security and Environment* programme to build the skills and professionalism of civil society organizations, ensuring that they are strong partners for the Government and others in addressing environmental and security challenges. The Office also continued to support the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in increasing public awareness and participation in environmental decision-making.

**Renewable energy.** The Office worked closely with the Ministry of Industry and Energy and the relevant parliamentary committee to enable the larger-scale application of renewable energy in Azerbaijan. A conference and training seminar on renewable energy helped raise awareness among policymakers and energy

companies of modern renewable-energy technologies and international best practices in their regulation.

## Human dimension activities

### RULE OF LAW

**Legislative assistance.** The Office supported the drafting of new legislation on the rights of suspects and accused in line with relevant international standards. The Office also followed the legislative process for the adoption of new specialized legislation on domestic violence and on juveniles.

**Trial monitoring.** The Office launched a new *Trial Monitoring Programme* to continue closely observing court proceedings throughout the country, including civil cases. The preliminary findings of the *Programme* were discussed with members of the judiciary and representatives of the Bar Association, the Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Justice with a view to publishing a report in 2010.

**Free legal advice.** To address the lack of sufficient legal resources in the regions, the Office opened a legal resource centre in Ganja, in addition to the existing two in Sumgayit and Lankaran. The resource centres, which offer a legal library and access to the Internet, provided necessary

expertise for training courses that helped improve the skills of legal professionals in the regions.

**Training activities.** The Office trained judges, lawyers, prosecutors and court staff on the application of international standards in domestic court proceedings, in particular through a new system of interactive moot-court training, as well as in the areas of human trafficking, juvenile justice and property-rights protection.

**Juvenile justice.** To foster the effective implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the Office supported the functioning in Baku of a juvenile legal clinic and a pilot diversion centre, the latter providing an alternative to custodial sentences. The Office also joined the *Juvenile Justice Task Force*, set up to develop and implement reform of the juvenile-justice system.

**National preventive mechanism and detention monitoring.** The Office continued monitoring remand detention facilities and prisons throughout the country. It also started monitoring police stations and supported the Ombudsperson's Office by providing training for staff with respect to the Ombudsperson's new mandate as a national preventive mechanism in view of Azerbaijan's ratification of the *Optional*

The Azerbaijani company Caspian Technologies constructed the country's first large-scale wind turbine in March at Yeni Yashma, 50 km north of Baku, on the Caspian Sea. (OSCE/Robert Zahn)



*Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.*

The Office financed the translation of a guide on monitoring places of detention, issued by the Association for the Prevention of Torture, to raise awareness about international monitoring standards.

#### **Individual human rights complaints.**

The Office assessed key individual human rights complaints, addressed the issues at stake with the relevant authorities, if required, and followed up on their outcome.

#### **DEMOCRATIZATION**

**Electoral assistance.** To prepare for the December municipal elections, the Office held multiparty workshops on domestic observation in Baku and the regions, and organized a nationally televised talk show on election issues in order to promote public debate. In close co-operation with the Central Election Commission and the Presidential Administration, the Office also held a series of information sessions on non-interference issues for executive authorities and Constituency Election Commission chairpersons. It also continued training courses for domestic observer groups and promoted women's participation and candidacies.

**Civil society development.** The Office completed the second year of its support to the Democracy and Gender Centre in Shamakhy, which trained women in the regions in leadership and prepared them

for greater involvement in the December municipal elections. The Office also promoted reform of legislation affecting non-governmental organizations, and coordinated the international response to proposed amendments.

#### **Freedom of the media and media development.**

The Office completed the second phase of its extensive training of the public broadcaster to enhance its professionalism and technical skills. The Office also began pilot training courses for journalists and Government press officers on the 2005 *Law on the Right to Obtain Information*. The Office also continued to monitor legislative changes affecting the media, and lobby for legislative reform, including the decriminalization of defamation.

**Gender issues.** The Office conducted awareness-raising activities on domestic violence and promoted the proposed Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, which is currently before parliament. The Office organized a high-level conference and television talk shows on this issue, with the participation of members of parliament, Government, international experts and civil society.



□ Karaleti Forward Monitoring Base

## Mission to Georgia

Head of Mission: Ambassador **Terhi Hakala**

Budget (end-of-mandate procedure): €5,773,600

*Following the outbreak of hostilities in Georgia in August 2008, and despite extensive negotiations, the Permanent Council was unable to reach consensus to extend the mandate of the Mission to Georgia, established in 1992, beyond its expiration date of 31 December 2008. The Mission's three-pronged mandate had covered the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, including facilitating a lasting political settlement and monitoring a peacekeeping operation; ensuring liaison with the United Nations Observation Mission in Georgia with respect to the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict; and, in relation to Georgia as a whole, fostering respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and assisting in the development of legal and democratic institutions and processes.*

The OSCE prepared a plan to discontinue the Mission by 30 June and, in parallel, carried out until then the activities of the 20 additional military monitoring officers, who were deployed to areas adjacent to South Ossetia in 2008 by Permanent Council mandate immediately after the 12 August six-point agreement brought open hostilities to an end.

At the start of the year, the Mission had 223 affiliated staff, leases on 10 premises, including the Karaleti Forward Monitoring Base, and assets with a net book value of €2,363,345.

The unified budget programmatic activity had been finalized and closed by the end of 2008. During the first six months of 2009, all staff left the employ of the OSCE Mission to Georgia. The 10 leases were all successfully ended. More than 96 per cent of assets with a net book value of €2,280,409 were disposed of, with the remainder covering lost, damaged or outdated items. The Karaleti base was prepared for transfer/sale to the European Union Monitoring Mission, an operation that was carried out on 3 July, in part thanks to Sweden, which agreed to donate its part of the base to facilitate the disposal.

Meanwhile, the 20 unarmed military monitoring officers, whose mandate was due to expire on 30 June, averaged four to six patrols a day in teams of two to four.

They fostered contacts and meetings among the relevant security structures, talked to the local people and inquired about their safety and well-being. They filed daily patrol reports, weekly overviews and spot reports as necessary for the delegations in Vienna. The officers, representing 17 countries, conducted approximately nine hundred patrols in 2009.

When the mandate of the 20 monitors elapsed on 30 June, the Mission to Georgia closed.



OSCE military monitoring officers at the Karaleti Forward Monitoring Base in March 2009 (OSCE/Lika Kakiashvili)



## Office in Yerevan

Head of Office: Ambassador Sergey Kapinos

Budget: €2,694,900

[www.osce.org/yerevan](http://www.osce.org/yerevan)

*The Office in Yerevan provided substantial assistance to Armenian authorities in all three security dimensions, most notably in combating trafficking and corruption, supporting parliament and police, empowering women, addressing environmental challenges and fostering small and medium-sized enterprises and economic competition. The Office also assisted the host country in addressing a serious economic downturn.*

### Politico-military dimension activities

**Police-assistance activities.** The OSCE teamed with police working groups to develop and present strategies on police-training reform and expansion of community policing, which led to the setting up of a governmental working group on police reform, with OSCE involvement.

**Freedom of assembly.** The Office organized training for municipalities on the *Law on Rallies and Demonstrations* and, with the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, provided financial and methodological support to the monitoring of public gatherings by civil society groups.

**Democratic oversight of the armed forces.** With Office financial support, civil society organizations monitored the military-conscription procedure. Together with the Ombudsperson, the Office prepared a report on disciplinary sanctions in the armed forces and helped set up a co-ordination council between the parliament and civil society. The results were discussed at a conference on security-sector governance, organized together with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

**Support to emergency-situation management.** Assistance was rendered to provide accurate and timely information on emergencies. The Office improved television broadcasts and the emergency newspaper through journalistic and public-relations training, as well as through the provision of basic equipment.



Children look at hand-woven rugs at an arts and craft fair in Goris, Syunik province, on 17 October. The Office organized the fair to improve the skills of female entrepreneurs and to reinforce the work undertaken by the OSCE-founded and -operated Syunik women's resource centres. (OSCE/Gayane Ter-Stepanyan)

At the concluding 9 April press conference of an OSCE project to build the skills and professionalism of the staff of the State Commission for the Protection of Economic Competition, the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Ashot Shahnazaryan, said:

**"**This project provides European standards of monitoring, which will help limit anti-competitive behaviour. It also gives the staff an opportunity to improve their monitoring skills and knowledge."**"**



1 The opening of a police outreach station in Yerevan on 19 June (OSCE/Gayane Ter-Stepanyan)

2 The head of the Office (l) and the Prime Minister of Armenia (r) at the opening of a local branch of the National Small and Medium-Sized Development Centre in Kapan, Syunik province, on 26 June (OSCE/Karen Arzumanyan)

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

### *Promoting economic good governance.*

The Office continued its support to small businesses in the regions of Armenia by increasing awareness of state support schemes and reviewing the Government's competition policy, structures and practices. In order to further mitigate the impact of the global economic downturn, it provided experts and venues for seminars to provide specific policy recommendations.

**Environmental activities.** The OSCE-supported Aarhus Centres continued to promote transparency in environmental matters through projects. Under the Environment and Security Initiative, the Office facilitated a review of environmental legislation and helped establish a National Advisory Group to design future projects.

The OSCE Presence in Syunik continued its efforts to stimulate sustainable development and the use of renewable energy in the region.

**Fighting corruption.** The Office assisted in elaborating the Government's *2009-2012 Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan*. Civil society organizations implemented several anti-corruption projects with Office financial support.

## Human dimension activities

**Monitoring places of detention.** The Office organized training courses on monitoring techniques and reporting for civil society and published reports on detention conditions, including on military detention.

**Human rights mainstreaming.** The Office co-organized a roundtable discussion on human rights protection in the armed

forces and introduced a human rights module in the Military Academy. Under another project, training courses on human rights monitoring techniques were given to civil society organizations in the provinces of Armenia.

**Protecting freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.** A discussion of the draft amendments to the *Law on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations* was organized, and financial support was provided for a civil society project on monitoring religious freedoms.

**Supporting the Ombudsperson.** The Office co-ordinated international assistance in capacity-building for the Ombudsperson's staff through a working group and organized a study visit to the Office of the French Mediator.

**Supporting criminal-justice reforms.** In support of the implementation of the Government's Strategy on Judicial Reforms, the Office organized training for judges on guiding pre-trial investigations and published a trial manual for judges. It advocated introducing amendments to the *Law on Advocacy* and facilitated international expertise on the draft criminal procedure and judicial codes. The Office funded a project to make the Prosecutor-General's website interactive.

**Media freedom.** The Office facilitated a review of amendments to the *Law on Radio and Television* and advocated amendments to the *Law on Freedom of Information* to ensure public access to government-held information. Financial support was provided for a project to monitor violence against journalists.

**Anti-trafficking.** The OSCE-supported Anti-Trafficking Support and Resource

Unit fulfilled its role as a co-ordination, monitoring and information-sharing body. The Office assisted in setting up a national referral mechanism and presented a training manual for law-enforcement agencies.

**Gender issues.** The Office helped establish two women's resource centres to promote women's entrepreneurship in Syunik province. It co-sponsored the first annual prize for the best gender journalism in Armenia.

**Youth.** The Office commissioned a survey about young people's knowledge of labour rights and trade unions and raised awareness among students about manifestations of corruption in higher education. A small-grants programme for regional youth centres promoted civic activities.

**Electoral reform.** The Office provided financial and logistical support for the Central Electoral Commission in hosting the annual conference of Central and Eastern European election officials in Yerevan. It assisted the Commission in preparing for the Council of Elders election in Yerevan on 31 May, and provided methodological and financial assistance to domestic election observers.

**Supporting the National Assembly.** The Office offered a three-week legislative training course to the professional staff of the parliament, as well as an exchange visit to Lithuania.

**Establishing a diplomatic academy.** The Office provided know-how in drafting the curriculum for a diplomatic academy and offered high-level trainers.

**Model OSCE.** Two Model OSCE conferences were organized in Shirak and Lori provinces.



© Centre in Ashgabat

## Centre in Ashgabat

Head of Centre: Ambassador Arsim Zekolli from 10 February, succeeding Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic, whose mandate ended on 9 January  
 Budget: €1,401,700  
[www.osce.org/ashgabat](http://www.osce.org/ashgabat)

*In 2009, the Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary with a number of groundbreaking projects. In response to an OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Engagement with Afghanistan, the Centre implemented two projects to assist customs and border services in Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. It initiated new areas of co-operation with the host country such as support to the media sector, the penitentiary system and combating human trafficking, while also assisting in the development of a renewable-energy market.*

### Politico-military dimension activities

**Support to the media sector.** To support media-education reform, the Centre organized a one-week training seminar for journalists from print and electronic media and a two-week media training course for journalism students at the Institute for International Relations, which was opened by the Foreign Ministry in 2008.

**Strengthening border security and management.** The Centre continued to assist in improving travel-document security through training courses for law-enforcement officers. The courses took place in the cities of Dashoguz and Turkmenbashi.

**Combating organized crime and trafficking in drugs.** The Centre trained airport security personnel in detecting drugs and other contraband. It also provided the Aviation Training School with a computer classroom. In addition, it sponsored a training course on identifying drug precursors and backtracking investigations to build the skills of drug and law-enforcement officers and forensic experts.

**Confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs).** The Centre held a workshop to support the host country in implementing CSBMs under the *Vienna Document 1999*.

### Assisting customs and border officials from Turkmenistan and Afghanistan

The *Customs Assistance Project*, which was financed by Norway and carried out from May to September, trained customs officials from Turkmenistan and Afghanistan in customs' risk assessment, profiling, targeting, selection and search techniques.

Furthermore, a *Border Project* was implemented. It consisted of two field training courses on the Turkmen-Afghan border and included a donation of patrol and surveillance equipment to the State Border Service of Turkmenistan. The project was funded by Japan and took place between August and November.

"The *Border Project* marks a new milestone in OSCE activities in Central Asia. Organizing a practical training course in difficult field conditions was a pioneering effort for all of us. The project had a special significance for Turkmenistan, which, by hosting Afghan participants in the training, proved to be an active partner and contributor to security in the region and beyond."

— Ambassador Arsim Zekolli, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat



A practical exercise during an OSCE-organized training course at the Turkmen-Afghan border on 13 October (OSCE/Guncha Nepesova)



1 Students study the programme of an OSCE-organized environmental film festival in Ashgabat on 2 December. (OSCE)

2 Participants at a regional conference on co-operation in the area of railway border crossings in Central Asia organized by the Centre and the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities in Balkanabat in July (OSCE/ Martina Gadotti)

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Strengthening regional co-operation at railway border crossings.** A regional conference explored international legal instruments in promoting railway conveyance and applying best practices to enhance the transit of goods in Central Asia.

**Promoting the development of a renewable-energy market.** The Centre supported the host country in developing renewable solar and wind energy by organizing a workshop for Turkmenistan's renewable-energy experts.

**Support to agricultural reforms.** The Centre trained representatives from governmental agricultural agencies and private business in farm-business management and discussed with them the reform of small and medium-sized businesses in the agricultural sector.

**Waste management.** The Centre offered a training course to farmers from the southern Mary region in processing solid and biological waste.

**Promoting sustainable land and water management.** The Centre carried out a project in the Mary region to improve farmers' abilities to manage land and water resources and facilitate effective water use by the local community.

**First environmental film festival in Turkmenistan.** The first environmental film festival was held in Turkmenistan. It aimed to raise awareness of global environmental threats and promote the media as a viable means for stimulating public discussion on this issue.

## Human dimension activities

**Support to the legislative process.** In co-operation with the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Centre supported legal reforms by offering two seminars on tools for an effective legislative process. Five members of Turkmenistan's parliament participated in a study tour to the Slovenian and Austrian parliaments and to the OSCE Permanent Council. The Centre developed a legal database aimed at promoting the rule of law and ensuring easy access to Turkmenistan's legislation.

**Support to the penitentiary system.** The Centre organized two seminars on international legal standards for the treatment of prisoners for officials from penitentiary institutions and students at the Police Academy.

**Promoting international human rights standards.** The Centre organized training courses throughout the country with a focus on alternatives to detention at the pre-trial stage of criminal proceedings. It launched a series of lectures on international human rights law for students at

the Institute for International Relations. It supported a study visit to France on re-training practices for the judiciary. The Centre provided legal consultations to more than 190 individuals and supported national institutions dealing with individual complaints. It disseminated more than 4,000 human-rights-related publications.

**Anti-trafficking.** The Centre addressed trafficking in human beings at two seminars supplemented by a study trip to Ukraine. It supported the National Red Crescent Society in raising awareness about trafficking in persons.

**Promoting gender equality.** The Centre organized a seminar aimed at promoting and protecting gender equality. It supported the non-governmental organization Keik Okara in opening a hotline on domestic violence and providing legal and psychological consultations to victims of domestic violence. To promote women's roles in public life and inter-parliamentary dialogue, the Centre initiated a visit for female parliamentarians from the western Balkans and Central Asia to Turkmenistan.

**"T**he experience of implementing international conventions in protecting marine resources in other sea regions can be useful for safeguarding the Caspian region's biodiversity and sustainable maritime transport system. The work of international organizations like the OSCE with national authorities to raise awareness about the existing conventions and to promote regional dialogue is crucial."

— Boris Babin from the Odessa National Marine Academy, one of the experts at a workshop on international maritime law and interstate co-operation organized by the Centre in Ashgabat in November

# Centre in Astana



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• Liaison Office

Head of Centre: Ambassador Alexandre Keltchewsky

Budget: €2,070,400

[www.osce.org/astana](http://www.osce.org/astana)

*The Centre in Astana continued to focus on projects supporting ongoing political reform, particularly in light of the important strategic documents adopted by the host country, as well as activities in support of the host country's 2010 OSCE Chairmanship preparations. The Centre, building on its experience from previous years, organized a number of regional events involving the participation of Central Asian countries, such as one on confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in May, and another on asset seizure in the fight against corruption and terrorism in July, both of which took place in Almaty.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Political reforms.** In support of its democratization efforts, marked by the adoption early in the year of new laws on elections and on the registration of political parties, the Centre supported election-observation seminars, conducted several roundtables and conferences, including a roundtable devoted to interaction between political parties and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and supported visits of election experts from the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to discuss electoral legislation.

**Modernization of the police force.** The focus continued to be placed on regional co-operation in combating organized crime, community policing and basic police training. The Centre also provided practical assistance to prosecutors from across Kazakhstan in implementing international legal protocols. A study tour to assist the Interior Ministry in shaping its new strategy is planned for 2010.

**Border security and management.** The Centre focused during the year on Kazakhstan's northern and southern frontiers with two training courses organized in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration and other stakeholders. The courses included information on international best practices.

**CSBMs and conventional ammunition.** The Centre organized two regional events in co-operation with the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation and the Ministry of Defence. The first event addressed CSBMs, and used the occasion of the *Vienna Document's* 10th anniversary as an opportunity to review and re-evaluate the implementation of its provisions. The second event was a seminar on the *Implementation of the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Conventional Ammunition*. Like the first event, it involved the broad participation of practitioners from Central Asia and the Caucasus. Additionally, the Centre participated in an inspection visit to military sites in Kazakhstan, and supported Ministry of Defence officials' participation in a similar visit abroad.



Participants take part in a group exercise at a community-policing seminar in Oskemen on 24 August. (OSCE/Dina Igljikova)



1 Participants at a Central Asian regional workshop on confidence- and security-building measures in Almaty on 26 May organized by the Centre and the Kazakh Ministry of Defence (OSCE/Vladimir Kryukov)

2 At a Centre-organized workshop in Uralsk on 1 July, participants discuss how to improve co-operation between NGOs and local and regional authorities in environmental decision-making. (OSCE/Aiman Smagulova)

3 Students learn about the value of water at a Central Asian regional seminar in Almaty on 1 December. (OSCE/Andrew Offenbacher)

4 Military observers from OSCE participating States view materiel at an airbase in Taldykorgan on 28 October. (OSCE/Dina Iglukova)

## Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Promoting a transparent and efficient economic environment.** The Centre focused on the fight against corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism. It facilitated training courses for the financial police in investigating corruption cases and organized a regional seminar on asset seizure in the fight against corruption and terrorism. It also initiated co-operation with the State Customs Committee on integrity in customs. The Centre further launched a dialogue on reform of the Prosecutor-General's office with the goal of reducing the potential for corruption among prosecutors. Additionally, the Centre continued to support the transparency initiative for the extractive industries of oil, gas and mining and projects aimed at broadening the initiative's scope.

**Promoting sustainable development.** The Centre finalized a training module on integrated water management, which is being used to train members of civil society and stakeholders who participate in advisory river-basin councils in eight river basins. It also helped launch a new training course on sustainable development for business managers and supported the development of a national plan for sustainable development.

**Promoting Aarhus and other international conventions.** The Centre supported the implementation of the *Aarhus Convention* by training judges on access to justice and facilitating the opening of Kazakhstan's first Aarhus Centre, in Atyrau. As a follow-up to the 16th *Economic and Environmental Forum*, the Centre initiated co-operation with the International Maritime Organization to promote the ratification of international maritime conventions and organized a regional seminar to improve the authorities' ability to effectively respond to oil spills.

## Human dimension activities

**Judicial and legal reforms.** In co-operation with the relevant stakeholders, the Centre provided expertise and facilitated the exchange of experience in various rule-of-law issues, including those related to the adoption of a new legal policy concept. The Centre helped organize public discussions and research on judicial reforms, investigative procedures, administrative legislation, crime prevention, jury trials and judicial authorization of arrest. Findings were discussed at expert meetings and distributed to the public via the media.

**Human rights and democratization.** The Centre supported several activities to promote the reform of freedom-of-assembly

legislation and to bring law-enforcement practices into line with international standards on freedom of religion or belief. The Centre also supported initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of national human rights institutions.

**Gender issues.** In co-operation with ODIHR, the Centre facilitated legal reviews of draft legislation on gender equality and domestic violence, and conducted several awareness-raising campaigns and monitoring projects on gender issues prior to the December adoption of legislation on these important topics. The Centre also facilitated a study tour on best practices in combating domestic violence for parliamentarians, law-enforcement officers and civil society members.

**Anti-trafficking support.** The Centre worked with state authorities and NGOs to conduct several expert meetings and training events on the legislative and enforcement aspects of fighting trafficking in human beings.

**Media development.** The Centre supported the professional development of journalists through a variety of training programmes. Substantial efforts were made to enhance the media's co-operation with NGOs and state institutions. It also facilitated an exchange of views on Internet-related legislation and journalism ethics.



## Centre in Bishkek

Head of Centre: Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere

Budget: €5,409,300

[www.osce.org/bishkek](http://www.osce.org/bishkek)

*The Centre in Bishkek assisted in the implementation of Kyrgyzstan's OSCE commitments, concentrating its programmes on six strategic areas: border management and security; rule of law; governance; legislation; environmental and economic priorities; and regional co-operation. Gender and youth considerations were integrated into all programmes. Issues relating to migration continued to receive special attention.*

### Politico-military dimension activities

**Border security and management.** The Centre worked to enhance cross-border dialogue. It also contributed to conflict prevention in border areas, including through the creation and strengthening of local conflict-prevention mechanisms. The Centre also helped develop the border agencies' skills and professionalism and inter-agency co-operation. The Centre launched a flagship project aimed at delivering sustainable training to Kyrgyz and Afghan customs officials. Donor co-ordination was promoted.

**Action against terrorism.** The Centre supported the strengthening of Kyrgyzstan's anti-terrorism legislation by facilitating the implementation of 10 of the 16 United Nations anti-terrorism instruments. It helped boost the country's physical defences, including through training on bomb disposal, terrorist financing, travel-document security and security of critical energy infrastructure. The Centre promoted public-private partnerships in combating terrorism. Through a series of training courses in all seven provinces of the country, it addressed such issues as implementation of freedom-of-religion principles, de-radicalization and the need to protect and promote human rights while combating terrorism.

**Police reform.** The Centre supported the development of community-based policing throughout the country, with training courses and seminars on public-private partnerships in crime prevention, combating torture and police ethics, and promoted civilian



Young journalists at a training session on financial journalism supported by the Centre in Naryn on 25 August (Naryn KG/Jarkyn Ibraeva)



1 A police forensics officer shows children fingerprinting techniques during a police open day in Bishkek on 10 April. (OSCE/Ruslan Izmaylov)

2 An OSCE staff member (r) speaks with the head of the Bishkek Neighbourhood Watch project, a police officer and a resident in the city's Sverdlovsky district on 25 March. (OSCE/Sergey Gavrilin)

3 Bomb-disposal training, funded by the Centre, held for Interior Ministry troops in Bishkek on 28 October (OSCE/Kutman Borboev)

4 Police investigators learn to identify fingerprints on a car during an OSCE-supported training course in Karakol on 14 September. (OSCE/Ernis Isamatov)



oversight of police activities. The Centre assisted with incorporating international standards into police education institutions' curricula. The Centre supported gender mainstreaming in police activities and multiethnic policing. An international conference on the role of female police officers in a democratic society was held in Bishkek in November.

**Early warning and conflict prevention.** The Centre continued to monitor areas of potential conflict, facilitated dialogue between authorities and civil society, and supported regional and local early-warning and conflict-prevention initiatives. It promoted interethnic and interreligious tolerance through awareness-raising and activities geared towards the development of multiethnic and multicultural communities, with a special focus on youth and education.

**Development of political institutions.** To nurture democratic pluralism, the Centre fostered the skills and professionalism of political parties, parliament and local self-government bodies. It helped enhance their interaction with the public through televised debates and public hearings on topical issues. The Centre supported platforms that enhanced political dialogue among various political forces, and introduced Kyrgyz political leaders from across the political spectrum to international best

practices. It promoted the participation of women and youth in political life.

**Media issues.** The Centre continued to monitor media issues, including media legislation and journalist safety, to promote a free, professional and responsible media. It supported media resource centres in the country's regions and helped enhance journalists' skills. The Centre co-organized with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media the 11th *Central Asian Media Conference*, held in Bishkek in October.

### Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Economic issues.** The Centre contributed to improving the business climate by supporting the exchange of information between investors and authorities. It helped train urban youth mentors to, in turn, train their rural counterparts in basic business skills. The Centre supported a network of labour-migrant assistance centres to facilitate legal employment for Kyrgyz migrants abroad. It also financed a nation-wide survey on the implications of the global financial crisis on labour migration from Kyrgyzstan. It helped authorities achieve a more regulated cross-border labour-migration and trade environment.

**Good governance.** The Centre worked together with the National Agency on Corruption Prevention and local non-governmental organizations to improve the transparency of local government management of public finances by including civil society in the budget process. It also supported an initiative to increase transparency in land distribution and the higher-education sector.

**Environmental issues.** The Centre supported civil society and government in addressing environmental issues and helped in the implementation of the *Aarhus* and *Espoo Conventions*. The Centre supported villages in Kyrgyzstan, setting up efficient and transparent water-distribution systems to reduce the potential for conflict with neighbouring communities in Tajikistan. The Centre promoted social and economic development in the former uranium-mining village of Min-Kush. It also contributed to efforts aimed at attracting donor support to address the overall Central Asian uranium-tailings problem. The Centre supported the establishment of a disaster-reaction training centre in Osh and arranged community-based training sessions on disaster preparedness.

A billboard promoting an OSCE-supported international conference on the role of female police officers in Bishkek in November (OSCE/Ruslan Izmaylov)



## Human dimension activities

**Institutional and legal reform.** The Centre supported efforts to bring national legislation into line with OSCE commitments. It facilitated international experts' legal opinions of draft legislation on freedom of assembly, freedom of religion and belief and freedom of association. In preparation for presidential elections on 23 July, it supported voter education through a series of television and radio public-service announcements and debates, and publication of election-related materials, training of election officials and independent domestic observers.

**Penal reform.** To contribute to the reform and humanization of criminal legislation and the penitentiary system, the Centre assisted in applying alternative sentencing, developing a probation service, building capacity and training wardens on conflict-resolution skills, safety and human rights. It contributed to strengthening the skills and professionalism of local human rights defenders to monitor detention facilities.

**Promoting adherence to international human rights standards.** The Centre supported ongoing judicial reform through the training of judges, prosecutors, police and court personnel. It facilitated monitoring of trials and contributed to the improvement of detention conditions

in police custody and pre-trial detention facilities. The Centre worked on establishing a national prevention mechanism against torture in accordance with the *Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*. It supported free legal aid for socially vulnerable groups, including victims of torture, particularly in remote areas, and promoted the establishment of a viable state mechanism for free legal aid to the indigent.

**Promoting gender equality and fighting trafficking in human beings.** The Centre assisted in the implementation of the

*National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2007-2010*. It encouraged female representation in national and local authorities and greater female participation in public life through an awareness-raising campaign and training seminars on a gender-based assessment of budgets. To address bride kidnapping and domestic violence, the Centre supported parliamentary hearings, a public awareness campaign, and crisis centres for victims in Naryn and Issyk-Kul provinces. It assisted in developing and reviewing national anti-trafficking legislation, awareness-raising on human trafficking among youth, and co-ordinating among civil society, law-enforcement and local authorities.

## OSCE Academy

**Now in its seventh year,** the OSCE Academy graduated 19 students with a Master of Arts in Political Science and recruited 23 students from Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. It continued its training programme and its forum for security-policy experts from Central Asia, East and South-East Asia, Europe and the United States to analyse and discuss key regional security dynamics. The Academy initiated consultations to launch a junior professional programme to allow graduates to start careers with their national administrations.



# Office in Tajikistan

Head of Office: Ambassador Ivar Vikki from 15 September, succeeding Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin, whose mandate ended on 14 June  
 Budget: €5,629,800  
[www.osce.org/tajikistan](http://www.osce.org/tajikistan)

*The Office in Tajikistan continued its co-operation and consultation with the host country, launching new programmes and strengthening existing ones, reflecting the country's increased importance to regional security and co-operation and enhanced OSCE engagement. A major new initiative with OSCE-wide significance was launched with the inauguration of the Border Management Staff College. Other highlights included the establishment of a national demining unit within the Defence Ministry and support for the newly created Ombudsperson office.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Political dialogue.** In co-operation with the Public Council of Tajikistan, a body that was created during the peace process after the Civil War to foster dialogue and reconciliation, the Office continued to facilitate meetings for government officials, political parties and civil society to assess current developments. Addressing emerging threats, the Office launched a new activity aimed at combating violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. The project began after a thorough needs assessment. It foresees conducting a survey on trends in radicalization and assisting government and civil society in formulation of policy guidelines to counter radicalization.

**Border security.** Office experts provided support to the government in drafting a national border strategy. The OSCE Border Management Staff College conducted its first training seminars for participants from 14 OSCE participating States. Other projects provided border-patrol training and equipment for Tajik border troops and customs officials, an assessment of training programmes for the Tajik Border Guard Academy, as well as an Afghan-Tajik workshop on cross-border co-operation.

**Police assistance.** Based on an OSCE-supported assessment, the Office, in co-operation with the Interior Ministry, presented the principles for police reform, incorporating OSCE best practices, introducing change-management strategies to foster the development of organizational and operational skills needed, for example, in combating



Senior officials from the Afghan and Tajik border agencies take part in a group exercise at a workshop on cross-border co-operation in Dushanbe on 23 October. (OSCE/Kati Helsinki)



1 Schoolchildren from Tojikobod participate in a travelling OSCE anti-drugs campaign on 4 September. (OSCE/Oliver Janser)

2 Civil society representatives discuss new models and best practices of combating violence against women in Dushanbe on 20 August. (OSCE/Gennadiy Ratushenko)

3 Tajik border troops take part in an exercise during an eight-week border patrol leadership course of the Border Patrolling Programme in Gissar on 2 September. (OSCE)

4 A student reads from the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* at an OSCE-organized event on Human Rights Day, 10 December, in Dushanbe. (OSCE/Gennadiy Ratushenko)

organized crime. Together with the Drug Control Agency, the Office conducted a drug-prevention campaign in the districts of Sughd, Khatlon and Rasht Valley.

**Mine clearance.** In 2009, the Office created a national demining unit within the Defence Ministry. Supported by OSCE advisers, the team was deployed for clearance operations to the Tajik-Afghan border. Regional co-operation for mine clearance in Central Asia took a step forward at an OSCE conference in Dushanbe, where several Central Asian countries agreed to create a regional co-ordination body for mine clearance by 2010.

**Small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition.** Building on the results of its past four years of activities that successfully created an infrastructure for enhancing the safe storage and destruction of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition, the Office continued to support local governments through training. In addition, the Office provided assistance in developing a legal framework on incident response.

**Confidence- and security-building measures.** The Office continued to support the Government's efforts to observe its commitments under the *Vienna Document 1999* on confidence- and security-building measures, in particular

improving operations at the national Verification Centre, which has a permanent connection to the OSCE Communication Network, the Organization's conduit for the timely exchange of such information.

### Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Effective environmental policies: legislation and awareness.** The Office brought in international expertise to support the development of the draft of the first National Environmental Action Plan, as well as recommendations for amendments to the *Waste Management Law*. It also fostered environmental education and activism among youth through the *Green Patrol* programme, an initiative that aims to increase environmental awareness among youth and encourage environmentally friendly behaviour. A third Aarhus Centre was opened in Kurgan-Tyube, while the first Aarhus Centre, established in 2003 in Dushanbe, was being transferred into the control of Tajik environmental authorities at year-end.

**Addressing radioactive-waste threats.** The Office worked closely with experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency to assess the threat posed by radioactive waste in northern Tajikistan and to calculate the cost to rehabilitate affected areas.

### Business, investment development and regional trade.

Ten OSCE-supported resource centres for small business and agri-business advised or trained 8,948 entrepreneurs and farmers over the course of the year. In partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Office created and piloted a framework under which it converted the centres into independent public-private business consultancy services. In order to attract investments, 169 local officials learned best practices. The Office also provided technical assistance to Tajik anti-corruption authorities to help them develop a better corruption-prevention programme. In addition, it also dispatched an international expert to advise on the Sughd Free Economic Zone in northern Tajikistan. Further south, the Office, through its four cross-border trade promotion centres, advised 446 entrepreneurs engaged in trade with Afghanistan.

**Water management.** The Office assisted in developing a water-management information system. The Office designed the concept, customized database software and integrated it within relevant government agencies. As a result, Tajik water authorities can now more effectively regulate water supplies.

Office staff members encounter two ethnic Kyrgyz children on the Pamir Highway en route to Murgab at the Chinese border on 15 July. (OSCE/Kati Heiska)



## Human dimension activities

**Human rights and rule of law.** The Office strengthened the capacity of key human rights institutions and actors in Tajikistan through a series of roundtables, regular co-ordination meetings, and intensive human rights training for university students. The Office also provided networking support to the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsperson, who was appointed in May following close co-operation between the Office and the host government. The Office also facilitated dialogue between government and civil society on ensuring access to detention centres and prisons; freedom of religion; respect for the rights of individuals belonging to minorities and access to justice; as well as on preventing torture and ill-treatment. Ahead of the February 2010 parliamentary elections, the Office supported dialogue on electoral reform through community meetings throughout the country on democracy and free and fair elections and voter-education programmes with a special focus on youth.

**Democratization of the media.** The Office supported the development of a distribution network for print media to improve outreach to readers. It also provided newspaper grants to 27 newspapers followed by management training courses to eight newspapers to help increase their print-runs. With the Office's assistance, a code of professional ethics and a self-regulation mechanism were developed, which resulted in the establishment of the Tajik Media Council. The Office continued to offer training courses to young journalists in Internet journalism, media law and economic reporting.

**Gender.** In addition to supporting the only shelter for female victims of domestic violence in the country, the Office contributed to strengthening the capacity of national agencies dealing with gender equality and gender-based violence through study of best practices and training. Assisted by the Office, 11 women's resource centres promoted girls' school enrollment and conducted vocational training,

literacy courses and domestic-violence counseling.

**Anti-trafficking assistance.** To aid government officials in their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, the Office organized studies of best practices, followed by training on national referral mechanisms and international best practices applicable to Tajikistan. The Office also initiated a process that resulted in the inclusion of an anti-trafficking course in the Tajik Police Academy curriculum from 2010.



© Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

# Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Project Co-ordinator: Ambassador Istvan Venczel

Budget: €1,910,300

[www.osce.org/tashkent](http://www.osce.org/tashkent)

*The Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan continued to focus on implementing projects launched in previous years and encouraged increased Uzbek Government and civil society participation in OSCE events, projects and study visits in all three dimensions.*

## Politico-military dimension activities

**Police reform.** The Project Co-ordinator continued to support the Police Academy in improving its system of training, placing increased emphasis on issues such as ethics in policing, crime prevention and police preparedness, in accordance with OSCE principles and standards. The Project Co-ordinator supported the establishment of a Centre of Innovative Training/Pedagogic Technologies.

**Combating illicit drugs trafficking and terrorism.** The Project Co-ordinator set up a library within the National Centre on Drug Control to improve information exchange among the relevant agencies and to conduct training courses for the Centre's regional representatives.

**Drugs trafficking.** The Project Co-ordinator organized training courses for counternarcotics experts in combating the trafficking of illicit drugs and their chemical precursors. It also published 3,500 copies of an informational toolkit for law-enforcement officers on places of drug concealment for transit purposes.

**Biometric passports.** In response to an Uzbek request, the Project Co-ordinator and the OSCE's Action against Terrorism Unit launched a project and organized a workshop on identity documents to assist the government's efforts to introduce a biometric-passport system.



Participants at an OSCE-organized training course take part in practical exercises on detecting, testing and sampling chemical precursors used in the production of illicit drugs in Tashkent on 25 June. (OSCE)



1 An expert from the German Federal Environmental Agency shows one of the world's largest artificial stream-and-pond systems to a delegation from the Uzbek State Nature Protection Committee in Berlin on 6 July. (UBA/Dietmar Wunderlich)

2 Staff from the Internal Affairs Ministry attend an OSCE-organized training course on the theory and international standards of human rights in Ferghana on 23 February. (OSCE/Ildar Fayzullin)

The Project Co-ordinator also held a number of training courses and conferences to support socio-political organizations and improve their staffs' skills and professionalism.

### Economic and environmental dimension activities

**Good governance.** Through expert advice, the Project Co-ordinator supported the government in its efforts to reform the Central Bank's anti-money-laundering rules and regulations. Uzbek experts also received training on the international legal framework and on obligations for banks and supervisory authorities.

**Promoting entrepreneurship.** The Project Co-ordinator assisted in drafting a law on the international arbitration court, which will improve legal security for entrepreneurs.

**Reforming legislation.** The Project Co-ordinator launched a project to support the drafting of a commentary to the *Civil Code* aimed at easing its application.

**Supporting farming and rural development.** The Parliament, the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management and the Project Co-ordinator worked together to convene an expert working group to reform agricultural legislation and prepare the drafting of a rural development strategy.

Together with the Farmers' Association, the Project Co-ordinator, continuing a project from 2008, established three regional farming development centres and organized training courses on sustainable and ecological farming.

### Monitoring environmental threats.

Facilitated by the Project Co-ordinator, civil society groups and the State Nature Protection Committee together engaged in monitoring environmental threats in the Tuman district of Tashkent. A painting and photograph contest for children and adults was used to highlight waste-management problems.

**Addressing transport-related topics.** In December, the Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade, organized a regional roundtable to discuss transport-related questions with its Central Asian neighbours. The roundtable touched upon issues of road and rail transport, security and environmentally sound means of transport.

### Human dimension activities

**Strengthening civil society.** The Project Co-ordinator provided assistance to enhance the institutional skills and professionalism of the National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on topics such as women's empowerment and enabling civil society to take a rights-based approach in its activism and advocacy as well as on preparing and giving presentations. In a separate project, it continued raising the professionalism of public institutions and NGOs active in social protection, or work designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability. It did so by developing guidebooks, social advertisements and training to enhance the professional knowledge of both social workers and NGOs.

### Combating trafficking in human beings.

The Project Co-ordinator addressed current anti-trafficking trends through projects developed with the authorities on more efficient institutionalization of anti-trafficking policies. It also supported a specific Training Centre for Prosecutors by providing learning aids. To ensure protection for victims, the Project Co-ordinator established a legal-aid unit within the NGO Istiqbolli Avlod and, jointly with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, enhanced the skills of specialized lawyers, including from NGOs, by convening a workshop on *Protecting the Rights of Trafficked Persons*.

**Promoting human rights.** The Project Co-ordinator continued its involvement in building the skills and professionalism of the Human Rights Protection Department of the Interior Ministry through training courses on international human rights standards for 150 police officers from all regions. It also assisted in the preparation of a methodological manual on national and foreign experience in the field of human rights. The Project Co-ordinator also supported the development of the Law Training Centre under the Ministry of Justice through establishing a Human Rights Resource Centre and facilitating the opportunity to study the experience of similar institutions in other OSCE participating States.

**Supporting the Ombudsperson.** The Project Co-ordinator supported co-operation among the national Parliament's Ombudsperson and judicial and law-enforcement bodies through a number of workshops.

# Assistance with Bilateral Agreements

## Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

*The Representative continued to assist in the implementation of the 1994 bilateral agreement between the Latvian and the Russian Governments on social guarantees for military pensioners of the Russian Federation and their families residing in Latvia. The latest available overview listed 15,119 people who receive a pension from the federal budget of the Russian Federation, comprising 8,243 former military personnel from the Defence and Interior Ministries, plus 6,876 family members.*

### Activities and developments

**Housing problems successfully tackled.** Progress was made in 2009 after several years dealing nearly exclusively with complaints linked to the potential eviction of military pensioners and their families from so-called denationalized accommodation, under which authorities returned property expropriated by Soviet nationalization and given to servicemen of the Soviet Army. The Commission was able to discontinue such discussions in 2009. This encouraging trend is the result of the persistent efforts of the Latvian and Russian authorities to soften potential hardship situations for affected pensioners.

**Dissent on the subjects of the Agreement.** The Commission is currently engaged in identifying possible procedures that could allow the inclusion of additional people on the list of eligible military pensioners. Different opinions concerning the application of specific provisions of the Agreement need to be taken into account, and a common understanding of basic principles needs to be developed before the Commission will be in a position to propose elements for potential new procedures.

OSCE Representative: Lt. Col. Helmut Napiontek  
Budget: €9,300



# Institutions



Photos: OSCE/Karolina Sikorska,  
OSCE/Roberto Berna, OSCE/Oleg Sironov

# Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

*The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Organization's principal institution dealing with the human dimension of security, deployed election operations to 26 participating States, 10 for the first time, in 2009 while further diversifying its election-observation teams to include experts and observers from 52 participating States.*

*Other highlights included the organization of events that spotlighted work on participating States' core human dimension commitments, including on hate crimes, freedom of religion and gender equality.*

*During the year, the Office also continued its assistance to participating States to ensure that national legislation complied with OSCE commitments. It commented on draft laws on such topics as freedom of assembly, freedom of association and freedom of information.*

## Monitoring implementation

The Office widened the scope of its elections operations considerably last year. Missions covering 26 participating States, 10 for the first time, were deployed to 15 elections, including the European Parliament elections in June.

Tasked by the OSCE Permanent Council, the Office deployed an election-support team for the presidential and provincial elections in Afghanistan. The team recommended measures to improve the conduct of future elections there.

The Office continued to improve its election-observation methodology, especially in the areas of media monitoring,

voter registration, national minorities and new election technologies. It also made advances in increasing the geographic composition of its election-observation teams, with experts and observers from 52 participating States taking part in these missions, a significant number of whom were financed by a voluntary fund aimed at such diversification.

The Office provided election-related training and expertise to staff from both governmental and civil society organizations, including training for short-term observers and support for national training efforts.

The Office's monitoring work is not restricted to the area of elections. For

example, its experts monitored the conduct of trials in Armenia resulting from the March 2008 post-electoral violence in Yerevan with a view to making recommendations to improve trial standards.

In response to a series of violent assaults on Roma in Hungary in 2008 and early 2009, the Office led an assessment visit to the country from 25 June to 3 July. The team met local, regional and national government officials, Roma leaders and victims' families.

To follow up a 2006 *Ministerial Council Decision* promoting equal access to early education for Roma children, the Office sent a questionnaire to participating States and non-governmental organizations

## Election observation and assessment missions

Country	Election	Date	Type of Mission
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Presidential & Municipal	22 March & 5 April	Observation
Montenegro	Early parliamentary	29 March	Observation
Moldova	Parliamentary	5 April	Observation
Iceland	Parliamentary	25 April	Assessment
European Union	Parliamentary	4-7 June	Expert group
Albania	Parliamentary	28 June	Observation
Bulgaria	Parliamentary	5 July	Limited observation
Kyrgyzstan	Presidential	23 July	Observation
Moldova	Early parliamentary	29 July	Observation
Norway	Parliamentary	14 September	Assessment
Germany	Parliamentary	27 September	Assessment
Portugal	Parliamentary	27 September	Assessment
Greece	Parliamentary	4 October	Assessment
Romania	Presidential	22 November & 6 December	Limited observation
Croatia	Presidential	27 December	Limited observation
Uzbekistan	Parliamentary	27 December	Assessment



1 The Office's Director (r) at a polling station near Bishkek during the Kyrgyz presidential election on 23 July (OSCE/Jens Eschenbaecher)

2 Croatian teachers learn to use the Office's anti-Semitism materials in Split on 2 September. (Croatian Education and Teacher Training Agency)

3 *Hate Crime Laws: A Practical Guide* (OSCE)

4 An expert from the Office moderates a side event on anti-trafficking issues at the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* in Warsaw on 1 October. (OSCE/Piotr Markowski)

(NGOs) in preparation for a special day on Roma and Sinti during the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*.

### Human dimension events

The *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* is one of the focal points of the OSCE calendar each year, and more than 1,000 participants — representatives of governments, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and the media — gathered in Warsaw for the 2009 event.

The meeting, which took place from 28 September to 9 October, reviewed progress made by participating States in implementing their human dimension commitments. Among the publications launched at the meeting was a compilation of good practices in human rights education in school systems, developed jointly with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Council of Europe and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The Office also organized three *Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings* in Vienna in May, July and November, respectively. Participants at the first meeting focused on the effectiveness of hate-crime laws in participating States, while at the second meeting they studied the implementation of OSCE commitments on freedom of religion or belief and the progress made in this area since the last

supplementary meeting on this theme, in 2003. The third meeting was devoted to gender equality, with a focus on combating violence against women. Another event — a *Human Dimension Seminar* — held from 14 to 16 May in Warsaw, looked at issues related to constitutional justice.

### Support for implementation

In an effort to combat hate crimes, the Office provided training for police trainers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Poland in the identification, prosecution and prevention of these crimes. In September, it organized a Russian-language training workshop in Warsaw for 25 human rights trainers from the Commonwealth of Independent States. Three months later, using skills acquired during that event, staff from a Ukraine-based NGO led a training workshop in Kyiv on how to prevent and respond to hate crimes. The Office also published a resource guide for civil society on how to prevent and respond to hate crimes.

Together with the Greek Chairmanship, the Office organized the second annual expert-level meeting for state-nominated contact points on hate crimes to exchange information, discuss priorities and improve co-operation on hate-crime data collection. The Office's annual report on hate crimes in the OSCE region, published in November, concluded that the full extent of hate crimes remained obscured by

a lack of reliable data in most participating States. The Office also published a guide to hate-crime legislation for policymakers and lawmakers.

During the year, the Office assisted 12 OSCE States in developing country-specific teaching materials and teacher-training seminars designed to combat anti-Semitism. A resource guide on Muslim communities was published in co-operation with a Madrid-based NGO.

The Office also organized three thematic roundtables for civil society, experts and government officials. The first, on combating anti-Semitism, was co-organized with the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism. The second, on racism, was held to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The third, on intolerance against Christians, was the first of its kind in the OSCE region.

With regard to freedom of assembly, the Office and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, in co-operation with the Ombudsperson of Kyrgyzstan and other partners, convened a roundtable in October on freedom of association in Central Asia. The roundtable made recommendations for improving the situation in each country and in the region as a whole. In Armenia and Kazakhstan, the Office continued to monitor the situation of human rights defenders and to strengthen their capacity to monitor and

Participants at the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*, which took place in Warsaw from 28 September to 9 October (OSCE/Piotr Markowski)



report on freedom of assembly.

Gender mainstreaming was another area of focus. Following up on 2008 recommendations for reform, the Office supported the establishment of a network of female police officers in South-Eastern Europe and held seminars on integrating a gender perspective into national security policy and the armed forces.

The Office collaborated with other international organizations and OSCE field operations to assist participating States seeking to respect human rights while countering terrorism. The Office organized a roundtable in Tajikistan on understanding violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism, a training session on combating terrorism and protecting human rights at the Police Academy and the Higher School of the State Committee on National Security in Tajikistan and a workshop for civil society in Kyrgyzstan on addressing violent extremism and terrorism.

To enhance the protection of the rights of trafficked persons, the Office organized workshops in Turkey and the United Kingdom that examined the findings from the Office's National Referral Mechanism assessments and debated the continuing challenges in supporting rights-based approaches to trafficking and assisting its victims. Also, following research in a number of participating States on the return of trafficking victims to countries of origin, it organized an expert seminar to identify practices and gaps in human rights protection in the return process.

The need to guarantee individuals' freedom of movement, the use of public

registers in the compilation of accurate voter lists and the observance of international privacy standards — core issues for the Office's work in the area of population registration — were the theme of a seminar held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in December. The seminar brought together experts from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine to address population-registration reforms in post-Soviet states. In response to the growing requests from participating States for expertise and policy advice on population-registration reform, the Office published *Guidelines on Population Registration* in 2009.

The Office also published *The Fight Against Torture*. This online handbook for practitioners collates the OSCE's experience in torture-prevention work and identifies best practices and strategies.

### Legal support

The Office commented during the year on draft laws concerning freedom of assembly, freedom of association, freedom of information and freedom of religion, as well as on laws addressing hate crimes, elections, gender issues, domestic violence, trafficking in human beings, anti-discrimination policies, judicial independence, criminal matters and constitutional amendments. The Office's Expert Panel on Freedom of Assembly — jointly with the Council of Europe's Venice Commission — provided legal advice on amendments to a number of draft laws on freedom of peaceful assembly. Many of the opinions were followed up by in-country

consultations to discuss recommendations and share expertise from the OSCE region.

The Office's legislative-support activities also focus on legislative systems, looking at how laws are prepared, discussed, adopted and monitored. Following the release of a report assessing the law-making process in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Office assisted national authorities in formulating recommendations to improve the efficiency and transparency of law-making. In Turkmenistan, the Office also completed a cycle of workshops on law-making.

In another project, the Office, in cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, supported the transfer of responsibility for pending war-crimes cases to national authorities in South-Eastern Europe by ensuring that expertise developed in The Hague was made available to local actors. The project's final report, published in September, presents the knowledge and experience gained in strengthening the capacity of domestic judiciaries to effectively and efficiently handle war-crimes cases.

Director: **Ambassador Janez Lenarcic**

Budget: €15,399,100

[www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr)

# High Commissioner on National Minorities

*The High Commissioner on National Minorities continued to address ethnic tensions within and between states, examining minority situations in many participating States and advising them on how to improve legislation related to national minorities and interethnic relations in general. The High Commissioner also assisted a number of countries in their bilateral dialogue on national-minority issues. The High Commissioner promoted the Bolzano/Bozen Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations as a tool to facilitate such dialogue through a series of regional roundtables, focusing on the Balkan and Baltic regions, as well as Central Asia. The situation of Roma and Sinti continued to be a focus for the High Commissioner, as he took part in a year-long joint activity on the issue of Roma migration in the region with the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency.*

**Bosnia.** The High Commissioner visited Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of Europe's most diverse and multiethnic societies, in March. This was the first-ever visit of the High Commissioner to the country and an indication of his concern about the latest developments there. During the visit, the High Commissioner paid particular attention to the problem of segregated education as a growing number of school children attend classes divided by ethnicity and religion. He also met with representatives of different minority communities residing in Bosnia and Herzegovina and took part in the public launching of a new textbook on the history and culture of Bosnia and Herzegovina's 17 officially recognized national minorities.

**Croatia.** The High Commissioner offered assistance on issues such as equitable representation of national minorities in the public sector, procedures to promote minority representation in parliament and the benefits of using education to promote improved interethnic relations, tolerance and reconciliation between different ethnic groups. The High Commissioner stressed that integrated education is particularly important in this regard.

**Estonia.** Education reform and the naturalization process were the focus of the High Commissioner's visit to Estonia, including the Narva Region, in March. He made a number of recommendations aimed at accelerating the process of naturalization, including initiating a sociological study to identify those groups that

have been most reluctant to naturalize, as well as the scope and reasons behind the decreasing motivation to naturalize. Other recommendations included that citizenship be granted automatically to all children born in Estonia after 1991, as well as to those born in future to non-citizens' families, and taking a more inclusive approach to non-citizens and the naturalization process in public discourse.

While the High Commissioner welcomed the Government's efforts to carry out education reforms, he recommended that progress be monitored on a regular basis, particularly with respect to the

quality of education, and that all shortcomings identified by educators, as well as by pupils and parents, be addressed. Moreover, he suggested that parents play a larger role in the consultation and decision-making process concerning education reform.

**Georgia.** The High Commissioner visited Georgia twice, meeting with the Government in Tbilisi to discuss a number of issues, including Georgia's policy on national minorities and the High Commissioner's conflict-prevention and integration activities in the regions of Samtskhe-



A conflict resolution class supported by the High Commissioner in Gvardeiskoy, Crimea (OSCE/Oleg Smironov)

The Dutch Minister for European Affairs (r) awards the High Commissioner's prestigious Max van der Stoep award to staff from one of its non-governmental organization partners, Ukraine's Integration and Development Centre for Information and Research, in The Hague on 14 October. (OSCE/Arnaud Roelofs)



Javakheti and Kvemo-Kartli, as well as the Meskhetian repatriation process. The High Commissioner expressed his support for the Government's efforts to introduce bilingual education.

While he was able to travel to Abkhazia, including the Gali District, he was once again unable to cross the administrative boundary line en route to Tskhinvali. He held talks with the South Ossetian participants on the sidelines of the *Geneva Discussions*, where he received assurances that he would be able to visit the area in 2010.

In Sukhumi, the High Commissioner conveyed his concerns to the de facto Abkhaz authorities about the situation of Georgians in the Gali District, and their worries about being further separated from the rest of Georgia. He urged the authorities not to impose Abkhaz passports on Georgians in the Gali District, and to allow Georgian students to study in Georgian. He emphasized the need to avoid any practices that could further increase tensions in the region.

**Hungary.** In visits to Budapest in February and September, the High Commissioner raised the issue of ethnic Hungarian minorities abroad, particularly in Slovakia (for more, see *Slovakia* below). This question has been an important focus of his work because he feels an effective, peaceful and friendly resolution to issues of national minorities in inter-State relations in Central Europe would serve as an example for other OSCE regions. The High Commissioner and the Hungarian authorities also discussed how they were dealing with the problems facing Roma minorities. The High Commissioner also facilitated

dialogue between Hungary and Slovakia in relation to the Slovak *State Language Law*.

**Kazakhstan.** The political participation of minorities was the subject of the High Commissioner's visit to Kazakhstan in May. Talks focused on improving the system whereby nine parliamentary seats are reserved for national minorities. This dialogue continued during a second visit in September, when the High Commissioner outlined his recommendations on how the role and legitimacy of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan — a consultative body on minority issues attached to the President — could be strengthened. The issue of education reform was raised during both visits, particularly the introduction of multilingual education with a view to ensuring the integration of minority-language schools. The High Commissioner took note of the fact that the authorities were paying close attention to further enhancing interethnic relations in the country.

**Kyrgyzstan.** The High Commissioner and the Kyrgyz authorities discussed multilingual and multicultural education during a visit to Bishkek and Osh in November. In Osh, the High Commissioner examined the educational situation of the Uzbek community and offered to continue his support for the integration of this community through education. The High Commissioner also urged the authorities to take steps to ensure greater participation of minority representatives in all aspects of public life.

In 2009, programmes launched by the

High Commissioner on multiethnic policing were subsumed into the OSCE's wider police-reform programmes in the country.

**The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.** The High Commissioner focused on the need to promote an integrated system of education during visits in January and October. To assist the Government in addressing this issue, the High Commissioner, in close co-operation with the OSCE field operation, produced a policy paper recommending areas for improvement, including curriculum and textbooks, teacher training, language acquisition and the planning of joint activities. The paper, publicly presented in October with the support of the Prime Minister and Minister of Education, was being finalized at year-end by a governmental working group.

The High Commissioner also provided expert assistance in the preparation of reports on education in minority languages for smaller communities — Serbian, Bosniak, Roma, Vlach and Turkish — in the country. The High Commissioner continued to implement projects on extra-curricular activities involving students from different schools and with students of different ethnic backgrounds in order to strengthen multiethnic co-operation and dialogue.

**Moldova.** The High Commissioner continued to support the Moldovan authorities in their efforts to promote the linguistic integration of national minorities. The Association of European Teachers of Moldova, sponsored by the High Commissioner, provided free-of-charge State-

An ethnic Albanian and an ethnic Macedonian student perform in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* in a project promoting interethnic communication in Kicevo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 28 February. (OSCE)



language courses to over 350 civil servants from minority-populated areas. To address the underlying problem of insufficient State-language acquisition through the education system, Pro Didactica, a partner organization funded by the High Commissioner, conducted a comprehensive needs assessment on language education in minority schools, and the study was distributed to interested schools throughout the country.

**Montenegro.** The High Commissioner assessed the situation of national minorities in the framework of Montenegro's parliamentary elections. He also provided post-election assistance and expertise to the Montenegrin authorities, including by participating in a roundtable tasked with drafting recommendations on the implementation of the Constitution, especially with regard to the promotion of the effective participation of national minorities in public life.

**Russia.** The High Commissioner made two visits to the Russian Federation, in March and June, as part of his study of the educational situation of ethnic Russians in Ukraine and ethnic Ukrainians in Russia (for more, see *Ukraine* below). During the latter visit, the High Commissioner presented his findings and recommendations to the Russian Government. Discussions with Russian authorities in Moscow also focused on a range of other matters, including the situation of other national minorities in Russia, the status of ethnic Russians abroad, legislative initiatives in Russia, particularly with regard to ethnic Russians abroad, and the reform of the

school curriculum and its effects on the teaching of minority languages.

**Serbia.** The High Commissioner urged the Government to address a number of minority-related issues, such as improvements with respect to access to judicial proceedings in minority languages, as well as access to higher education, during a February visit that included stops in Belgrade and the regions of southwest and southern Serbia. In this context, the High Commissioner commended the decision of the Government's Co-ordination Body for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja to conduct a feasibility study on the possible establishment of a multiethnic, multilingual higher-education facility in the southern municipalities. In order to provide expertise on minority-education issues, the High Commissioner provided an international expert to assist the authorities with the research and drafting of the feasibility study. The results of the study are expected to be made public in 2010.

During his visit, the High Commissioner also delivered a legal analysis of the Draft Law on National Minority Councils to the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights. Many of his comments were integrated into the subsequent draft of the Law, which was adopted by Parliament in September.

Three years of work on the process of transitional justice in Kosovo led by the High Commissioner culminated with the release of a policy paper during the Commissioner's visit to Pristina in July. Throughout the process, a number of local

officials and civil society leaders took part in discussions on ways of dealing with the past and how this process could become part of a wider public debate. With the publication of the paper, it is essential that local actors play a more meaningful role in moving the process forward.

The High Commissioner remained engaged with educational issues in Kosovo, especially the question of access to education for Gorani children in the Dragash/ Dragas municipality and revision of the Serbian-language curriculum. During a visit to Kosovo in February, the High Commissioner travelled to Dragash/ Dragas in order to discuss a solution to the issue of getting all Gorani children to return to school and allowing them to study the curriculum of their choosing and in the language of their choosing. He again raised this issue during his visit in July.

**Slovakia.** The High Commissioner closely followed the controversy generated by the adoption of amendments to the *State Language Law*, which has caused tension not only within Slovakia but also in relations with Hungary. During his visits to both Bratislava and Budapest, the High Commissioner offered expert advice aimed at defusing tensions and ensuring that the new legislation did not have an adverse impact on national minorities. The Prime Ministers of both countries agreed to follow all of the High Commissioner's recommendations.

In a detailed analysis of the amended law, the High Commissioner concluded that it was legitimate to strengthen the State language as long as it did not limit the linguistic rights of minorities. To this

The High Commissioner met with future Russian-language teachers at Narva College in Narva, Estonia, on 3 March. (Eugeni Ashihmin)



end, he suggested that the Slovak authorities develop detailed guidelines for the interpretation and implementation of the law. Staff from the High Commissioner's Office worked closely with Slovakia's Culture Ministry to draft these guidelines, which were adopted in December.

**Tajikistan.** During his visit to the country in June, the High Commissioner focused on the language issue. In particular, he discussed with Government officials and representatives of national minorities ways to advance the knowledge of the Tajik language in minority-language schools, while maintaining Tajikistan's record of providing mother-tongue teaching. The High Commissioner also engaged in dialogue with the Tajik authorities concerning the *State Language Act*.

**Ukraine.** A study of the educational situation of ethnic Ukrainians in Russia and of ethnic Russians in Ukraine was one of the main points of focus during the High Commissioner's two visits to Ukraine in 2009. During his second visit, in July, the High Commissioner presented the findings and recommendations of his study to the Ukrainian Government.

During the July visit, the High Commissioner also hosted a confidential roundtable in Kyiv for political institutions, international organizations and formerly deported communities to discuss legislation concerning the rights of those communities. On the basis of the meeting, the High Commissioner made a number of recommendations for the Ukrainian authorities.

The High Commissioner continued to promote tolerance and interethnic cooperation on the Crimean Peninsula. A partner organization funded by the High Commissioner, the Integration and Development Centre in Simferopol, was awarded the prestigious Max van der Stoep Award in October for its outstanding achievements aimed at facilitating genuine integration and the participation of all ethnic communities in the region.

**Uzbekistan.** During a visit to Uzbekistan in April, the High Commissioner focused on the implications of education reform for minority communities and on ways of improving State-language teaching in minority schools, as well as on the participation of national minorities in public life. The High Commissioner also took part in the *Review Conference of the Inter-State Dialogue on Social Integration and National Minority Education in Central Asia*, in Samarkand, which provided a forum to examine best practices and challenges in the areas of textbook development, teacher training, language training and distance learning.

High Commissioner: **Knut Vollebaek**  
Budget: €3,118,500  
[www.osce.org/hcnm](http://www.osce.org/hcnm)

# Representative on Freedom of the Media

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media continued to observe media developments in the 56 OSCE participating States and promoted full compliance with OSCE commitments on freedom of expression and free media. The Representative intervened with respective governments in 62 instances of serious media-freedom violations, including cases where States continued to tolerate violence against media workers, criminalize speech or otherwise limit pluralism. He also made 44 public statements.

In one of the Representative's most important areas of concern, several States took key steps forward: Romania, Ireland and the United Kingdom decriminalized defamation. Participating States made little progress, however, in ensuring the physical safety of journalists. Most of the murders and violent attacks against journalists, in 2009 or earlier, remained unsolved and their perpetrators at large.

## Regional conferences

The Office organized the 11th *Central Asia Media Conference* in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in October, and the sixth *South Caucasus Media Conference* in Tbilisi, Georgia, in November. Both events discussed challenges to journalism in their respective regions and issued recommendations on journalism education. The conferences are now established venues for meetings among media professionals who otherwise have little or no professional interaction due to overriding political suspicion in an environment of protracted conflict.

The *Conference* in Central Asia brought together media professionals and government officials from all five states of the region: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, with the latter rejoining after a long absence. Conference participants agreed in a final *Declaration* that media freedom and pluralism should be at the heart of ongoing reforms of academic and on-the-job training for journalists across the region, and that curricula should be updated hand-in-hand with technological developments to ensure professional and pluralistic media in the future.

The South Caucasus media forum provided a platform for constructive discussions of challenges to journalism-education systems in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The delegates — leading media professionals, government officials, representatives of civil society and

scholars — shared experiences and good practices and strengthened personal and professional contacts.

## Legal assistance

The Office continued to provide legal assistance to participating States throughout the year by:

- co-operating with the authorities of Kazakhstan to improve the draft law on information and communication networks. The Office of the Representative made recommendations to the drafters in order to bring their text into line with

international standards and practices, as well as with OSCE commitments;

- reviewing the Armenian *Law on Broadcasting*. The Office welcomed the positive amendments incorporated into the newly adopted legislation, but at the same time stressed the need for further reforms. It recommended changes to ensure that a diversity of political opinions was represented and also proposed that amendments be made to the system for financing the public broadcaster;
- offering recommendations to the Ukrainian Parliament on improving the draft law on access to information;



Participants at the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation Seminar on Media Self-Regulation in Vienna on 19 June (OSCE/Adeline Hulin)

Students of the new Institute for Foreign Relations in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, listen to a lecture by the Representative in April. (OSCE)



- commissioning a legal review of Kyrgyzstan’s draft law on mass media. The draft, despite certain obvious merits, contained provisions detrimental to the development of media freedom in Kyrgyzstan, and required additional revision in accordance with recommendations based on international law;
- preparing a legal review of the draft amendments to Moldova’s *Broadcasting Code*. The Office concluded that the proposed amendments would not adequately deal with the problems they were meant to resolve, while some draft provisions would negatively affect pluralism.

### Developments regarding criminal defamation laws

The year brought some encouraging signs of a re-emerging trend to reform obsolete criminal defamation laws.

Following long-standing support from the Office, on 12 November, the United Kingdom decriminalized defamation, sedition and seditious libel, defamatory libel and obscene libel in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Representative commended the UK for this crucial achievement, a first among the OSCE’s Western European participating States. The decriminalization of defamation not only eliminated what the Representative called a “chilling effect” on the UK media,

but, most importantly, it will also encourage many other nations that have not yet made such reforms.

Also during the year, the Irish Parliament approved the Minister of Justice’s 2008 initiative to eliminate criminal defamation. The new legislation entered into force on 1 January 2010.

The Romanian Parliament approved a new *Criminal Code* that decriminalized defamation on 17 July. Libel and insult, including those committed by the media, will be handled exclusively by civil courts after the new *Code* enters into force, set for 2012.

The Representative also praised the intention expressed by the President of France to decriminalize defamation in a 7 January speech.

### Self-regulation

The Office’s *Media Self-Regulation Guidebook*, published in 2008, met with ever-growing demand from participating States. The book was translated into two additional languages during the year, making it available, apart from the original English, in Albanian, French, Hungarian, Russian and Turkish. Readers in Azerbaijan, Montenegro and Tajikistan can also read it in their local languages. All versions are available on the Representative’s website.

The Office endorsed a *Code of Conduct* for media professionals in Tajikistan agreed on 21 May. It also welcomed the subsequent establishment of a self-regulatory body in the country. The *Code*



Journalists and press secretaries at a training course on access to information in Belgrade in March (OSCE/Ilija Dohel)

Participants at the 11th Central Asia Media Conference in Bishkek in October (OSCE)



was elaborated by independent journalists, non-governmental media organizations and university lecturers. The largest professional media associations signed the *Code*, which set important criteria for unbiased and professional journalism.

The Office organized a media self-regulation seminar for the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in Vienna on 19 June. Initiated by Egypt, this first-of-a-kind event provided a unique platform for multinational dialogue on the practices and potential of media self-regulation, focusing on enhancing mutual trust and understanding. The seminar was financed by the OSCE Partnership Fund.

### Training activities

The Office held training courses for journalists and press secretaries in Belgrade, Serbia, to promote effective interaction between state officials and journalists in order to increase public access to official information. The courses were sponsored by Austria and Karaganda, Kazakhstan.

The Office also continued a set of training courses on media self-regulation that started in 2008. Events promoting media self-regulation as a credible mechanism for upholding ethical standards and professionalism were held in Albania, Belarus and Moldova.

The Representative opened an unprecedented one-week training course for

journalists in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in April, and addressed students of the newly established Institute for International Relations.

### Joint statement on media and elections by global media-freedom rapporteurs

On 15 May, the Representative, together with the world's three other leading mechanisms for the protection of free speech — rapporteurs on freedom of expression from the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights — signed a *Joint Statement on the Media and Elections*.

The statement called for:

- measures to create an environment in which a pluralistic media sector can flourish;
- the repeal of laws that unduly restrict freedom of expression;
- protection against liability for disseminating statements made directly by political parties or candidates;
- effective systems to prevent threats and attacks against the media;
- rules against discrimination in the allocation of political advertisements;
- any regulatory powers to be exercised only by independent bodies;
- clear obligations on public broadcasters,

including obligations to inform the electorate, to strictly respect rules on impartiality and balance, and to grant all parties and candidates equitable access.

The Representative: Miklos Haraszti  
Budget: €1,312,000  
[www.osce.org/fom](http://www.osce.org/fom)



# Secretariat



The Vienna-based Secretariat (OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)

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# Secretariat

*In 2009, the OSCE Secretariat, led by the Secretary General, continued working to ensure implementation of OSCE decisions and to support the process of political dialogue and negotiation among the participating States. It provided operational support to participating States through a wide range of mandated activities across all dimensions. It worked hand-in-hand with the Greek OSCE Chairmanship to fulfil the Organization's goals and to maintain consistency from one year to the next. It supported all OSCE executive structures in order to ensure coherent and co-ordinated action across the Organization.*

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Throughout the year, the Secretariat supported the Greek Chairmanship and all participating States in their renewed dialogue on current and future challenges to security in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area. This dialogue, which was initiated at the 2008 Helsinki *Ministerial Council* meeting and launched by the Greek Chairmanship as the Corfu process, addressed all dimensions of security. The OSCE Secretariat and institutions provided their best possible expert support and contributions to the process driven by the permanent representatives of participating States in Vienna, including through presentations to Corfu process meetings.

There were increasing requests throughout the year for the Secretariat to provide operational support to field operations. Implementation of the end-of-mandate procedure for a large field operation in the first half of 2009 was a major test for the Secretariat. In terms of the complexity of the political and administrative issues involved, the process of closing the Mission to Georgia placed great demands on the Secretariat's resources.

Despite the Mission's closure, the OSCE continued to be actively engaged in international negotiations launched after the 2008 conflict in Georgia. The Secretariat contributed to the *Geneva Discussions* by providing all possible support to the Greek Chairmanship in its work as co-Chair on behalf of the OSCE.

The Secretariat continued to lend assistance to participating States in a wide range of thematic areas, focusing on multidimensional responses to security threats and challenges throughout the OSCE region. These included projects and other activities for the benefit of all participating States in such areas as:

- disposal of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, including the rocket fuel *melange*;

- improving border security and management, in particular in Central Asia;
- promoting action against terrorism, including through public-private partnerships;
- police-related activities, including efforts to fight organized crime and illicit drugs;
- promoting economic and environmental co-operation, including on good governance, transport issues and migration management;
- fighting against trafficking in human beings, including by providing expert support for the prosecution of offenders, protection of victims and prevention of this crime;
- advancing gender equality throughout the Organization's structure and programmes.

The Secretariat also made significant efforts to enhance dialogue with OSCE Partners for Co-operation, to develop co-operation with other international organizations and to promote the public image and visibility of the Organization. Major developments in this regard included the *Decision* by the *Ministerial Council* to make Australia the most recent OSCE Partner for Co-operation, as well as intensive preparatory work for the planned 2010 launch of a renewed OSCE website.

The Secretariat continued to ensure the effective and efficient management of the Organization's human and financial resources, to promote greater strategic and impact-oriented planning of activities using results-based management, and to ensure the sound implementation of the OSCE regulatory framework. In an overall context of declining resources within the Organization and challenging external financial and economic factors, these efforts are crucial to the Organization's ability to deliver the results expected by its participating States.

More detailed reports on the activities of the Secretariat in 2009 are provided in the relevant sections that follow, the structure of which reflects the composition of the Secretariat: Office of the Secretary General, Conflict Prevention Centre, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Department of Human Resources and the Department of Management and Finance.

Budget: €31,514,900

# Office of the Secretary General

*The Office of the Secretary General (OSG) includes Executive Management, the Press and Public Information Section, the Section for External Co-operation, Legal Services, the Gender Section, Security Management, the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Action against Terrorism Unit, as well as the Office of Internal Oversight.*

## Executive Management

Executive Management supported the work of the Secretary General and the Greek Chairmanship, providing leadership and co-ordination to ensure the coherence and continuity of the Organization's multifaceted and often long-term activities. As the focal point for internal co-ordination and day-to-day co-operation between the Chairmanship and the Secretariat, Executive Management's work is as always heavily influenced by the OSCE's current agenda, based on tasks set by the participating States, major developments in the OSCE area and the priorities of the Chairmanship.

During 2009, Executive Management ensured proactive and well-co-ordinated support on the part of the Secretary General for the efforts of the Greek Chairmanship in launching and steering the Corfu process, and for the participating States' deliberations leading to the Corfu-related outcomes of the Athens *Ministerial Council* meeting.

Among other activities, Executive Management assisted the Chairmanship and the Secretary General in their political and administrative oversight of the implementation of the end-of-mandate procedure of the OSCE's field operation in Georgia. In addition, Executive Management, together with the Conflict Prevention Centre, supported the Chairmanship in its role as the co-Chair of the *Geneva Discussions*.

Executive Management continued to support the Secretary General in implementing the 2007 *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*. This long-term endeavour required considerable work and effective co-ordination among various parts of the Organization to enable the Secretary General to deliver targeted and coherent project

proposals to the participating States.

Another major achievement of 2009 was the launch of a project to dispose of the rocket fuel *melange* in Ukraine, which, as the Organization's largest-ever project, represents a technical, financial and managerial challenge. This multi-year activity will require concerted and well-co-ordinated efforts by a wide range of Secretariat units under the direct supervision of the Secretary General.

## Press and Public Information Section

Landmark 2009 events — the launch of a rejuvenated dialogue on the future of European security, the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Athens *Ministerial Council* meeting — provided opportunities for the Press and Public Information Section to raise awareness about the OSCE and generate support for its mission.

The Section also pressed ahead with its own outreach agenda. Extensive work was

carried out in preparation for the relaunch of the public website, scheduled for 2010. In addition, the Section expanded its presence on major social media sites by launching new presences on Facebook and Twitter and through its existing YouTube channel.

For the first time, the introduction to the OSCE Annual Report was made available in laid-out versions of publishable quality in all the Organization's official languages. The quarterly OSCE Magazine, published in English and Russian and translated into French and German, enlisted prominent guest writers and commentators to help provide an in-depth look at major themes, including the Corfu process, gender considerations in comprehensive security and the role of the OSCE in resolving the Transdniestrian conflict.

The year's highlights included:

**Corfu process.** The Greek Chairmanship's initiative to launch a debate on European security caught the attention of the world's media. The Section raised awareness about the process through media work at the first-ever informal OSCE *Ministerial*



At a 6 November commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Austrian Foreign Minister (c) and the Greek Alternate Foreign Minister (r) paid tribute to the courage and perseverance of individuals who made the events of 1989 possible, including former German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (l). (OSCE/Susanna Loof)

Meeting in Corfu, at briefings in Vienna and later also at the Athens *Ministerial Council* meeting. The Section organized press centres for the meetings in Corfu and Athens, each of which drew more than 300 journalists. Key events from the two *Ministerial Meetings* were broadcast live on the web, and video highlights were published on the OSCE YouTube channel.

**20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.** Former German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who played a leading role in developing the OSCE forerunner, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, addressed some 600 guests at the anniversary celebration. The Section organized a media briefing, as well as a question-and-answer session with students from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. The *OSCE Magazine*, through several voices spanning generations, examined the impact of the historic events 20 years ago on the OSCE area and the current debate on European security. The OSCE website and YouTube channel carried multimedia content on the event.

**Preparatory work for the web relaunch.** The new site, scheduled for launch in 2010, will be based on a new content management system that enables publishing in languages other than English. It will also allow for a greater variety of content, such as multimedia, and integration with social media sites. At year-end, the website was undergoing usability testing.

**Expanded OSCE presence on social networking sites.** The Section published over 1,000 tweets, reaching more than 1,400 Twitter users. A leading international-affairs magazine listed the OSCE as one of the “100 best Twitter users in international affairs”. In its first year, the Organization’s Facebook page attracted over 14,000 subscribers. The OSCE YouTube channel remained popular, with more than 36,000 video, and 22,000 channel, views.

Other work during the year involved:

- adding and updating thousands of items on the website, reaching over 800,000 visitors who made 2.5 million visits and viewed 9.3 million items;
- providing press releases, opinion pieces, interviews and media opportunities for other high-profile events, including Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s contribution to the debate on European



The French Foreign Minister speaks with the media at the informal *Ministerial Meeting* of OSCE foreign ministers in Corfu on 28 June. (OSCE/Jonny Perfect)

security at the *Annual Security Review Conference*, the continuing *Geneva Discussions* following the 2008 conflict in Georgia, visits by the Greek OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, as well as accelerating OSCE field work to destroy toxic stocks of the former rocket fuel *melange*;

- providing, through the *OSCE Magazine*, an in-depth approach to topical OSCE themes, as well as interviews and a diversity of first-person accounts to reflect the depth and breadth of the OSCE’s activities;
- organizing a study trip to the OSCE Secretariat for Central Asian journalists in May with funds from Kazakhstan;
- expanding the POLIS online system by creating two thematic portals: one on organized crime and another on combating sexual exploitation of children on the Internet;
- highlighting positive examples of civil society in action through the Section’s Taking Part video contest, initiated and financed by Germany with the support of the Greek Chairmanship. The winners travelled to Vienna to take part in the 20th-anniversary celebration of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The winning videos were made available on the OSCE YouTube site;
- presenting the OSCE to more than 60 visitor groups, or over 1,850 people from 30 OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation and others;
- producing the monthly *OSCE Highlights* newsletter to provide journalists with targeted information on upcoming events and OSCE work on the ground.

## Section for External Co-operation

The Section for External Co-operation acts as the first point of contact for relations with the 12 OSCE Partners for Co-operation, both Asian and Mediterranean, and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives. The Section provides the Secretary General, Chairmanship and Troika with substantive advice and organizational support, ensures co-ordination on external-relations issues within the OSCE Secretariat and with the OSCE institutions and serves as a source of relevant information.

Throughout the year, the Section for External Co-operation continued to facilitate increased dialogue and interaction between the OSCE participating States and the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, in line with the Madrid *Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation*. It provided substantive and administrative support to the work of the two Contact Groups, and contributed to the OSCE Ministerial Troika meetings with the Partner States during the Athens *Ministerial Council* in December, where Australia was welcomed as a new Partner for Co-operation.

The Section organized the two key annual events with the Partners for Co-operation: the *OSCE-Japan Conference on Sharing Knowledge and Experiences between the OSCE Participating States and Asian Partners - Co-operation to address Common Challenges*, held in Tokyo in June, and the *OSCE Mediterranean*

*Conference on Co-operation towards Enhanced Security and Stability*, held in Cairo in December.

The Section served as the Partnership Fund's master project manager, liaising with individual project managers and donors. During the year, four new projects were developed under the Fund's umbrella, in areas such as media self-regulation, multilateral security in Northeast Asia, tolerance and non-discrimination and supply-chain security for the Mediterranean region. Additionally, two projects addressing election assistance to Afghanistan and migration issues were completed in 2009.

The Section ensured regular contacts and consultations with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives, as stipulated by the 1999 *Platform for Co-operative Security*. Interaction with key partner organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), Council of Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), was maintained through the established frameworks for co-operation at a high and expert level, focusing on common issues of importance, including the dialogue on the future of European security and the Corfu process, protracted conflicts in the OSCE area, as well as some issues new to the OSCE agenda, such as energy security. In implementation of the Madrid *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*, the Section supported consultations with relevant international and regional organizations, such as the UN, EU, NATO and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

The Section also supported the participation of the OSCE in summits and ministerial meetings and/or bilateral high-level meetings with other regional and sub-regional organizations within the OSCE area, such as the Central European Initiative, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Regional Cooperation Council and the South East European Cooperation Process.

Efforts continued to share the OSCE experience and best practices with regional organizations outside the OSCE area, in particular with the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia,

the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, including by hosting an LAS delegation visit to the Secretariat aimed at presenting a comprehensive overview of OSCE's work in the three dimensions of security.

Finally, the Section continued to act as the focal point for contact with the UN Alliance of Civilizations initiative and supported the participation of the Secretary General in the second *Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations* held in Istanbul in April, in accordance with the Helsinki *Ministerial Decision on the OSCE contribution to the Implementation Phase of the Alliance of Civilizations Initiative*.

## Legal Services

Legal Services played an essential role in the launch of the OSCE's largest-ever assistance programme, destroying Ukraine's stockpiles of the toxic rocket fuel *melange*. In collaboration with the Department of Management and Finance, the Unit ensured that the procurement process was transparent and in accord with international law and the Organization's regulatory framework. At year-end, the team remained active in the project's first stage.

Another highlight of the year was the team's assistance in the smooth and timely closure of the Mission to Georgia, providing advice on a wide range of resulting legal implications. The team also played a key role in establishing the OSCE's information-sharing guidelines with the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in Georgia (IIFFMCG), a Mission commissioned by the Council of the European Union; the IIFFMCG's report was issued on 30 September.

Legal Services also supported the Chairmanship-in-Office in strengthening the international legal status of the Organization, assisting with three informal roundtables and several working meetings with participating States, organized by the Personal Representative on the Legal Framework of the OSCE, Dr. Zinovia Stavridi. The work culminated in a draft decision on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE and a report by the Personal Representative.

Legal Services also continued to facilitate the implementation and improvement of the OSCE's regulatory framework, the

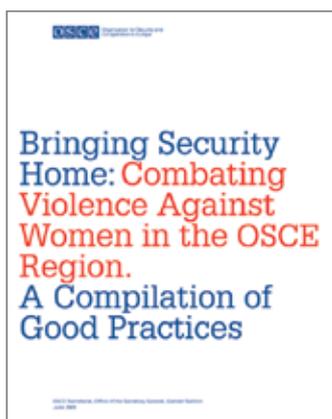
common regulatory management system. Significant contributions were made by issuing an *Administrative Instruction on Documents of a Legal Nature*, and providing substantive input to the *Guidelines for Extra-budgetary Contributions from Non-governmental Sources* and a provisional financial administrative instruction that regulates the Organization's engagement with implementing partners. In addition, the Unit provided legal opinions on a broad scope of issues, assisting on matters such as bilateral agreements with host countries, taxation of local staff, court requests, interpretations of *Staff Regulations and Rules* and several contractual and project-related matters.

Legal Services continued to reach out to the wider OSCE community. The unit held its annual *Legal Roundtable* on 24 and 25 September in Vienna. Participants from across the Organization discussed topics ranging from the feasibility of an OSCE-wide safe driving code to copyright ownership. To keep staff and mission members up-to-date, a quarterly Legal Services newsletter was launched, and the first three issues were well received. The unit also raised its external profile by participating in conferences on national court challenges to acts of international organizations, awards from arbitration, and the annual conference of UN and international organizations' legal advisers.

## Gender Section

The Gender Section continued to support the promotion of gender equality at the OSCE and worked towards the integration of men's and women's perspectives in all three of the OSCE's dimensions of security, especially in the politico-military and the economic and environmental.

The implementation of the *OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality* showed some advances: the representation of women in management positions reached 24 per cent, up from 19 per cent in 2008; five Deputy Heads of Mission were appointed as gender focal points; and gender issues were integrated into more than 70 projects undertaken by field operations, such as police programmes. Roundtables on gender and security were organized at the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC).



The Gender Section brought out this publication during a symposium in Vienna in June in a project funded by Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Greece.

In the field, the Section helped the Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje integrate a gender perspective in policing projects, preparing both a gender assessment and a plan for gender mainstreaming. It supported the Office in Yerevan with technical assistance to further improve its work on women's economic empowerment. The Section also delivered technical assistance to field operations in Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro and Turkmenistan during visits.

The Section continued to organize awareness-raising events, develop tools and publish guidelines to improve the skills and professionalism of staff and stakeholders on gender mainstreaming. In January, it published a guide called *Integrating a Gender Approach into Police-Public Partnerships*. In collaboration with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, a policy guide called *Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies* was prepared and launched in May at the Athens *Economic and Environmental Forum*. The Section organized the annual OSCE *Gender Focal Point Meeting*, where 48 staff members were coached on communicating about gender equality.

In order to promote the role of women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, the French and British Chairmanships of the FSC organized two roundtable discussions on gender issues in co-operation with the Section. During one of these events, international experts on gender and small arms and light weapons shared ideas on increased involvement of women in the politico-military dimension. The Gender Section itself, with funds from Norway, developed GenderBase, a databank to attract and store profiles of qualified female military and police experts in an attempt

to increase women's presence in projects of this first dimension.

To promote the OSCE's work on gender equality, the Section presented its work and provided input to technical meetings with the United Nations, European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, such as the *European Security Defence Policy and Gender Advisers* meeting in Brussels, the *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe-UNECE Beijing +15 Review Meeting* in Geneva and several gender-equality conferences organized by the EU Presidency and the Council of Europe.

[www.osce.org/gender](http://www.osce.org/gender)

## Security Management

Security Management continued as the Organization's focal point for all security-related issues. A major security challenge in 2009 was the issue of preparedness for an A(H1N1) swine flu pandemic and the alleviation of its consequences for OSCE staff.

Meetings were arranged on the issue with officials from the Austrian Health Ministry and with the Medical Director of the United Nations Office in Vienna. Swine flu advisories were issued to the Secretariat, institutions and field operations.

Security Management delivered presentations on *Security and Safety of OSCE Staff and the OSCE Security Management System* at the *General Orientation Programme* for new OSCE staff members and continued to provide individual briefings to staff and mission members bearing security responsibilities. Participants at the Regional Heads-of-Mission meetings were updated on security and safety. The

Sixth *Annual Meeting of OSCE Security Officials* held in Vienna on 20 November enabled participants to keep abreast of the latest security and safety developments, to brief one another on the situation in their respective field operations and countries, to exchange views and to discuss issues of common concern. The Security Management Doc.In area was further developed and updated.

In 2009, Security Management:

- continued to inspect institutions and field operations to facilitate compliance with the Organization's basic security and safety guidance documents;
- assisted field operations in the assessment of potential premises;
- trained field operations' security personnel;
- conducted training to raise awareness about mines and improvised explosive devices;
- made recommendations in co-ordination with the Department of Human Resources' Training Section concerning priorities of outsourced security and safety training and the selection of participants.

Over the year, the Crisis Management Team met four times, dealing predominantly with preparedness for a swine flu pandemic. One meeting of the Security Management Committee was convened.

Security Management also:

- regularly issued hazard-pay recommendations;
- participated in other meetings where security and safety issues were on the agenda (Georgia, Kosovo, Afghanistan Task Force);
- contributed to the smooth and secure discontinuation of the Mission to Georgia and participated in discussions on the potential reestablishment of an OSCE presence in the country.

Security Management regularly met with representatives of law-enforcement authorities and other international partner organizations both in Vienna and in the countries where the OSCE has field operations for the purpose of sharing information on issues of security and physical safety.

## Strategic Police Matters Unit

The Strategic Police Matters Unit continued to promote democratic and accountable policing with a particular emphasis on the importance of commitment to the rule of law, police ethics and human rights standards and the benefits of police-public partnerships.

2009 was the year of putting into practice the guidelines in the Unit's benchmark documents on democratic policing, police-public partnerships and basic police training, some of which have already been translated into more than six languages. The Unit held a number of practical events aimed at embedding these guidelines in the daily work of the police — events that received the full support of senior law-enforcement management. One of the workshops of this kind held in 2009 in Minsk, Belarus, was funded by Germany and Sweden. A significant increase in the number of requests for the Unit's training development programmes, its assistance in developing community-based policing and in supporting ongoing police reforms further underscored the value of these documents to the participating States.

The Unit embarked on a project to compile good practices in building trust and understanding between the police and Roma and Sinti, in close co-operation with other relevant OSCE structures, police agencies and non-governmental organizations. The document will be published in 2010.

The year's *Annual Police Experts Meeting*, held in Vienna on 29 and 30 October, focused the attention of senior police

management of participating States on the issue of preventing and responding to hate crimes.

The Unit, the Organization's central contact point for the fight against organized-crime-related activities, worked hard to further enhance law-enforcement co-operation across the OSCE area in combating transnational organized crime, illicit drugs trafficking, trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet. A landmark achievement in this regard was the first-ever meeting of deputy interior ministers from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia in Astana on 1 July. The event was funded by Belgium and Norway. The deputy ministers discussed the growing impact of transnational organized crime on individuals and societies and strategies to enhance international law-enforcement co-operation.

The Unit organized a regional workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan, that brought more than 30 high-level experts from the criminal justice sector together for discussions on how Central Asian law enforcement agencies can co-operate to seize and recover the illegal proceeds of organized crime. Liechtenstein and the United States provided financial support.

The Unit, whose core work includes assisting participating States to develop skills and knowledge in law-enforcement agencies, concentrated its efforts during the year on providing training in various areas of policing, tailored to national needs, and creating a cadre of trainers who cascade down the know-how gained, bringing long-term sustainability. A perfect example was the training for Tajik police on investigating trafficking in human beings.

The Unit, together with other relevant organizations, also supported the work of

participating States to combat illicit drugs trafficking and foster international and regional law. During the year, the Unit organized regional workshops and a number of on-the-job training courses for the law-enforcement agencies of participating States.

In addition, the Unit, together with the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime, published a *Controlled Delivery Manual for South East European Countries*. This manual responds to the needs expressed by practitioners at the *Drugs Experts Meeting* held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2008. The manual provides all the necessary information about legislation and rules governing requests related to controlled deliveries in each of the countries in the region.

During the year, the Unit made significant progress in the implementation of projects developed in response to the OSCE *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*, with Japan funding two training projects. The Unit, in close co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, completed the refurbishment of two classrooms and handed over the necessary equipment to the national authorities.

To improve co-ordination and facilitate the easy retrieval of information by institutions and experts across the OSCE, the Unit developed, within its online expert tool POLIS, two specific portals devoted to combating organized crime and combating the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet.

The effectiveness and efficiency of POLIS as an outreach tool were proven during the organization and implementation of a regional Central Asian online forum on Basic Police Training from 5 to 9 October.

The Unit continued to enrich the digital library of POLIS by uploading new documents. Titles, descriptions and summaries of 340 documents, amounting to 200 standard pages, have also been translated into Russian, with the financial contribution of Belgium.

The Permanent Council, in a *Decision* taken in the context of the Athens *Ministerial Council*, tasked the Unit with providing an assessment of the OSCE's police assistance and strategic recommendations for the participating States, underscoring the importance of the Unit's work to date and in future. The Secretary General will present the report in spring 2010.



Officials attending an OSCE-supported meeting to promote co-operation between Central Asian law-enforcement bodies in combating organized crime in Astana on 1 July (OSCE/William Metzger)

## Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, who completed her three-year term at year-end, successfully assisted participating States in their anti-trafficking efforts through the provision of support at four levels: policy-making; technical expertise; field work and country visits; and co-ordination with international actors.

From the beginning of her mandate, the Special Representative repeatedly stressed the importance of actions at the national level and in particular the establishment of national rapporteurs, who evaluate anti-trafficking work and track trends in order to improve policies and programmes. In March, the Office co-organized a conference on European Union (EU) national rapporteurs in conjunction with the Czech EU Presidency. The Special Representative further underscored the importance of the national rapporteurs on her official visits to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom, as well as during other events. To encourage the dissemination of knowledge and

best practices, the Special Representative selected trafficking for labour exploitation in the agriculture sector as the theme for a technical conference in April, which served as the background for a third *Occasional Paper*, the first such analysis and compilation of data and challenges for participating States on this important aspect of trafficking.

Within the framework of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, the Special Representative held a high-level conference focused on the prevention of human trafficking. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton opened the conference with a video keynote statement addressing some 300 prominent experts and practitioners from national capitals and international organizations, as well as journalists, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and researchers. The conference focused on trafficking in human beings in the context of the global financial crisis, studying the business of the crime in order to prevent it, and featured speeches by all three relevant United Nations special rapporteurs. For the first time, the conference addressed the importance of the media in raising awareness and changing attitudes towards trafficking. This was underlined by a special photo exhibition and the screening of an Emmy Award-winning film. It was further highlighted by videos published on the OSCE YouTube site.

Technical expertise to prevent child trafficking was provided in a project implemented by the St. Petersburg-based NGO Stellit and funded by Monaco. This

project led to the development of recommendations on the identification of child victims of trafficking and on the prevention of child trafficking. In order to better assist participating States, the Special Representative finalized the first country assessment on Spain, while additional assessments on Romania and Kazakhstan were in progress at year-end. These assessments serve to catalyze action and political will to further enrich the OSCE knowledge base on national implementation of commitments and best practices.

To enhance its public outreach and the transparency of its activities, the Office continued with daily website updates and increased its audio-visual and photographic material by more than 50 per cent. The number of website visits rose by 12 per cent.

Eva Biaudet's term of office came to an end in December and she gave a full and comprehensive report on her mandate to the Permanent Council.

Special Representative: **Eva Biaudet**  
[www.osce.org/cthb](http://www.osce.org/cthb)

**"T**he Special Representative has made an extraordinary contribution to our common fight on human trafficking. She has chosen the themes well, first in focusing on labour exploitation, then on economic dimensions and specific sectors, like agriculture. We are getting more real, more direct and we are more likely to have practical results and outcomes after this conference."

— Roger Plant, then-head of the anti-trafficking programme at the International Labour Organization at the Alliance Conference in Vienna in September

## Action against Terrorism Unit

The Action against Terrorism Unit pursued initiatives across 10 cutting-edge programmatic areas in 2009, responding to requests by the Chairperson-in-Office, participating States and the Secretary General, and covering issues such as travel-document security, cyber-security and public-private partnerships (PPP) in countering terrorism.

Overall, the Unit organized, supported or otherwise facilitated over 20 capacity-building activities in the anti-terrorism field at the OSCE-wide, regional and



US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivers a video address at the opening of a conference on the prevention of human trafficking in Vienna on 14 September. (OSCE/Blanca Tapia)

national levels, co-operating with all pertinent United Nations (UN) structures, international, regional and sub-regional organizations and specialized agencies to support their counter-terrorism activities, share experiences and facilitate contacts among national authorities and international experts. Whenever appropriate, the Unit engaged with the business sector and civil society.

Thematic highlights included:

#### **Enhancing travel-document security.**

The Unit has been actively promoting the use of biometrics and modern technologies allowing for a more advanced and harmonized border, travel and identity-management environment. In addition to existing programmes, the Unit identified and promoted pioneering initiatives in emerging areas, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Public Key Directory, established to support the global interoperability of electronic travel-document validation. It also worked to secure the identity chain during enrolment and issuance by promoting the relevant ICAO standards. The Unit also co-operated closely with INTERPOL on technical assistance projects providing hardware, software, web services and the requisite skills and technical enhancements needed to connect participating States to the INTERPOL *Databases for Stolen/Lost Travel Documents, Stolen Motor Vehicles and Wanted Individuals*. The programme was funded by Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Norway, Spain and the United States.

**Promoting cyber-security.** Growing dependence on information technology and the increasing interconnection of critical infrastructure has made a secure cyberspace vital to the functioning of a modern state. For cyber-security efforts to be effective, a comprehensive approach is needed. This approach includes: tackling cyber-crime and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; responding to a wide variety of risks and cyber-security threats; and thereby enabling countries to protect a wide spectrum of targets, ranging from the individual Internet user to critical infrastructure. At an OSCE-wide event in Vienna — supported by Austria, Estonia, Greece and Lithuania — and two national training workshops — supported by Spain and Estonia — the Unit promoted this approach

by raising awareness, assessing needs and building political will for follow-up action.

#### **Promoting partnership with the media.**

To help ensure the dissemination of accurate and objective information to the public in the event of a terrorist attack, the Unit organized an OSCE-wide expert workshop on engaging with the media in countering terrorism. The workshop, part of the Unit's programme on PPPs in countering terrorism, provided a forum for public-private dialogue on options for voluntary engagement between government and the news media in reporting on terrorism and counter-terrorism and showcased policy options for improving relations between the two through such partnerships. The event was funded in part by the Moscow City Government.

[www.osce.org/atu](http://www.osce.org/atu)

## **Office of Internal Oversight**

The Office of Internal Oversight launched its first pilot evaluation of police training activities, examining three case studies in the OSCE area, to develop best practices and lessons learned. The Office carried out its first end-of-mission audit. The emphasis of oversight work in 2009 continued to shift towards the OSCE's programme and project activities.

The Office carried out 14 audits of field operations, the Secretariat and institutions, delivering over 200 recommendations for programmatic and administrative improvements. In line with its professional standards, the Office assessed risks potentially affecting the Organization in selecting subjects for its audits to prioritize the use of its limited resources. The areas audited included financial and human resources management, information technology processes and programme management, including project management in field operations. The Office also continued investigations into several matters. Three in-depth investigations were concluded and the recommendations accepted in full. A fourth investigation was closed due to insufficient evidence. In addition, the Office's investigative expertise was employed during two audits to assess fraud risk.

With the implementation of Performance-Based Programme Budget-

ing, programmes set objectives and expected results that assisted the Office in its audit and evaluation work. The Office's oversight work in 2009 revealed that, to help demonstrate the impact of OSCE activities, more must be done throughout the Organization on carrying out needs assessments and establishing benchmarks. The Office's lessons learned also showed that there was a need to further focus on projects, particularly in the field of monitoring and evaluation. In addition to its work on audits, evaluations, and investigations, the Office continued to provide advisory services in response to formal and informal requests.

With the introduction of changes for procedures regarding the management of partners contracted to implement projects, the Office noted an increased awareness in proper selection and monitoring, although it will take more time for these procedures to take hold and for the evaluation of their activities to become properly institutionalized in OSCE practice.

The Office followed up on previous years' audit recommendations to ensure that management had addressed them effectively. More than 92 per cent of the recommendations of the past two years were accepted, and 83 per cent had been implemented by year-end, testimony to the quality of the Office's work. Further, management was making good progress towards implementing the remainder of the recommendations at year-end.

The Office was instrumental in enhancing the Organization's ethical framework, through preparing classroom and online ethics training packages and through formulating recommendations to the Secretary General for amendments to the *Code of Conduct*.

OSCE management regularly consulted with the Office on other issues such as risk management, verifications requested by third parties, the revision of instructions, cost savings and investigations.

The Office's work continued to be closely scrutinized by the OSCE Audit Committee. In its annual report to the Permanent Council covering the period October 2008 to September 2009, the Audit Committee underlined the relevance and the quality of the Office's work and acknowledged the significant improvements in the quality of activities in the Office as a result of the recruitment of professionals to carry out internal audit, evaluation and investigation activities.

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# Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)

*The Conflict Prevention Centre's work focuses on early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. In 2009, the CPC contributed to overall OSCE efforts to move the Transnistrian conflict settlement process forward, supported the Geneva Discussions in the wake of the conflict in Georgia and assisted the Chairmanship in continuing a consistent and comprehensive OSCE policy in Kosovo. The CPC prepared, participated in and provided follow-up to visits by the Chairmanship to South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, as well as two trips by OSCE ambassadors to Central Asia.*

*Other priorities included the further development of its mediation support capacity as well as borders- and customs-related initiatives, particularly in Central Asia. The CPC also supported the establishment of the OSCE-wide Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and contributed to its first activities. The CPC continued to support the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), and successfully completed projects related to small arms and light weapons (SALW), conventional ammunition (CA) and cleaning up the highly toxic rocket fuel melange. The OSCE also launched its largest-ever melange disposal project in Ukraine, managed by the CPC.*

*Furthermore, the CPC continued to be the Organization's central reference point in the development and upholding of programme- and project-management methodology.*

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## Policy Support Service

The Policy Support Service assisted the Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other high-level officials to ensure the Organization's effective engagement in their areas of responsibility. It co-ordinated the activities of the OSCE's field operations and assisted them in the implementation of their mandates.

The **South East Europe Desk** prepared, participated in and provided follow-up to high-level visits by the Chairmanship to the region in February and November. It also supported the Mission in Kosovo in its response to the reconfiguration of the international presence on the ground. It continued to assist in facilitating a refugee-return dialogue in the region, in particular by pursuing dialogue with partner organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the European Commission. It also co-ordinated the activities of the relevant field operations in the context of preparations for a regional refugee conference in 2010.

The **Eastern Europe Desk** contributed to overall OSCE efforts to make progress in the Transnistrian conflict settlement process. It continued to support the ongoing work of the mediators and observers, facilitated a number of meetings in Vienna of all the key actors in this process and contributed to the organization of seminars designed to build trust and confidence between the two sides to the conflict.

The Desk assisted the Office in Minsk in helping the host country fulfil its OSCE commitments in all mandate-related issues. It supported the work of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in meeting the demand from government authorities for projects and in further streamlining his office's project portfolio. Finally, the Desk took part in the Secretary General's visit to Kyiv for the signing ceremony to inaugurate the OSCE's largest-ever *melange* disposal project.

The **Caucasus Desk** continued to assist field operations in activities related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process. It also assisted the OSCE unarmed military monitoring officers who operated in Georgia until the end of June. It was closely involved in the preparation and conduct of the *Geneva Discussions*, and participated in the meetings of the joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism held on site.

The Desk accompanied and provided support to the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office during regular visits of the Co-Chairs of the *Geneva Discussions* to Tbilisi, Tskhinvali and Sukhumi.

The **Central Asia Desk**, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and the Government of Tajikistan convened the third annual joint *OSCE-Tajikistan Task Force Meeting* in Dushanbe to discuss common goals. The Desk supported an ambassadors' trip to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan in May and June, and a second trip to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in

October, as well as several trips by the Secretary General and the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre. The Desk provided input for the 10th anniversaries of the Centres in Astana and Ashgabat, as well as the 15th anniversary of the Office in Tajikistan. It took an active part in a task force to implement the 2007 *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*. It continued to deliver lectures to students at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and to students involved in the Central Asia Youth Network.

## The Programming and Evaluation Support Unit

The Unit focused on ensuring the quality, coherence and sound management of projects and programmes across the Organization. It continued to serve as the main point of reference for project, programme and fund managers working to plan, develop, implement and evaluate their work more efficiently and more effectively.

The Unit developed new tools to further strengthen Performance-Based Programme Budgeting and to support its harmonization across the Organization. It continued to provide tailored on-site support to the executive structures as well as to co-ordinate the assessment of project proposals eligible for external funding, in this way providing effective channels for sharing views and technical expertise

among the field operations, institutions and Secretariat.

During the year, the Unit provided on-site support to field operations in Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Skopje, Moldova, Astana and to the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

In 2009, as per the Secretary General's instructions, the process of co-ordination of the assessment of extra-budgetary proposals was broadened to include the thematic units of the Secretariat. Overall, throughout the year the Unit co-ordinated the assessment of 98 project proposals, with a value in excess of €13 million.

## Operations Service

**Operational planning and analysis.** The Planning and Analysis Team assisted in the planning and implementation of the closure of the Mission to Georgia, the discontinuation of its military monitoring of officers, the planning of potential follow-on options in Georgia as well as possible options for strengthening OSCE involvement in the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism.

The Service also continued to implement a systematic approach to learning from past activities by co-ordinating the debriefing process of outgoing senior officials from field operations and preparing recommendations to enhance the OSCE's effectiveness. During the year, the Service took the initial steps towards extending that process to outgoing OSCE Chairmanships and assisted in the drafting of the *After Action Report* on the closure of the Mission to Georgia. At year-end, the Service was also in the process of completing operational guidelines on the closure or restructuring of an OSCE field operation.

To help enhance the early-warning, conflict-prevention and crisis-management capacity of the OSCE, the Service continued to provide analytical support and advice to the Secretariat's senior management and the Chairmanship. Moreover, it actively supported the Corfu process by means of *food-for-thought* and *discussion papers*.

The Service conducted a retreat aimed at improving the Secretariat's mediation work by sharing experiences and lessons learned and familiarizing the two incoming Chairmanships with OSCE mediation experiences. It continued its co-operation with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs as a follow-up to



The OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities gives the keynote address at a mediation retreat held in Vienna on 22 and 23 October. (OSCE/Heather Cantin)

consultations on ways to enhance mediation support, and it contributed OSCE lessons learned and best practices to the United Nations Secretary-General's report on mediation.

The Service provided analytical support to the Chairmanship in the organization of the 2009 *Annual Security Review Conference* and, in order to facilitate discussions, prepared a comprehensive summary of OSCE documents focusing on the concept of comprehensive and co-operative security. The Service also assisted the Permanent Council's Security Committee on organizational and content-related matters.

### 24-hours-a-day/7-days-a-week

**operational link.** Through its Situation/Communication Room, the Service continued to provide an around-the-clock operational link and point of contact among OSCE structures, especially outside working hours. It provided real-time reporting via text messages and breaking-news e-mails on the OSCE area with a particular focus on emerging crisis situations, such as in the Caucasus and Moldova, enabling senior management to take appropriate decisions as situations unfolded. The Situation Room continued to produce daily briefings, special briefings, weekly regional summaries and calendars of upcoming events. It also provided operational assistance for emergencies in the field, such as security incidents and medical evacuations.

**Border security and management.** The Service worked in close co-operation with border guard/police agencies and supported a number of customs-related initiatives across the OSCE area, with a focus on Central Asia. Some of those activities were conducted within the OSCE Border Management Staff College, established in 2009 in Dushanbe. The Service closely involved Afghan border agencies in several border-related training events in Central Asia, helping to put into practice a 2007 *Ministerial Council Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*.

The Service provided advice to participating States on border-security and -management issues and supported, on request, the drafting of strategic concepts and the revision of legislation.

The Service promoted dialogue and the exchange of lessons learned and best practices between relevant border-security and -management experts and practitioners, notably through the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network. It also launched a web platform designed to increase interaction among Network members.

## FSC Support Section

In 2009, the Section continued to support the FSC in its activities. It monitored the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) and other politico-military commitments and produced monthly and quarterly reports



Turkmen border guards during field exercises on patrolling skills at a Turkmen-Afghan border-crossing point in October, part of an OSCE-implemented training course. (OSCE/Yhlas Babajanov)

on information exchanged between participating States. To facilitate discussion at the *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM)*, the Section published a *Summary Report on Recent Trends in the Implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 and Other Measures Addressed during the AIAM*. The Section also chaired the third *Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres*, where views were exchanged on the practical implementation of CSBMs.

Together with the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and with the support of Switzerland and Austria, the Support Section organized a regional seminar on the *Implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security in South Eastern Europe*. In co-operation with the Centre in Astana, it also organized a seminar on the *Implementation of the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Conventional Ammunition*, gathering experts from Central Asia and the South Caucasus. In Turkmenistan, a training workshop on *Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and the Implementation of the FSC Documents, including the use of the OSCE Communications Network*, was organized together with the Centre in Ashgabat.

Three assistance projects were successfully completed. The comprehensive small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition programme in Tajikistan was concluded, and the joint Cyprus-OSCE project resulted in the destruction of 324 man-portable air defence systems. In Albania, the OSCE eliminated some 30

tons of *melange*. In Ukraine, the Section is managing the disposal phase of a *melange* project, which in its first phase aims to eliminate 3,000 tons of this substance. The first train with 470 tons of *melange* was shipped out for recycling into chemical products for civilian use at specialized enterprises in the Russian Federation. To ensure implementation of the two joint OSCE-United Nations Development Programme projects in Belarus and Montenegro, a financial agreement was negotiated that allows for the smooth transfer of funds between the organizations.

During the Athens *Ministerial Council*, the Section supported the organization of a side event and prepared an exhibition highlighting its assistance projects. The Section also contributed to the preparation

of the FSC Chair's progress reports to the Ministerial Council.

The OSCE Communication Network, which connects 51 of the 56 participating States, as well as the OSCE and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, facilitates the exchange of information to further openness and transparency in military affairs. In 2009, the Support Section improved and expanded the system and the custom software used to generate treaty notifications. The robust network made possible the exchange of approximately 265,000 messages between participating States in 2009 and suffered from virtually no downtime. The Section also continued to chair the OSCE Communications Group, which provides valuable oversight by and for delegations.

In the OSCE's largest-ever project, Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel check pipes used to load the toxic rocket fuel component *melange* onto railway tanks in Kalinivka, Ukraine, in November. (Ukrainian Ministry of Defence)



# Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)

*The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities focused its work during the year on migration management, which was also the subject of its signature meeting, the annual Economic and Environmental Forum. Supporting activities focused on such issues as economic aspects of migration and related gender issues. Other important work was conducted on energy security and the environment and security.*

## Economic and Environmental Forum

The 17th *Economic and Environmental Forum* addressed the opportunities and challenges of increasing international migration and the need for closer bilateral, regional and inter-regional co-operation. *Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region* built on discussions and work done since the 13th *Forum*, which introduced migration and security issues to the agenda of the economic and environmental dimension.

The *Forum's* outcome and recommendations led to a new *Decision on Migration Management* by the Athens Ministerial Council.

## Migration

The Office undertook a number of activities to support *Forum* discussions, including overseeing the preparation by the International Labour Office of the *Review of the Implementation of OSCE Commitments related to Migration by OSCE participating States*, the first such review since the conclusion of the *Helsinki Final Act* and funded by Greece. The Office also drew attention to gender aspects of migration by organizing, in co-operation with the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Gender Section, a *Seminar on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies* in Brdo, Slovenia, on 16 and 17 February and by publishing a *Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies* with funding from Finland, Greece and Slovenia.

To enhance the skills and professionalism of policymakers and practitioners, the Office, in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), developed a trainer's manual on *Training Modules on Labour Migration Management* and tested the manual by organizing regional train-the-trainer seminars in Bishkek and Tirana. The project was financed by Greece and the IOM. The Office also teamed with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to develop a trainer's manual on *Gender and Labour Migration*.

The Office, in co-operation with the IOM and Austria, organized a regional conference to draw attention to the

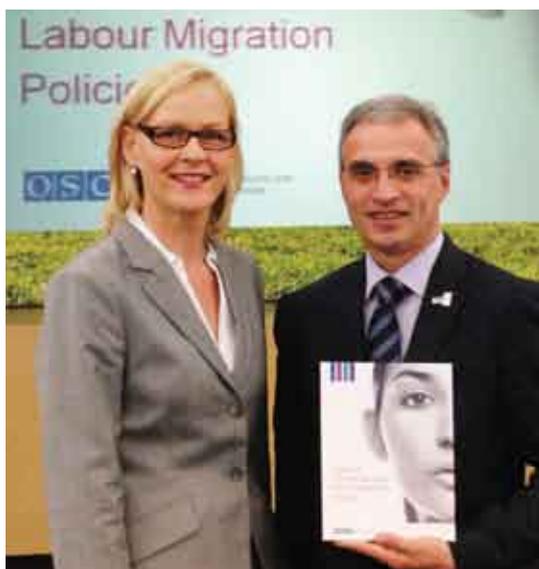
potential that migrants' savings could have for longer-term economic development in countries of origin. *Migrant Savings, Investment, Return and Economic Reintegration for Development in the South Eastern Europe and Central Asian Regions* took place in Vienna on 10 and 11 December with financial support from Austria.

## Energy security

The Office, in co-operation with the OSCE Chairmanship and Slovakia, organized a conference in Bratislava aimed at identifying ways to strengthen dialogue on energy security within the OSCE area. Gathering more than 30 OSCE participating States



There are several transboundary water bodies in the OSCE region, including Skadar Lake, pictured here, between Albania and Montenegro. (OSCE/Saba Nordstrom)



The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (r) and the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings launch an OSCE guide at the OSCE 17th *Economic and Environmental Forum* in Athens on 18 May. (OSCE)



and relevant international organizations, the event triggered discussions on a number of crucial energy issues, including energy-related legal frameworks, co-ordination of energy policies, challenges of energy efficiency and development of renewable energies. Financial support was provided by the United States.

The OCEEA also organized a number of regional events aimed at enhancing regional co-operation with respect to selected aspects of energy security.

### Good governance

To promote transparency, combat corruption and fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the OCEEA contributed to organizing a number of workshops, aimed in particular at facilitating harmonization of national legislation with international legal frameworks and standards. These activities were organized in close co-operation with international partner organizations, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as the OSCE's anti-terrorism and policing units. Events took place in Austria, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Uzbekistan, among others. Financial support was provided by Germany, Liechtenstein and the United States.

### Environment and security

The Office continued its involvement in the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative, promoting transboundary co-

operation on environmental and security issues in Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe. In 2009, the Initiative had a portfolio of over 50 projects and a budget of about €8 million with financial support from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. The Office provided leadership for the ENVSEC work programme in the South Caucasus region managing projects in the fields of wildfire management training and transboundary water co-operation. The Office also continued to support an ENVSEC assessment in the Amu Darya river basin in Central Asia, as well as a water-management project between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The OCEEA, in co-operation with OSCE field operations and with the financial support of Belgium, Canada, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United States, continued its promotion of the *Aarhus Convention* principles, which are designed to promote transparency, fairness and democracy in environmental decision-making.

The OCEEA also supported the launch of Civic Action for Security and Environment in Armenia and Azerbaijan — a small-grants programme for civil society organizations to enhance their capacities for addressing environment and security challenges with the financial support of Canada through ENVSEC, Austria and StatoilHydro. The Office provided support in organizing the Chairmanship's *Conference on Security Implications of Climate Change in the OSCE region*, which took place in Bucharest on 5 and 6 October. The conference highlighted that the OSCE

has an important role to play in addressing the security implications of climate change by monitoring and examining how climate change may act as a threat multiplier across the OSCE area, in specific sub-regions and in disputes over critical natural resources.

The Office began collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the UNDP on the issue of uranium tailings in Central Asia, and it also organized an OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee meeting on 7 May on *Support to Central Asia in Mitigating Radioactive Waste Problems*. As a follow-up, the Office provided technical advice and expertise to the IAEA's finalization of its baseline document on actions needed to mitigate some of the problems in the region.

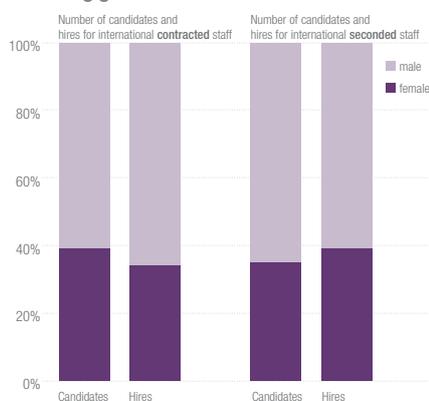
# Department of Human Resources

*The Department of Human Resources concentrated its efforts in 2009 on maintaining competitive conditions of service at the OSCE, including through promoting a professional working environment, integrating gender issues and introducing flexible working arrangements. Highlights also included further developing recruitment tools, implementing OSCE-wide standard payroll operating procedures and presenting proposals for the amendment of the staff regulations and rules, as necessary.*

Key achievements in 2009 included:

- maintaining competitive conditions of service in the OSCE through close dialogue with the Organization’s decision-making bodies;
- further developing recruitment tools and procedures aimed at securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity when recruiting staff from all participating States on a fair basis and with a focus on achieving gender balance;
- implementing standard payroll operating procedures across the Organization and making significant progress in implementing the few outstanding Internal Oversight recommendations mainly related to the maintenance of payroll processes and system set-up;
- preparing, in co-ordination and consultation with all relevant stakeholders, proposals on amendments to *Staff Regulations and Rules*, including those on streamlining and harmonizing conditions of service in the OSCE, for consideration by the participating States;

A view by gender



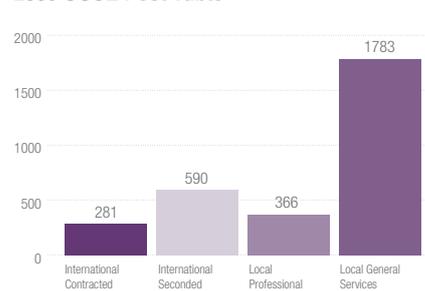
- continuing efforts to integrate gender into human resource areas by conducting a systematic campaign to boost the number of qualified female applicants and nominees particularly to

higher-level posts, including through a review of gender balance on interview boards; conducting a project to define gender sensitivity in the OSCE and by further integrating gender aspects into human resource procedures and policies, including when formulating possible amendments to the regulatory framework;

- improving the Integrated Resource Management System (IRMA) human resources module for more timely and accurate reporting functionality, including enhancement of the iRecruitment module, and contributing to the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards in the OSCE;
- encouraging improvement of the professional working environment across the OSCE, including through continuation of mandatory exit interviews in the OSCE Secretariat and the review, redesign and wider distribution of a booklet called *Professional Working Environment Guide on the OSCE Policy against Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination*;
- assuming the ethics co-ordination role within the OSCE and undertaking initial efforts to further encourage ethical conduct of all OSCE officials in part by reviewing and strengthening the ethical framework and training in the OSCE;
- introducing flexible working arrangements in the OSCE Secretariat, including staggered working hours, telecommuting, part-time jobs and job sharing, to create a more family-friendly and gender-sensitive working environment;
- reviewing the network of mediation focal points and mechanisms available for recognizing and addressing conflicts in the workplace; preparing for an awareness-raising campaign to increase all OSCE officials’ knowledge of policies and procedures;

- continuing the *Junior Professional Officer* programme, which provides young professionals from participating States with an opportunity to gain an overview of the Organization. Building on the programme’s success over the preceding four cycles, with the support of the participating States, the Department will expand the programme from April 2010, enabling six additional participants to be seconded by their nominating authorities;
- introducing a modular approach for certain training events, including supervisory skills and gender-mainstreaming courses;
- strengthening regional training activities, including regional meetings for training focal points;
- developing step-by-step guides for a number of administrative processes;
- supporting the Chairmanship-in-Office in recruiting senior management for the Organization;
- increasing interaction and co-operation with other international organizations on a variety of human resources issues, including payroll procedures, staff entitlements and benefits, periods of service, training and recruitment.

2009 OSCE Post Table



# Department of Management and Finance (DMF)

*The Department of Management and Finance provides managerial, financial and administrative services to OSCE participating States, the Secretariat, institutions and field operations. The DMF comprises Conference Services; Financial Accounting and Treasury Services, Budget and Internal Control Services; Mission Support including Supply Chain Management; Information and Communications Technology; and the Prague Archives Office.*

*The Department fulfilled its 2009 obligations regarding the Organization's planning and budget cycles and supported the conduct of all OSCE meetings and conferences, including the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum in Athens, the Corfu informal Ministerial Meeting and the Athens Ministerial Council. It continued to enhance the Organization's regulatory framework, the common regulatory management system,<sup>1</sup> through the issuance of guidance on the use of implementing partners assisting with OSCE projects. The Department helped to further enhance and embed Performance-Based Programme Budgeting across the OSCE and provided extensive support and functional training to relevant field units, including risk-assessment training.*

<sup>1</sup> A governance structure comprising financial regulations, rules and administration instructions.

In 2009, the Department successfully:

- received an unqualified (positive) external audit opinion on the 2008 financial statements;
  - progressed further towards adoption of Internal Public Sector Accounting Standards for the 2009 financial year;
  - heightened system monitoring to safeguard treasury activities in light of the global financial crisis;
  - continued to meet commitments for delivery of planning and budget-cycle documents and provision of guidance and assistance to the Chair of the OSCE's Advisory Committee for Management and Finance;
  - completed the first phase of a formalized risk-management programme and continued to provide training and support across the Organization on the enterprise resource planning system and related business process issues;
  - improved internal controls through automated monitoring of systems' access and approvals;
  - completed on target and within budget a two-year project to replace the Oracle hardware platform;
  - presented the Advisory Committee with a multi-year strategic plan for the replacement of the Organization's network operating system and desktop platform;
  - continued rationalization of information technology equipment and the OSCE vehicle fleet;
- developed a new initiative for the *Green Disposal of OSCE Assets* as part of the greening of supply-chain management practices;
  - replaced the bar-coding system, contributing to more reliable and timely tracking of OSCE assets in all locations;
  - played a pivotal role in the complex planning and procurement process associated with disposal of *melange* rocket fuel in Ukraine;
  - negotiated a global contract with a major airline to reduce travel expenses.

## Prague Office

Following the closure of the Mission to Georgia, substantive paper records retained by the Mission from 1993 to 2008 were transferred to Prague from Tbilisi.

The Prague Office hosted, as part of its *Researcher-in-Residence* programme, eight long- and short-term researchers from the OSCE area, including Asian Partners for Co-operation, working on topics pertaining to OSCE activities. The Office also welcomed visits from 27 groups of students.

The Office began work on a handbook for archivists and record managers dealing with records of historic or legal value. It was also involved in an *Oral Memory Project* that consisted of a series of interviews with prominent personalities who witnessed the making of the 1975 *Helsinki Final Act* and the 1990 *Charter of Paris for a New Europe*.



Participants at the *Chief of Fund Administration Conference* in Yerevan in May (OSCE/Ross Blackwell)

# Partnerships for Security and Co-operation



The Co-Chairs of the *Geneva Discussions*: (l-r) the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office; the European Union Representative for the crisis in Georgia; and the Special United Nations Representative to Georgia in Vienna on 17 June (OSCE/ Vasileios Gkinopoulos)

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# Interaction with organizations and institutions in the OSCE area

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Under the guidance of the Greek Chairmanship and supported by the Section for External Co-operation, the OSCE maintained close contacts and co-operation with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives in the OSCE area.

2009 was an important year, as it marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the *Platform for Co-operative Security*, the operational document of the 1999 *Istanbul Summit Charter for European Security*, and the basis of the OSCE's interaction with other organizations concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security in the OSCE area.

Partner organizations were invited to the *Ministerial Council* meeting in Athens and other regular high- and expert-level OSCE events, including the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*, the *Economic and Environmental Forum*, and the *Annual Security Review Conference*. Likewise, the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other senior officials represented the Organization, upon invitation, at various summits and meetings of other international, regional and sub-regional organizations.

Within the framework of the Corfu process, the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) were invited to the first informal OSCE *Ministerial Council* meeting, held in Corfu in June.

The OSCE, together with the United Nations (UN) and the EU, co-chaired five rounds of the *Geneva Discussions*, foreseen in the 12 August six-point agreement, which addresses security and stability, as well as humanitarian questions, including internally displaced persons and refugees. It also co-facilitated, together with the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM), six meetings of the second Incident Prevention and Response

Mechanism (which held its meetings in Ergneti and Dvani). The importance of this co-operation was illustrated by repeated joint appearances of the three Co-Chairs and the Head of the EUMM before the OSCE Permanent Council.

The OSCE took part in the annual high-level consultations in the "Tripartite-Plus" format with the UN and the Council of Europe (CoE), hosted by the UN Office at Geneva in June, to discuss the importance of strengthening democratic institutions to prevent conflicts.

In April, a session on co-operation with local representatives of international organizations was held back-to-back with the OSCE *Regional Heads of Mission for Central Asia* meeting in Dushanbe. Representatives of the European Commission (EC), NATO, the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems attended.

Similarly, an information-sharing event with other organizations was held during the *Regional Heads of Mission for South Caucasus* meeting in Yerevan on 24 and 25 September. Participants included representatives of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UNHCR, the CoE, the EC, the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the CSTO.

The Conflict Prevention Centre's Borders Team worked closely throughout the year with a number of international organizations and agencies dealing with issues affecting border security and management. In particular, information was exchanged with several UN agencies, including the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN Economic

Commission for Europe (UNECE), the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED), the UNHCR, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, the IOM, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and Borderpol. The Borders Team also interacted with other organizations as potential affiliates to the new OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe.

The Gender Section engaged in dialogue with a number of international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as think-tanks, on gender issues in the politico-military and economic and environmental dimensions as well as on raising awareness violence against women.

The Senior Police Adviser continued to represent the OSCE at the troika of Senior Police Advisers from the UN, EU and OSCE in order to discuss current trends, challenges and programmatic areas that require close co-ordination.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) continued to participate in the Environment and Security Initiative, in co-operation with the UNDP, the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), the UNECE, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and NATO.

The Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, chaired by the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, brought together the UNODC, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the IOM, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and others to exchange experience, best practices and lessons learned in a time of decreased funding due to the global economic crisis.

The Representative on Freedom of the Media, together with the International



The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office addresses the UN Security Council in New York on 27 February. (OSCE/Antonios Doykas)

Freedom of Expression Rapporteurs of the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, signed a *Joint Statement on the Media and Elections* on 15 May.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) hosted the fourth meeting on the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation* in Warsaw on 10 and 11 September, bringing together major organizations endorsing the *Declaration*, including the UN, the EC, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the Carter Center, the National Democratic Institute and the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa.

Following a request from the Government of Afghanistan, the OSCE sent an

election-support team to the presidential and provincial council elections in Afghanistan in August. The team co-operated closely with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the EU and NATO.

On International Roma Day on 8 April, ODIHR, together with the OSCE's High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), the CoE's Commissioner for Human Rights and the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), issued a joint statement calling for concerted action to combat hate crimes and extremism targeting Roma and Sinti. Moreover, ODIHR provided financial support for an international conference on Roma migration and freedom of movement in Vienna in November that was jointly organized with the FRA, the CoE's Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the HCNM.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly fostered interaction and co-operation with the parliamentary assemblies of the CoE and NATO, as well as the European Parliament, particularly in connection with election-observation missions.

## United Nations

The OSCE, as the largest and most inclusive regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, continued to work closely with the UN, both through political consultations and practical co-operation.

Georgia, Kosovo and Afghanistan provided the main focus of OSCE-UN interaction in 2009. Co-operation also continued in all three security dimensions on issues such as counter-terrorism, small arms and light weapons, trafficking in human beings, as well as economic and environmental issues, including climate change and energy security.

There were a number of institutional contacts between the two organizations during the year. On 27 February, the Chairperson-in-Office briefed the UN Security Council on the Greek Chairmanship's priorities for the year. In her presentation, she highlighted the need to strengthen the OSCE's field activities, particularly in Georgia and Kosovo. She stressed that the OSCE would continue to support Afghanistan, and she expressed her willingness to carry forward a strategic discussion on European security. Finally, she underlined the need for closer international co-operation in the context of the global economic crisis.

The Chairperson-in-Office participated in the UN *International Conference on*

## 10th anniversary of the Platform for Co-operative Security

The *Platform for Co-operative Security* was adopted by the OSCE *Summit* in Istanbul in November 1999 as the "operational document" and "essential element" of the *Charter for European Security*.

The *Platform's* main goal was "the strengthening of the mutually reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area".

The *Platform* promoted the concept of mutually reinforcing security institutions, and ruled out a hierarchy of organizations and a permanent division of labour among them. Its approach was inclusive, open and designed to further co-operation "on the basis of equality and in a spirit of partnership".

The *Platform* identified a set of principles that members of other organizations and institutions should adhere to individually and collectively in order for the OSCE to work co-operatively with them.

The *Platform* outlined general modalities of co-operation, both at headquarters level and in the field, as well as in responding to crises, and thus promoted a culture of co-operation among organizations in the OSCE area.

"Recognizing the key integrating role the OSCE can play," the *Charter* offered the OSCE, when appropriate, a "flexible co-ordinating framework to foster co-operation, through which various organizations can reinforce each other drawing on their particular strengths."

The *Platform* and the *Charter* recognized the growing importance of sub-regional co-operation and sub-regional groupings, and the *Charter* offered the OSCE as "a forum for sub-regional co-operation".

The *Platform* was instrumental in enhancing the OSCE's external co-operation and the establishment of a greatly improved network of interaction with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations.

*Afghanistan: A Comprehensive Strategy in a Regional Context* hosted by the Dutch government in The Hague on 31 March.

On 1 December, the Executive Secretary of the UNECE, representing the UN Secretary-General, addressed the OSCE Ministerial Council in Athens and met bilaterally with the OSCE Secretary General. Issues discussed included OSCE-UN co-operation in conflict prevention and settlement, democratization and human rights, counter-terrorism and the environmental aspects of security, as well as the progress of the Corfu process.

In April, the Secretary General, accompanied by the Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings and other senior representatives from the OSCE Secretariat, participated in the annual OSCE-UNODC co-ordination meeting, aimed at effective co-operation on issues such as the fight against human trafficking and transnational organized crime, both at the programmatic level and in the field.

The annual OSCE-UN staff-level meeting was hosted by the Secretariat in Vienna on 21 May. Special attention was paid to the situation in Georgia and the UN and OSCE presences on the ground. Also discussed were co-operation in Kosovo, Central Asia and Afghanistan, including in support of the August presidential elections and the implementation of the Madrid Ministerial Council Decision on *OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan*.

The OSCE contributed to the UN Secretary-General's report on enhancing mediation and its support activities, which was discussed in the Security Council in April. The operations service of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) intensified its interaction with the UN Mediation Support Unit.

The Gender Section contributed to the *UNECE-Beijing +15 Review Meeting* in Geneva in November, which looked at challenges and opportunities for gender equality in the Eastern and Central European region.

The Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) maintained effective co-ordination with the UNODC in preparing and implementing its organized-crime-related activities. Regular meetings at the senior and technical level in Vienna and across the field offices, as well as a number of joint OSCE-UNODC workshops, seminars, training courses and conferences, were held in the course of 2009. The SPMU also continued its membership of

the UN Steering and Technical Committees for the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, a platform facilitating co-ordination among international and regional organizations.

The OCEEA continued to work closely with the UNODC's *Global Programme against Money Laundering* and the *Global Programme against Corruption*, supporting regional and national activities. In Almaty in July, the OCEEA, in close co-operation with the SPMU, the Centre in Astana and together with the UNODC and the World Bank, organized a regional workshop on **asset forfeiture and recovery** for officials from Central Asia and Russia.

The OCEEA further expanded its co-operation with the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat within the framework of the OSCE Aarhus Centres Initiative, while continuing to work with the UNECE to facilitate transport and trade. Various seminars on the implementation of a number of UNECE legal instruments and conventions were held across the OSCE area, particularly focusing on Central Asia.

The OCEEA co-operated with the ILO in preparing a review report on *Implementation of OSCE Commitments related to Migration* for the OSCE's 17th *Economic and Environmental Forum* in Athens.

The Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings continued working with the ILO in the field of labour exploitation in the agricultural sector through the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons. They also worked together within a *Tripartite Regional Conference* in Tbilisi, co-organized with the ICMPD, the ILO and the OSCE. Staff from the Office of the Special Representative participated in the 53rd session of the *Commission on the Status of Women* at UN headquarters in New York in March.

The Office of the Special Representative continued working together with several UN agencies to promote the implementation of the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and the associated *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children*.

The Office continued to represent the OSCE within the United Nations *Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking* (UN.GIFT), worked closely with three UN special rapporteurs during the ninth *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* conference

in September and participated in the UN.GIFT Expert Group Initiative Project on *Stakeholder Co-operation with Law Enforcement*.

ODIHR organized a training session on the monitoring and reporting of hate crimes for field staff from the OSCE, the IOM and the UNHCHR in Warsaw from 9 to 11 March.

## European Union

The OSCE continued its close co-operation with the EU throughout the year.

On behalf of the EU Presidency, the Swedish Foreign Minister spoke at the Ministerial Council in Athens and welcomed the expansion of co-operation between the OSCE and EU. He reaffirmed the EU's full support for the Corfu process. Complex transnational challenges, such as terrorism, climate change, human trafficking and organized crime were highlighted as important issues for joint efforts.

The Chairperson-in-Office participated in the regular *OSCE-EU Ministerial Troika Meetings* held in March and November. Meetings of the ambassadorial troikas took place in June and November. Topics discussed included the Corfu process, Central Asia, protracted conflicts and the Eastern Partnership.

The OSCE was invited to become a permanent participant in the EU's Eastern Partnership Initiative's Platform I on Democracy, Good Governance and Stability.

The year saw a rise in bilateral contacts. A number of senior EU representatives addressed the Permanent Council, including the Czech Foreign Minister and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Sweden, on behalf of the Czech and Swedish EU Presidencies, respectively, the President of the EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council, the High Representative and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union/High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, the EU Council Secretariat, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee and the Head of the EUMM.

The Secretary General addressed the EU Political and Security Committee in May and November, under the respective Czech and Swedish Presidencies, and held a number of bilateral meetings with representatives of the EC and the EU Council

Secretariat on the margins.

The annual OSCE-EU staff-level meeting was hosted by the OSCE in Vienna on 19 October, allowing for constructive exchanges of views and expertise on topics including the Corfu process, the situation in Georgia, the international presence in Kosovo, the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference, the Eastern Partnership and economic and environmental issues.

The CPC intensified its co-operation with the EU Council Secretariat in the area of mediation support. Representatives of the Operations Service participated in the EU high-level meeting on mediation support in March, and in a workshop on *Dialogue and Mediation as European Union Tools to Address and Prevent Conflict* in October, both held in Brussels.

The CPC Borders Team co-operated with the EU on border-related issues, particularly its *Border Management Programme for Central Asia (BOMCA)* and Frontex, a Warsaw-based EU agency tasked with co-ordinating operational co-operation among its member states in the field of border security.

The OCEEA continued its close interaction on issues related to migration management with the EC, the CoE and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

The OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings worked closely with the 2009 EU presidencies, the EC and in particular with its Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security. Together with the Czech EU Presidency and the EC, the Office of the Special Representative co-organized the conference *Joint analysis, joint action: EU National Rapporteurs on THB [trafficking in human beings]*, which was held in Prague in March. At the invitation of the Swedish EU Presidency, the Special Representative contributed to the *Ministerial Conference Towards EU Global Action against Trafficking in Human Beings*. The EU Anti-trafficking Day was commemorated with a joint statement by the Special Representative and the Director of ODIHR.

The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media continued to contribute to EuroDIG, a European forum on Internet dialogue, which aims to formulate common European input to the UN-initiated Internet Governance Forum.

## Council of Europe

The OSCE and the CoE worked together in a number of priority areas. In his address to the Permanent Council in June, the Slovenian Foreign Minister and Chairman of the CoE's Committee of Ministers stressed that co-operation between the two organizations and respect for the values they share — democracy, human rights and the rule of law — were essential for achieving long-term and sustainable security and stability in Europe.

The CoE's new Secretary General addressed the OSCE *Ministerial Council* in Athens on 1 and 2 December, while the CPC Director represented the OSCE at the 119th Session of the CoE's Committee of Ministers in Madrid on 12 May.

Co-operation in the format of the Co-ordination Group in the four priority areas — the fight against terrorism, the protection of rights of persons belonging to national minorities, combating trafficking in human beings, and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination — continued during the two regular meetings of the Co-ordination Group, held in Vienna and Strasbourg on 13 March and 11 September, respectively. Having reviewed its work for at least the last four years, the Group decided to streamline the future agenda of each meeting to two areas of co-operation from four to allow for a more strategic and in-depth examination.

The two organizations exchanged views on current and planned activities in South-Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe, as well as on co-operation on migration-related issues, at the regular meeting of senior officials hosted by the OSCE in Vienna in June.

Experts from both organizations met at the annual meeting on the implementation of the *Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in South East Europe*, held in December in Strasbourg, where they exchanged information on programmes aimed at supporting local self-government in the region.

In response to the CoE's motion for a resolution on the need for a Council of Europe neighbourhood policy, the OSCE shared its experience on dialogue and co-operation with its Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation during a visit in March by the Rapporteur of the CoE's Parliamentary Assembly.

The Anti-Terrorism Unit, the OCEEA and the CoE's Moneyval Committee

organized a workshop in Vienna in September for experts from both the public and private sectors on *Preventing the Abuse of Non-Profit Organizations for Terrorist Financing*.

The Gender Section contributed to the CoE's initiative to prepare a European convention on violence against women by participating in the related task force.

The OCEEA and the CoE worked together on issues of migration, good governance and combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

In its capacity as an observer, the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media maintained its working-level contacts with various CoE bodies on common thematic and regional activities. The Representative contributed to discussions on the establishment of a mechanism within the CoE to monitor states' compliance with Article 10 of the *European Convention on Human Rights*, which protects freedom of expression.

ODIHR and the CoE's Venice Commission continued their joint legal reviews, while the CoE's Parliamentary Assembly and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities took part in a number of election-observation activities with ODIHR.

The Presidents of the two organizations' Parliamentary Assemblies met in Madrid in April to discuss co-operation in the field of election observation. In November, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly addressed the meeting of the Standing Committee of the CoE's Parliamentary Assembly in Bern.

## North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The OSCE and NATO developed relations through regular political dialogue and expert-level co-operation. At the meeting of the North-Atlantic Council, in Strasbourg-Kehl on 4 April, NATO heads of state and government highlighted the role of the OSCE, which "provides an appropriate, inclusive format" for dialogue on a broad, co-operative approach to Euro-Atlantic security.

The Chairman-in-Office addressed the North-Atlantic Council in Brussels in November, focusing on the Corfu process and co-operation on issues of wider European security.

The Secretary General delivered a statement to the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) in October. Topics of

discussion, both at the EAPC and during subsequent bilateral meetings with high-ranking NATO officials, included the Corfu process and NATO deliberations on a new Strategic Concept, security in Afghanistan and developments in Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova and Central Asia.

The Forum for Security Co-operation was addressed by a number of senior NATO officials, including the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, the Deputy Commander International Security Assistance Force and the Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Weapons of Mass Destruction Policy for NATO.

Regular OSCE-NATO staff-level meetings, held in Vienna in February and in Brussels in September, addressed politico-military activities and co-operation on regional matters.

In February, the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings attended the EAPC *Ambassadorial Meeting* in Brussels, and a representative from her office contributed to the discussion of the first report on the implementation of NATO's policy on combating human trafficking. During the meeting, NATO's Secretary General highlighted the fact that the OSCE "is one of [NATO's] most important partners in the field of anti-trafficking and in promoting [a] policy of zero tolerance to modern slavery".

### Other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives

In accordance with the Helsinki *Ministerial Decision* of 2008 on the *OSCE contribution to the Implementation Phase of the Alliance of Civilizations Initiative*, the Secretary General and the Senior Gender Adviser attended the *Second Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations* in Istanbul on 5 and 6 April, where the Secretary General held a meeting on the margins with the High Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Alliance of Civilizations. The OSCE was also represented, in October, at the second preparatory meeting aimed at developing an Alliance of Civilizations' regional strategy for the countries of South-Eastern Europe.

The Secretary General and the Director General of the IOM held a meeting in the run-up to the 17th *Economic and Environmental Forum*.

While addressing the CSTO Permanent

Council meeting on 26 March, the Secretary General stressed the need for co-operation between different international and regional actors engaged in assisting Afghanistan. He also held bilateral meetings with the CSTO Secretary General and exchanged views on issues such as border security and border management in Central Asia, as well as on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan.

The Secretary General and the CIS Executive Secretary met in December to exchange information on the latest developments within the two organizations.

The Secretary General and the Secretary General of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM met on the margins of the OSCE's *Annual Security Review Conference* in June, and later during the Secretary General's visit to the GUAM Secretariat in Kyiv in September.

The Director of the CPC took part in the *Summit of the Heads of Government of the Member States of the Central European Initiative* in Bucharest in November.

The Director of the Office of the Secretary General represented the OSCE at the *20th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)* in Yerevan in April.

The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities represented the OSCE at the *12th Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the South East European Cooperation Process* in Chisinau in June. He also attended the annual meeting of the Regional Co-operation Council in Chisinau, where he presented OSCE activities in the field of good governance and the environment.

The OCEEA continued its close co-operation with the IOM in the areas of migration management, raising awareness of the potential role migrants' savings can play for investment and development in countries of origin and developing training materials in labour migration management for policymakers, social partners and relevant non-governmental organizations. The two organizations developed a trainer's manual on labour-migration management, and regional seminars were held in Bishkek in September-October and in Tirana in December in order to train trainers on how to use the manual. A number of international organizations attended in Vienna in December a joint IOM-OCEEA *Regional Conference on*

*Migrant Investment, Return and Economic Reintegration for Development in South East Europe and Central Asia*. The OCEEA and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development organized a regional seminar in Belgrade in October on *Asset declarations for public officials as a tool against corruption*.

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, together with the IOM and Austria's Interior Ministry, developed guidelines for collecting data on human trafficking. In September, the Special Representative presented proposals and recommendations to the CIS Executive Committee for a draft programme for co-operation on combating human trafficking. At the *Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference's (BSPC) annual political debate on security in Nyborg, Denmark*, from 30 August to 1 September, the Special Representative urged participants to place human trafficking at the top of their political agendas.

Parliamentarians and staff from the Parliamentary Assembly took part in a number of parliamentary conferences, including those of the BSPC, and of the Parliamentary Assembly meeting of the BSEC in Moscow.

### International financial institutions

The OCEEA continued its collaboration with the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, the Council of Europe's Moneyval Committee, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Financial Action Task Force through consultations, participating in relevant meetings, contributing to joint activities and promoting international standards and best practices.

The World Bank contributed to a special panel on the impact of the global financial crisis on human trafficking in countries of origin, transit and destination at the ninth *Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons*, organized by the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

### Non-governmental organizations

NGOs and think-tanks took part in all the main OSCE meetings and events. They

also continued to co-operate with institutions, field operations and the Secretariat, including as project partners.

Guest speakers from a number of NGOs and think-tanks spoke and made presentations at several informal meetings within the framework of the Corfu process in Vienna.

Representatives of civil society also spoke and made presentations at the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* in Warsaw from 28 September through 9 October.

ODIHR and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces organized roundtables in Armenia in April and in Bosnia and Herzegovina in September to promote their joint publication, *Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel*.

## Highlights of Co-operation in the Field

### South-Eastern Europe

The **Presence in Albania** worked with the EC and the CoE on civil-registry reform; with the CoE on decentralization; with the EC on judicial, police and property reform; and with the UNDP on gender. Donor co-ordination was jointly managed through regular meetings with the UNDP, the World Bank and the EC.

The **Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** co-operated with the UNHCR, the UNDP, NATO, European forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the delegation of the EC, the CoE and the Office of the High Representative.

The **Mission to Montenegro** implemented projects in co-operation with a total of 47 international organizations, with almost 7,000 beneficiaries.

The **Mission to Serbia** co-operated with UN agencies such as the UNDP, the UNHCR and the UNODC, as well as with the EU, the CoE, NATO, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and with NGOs in the areas of rule of law and human rights, democratization, law enforcement and media.

The **Mission in Kosovo** continued to engage actively with relevant institutions, including the UN Interim Administration

Mission in Kosovo, the UNHCR, the UNDP, the CoE, the EC Liaison Office, the EU Rule of Law Mission, the IOM, NATO and the ICRC.

The **Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje** co-operated with UN agencies, the EC and other international organizations on a number of projects. The Mission continued its co-operation with the EU Police Development Assistance Project CIVIPOL to co-ordinate activities on police reform.

The **Office in Zagreb** and ODIHR co-operated with the ICTY and UN Crime and Justice Research Institute on war-crimes monitoring through the initiative on *Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Knowledge Transfer*.

### Eastern Europe

The **Office in Minsk** co-ordinated its activities closely with UN offices, the EC representative office in Belarus, the CIS Executive Committee, a number of international financial institutions and the IOM.

The **Mission to Moldova** maintained close contact with numerous UN agencies, the IOM, the EU and the CoE in its efforts to promote democracy, strengthen the rule of law, enhance the freedom of the media and combat trafficking in human beings.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** co-ordinated activities with the CoE, the Venice Commission, the EU, including the EU Border Assistance Mission, the IOM, the UNECE, the UNEP, the UNDP, the ILO and international NGOs.

### South Caucasus

The **Office in Baku** worked with the CoE on elections, good governance and rule-of-law issues, with UNICEF on juvenile justice, with the ILO on training for the owners of small and medium-sized businesses and with the EU Twinning Project on renewable energy.

The **Office in Yerevan** co-operated closely with the CoE, the EU, including with the new EU Advisory Group for Armenia, the UN, and the World Bank on elections, anti-corruption, police assistance, human rights, economic and environmental issues, media, gender, anti-trafficking and migration.

The **Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE on the Conflict Dealt with by the Minsk Conference** maintained close contacts with organizations such as the EU, the CoE, the UNHCR, the ICRC, and various international NGOs with respect to the major problems of internally displaced persons and refugees, prisoners of war, missing persons and detainees, as well as mine clearance.

### Central Asia

The **Centre in Ashgabat** worked with UN agencies and the EU to address terrorism, trafficking in human beings, education and health issues, as well as to assist farmers' associations.

The **Centre in Astana** hosted one of the quarterly co-ordination meetings for international and bilateral donors and continued to co-operate closely with the relevant international organizations operating in Kazakhstan, particularly the UNDP, the EC, the IOM and BOMCA on border management, the World Bank on money laundering, the UNODC on combating organized crime and drugs trafficking and the United Nations Development Fund for Women on gender issues.

The **Centre in Bishkek** co-operated with the CoE's Venice Commission in providing expert opinions on draft laws on the freedom of assembly. The Centre also implemented joint activities with various UN bodies in the area of combating terrorism, protecting human rights and cleaning up uranium tailings.

The **Office in Tajikistan** continued its co-operation in a number of programme areas with international organizations, including UN agencies, international development banks and international NGOs. These partnerships were essential in projects concerning border management, anti-corruption, environmental issues, human rights and media development.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** co-ordinated a number of events with international organizations and NGOs accredited in Uzbekistan and in co-operation with OSCE institutions in the areas of transportation and biometric passports.

# Interaction with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE area

## Interaction with Partners for Co-operation

Much of the year's work was aimed at improving dialogue between the Organization and the Partners, a goal underscored by the Chairperson-in-Office's appointment of a Personal Representative for each group of Partners. At the Athens *Ministerial Council*, the Organization also formally welcomed its newest Partner, Australia. The foundations for work in 2010 were laid by the decision to hold two Chairmanship workshops in Partner countries — one on trafficking in human beings, in Mongolia, and the other on the fight against drugs trafficking, in Thailand — and by the identification of areas to be addressed with the Mediterranean Partners through the Partnership Fund.

## Report of the OSCE Chairmanship

To further enhance OSCE-Partner relations, the Chairperson-in-Office appointed Professor Theodore Kotsonis and Professor Sotiris Roussos as Personal Representatives for the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, respectively.

The two Representatives assisted and advised the Chairperson on matters related to the OSCE's dialogue with the Partners. They were also tasked with finding ways

### Asian Partners for Co-operation:

Afghanistan, Australia (welcomed as Asian Partner at the Athens *Ministerial Council*), Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Thailand. Finland chaired the Asian Contact Group in 2009.

### Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation:

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Kazakhstan chaired the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2009.

to further strengthen this dialogue. They each played an active role at the respective Asian and Mediterranean Partners' annual conferences and presented a report at the end of the year with recommendations on issues under their mandate.

In line with established practice, the Partners were regularly invited to meetings of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation, providing a forum for regular interaction and debate. They also participated in all the main OSCE events of the year, including the *Annual Security Review Conference*, the *Economic and Environmental Forum* and the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*.

The Partners were regularly briefed on ongoing discussions in the context of the Corfu process, and the Greek Chairmanship supported the inclusion of a reference to the Partners in the Athens *Ministerial Decision on Furthering the Corfu Process*. On the eve of the *Ministerial Council*, the OSCE *Ministerial Troika* meeting with the Partners took place, with the participation of the Secretary General and the Parliamentary Assembly.

Although consensus could not be reached on the Palestinian National Authority's request to become a Partner for Co-operation, the Chairmanship welcomed its informal co-operation. The Authority also participated in the

## Partnership Fund

The Partnership Fund, aimed at promoting the Partners' engagement in the OSCE, completed its second year of operation in 2009, when four new projects were implemented. With new contributions from Belgium, France, Israel and Kazakhstan, the fund's total pledges since its 2007 establishment by a Madrid *Ministerial Council Decision* reached over €650,000.

The new projects were:

- *Meeting on Multilateral Security Co-operation in Northeast Asia and the Relevance of OSCE Experience*, co-organized with the Austrian Center for International Studies and the Finnish Chairmanship of the OSCE Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, held in Vienna in April (donors: Belgium and Finland);
- *Seminar with the Mediterranean Partners on Media Self-regulation*, held in Vienna in June and organized by the office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media (donors: Denmark, Kazakhstan, Spain and the United States);
- *Seminar on tolerance and non-discrimination with the Mediterranean Partners*, held in Astana in July (donor: Kazakhstan);
- *Workshop on an integrated approach to Supply-Chain Security for the Mediterranean Region*, held in Malta in December (donors: Greece and Kazakhstan).

Two projects were completed in 2009 after their launch a year earlier:

- *Afghanistan: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) electoral technical assistance* (donors: Finland, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Slovenia);
- Publication of a French-language version of the OSCE/International Organization for Migration/International Labour Office Mediterranean edition of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination* (donors: Belgium and France).

The Partnership Fund was also used to sponsor the participation of representatives from the Partners for Co-operation in OSCE-related events (donors: Spain and Finland).

*Mediterranean Conference* at the invitation of the host country, Egypt.

### Third joint meeting of the Contact Groups

Co-chaired by Finland and Kazakhstan, the third annual joint meeting of the Contact Groups, in December, provided an opportunity for the two groups to discuss common issues and the OSCE Partnership in the dialogue on European security, of particular importance in light of the *Athens Ministerial Decision on Furthering the Corfu Process*. The meeting also discussed the Partnership Fund and was addressed by the two Personal Representatives.

### Report of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation

**Work of the Asian Contact Group.** During the Contact Group's five meetings, the Asian Partners made presentations entitled:

- *Follow-up to the 2008 OSCE-Afghanistan Conference, on issues such as border security and management — and the upcoming presidential elections* (Afghanistan);
- *Human Security and Democratic Institutions Building* (Japan);
- *Follow-up to the 2007 OSCE-Mongolia Conference, including on Measures to Promote the Interests of Land-locked Countries, as well as Development of Democratic-governance Indicators* (Mongolia);
- *the North Korean Nuclear Issue: Current Status and Prospects* (Korea);
- *Co-operation between the OSCE and the ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] Regional Forum* (Thailand);

In response to the interest shown in increasing co-operation with the OSCE, Australia was invited to address the last meeting of the Asian Contact Group in 2009, and made a presentation on the possibility for full co-operation and strengthening of relations between Australia and the OSCE, including on the topic of Asia-Pacific regional security architecture.

**OSCE-Japan Conference.** The main topic discussed during the *Conference*, held in Tokyo in June, was how participating States and Partners for Co-operation could share knowledge and experiences in

The OSCE Secretary General (r) meets Japan's Foreign Minister in Tokyo on 9 June. (OSCE/Fabrizio Scarpa)



order to address common challenges, especially in the areas of military transparency, energy security and developing civil society, including the media.

Some participants noted that, given the risk of military escalation brought about by North Korea's nuclear and missile tests, there was reason to strengthen multilateral co-operation in an effort to build confidence. The experiences of Asian Partners on the topic of energy security, a relatively new issue for the Organization, were seen as beneficial for participating States, including with respect to environmental concerns. Participants also agreed on the need to continue promoting media freedom as a fundamental ingredient of transparent, peaceful and modern societies.

#### **Meeting on Multilateral Security Co-operation in Northeast Asia and the Relevance of OSCE Experience.**

Sponsored by Finland and Belgium and co-organized in Vienna by the Austrian Center for International Studies and the Finnish Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group, 23 participants, from participating States, the Asian Partners and the countries of the Six-Party Talks, discussed

a number of aspects of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe's (CSCE)/OSCE's experience in ensuring multilateral security. Discussions focused on the importance of agreeing on guiding principles, holding dialogue on an equal footing and taking confidence-building measures, as well as on the need for some kind of human dimension, such as people-to-people contact. Participants agreed that the OSCE's experience could be useful in establishing a multilateral security mechanism for Northeast Asia.

**Conference on the Present and Future Security Environment in North-East and Central Asia: Ulaanbaatar as a new Helsinki?** Co-organized by the German George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and the Mongolian Institute for Strategic Studies, the April conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, focused on challenges to confidence- and security-building in Central and East Asia, European examples of neutrality and confidence- and security-building measures and security co-operation in Asia. In presenting the CSCE/OSCE as a possible model for security architecture in

### ODIHR Election Support Team to Afghanistan

As tasked by a Permanent Council *Decision*, ODIHR deployed an election-support team to assist election stakeholders in their efforts to organize presidential and provincial elections. This contributed to the implementation of UN *Security Council Resolution 1868*, which called upon the international community to assist the Afghan authorities in ensuring credible, safe and secure elections. The team, which consisted of 20 election staff representing 11 participating States, was deployed for 15 weeks. Team members were based in Kabul but visited other parts of Afghanistan in the course of their work.

Following its mission, the team published a comprehensive report containing recommendations for the Afghan Government on ways to improve the conduct of future elections, with a particular focus on domestic observation, capacity-building and sustainability, voter registration and the legal framework for elections.

Asia, Finland provided an overview of the negotiations that led to the signature of the Helsinki *Final Act*.

**Partnership Fund.** Part of the Finnish contribution to the Partnership Fund was used to finance an election assistance project for the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan, jointly implemented by ODIHR and the Secretariat's External Co-operation Section and the above-mentioned seminar on *Multilateral Security Co-operation in Northeast Asia and the Relevance of OSCE Experience*. Furthermore, part of the Finnish contribution was used to ensure that several representatives from Mongolia and Afghanistan participated in relevant OSCE expert meetings and seminars and in the *OSCE-Japan Conference*. In November, the adoption of Permanent Council *Decisions* on the holding of workshops in Mongolia and Thailand on trafficking in human beings and counter-narcotics, respectively, to be held as 2010 Chairmanship events, gave further impetus to the work of the Partnership Fund.

Finland presented a report on the work of the Asian Contact Group to the Athens *Ministerial Council*.

## Report of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

**Work of the Mediterranean Contact Group.** The Mediterranean Contact Group met seven times in 2009, exchanging ideas on a number of issues, including: freedom of the media; the Alliance of Civilizations; economic and environmental activities; the politico-military dimension; the Union for the Mediterranean, uniting countries that border the Mediterranean Sea; and the use of the Partnership Fund.

Two Mediterranean Partners made special presentations during the year: Morocco on the future of the OSCE Mediterranean partnership, and Egypt, jointly with France, on the Union for the Mediterranean.

The *OSCE Mediterranean Conference*, held in Cairo in December, focused on how co-operation between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners could enhance security and stability with respect to two main issues: politico-military aspects of security in the OSCE area and the Mediterranean and the implications of the

financial crisis for migration. Prospects for further OSCE-Mediterranean co-operation were also discussed.

During the debate on conflict prevention, most of the participants agreed that, despite differences between the two regions, the OSCE's framework of commitments and instruments in the politico-military dimension could be a model for the Middle East. In the area of migration, participants stressed both the potential economic benefits of migration and security concerns, including a rise in aggressive xenophobia targeting migrants. One proposal was made to use the regional platform for dialogue on migration and security issues, as indicated in the *Ministerial Decision on Migration Management*, to exchange information, experiences and best practices on migrant savings and remittances, as well as to provide specific training programmes on gender-sensitive labour-migration policies.

A number of ideas were suggested for strengthening the OSCE's Mediterranean dialogue, including the establishment of a mechanism to follow up on the annual *OSCE Mediterranean Conference* and the many proposals made in the context of the Mediterranean Contact Group.

**Seminar with the Mediterranean Partners on media self-regulation.** Eleven international experts from the OSCE region and the Partners met in Vienna in June to take part in an OSCE seminar on media self-regulation. While discussions focused on the various forms and merits of media self-regulation, including editorial independence, the correction of errors and enhancing professionalism, the event also provided an opportunity to raise the awareness of the essential role that responsible journalism plays in developing independent media. The seminar was financed by Denmark, Kazakhstan, Spain and the United States.

**Seminar on tolerance and non-discrimination.** Kazakhstan hosted a seminar on tolerance and non-discrimination for the Mediterranean Partners in Astana in July, on the eve of the third *Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions*. Seminar discussions focused on the role of inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue and protecting the rights of labour migrants.

Participants included representatives of the OSCE Troika, Lithuania as the

incoming Chair of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group, the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners, heads of the OSCE institutions, the Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on tolerance and non-discrimination and for the Mediterranean Partners, as well as a number of officials from the host country. The Palestinian National Authority also participated.

**Workshop on an integrated approach to supply-chain security for the Mediterranean region.** A number of senior officials and experts from governments, business and industry in participating States and Partner countries gathered in Malta in December for a seminar aimed at facilitating dialogue, networking, exchanging experiences and discussing public-private partnerships in an effort to improve integrated supply-chain security. While participants shared their knowledge of security issues, including vulnerabilities, the meeting emphasized the benefits of an integrated approach to supply-chain security, in particular with regard to facilitating legitimate trade and transport.

**Visit under the Vienna Document 1999.** The Mediterranean Partners took part in an October visit to Kazakhstan's 604th airbase in Taldykorgan and its 37th air assault brigade, under the terms of the *Vienna Document 1999*.

**Partnership Fund.** Kazakhstan led consultations among Mediterranean Partners aimed at identifying their three priority areas to be addressed in 2010 through fund-financed projects: management of water resources and action to counter desertification; border security and management; and human resources, especially creating opportunities for young diplomats from the Mediterranean Partners to gain OSCE experience.

Kazakhstan presented a report on the work of the Mediterranean Contact Group to the Athens *Ministerial Council*.

## Report of the Secretary General

The OSCE Secretariat supported the work of the Chairs of the two Contact Groups and co-organized, together with the host countries, the *OSCE-Japan Conference* in Tokyo and the *OSCE Mediterranean Conference* in Cairo. The Secretary General addressed both events. The Secretariat



The OSCE Secretary General (l) and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States (r) meet on the margins of the *OSCE Mediterranean Conference* in Cairo on 13 December. (LAS)

supported the work of the participating States by regularly providing institutional memory, such as information on practices and past events, as well as clarifications on rules and procedures concerning the Partners for Co-operation where necessary. It also liaised with the Partners on a regular basis.

On the margins of the *Conference* in Japan, the Secretary General met with Japan's Foreign Minister and with the Ambassador charged with co-ordinating assistance for Afghanistan. They discussed regional security issues in Europe and Asia and the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan.

At the *Mediterranean Conference*, the Secretary General met with Egypt's Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs to discuss improving relations between the OSCE and Egypt and general developments in security in Europe and in the Middle East. The Secretary General also briefed the Assistant Minister on the outcome of the Athens *Ministerial Council* and on the OSCE's work in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination.

At the invitation of the Republic of Korea, the Secretary General visited Seoul on 11 June for consultations with authorities. During the visit, he met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other senior officials. Talks dealt with regional security issues in the OSCE area and in

Northeast Asia. Other topics included preparations for the 2010 *OSCE-Korea Conference* and the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan, including the deployment of the OSCE's election-support team.

On 15 and 16 June, at the invitation of Australia, the Secretary General visited Canberra, where he met with the Foreign Minister and the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Australian Parliament, as well as other senior officials from the Ministries for Foreign Affairs and Defence. Australian officials expressed their interest in developing a closer relationship with the OSCE. The Secretary General briefed his Australian counterparts on the OSCE, its mandate and activities, including OSCE engagement with Afghanistan, as well as on the nature and mechanisms of the OSCE's dialogue with the Asian Partners.

The External Co-operation Section represented the Secretary General at the Ulaanbaatar security conference on the security environment in Northeast and Central Asia in April, delivering a statement on his behalf.

#### **OSCE engagement with Afghanistan.**

OSCE engagement with Afghanistan remained a priority for the Secretariat. The Partnership Fund financed participation by Afghan representatives in OSCE activities, including an election-related project,

jointly implemented with ODIHR, that began in 2008. To conclude this project, a workshop in Warsaw in April provided an opportunity for an exchange among representatives of the Afghan Independent Election Commission, civil society and OSCE experts, following up recommendations from prior OSCE election-support teams.

The Conflict Prevention Centre's Borders Team conducted joint training exercises on customs and patrolling green borders — the areas between border-crossing points that need to be patrolled — in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, with the participation of Afghan representatives. The new OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe promoted the inclusion of participants from Afghanistan in its activities, and the ongoing OSCE customs initiative in Bishkek is to involve more than 100 Afghan customs officials.

The Strategic Police Matters Unit launched three of seven planned projects, which are expected to improve the neighbouring countries' police performance in the fight against drugs trafficking in the short and long term. A total of 52 Afghan police officers will be trained in Tajikistan and Russia in programmes designed to enhance the skills and professionalism at the Afghan National Police and Counter-Narcotics Training Academy. Senior officials from Afghanistan and Mongolia

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participated in a high-level meeting on *Law Enforcement Co-operation in Central Asia* held in Astana in July.

The OSCE Academy in Bishkek, which provides master's-level education for students from Central Asia and neighbouring countries, has enrolled four Afghan students for the 2009-2010 academic year and plans to conduct training for Afghan students and diplomats in 2010.

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek, the Anti-terrorism Unit and ODIHR attended a conference co-organized by Kyrgyzstan, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Commonwealth of Independent States on anti-terrorism and regional security in November, where Kyrgyzstan's President launched his Bishkek Initiative as a forum for dialogue and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

In Tajikistan, the OSCE worked on projects related to improving border management and regional co-operation on transport, trade and energy security. It also continued to support four resource centres aimed at promoting cross-border trade between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. These centres provided information on customs rules and regulations and offered business training to entrepreneurs on both sides of the border.

### **Interaction with organizations outside the OSCE area**

As recommended in the 2007 Madrid *Ministerial Declaration on the Partners for Co-operation*, increased efforts have been made to share the OSCE's experience with regional organizations outside the OSCE region.

Following past practice, organizations such as the African Union, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization were invited to a number of OSCE events, including the *Athens Ministerial Council*, the *OSCE-Japan Conference* and the *OSCE Mediterranean Conference*.

The OSCE Secretary General also held direct consultations with senior officials from a number of these organizations, focusing on strengthening the OSCE's ties with them. He met with the OIC's Secretary General on the margins of the *Alliance of Civilizations Forum* in Istanbul

in April. On the margins of the *Athens Ministerial Council*, the Secretary General met the Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat and, in December, held a working breakfast with the Secretary General of ASEAN. Discussions included the outcome of the *Ministerial Council* and the 15th ASEAN Summit. On the margins of the *Mediterranean Conference*, the Secretary General met the Secretary General of the League of Arab States; they exchanged views on recent developments in their respective regions and ways of furthering co-operation. The Secretary General also participated in the special conference on Afghanistan convened under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Moscow in March.

In November, the Secretariat hosted a study visit by a delegation from the League of Arab States focusing on conflict prevention and confidence-building and provided it with in-depth briefings. The delegation then visited Warsaw to familiarize itself with ODIHR's mandate and activities.

# Annexes



OSCE/MARTINA GADOTTI RODRIGUES

# The OSCE at a glance

The OSCE is the most important regional organization focusing on early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. It often acts behind the scenes, fostering discussions and defusing tensions before they develop into conflict.

Based on the understanding that security touches on many aspects of our lives and how we are governed, the OSCE addresses a comprehensive range of issues, which it has traditionally grouped into three areas, or dimensions.

Work in the **politico-military dimension** includes:

- facilitating and co-mediating conflict settlement negotiations
- fostering arms control and confidence- and security-building measures
- building border-security and -management capacities
- helping reform military and police forces
- destroying small arms and conventional ammunition and ensuring safe stockpile management

Work in the **economic and environmental dimension** includes:

- enhancing economic co-operation and good governance
- addressing environmental security risks and promoting transboundary co-operation
- promoting co-operation on energy security

Work in the **human dimension** includes:

- promoting respect for human rights
- strengthening democratic institutions
- fostering tolerance and non-discrimination
- observing elections
- promoting minority rights

The Organization, which is recognized as a regional arrangement under the United Nations Charter, has 56 participating States in Europe, North America and Central Asia and some 3,000 staff members in its field operations, specialized institutions and Vienna-based Secretariat.

## History

The OSCE traces its origins to the early 1970s, when the two-year Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) brought together representatives from Eastern and Western countries in Helsinki and Geneva, resulting in agreement on the *Helsinki Final Act*, signed on 1 August 1975.

Following the end of the Cold War, the CSCE took on a new role in managing the historic change taking place in Europe and responding to new security challenges. In the early 1990s, the Conference's work became more structured and it acquired permanent institutions, including a Secretariat, an Office for Free Elections and a Conflict Prevention Centre.

Recognizing that the CSCE was no longer simply a Conference, participating States agreed at the 1994 Budapest Summit to change its name to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

In the twenty-first century, the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security has increasingly proved useful in tackling new challenges such as the fight against terrorism and combating trafficking in human beings, which defy categorization into any one of the three dimensions of security. The Organization continues to focus on resolving protracted conflicts in the former Soviet Union and promoting stability in the Balkans.

## How the OSCE works

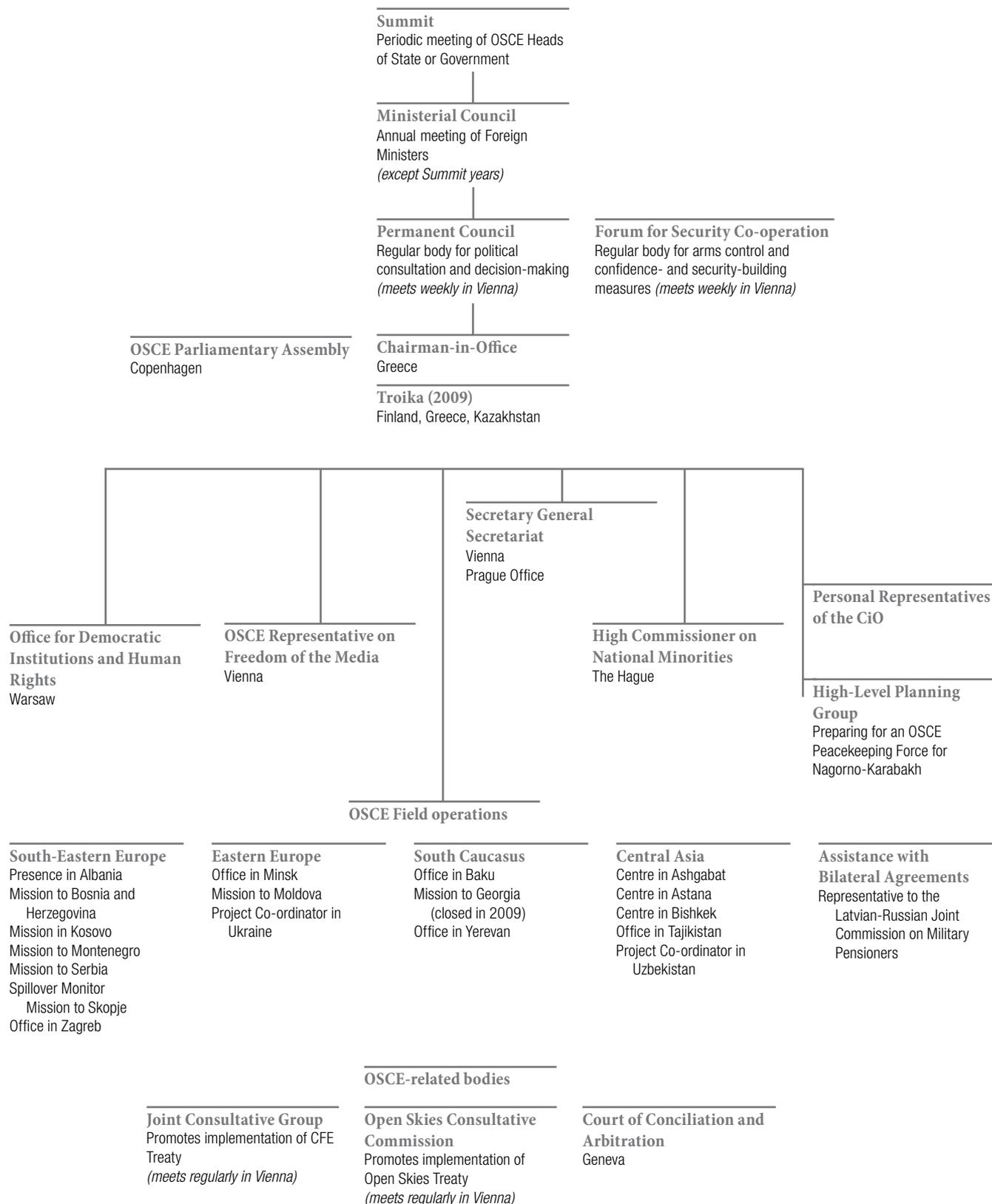
The OSCE is chaired by one of its participating States, a role that rotates annually. In 2009, Greece held the Chairmanship. To aid in long-term planning and foster continuity, Greece promoted active dialogue between fellow Troika members Finland (2008) and Kazakhstan (2010) and the future Chairmanships of Lithuania (2011) and Ireland (2012).

The Permanent Council is a regular body for political consultation and decision-making. It meets weekly in Vienna. The Forum for Security Co-operation oversees the OSCE's politico-military dimension and also convenes weekly in Vienna's Hofburg.

Other bodies or forums also play a decision-making role within the Organization: periodic *Summits* of heads of State or government; the annual *Ministerial Council*; the *Economic and Environmental Forum*; the *Annual Security Review Conference*; and the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*.

[www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org)

# Organigram



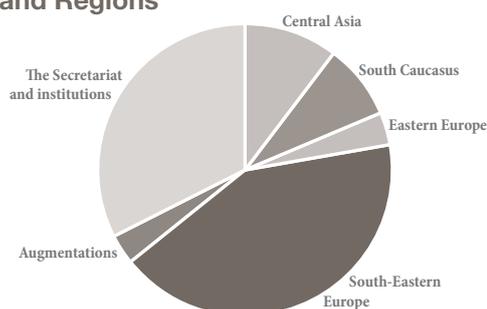
# OSCE Budget 2009 by Fund

(Permanent Council Decision 888, 921)

Fund	Euros	% of Total
The Secretariat	31,514,900	19.86%
Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)	15,399,100	9.70%
High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)	3,118,500	1.97%
Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFOM)	1,312,000	0.83%
Augmentations	5,308,400	3.35%
Mission in Kosovo	26,910,000	16.96%
Tasks in Bosnia and Herzegovina	15,160,900	9.55%
Office in Zagreb	2,312,800	1.46%
Mission to Serbia	7,855,300	4.95%
Presence in Albania	3,401,800	2.14%
Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje	8,539,900	5.38%
Mission to Montenegro	2,318,300	1.46%
Mission to Moldova	1,960,100	1.24%
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine	2,758,500	1.74%
Office in Minsk	1,032,700	0.65%
Representative to the Latvian-Russian JC on Military Pensioners	9,300	0.01%
End of Mandate Procedure (Mission to Georgia)	5,773,600	3.64%
Office in Yerevan	2,694,900	1.70%
Office in Baku	2,673,800	1.69%
High-Level Planning Group	192,200	0.12%
The Minsk Process	896,300	0.56%
Personal Representative of the CiO - Minsk Conference	1,111,900	0.70%
Centre in Astana	2,070,400	1.30%
Centre in Ashgabat	1,401,700	0.88%
Centre in Bishkek	5,409,300	3.41%
Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan	1,910,300	1.20%
Office in Tajikistan	5,629,800	3.55%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>158,676,700</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Budget 2009 by Institutions and Regions

Central Asia	10.3%
South Caucasus	8.4%
Eastern Europe	3.6%
South-Eastern Europe	41.9%
Augmentations	3.3%
The Secretariat and Institutions	32.4%



# OSCE Fixed-term Staff as of 31 December 2009

(Including Staff Financed from Extra-Budgetary Contributions)

Nationality	Kosovo	BiH	Skopje	Serbia	Montenegro	Zagreb	Albania	Baku	Yerevan	Minsk Conf	Moldova	Minsk	Ukraine	Astana	Ashgabat	Bishkek	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	Total for Field Operations	Secretariat	RFOM	HCNM	ODIHR	Totals for Secretariat & Institutions	GRAND TOTALS	
Albania																			0					0	0	
Andora																				0					0	0
Armenia	1	1											1				1		4	1			2	3	7	
Austria	15	3	4		1	1	1	1						2		2			30	8	1	1	3	13	43	
Azerbaijan	3																		3	1				1	4	
Belarus	2	1	2																5	1	1	1	1	4	9	
Belgium		1																	1	5				5	6	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9		2	2													1		14	1			2	3	17	
Bulgaria	3				3		3			1	1	1			1		1		14	4			1	5	19	
Canada	2	2						1	1										6	5			5	10	16	
Croatia	7	1	1	1															10	1			1	2	12	
Cyprus																			0					0	0	
Czech Republic			2				1			1									4	4				4	8	
Denmark																	1		1				1	1	2	
Estonia			2	1							2					1			6					0	6	
Finland	2	1									1						1		6	5			1	6	12	
France	13	4	4	1	1						1	1		1	1	1	3	1	32	10	2		5	17	49	
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3														1				4	2				2	6	
Georgia	4		1	1												1	2		9	1		1	2	4	13	
Germany	15	3	6	3			2	1	1		1	1		1			3	1	38	16	1	1	6	24	62	
Greece	5	3		1															9	5		1	1	7	16	
Hungary	4	3	5	1						1			1			1	1	1	18	1	2		1	4	22	
Holy See																			0					0	0	
Iceland			1																1	1				1	2	
Ireland	5	5	1	2	1														14	4		1	1	6	20	
Italy	13	6	1	3	1	1					1						1		27	10		1	5	16	43	
Kazakhstan										1		1					1		4	3			3	6	10	
Kyrgyzstan		1																	1	1				1	2	
Latvia							2				1								3	1				1	4	
Liechtenstein																			0					0	0	
Lithuania							1												1	1				1	2	
Luxemburg																			0	2				2	2	
Malta	1																		1	1				1	2	
Moldova	2			2											1	1	2		8	1		1	1	3	11	
Monaco																			0					0	0	
Montenegro	1						1												2					0	2	
Netherlands	3	1		3			4		1								1		14	3		2	1	6	20	
Norway			1	3				3									2		9	1		3		4	13	
Poland	2				1				1	1	2						1		8	1		1	11	13	21	
Portugal	5	1	2																8					0	8	
Romania	3	1	2		1		1												8	2			1	3	11	
Russian Federation	2	3	3						1								2	3	14	12	1		1	14	28	
San Marino																			0					0	0	
Serbia			1					1											2	2			1	3	5	
Slovakia	1	2		1		1							1						6	2			1	3	9	
Slovenia		1	1	2			1												5				2	2	7	
Spain	8	3	6			2	2	1							1				23	11		1	1	13	36	
Sweden	2	2	1	4	1				1							1			12	5			1	6	18	
Switzerland																			0	1	1			2	2	
Tajikistan		1							1		1								3					0	3	
Turkey	10	1	6	2	1			3								1			24	7				7	31	
Turkmenistan																			0	2				2	2	
Ukraine	2			1													2		5	6		1		7	12	
United Kingdom	3	1		3			2			1	1						1		12	16		1	4	21	33	
United States	10	11	3	4	2		4	2			1		1	1			3		45	15		2	3	20	65	
Uzbekistan	2								1										3		1			1	4	
<b>Internationally Recruited Staff</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>757</b>	
<b>Locally Recruited Staff</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1890</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>2156</b>	
<b>Total Number of Staff</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2367</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>2913</b>	

# Contact information

## Press and Public Information Section

OSCE Secretariat  
Wallnerstrasse 6  
1010 Vienna, Austria  
Tel: +43 1 514 36 6000  
Fax: +43 1 514 36 6996  
info@osce.org  
www.osce.org

## Parliamentary Assembly

International Secretariat  
Raadhustræde 1  
1466 Copenhagen K  
Denmark  
Tel.: +45 33 37 80 40  
Fax: +45 33 37 80 30  
E-mail: osce@oscepa.dk

## Institutions

### Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Aleje Ujazdowskie 19  
00-557 Warsaw, Poland  
Tel.: +48 22 520 06 00  
Fax: +48 22 520 06 05  
E-mail: office@odihhr.pl

### The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Prinsessegracht 22  
2514 AP The Hague  
The Netherlands  
Tel.: +31 70 312 55 00  
Fax: +31 70 363 59 10  
E-mail: hcnm@hcnm.org

### The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Wallnerstrasse 6  
1010 Vienna, Austria  
Tel: +43 1 514 36 68 00  
Fax: +43 1 514 36 68 02  
E-mail: pm-fom@osce.org

## OSCE Field operations

### South-Eastern Europe

#### OSCE Presence in Albania

Sheraton Tirana Hotel  
& Towers, 1st Floor  
Tirana, Albania  
Tel.: +355 4 223 59 93  
Fax: +355 4 223 59 94  
E-mail: pm-al@osce.org

#### OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fra Andjela Zvizdovica 1  
71000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Tel.: +387 33 752 100  
Fax: +387 33 442 479  
E-mail: info.ba@osce.org

#### OSCE Mission in Kosovo

OSCE Headquarters  
10000 Pristina  
Kosovo-UNMIK  
Tel +381 38 240 100  
Fax +381 38 240 711  
E-mail: press.omik@osce.org

#### OSCE Mission to Montenegro

Bulevar Sv. Petra Cetinjskog 1a  
81000 Podgorica  
Montenegro  
Tel: +382 20 40 64 01  
Fax: + 382 20 40 64 31  
e-mail: omim@osce.org

#### OSCE Mission to Serbia

Cakorska 1  
11000 Belgrade Serbia  
Tel.: +381 11 36 06 100  
Fax: +381 11 36 06 119  
E-mail: ppiu-serbia@osce.org

#### OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

QBE Makedonija Building, 11  
Oktomvri Str. 25  
MK-1000, Skopje  
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
Tel.: +389 23 23 40 00  
Fax: +389 23 23 42 34  
E-mail: info-mk@osce.org

#### OSCE Office in Zagreb

Florijana Andraseca 14  
10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
Tel.: +385 1 309 66 20  
Fax: +385 1 309 66 21  
E-mail: osce-croatia@osce.org

## Eastern Europe

### OSCE Office in Minsk

Prospekt Gasety Pravda 11  
220116 Minsk, Belarus  
Tel.: +375 17 272 34 97  
Fax: +375 17 272 34 98  
E-mail: office-by@osce.org

### OSCE Mission to Moldova

Str Mitropolit Dosoftei 108  
MD 2010, Chisinau, Moldova  
Tel.: +373 22 887 887/223 495  
Fax: +373 22 22 34 96  
E-mail: moldova@osce.org

### OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

16 Striletska St.  
01034 Kyiv, Ukraine  
Tel.: +380 44 492 03 82  
Fax: +380 44 492 03 83  
E-mail: csaba.csizmadia@osce.org

### OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

Wallnerstrasse 6  
1010 Vienna, Austria  
Tel.: +43 1 514 36 68 58  
Fax: +43 1 514 36 61 24  
E-mail: helmut.napiontek@osce.org

## South Caucasus

### OSCE Office in Baku

The Landmark III  
96 Nizami St.  
Baku, Azerbaijan  
Tel.: +994 12 497 23 73  
Fax: +994 12 497 23 77  
E-mail: office-az@osce.org

### The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

4 Freedom Square  
GMT Plaza, 1st Floor  
0105 Tbilisi, Georgia  
Tel.: +995 32 99 87 32  
Fax: +995 32 98 85 66  
E-mail: prcio@osce.org

## OSCE Office in Yerevan

64/1 Sundukyan Str.  
Yerevan 0012, Armenia  
Tel +374 10 229610-14  
Fax +374 10 229615  
E-mail: yerevan-am@osce.org

## Central Asia

### OSCE Centre in Ashgabat

Turkmenbashy Shayoly 15  
744005 Ashgabat  
Turkmenistan  
Tel.: +993 12 35 30-92  
Fax: +993 12 35 30-41  
E-mail: info\_tm@osce.org

### OSCE Centre in Astana

10 Beibitshilik St.  
Astana 010000, Kazakhstan  
Tel.: +7 7172 326804  
+7 7172 591953  
Fax: + 7 7172 328304  
E-mail: astana-kz@osce.org

### OSCE Centre in Bishkek

139 St. Toktogula  
720001 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Tel.: +996 312 66 50 15  
Fax: +996 312 66 31 69  
E-mail: pm-kg@osce.org

### OSCE Office in Tajikistan

18a Akhmadi Donish St.  
734012 Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
Tel: +992 37 226 50-14/-15/-16/-17/-18  
Fax: +992 37 226 50 19  
E-mail: cid-tj@osce.org

### OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Afrosiyob Street 12b, 4th floor  
100015 Tashkent  
Republic of Uzbekistan  
Tel : + 998 71 140 04 70  
Fax : + 998 71 140 04 66/67  
E-mail : osce-cit@osce.org