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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (5 April – 12 April)

Peterle Urges Kyrgyz Parliament to Decide on Akayev's Resignation

BISHKEK - The OSCE Chairman's personal representative for Central Asia urged the Kyrgyz parliament to take a decision on the resignation of President Askar Akayev as soon as possible. Paying his second visit to the Central Asian republic since an opposition uprising deposed Akayev in March, Alojz Peterle said on 10 April that such a decision by parliament would be crucial in improving the country's stability. Peterle met government, parliament and other officials as well as representatives of NGOs and the international community. On 11 April, Kyrgyzstan's parliament accepted Akayev's resignation and set July 10 as the date for the next presidential elections.

Rupel Urges Belgrade and Priština to Launch Talks on Kosovo

BELGRADE - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel, who paid a two-day visit to Serbia-Montenegro on 4-5 April, said in talks with Serbian officials that Belgrade and Priština should launch talks on the future of Kosovo as soon as possible. In a meeting with Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica, Rupel said he hoped Belgrade would encourage Kosovo Serbs to participate in the activities of Kosovo's institutions. He said that the OSCE would follow three main principles of the EU as regards the status of Kosovo: firstly, the province cannot be divided; secondly, it cannot join any other Albanian ethnic community; and thirdly, it cannot go back to the status in place before 1999.

Decision on Serbia and Montenegro Future Should be Consensual, OSCE Chairman Says

PODGORICA - The future of the state union of Serbia and Montenegro should be decided on the basis of consensus and so as to protect stability in South-Eastern Europe, OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel said in Podgorica on 5 April. "We will support any decision between Serbia and Montenegro that is the result of an agreement and democratic dialogue," he said. Another topic discussed with Montenegrin officials was the importance of stability for the region and the OSCE's role in nurturing stability, democracy and human rights.

OSCE Chair Visiting Albania

TIRANA - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel is visiting Albania on 11 April to discuss co-operation between the OSCE and Albania, as well as the upcoming parliamentary elections in the country, the current situation in the country and the region.

OSCE Chair Receives Personal Representatives for Promoting Tolerance

LJUBLJANA - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel called for greater coordination in combating intolerance as he received on 7 April OSCE personal representatives for promoting greater tolerance and combating discrimination. Rupel held talks with Anastasia Crickley, the personal representative on combating racism, xenophobia and discrimination; Gert Weisskirchen, the personal representative on combating anti-semitism; and Omur Orhun, the representative on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims. The OSCE chair urged the trio to "direct efforts at the formation of concrete proposals for solutions to individual problems". Rupel hopes the forthcoming conference on anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance, due to take place in June in Spain's Cordoba, will be successful.

OSCE Chairman Pays Tribute to Monaco Prince

LJUBLJANA - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel paid tribute to the late Prince Rainier III of Monaco on 6 April. "The Principality of Monaco, under the late Prince Rainier, was one of the architects of the Helsinki process and today's OSCE," Rupel said. Monaco was among the original participants in the

Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the forerunner of the OSCE, and one of the 35 first signatories of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BISHKEK, DUSHANBE, ASHGABAD, 18 through 20 April - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel is to visit Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in what will be the second leg of a tour of Central Asia.