OSCE buckles down to work on expanded agenda

Valdas Adamkus: Cherishing the vision of a Europe "whole and free"

Pursuing the principles of community-based policing





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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a pan-European security body whose 56 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

OSCE Chairmanship 2007: Spain

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OSCE Mission to Serbia

OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

Message from the Chairperson of the Permanent Council



As did all the other Chairmanships before it, Spain is seeking to strengthen the Organization by highlighting and enhancing its major achievements and, at the same time, by addressing its weaknesses and identifying satisfactory alternative solutions to enable us all to do a better job.

Three words sum up the fundamental commitments and priorities of our Chairmanship, apart from the objectives related to the three dimensions: ownership, dialogue and action-oriented work:

Ownership: We believe that any OSCE Chairmanship can only achieve what the participating States allow it to. Spain will aim towards encouraging them to reach consensus in all areas, but it will be difficult if there is no political will to do so.

Dialogue: Sitting at a negotiating table is always a good starting point. When it comes to sensitive issues, we do not intend to teach lessons to any country. Far from it! We do, however, wish to raise awareness of existing problems and to offer viable solutions if requested to do so. Our dialogue should always be coupled with respect. With the help of the OSCE and its institutions, Spain is ready to assist.

Action-oriented work: The participating States demand responsible and effective action. The OSCE should not be perceived as a mere think-tank or as a forum for idle debate. Helped by public diplomacy, we should reach out to all the citizens of participating States to convince them that we are making real progress in addressing some difficult issues at various levels.

Despite the fact that the Organization is composed of different institutions and tackles a broad spectrum of concerns, we should take every opportunity to present a solid and coherent front. The articles in this issue of the OSCE Magazine reflect the fact that we have much to be proud of, collectively. Inspired by our positive record of accomplishments, let us all pull together to enable the Organization to once again reach new heights.

Ambassador Carlos Sánchez de Boado Vienna April 2007



In this issue











CHAIRMANSHIP

"Project Europe is still unfinished"

By Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos

KOSOVO STATUS SETTLEMENT

Resolving the last remaining issue in the Balkans
By UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari

MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS

OSCE buckles down to work on expanded agenda

By Martin Nesirky and Dov Lynch

A new Don Quixote waiting in the wings
By Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrugghe

PRESIDENT VALDAS ADAMKUS OF LITHUANIA

Cherishing the vision of a Europe "whole and free"

OSCE AND UNODC

Hands across the Danube in the drive against drugs and crime

By Walter Kemp and Stephanie Liechtenstein

STRATEGIC POLICE MATTERS UNIT

Interview with Kevin Carty
Pursuing the principles of community-based policing

POLIS: Sharing a vast wealth of expertise

By Alina Josan
Police chiefs agree to strengthen joint action

against organized crime
By Patricia N. Sutter

Law enforcers face up to phenomenon of hate crimes
By Urdur Gunnarsdottir

30

3

By Urdur Gunnarsdottir

Swedish county police: Tipping the gender scale

By Police Commissioner Krister Jacobsson

APPOINTMENTS

ON THE SCENE

One woman's voice: Flamenco artist Eva Yerbabuena By Florence Le Clézio

Cover: Flamenco artist Eva Yerbabuena performed at a cultural event on the occasion of the launching of the Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE. Photo: OSCE/Alexander Nitzsche

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