

Report on the Activities of the Chairperson-in-Office 969th Meeting of the Permanent Council, 31 October 2013

- On 30 October, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Leonid Kozhara opened the conference on confidence-building measures in the Transdniestrian settlement process organized by the OSCE Mission to Moldova in Landshut, Germany. The OSCE Chair urged the sides to step up their efforts in advancing towards a mutually acceptable and viable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict.

On the margins of the conference Minister Kozhara held meetings with Prime minister of Moldova Iurie Leanca and with the Transdniestrian leader Yevgeniy Shevchuk, where he stressed the importance of maintaining direct dialogue between the sides, as well as the need to exert all efforts to maintain calm and stability in the region. There was also a joint meeting of the Chairperson-in-Office with the political leaders of Chisinau and Tiraspol with participation of the mediators and observers of the 5+2 format.

The Chairmanship would like to express its appreciation to the German Federal Government for its kind support in organization of the conference.

- On 28-29 October the 2013 OSCE Mediterranean Conference was held in Monaco. Enhancing the role of women in public, political and economic life was chosen as a key theme for discussion during this year's Conference.

Participants from the OSCE participating States and the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation discussed the ways how to overcome challenges to women's participation, such as entrenched gender stereo-typing and unequal access to political resources, and look at ways to unlock women's economic power through schemes such as female entrepreneurship and mentoring.

The agenda also included discussions on other important areas such as combating trafficking for labour exploitation and combatting the

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financing of terrorism with a focus on issues of ransom payment to free hostages.

- The 18th meeting of the Co-ordination Group between the OSCE and the Council of Europe was held in Vienna on 25 October. The meeting was co-chaired by Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council and Chairperson of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe, Ambassador Armen Papikyan.

The Group reviewed progress in two of the four priority areas of cooperation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe: the fight against terrorism and the fight against trafficking in human beings.

The next meeting of the Co-ordination Group will take place in Strasbourg in the first half of 2014. The issues of cooperation in protecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination will be discussed at that meeting.

- On 24 – 25 October the Annual Police Experts Meeting entitled “Improving the Role of the OSCE in Police-related Activities: Experiences and Lessons-Learned” took place in Vienna. The meeting was organized by the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) of the Transnational Threats Department in close cooperation with the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship.

Experts and representatives of police services from a number of participating States as well as representatives of the OSCE Field Operations used this opportunity to discuss and exchange experience on such issues as norms, standards and examples of national police reform; community based policing; international, national and local crime prevention frameworks.

This year's Annual Police Experts Meeting was also used for introducing and discussing the new guidebook “Police Reform within the Framework of Criminal Justice Sector Reform”.

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