

# Secretariat

## Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU)

The Action against Terrorism Unit is the focal point for OSCE counter-terrorism co-ordination and activities. Established in 2002, it works closely with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and other international partners.

Overall, the Unit's three main objectives are as follows:

(1) to provide support to the political process with regard to combating terrorism through expert advice and advocacy: Responding to requests by the Chairman-in-Office, participating States and the Secretary General, ATU prepared 15 food-for-thought and concept papers during the year on various anti-terrorism issues, such as countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism; fighting incitement and recruitment of terrorists; enhancing travel document security; strengthening the role of police in combating terrorism; improving co-ordination between investigators and prosecutors in terrorist cases; strengthening public-private partnership and the role of civil society in preventing terrorism. Many of these ideas were taken up in three Ministerial Council documents and reflected in a number of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities.

(2) to contribute to enhancing the capabilities and capacities of participating States to address the multi-faceted and evolving terrorist threat through the organization of capacity-building activities: ATU organized, supported or otherwise facilitated twelve capacity-building activities at the OSCE-wide, regional and national level. Among the most important were:

- *Three training workshops on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism (Vienna, Yerevan, Bucharest)*
- *Two training workshops on travel document security (Belgrade, Vilnius)*
- *Workshop on Urban Transport Security (Vienna)*
- *Workshop on Preventing Terrorism: Fighting Incitement and Related Terrorist Activities (Vienna)*

- *A container/supply chain security training workshop (Istanbul)*

(3) to foster information exchange and co-ordination on counter-terrorism issues within the OSCE and with outside partners: ATU further expanded the scope and enhanced the substance of the *Counter-Terrorism Network* and the regular in-house co-ordination meetings of all OSCE structures. It also conducted numerous formal and informal consultations with a significant number of other international organizations in many cases resulting in joint capacity-building activities. A significant achievement of the Unit was the roundtable of counter-terrorism practitioners of major regional and sub-regional organizations held in Copenhagen on 28 and 29 July.

ATU maintains a website ([www.osce.org/atu](http://www.osce.org/atu)) containing information on current OSCE anti-terrorism activities and links to key co-operation partners.



The OSCE is examining ways of enhancing container security in order to prevent terrorists from exploiting this means of transport.

OSCE

## Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)

The Conflict Prevention Centre co-ordinates the activities of the OSCE's field operations and assists them in the implementation of their mandates. It is also the focal point in the Secretariat for developing the OSCE's role in the politico-military dimension. In particular, the CPC is responsible for supporting the Chairmanship, the Secretary General and the decision-making bodies in implementing OSCE tasks in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The CPC comprises:

- The Mission Programme Section, which analyses developments in the field to identify early warning signals of potential crisis situations and acts as the primary point of co-ordination and liaison with field operations;
- The Project Co-ordination Cell, which supports field operations in the planning, development and evaluation of

- their projects and programmes;
- The Operations Unit, which co-ordinates operational planning within the Secretariat, provides an analytical capacity, serves as the focal point for border security and management and, through its Situation/Communications Room, monitors developments in the OSCE area and serves as an emergency crisis cell;
- The Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit, which provides advice and expertise in the politico-military dimension of security.

## Mission Programme Section

In 2006, the **South-eastern Europe Desk** provided assistance in the accession of Montenegro as the 56th OSCE participating State and the subsequent establishment of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. The Desk continued to follow closely the overall reform processes supported by the OSCE in the region.

The Desk facilitated two regional co-operation processes: the process of interstate co-operation in war crimes proceedings, which was launched in Palic, Serbia in November 2004, and the process of refugee return based on the regional ministerial *Sarajevo Declaration* of January, 2005. Regarding the latter, the OSCE initiated a process to co-ordinate the positions of the international community in view of a forthcoming ministerial meeting to take place in Montenegro in 2007.

The Desk, with the support of the Mission in Kosovo, was active in planning the OSCE's involvement in Kosovo following a decision on its future status. In this context, it co-ordinated closely with partner organizations, primarily the UN, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The **Eastern Europe Desk** supported OSCE efforts to kick-start negotiations toward the peaceful settlement of the Transnistria issue which had broken down in spring. The Desk further assisted field operations in Ukraine and Minsk in satisfying the demand for projects from State authorities.

The **South Caucasus Desk** focused on assisting field operations in activities related to the settlement of unresolved conflicts. The Desk contributed to the preparation of several high-level visits linked to the dynamic political developments in the region. The Desk supported the Mission to Georgia in its preparations for a large-scale *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and adjacent areas, and in developing a capacity-building programme aimed at strengthening capacities of the Georgian Border Police. The Desk supported OSCE preparations for an OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission to fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The **Central Asia Desk** helped the Chairmanship and Secretary General establish a new mandate and memorandum of understanding for the OSCE presence in Uzbekistan. The Desk also assisted in responding to the political tensions in Kyrgyzstan. It contributed to a CPC-organized expert assessment mission to Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to identify areas for assistance in strengthening border security and management.

In line with the OSCE *Action Plan on the Promotion of Gender Equality*, the CPC developed a practical Handbook to help officers include gender perspectives in the analysis of situations in the field, in policy and strategic development. The Handbook identifies areas of possible intervention and includes country-specific data on gender equality.

## The Project Co-ordination Cell

Following an initiative of the Secretary General, the Cell focused on the conceptualization and development of a performance-based planning system to ensure that OSCE programmes respond to political and operational objectives and that they deliver on their objectives effectively and efficiently. It piloted the new approach with three field operations, the Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Office in Yerevan and the Centre in Bishkek. Based on this experience, the Cell elaborated a blueprint for the introduction of the new planning system OSCE-wide, and developed a comprehensive set of working tools and guides. These documents concluded a year-long pilot process. The new planning system will improve programme co-ordination and will serve as the basis to prioritize and develop additional activities funded by extra-budgetary resources.

Besides this major endeavour, the Cell actively updated and distributed project management tools to field operations. It collected best practices from several field operations which will be analysed and further disseminated in 2007. In line with the OSCE *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*, the Cell finalized guidelines to streamline gender aspects into the development and planning of field operations projects.

Finally, the Cell continued to co-ordinate the assessment of all extra-budgetary funded projects from OSCE field operations. It co-ordinated the assessment of 118 extra-budgetary projects planned by field operations with a combined value of more than €25.6 million.

## Operations Unit

**Operational planning, liaison and analysis.** The Operations Unit acts as the primary point of co-ordination for operational planning within the Secretariat. In 2006, the Unit addressed such issues as the possible future involvement of the OSCE in Kosovo/Serbia and the closure of the Office of the OSCE Representative to the Estonian Expert Commission on Military Pensioners. It launched various follow-up activities, including an assessment visit to Kosovo.

The Unit provided active support to the Working Group on Non-military Aspects of Security. In particular, it helped draft food-for-thought papers and reports, for example on an OSCE Framework for Security Sector Governance, and on an OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network. As in previous years, the Unit also supported the Chairmanship in the organization of the *Annual Security Review Conference*. At the 2006 *Conference*, the OSCE's security-related activities were reviewed with an emphasis on the crisis management cycle,



OSCE/Henry Bolton

An assessment team vehicle crosses a river on the Tajik-Afghan Border near Kala-i-Khumb, an area commonly used by heroin traffickers.



OSCE/Henry Bolton

The CPC border assessment team crosses the Aksu Plain, Gorna Badakhshan, en route to the Chinese border

including confidence- and security-building measures. In addition, the Unit provided input to conferences on such issues as security sector governance, conflict prevention, mediation support, crisis management, disarmament demobilization and re-integration and early warning.

**Border security and management.** As part of its contribution to the activities of the Working Group on Non-military Aspects of Security related to the implementation of the OSCE *Border Security and Management Concept*, the Unit supported the establishment of an OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network. In addition, following a request from Tajikistan, the Unit conducted two field visits in order to provide technical assistance in enhancing its border security and management. As a follow-up, the Unit initiated the development of project proposals. The Unit also facilitated the sharing of lessons learned and best practices, as called for in the *Border Security and Management Concept*, by organizing conferences devoted to this issue. It also assisted the Chairmanship in the framework of the *Ohrd Border Process*.

**24 hours/7 days a week operational response capacity.** The Unit, through its Situation/Communications Room, continued to serve as the focal point of all OSCE field operations, the Chairmanship, the Secretariat and the Delegations, especially outside working hours. In doing so, it ensured a vital link in the security chain to field operations and delegations alike. The Situation/Communications Room produced daily briefs, special briefings, bi-weekly regional summaries and calendars of upcoming events for CPC staff. It also provided operational assistance for emergency cases including security incidents, crises and medical evacuations. Unit members attended a meeting with representatives of other situation centers with the aim of strengthening information exchange at the operational level.

## Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit

In 2006, the Support Unit assisted with the preparations, conduct and follow-up to the *Military Doctrines Seminar*, the *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting*, the *Annual Security Review Conference* as well as two special Forum for Security Co-operation meetings on small arms and light weapons (SALW)

and on the *Code of Conduct*, and a *Workshop on Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1540*. At the request of the Forum for Security Co-operation, the Support Unit conducted an overview of information exchanged on the implementation of the *OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*. It provided input to national and regional workshops on the issue, including in Switzerland, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Support Unit supported and assisted participating States with projects on small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition, which includes the rocket fuel component *Melange*. In April, the Support Unit participated in an assessment visit to Tajikistan in order to plan the second phase of a project in this area, following the successful completion of the project's first phase in November. In July, the OSCE and the European Commission conducted a joint high-level assessment visit to Novobohdanivka in Ukraine to develop a project there. The Support Unit helped develop a project to destroy conventional arms in Moldova.

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the UN Development Programme for technical co-operation in the implementation of projects. The Unit also developed memoranda of understanding for *Melange* elimination projects in Kazakhstan and Ukraine. It participated in the evaluation board of tendering for the project in Kazakhstan. In March, a roster of experts on



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The Situation/Communications room monitors developments in the OSCE area and provides a daily briefing to Senior CPC staff members.



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An OSCE expert team assesses the storage conditions of small arms and conventional ammunition in Khorog, Tajikistan.



OSCE

Inside the storage facility

*Melange* was finalized and they were also invited to the evaluation board.

The CPC actively contributed to the *UN Review Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW*, which took place in New York from 26 June to 7 July. The CPC organized and conducted an OSCE Side Event, and provided support in preparing the OSCE's report to the meeting.

The Support Unit organized and participated in several workshops on small arms and light weapons. In March, it supported a *Workshop on Control over Brokering in SALW in South-eastern*

*Europe and the Caucasus*, organized jointly by the governments of Germany, Norway and the Netherlands. In co-operation with Kyrgyz authorities, the Support Unit conducted a *Seminar on SALW and Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management and Security* in Kyrgyzstan in June. It also helped organize two small arms and light weapons workshops in Turkmenistan in November.

The Support Unit presented progress reports on small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition projects to the Ministerial Council, together with a photo exhibition on project activities, information leaflets and a documentary film. The Support Unit also supported delegations in publishing an Annex on man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) to the OSCE *Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)*.



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Leaking Melange Container, Kazakhstan, 2006

The CPC continued to manage the OSCE Communication Network, an important Confidence-and Security-Building Measure under the *Vienna Document 1999*. This network facilitates the exchange of important information to further openness and transparency in military affairs. The technology was further enhanced and software adapted to meet user needs. Capacity-building efforts were undertaken to widen and deepen expertise among participating States. The CPC also chairs the OSCE Communications Group, which provides valuable oversight by and for delegations.

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

## Department of Human Resources (DHR)

The Department of Human Resources ensures that open, efficient and transparent recruitment procedures take place and that once employed, all staff, whether contracted by the OSCE or seconded by a participating State, will have their administrative and training needs properly and professionally met. It consists of a Recruitment, a Personnel and a Training Section. In 2006, the Department expanded its services to include a Job

Evaluation Officer, providing for a comprehensive classification overview of the whole OSCE.

The Department maintains, reviews and updates the OSCE *Staff Regulations and Staff Rules* on a continuous basis. During 2006, three new *Staff Instructions* were issued pertaining to a professional working environment, Integrated Resource Management

(IRMA) System training and Special Service Agreements, allowing for more efficient and streamlined human resource procedures.

The **Personnel Section** worked closely with its counterparts in the institutions and field operations to develop steps to improve the management of the OSCE personnel, such as promoting an increase to local salary scales, revision of Board and Lodging Allowances and negotiating better conditions under the social security schemes with the aim to retain qualified staff.

The fully operational on-line recruitment system enabled the **Recruitment Section** to concentrate its resources on structured and competency-based interviewing techniques and on providing training of recruitment and selection skills to potential interview board members. In 2006, the Department issued 100 vacancy notices for contracted positions attracting 7,580 applications. During the year, 78 interview boards were held at the Secretariat and 429 candidates interviewed for positions in field operations and at the Secretariat. The Department processed 2,384 nominations for seconded positions, resulting in the deployment of a total of 331 staff/mission members to field operations, institutions and the Secretariat.

The *Junior Professional Officer Programme* is a new activity for the Organization. The Department launched the pilot project in May, offering young nationals of participating States an opportunity to work in an international context. There were 191 nominations from 33 participating States. Paying careful attention to geographical and gender balance, the Department selected six young professionals from Albania, Azerbaijan, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Portugal for the nine-month programme. The intensive and comprehensive work experience includes assignments in the participants' fields of expertise in the Secretariat and at a field operation, and mandatory specialized training programmes.

In accordance with the OSCE *Training Strategy* and the 2004 *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*, the **Training Section** in 2006 held a total of 86 workshops with more than 1,300 participants, more than double those trained a year earlier. In order to provide staff with a smooth and efficient integration into the OSCE, the Section held 13 *General Orientation "GO" Programmes* in the Secretariat for more than 350 newly recruited OSCE officials. As of January, the Training Section assumed full responsibility for IRMA-related training, conducting 12 training sessions at the Secretariat and regionally for more than 200 staff. Furthermore, it conducted an additional 61 workshops for nearly 760 staff members including support to pre-mission training activities in participating States.

## Department of Management and Finance (DMF)

The Department of Management and Finance provides financial and administrative support to OSCE participating States, the Secretariat, institutions and field operations. The Department comprises **Conference Services, Finance Services, Mission Support, Information and Communication Technology** and the **Prague Office**.

**Supporting meetings and conferences.** Conference Services supported the Chairmanship and participating States of the OSCE, the Joint Consultative Group, the Open Skies Consultative Commission as well as the OSCE Secretariat with preparing for and conducting meetings and conferences. The services included meetings and protocol assistance, document distribution and translation and interpretation in six OSCE languages. In 2006, Conference Services also co-organized a number of events outside Vienna, such as the *Economic Forum* in Prague, the *Tolerance Implementation Meetings* in Almaty and Dubrovnik as well as the *Ministerial Council* in Brussels.

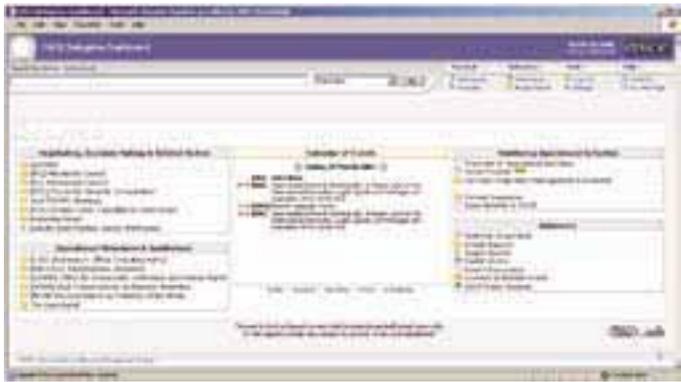
**Consolidating management reforms.** Following the rollout of the Integrated Resource Management System (IRMA), the Department focused this year on consolidating information and procedures, reviewing and updating relevant Financial/Administrative Instructions and on providing extensive support and functional training to Fund Administration Units in the field. Emphasis was placed on delivering mission-focused support in finance,

information and communications technology, procurement, asset management and travel.

The OSCE's management reforms were initiated in 2001 in response to the Organization's rapid growth and aimed at delivering best practice in managing human, financial, material and information technology resources. The Oracle-based Integrated Resource Management System (IRMA) provides a common technical platform, while the Common Regulatory Management System provides regulations, rules and instructions for the management of all OSCE resources.

Major efforts were made to improve on-line reports (e.g. on extra-budgetary contributions and OSCE assets) to participating States and programme managers across the OSCE. The Delegates Dashboard, designed to provide delegates easy access to structured information and reports, was further developed and integrated into the Organization's information security infrastructure.

The Department also played a key role in supporting the Secretary General with the introduction of Performance Based Programme Budgeting, an approach designed to enhance the



OSCE Delegates Dashboard

current programming and budgeting cycle by helping both participating States and the OSCE's senior management focus on results rather than just on resources needed and activities undertaken. This methodology is increasingly adopted by international organizations and government agencies as a means to improve accountability and transparency in the use of resources.

**New premises on Wallnerstrasse.** Significant progress was made in the renovation of the new Secretariat premises at Wallnerstrasse 6 – an historic building provided to the OSCE by the Austrian Government. Currently scheduled to be ready for occupancy in November 2007, the premises will offer the OSCE a modern and attractive working environment and improve its visibility by consolidating the Vienna-based offices in one representative building in the heart of the city.

## PRAGUE OFFICE

As the initial seat of the CSCE Secretariat, the Prague Office inherited the historical collections of CSCE conference documents and has been maintaining the OSCE paper archive of policy documents ever since. As the guardian of the CSCE/OSCE institutional memory, the Office serves as an information provider for staff and public in need of historical data, references or substan-



The OSCE Prague Office

tive documents. Nine years ago, the Office became the home of the Researcher-in-Residence programme and has since made its archives accessible to more than 140 researchers from 32 countries in the OSCE area, as well as from China, Korea, Japan, Algeria, Morocco, Israel and Australia. The reference library of secondary source literature has been expanded by hundreds of books, periodicals and scientific journals containing articles and analyses of OSCE activities in 35 languages.

In co-operation with the Secretariat, the Office keeps the online electronic document library updated, disseminates OSCE publications (such as the *OSCE Magazine*, the *Annual Report* and *OSCE Decision Reference Manuals*, also printed in Prague) and maintains the Organization's mailing list. In 2006, the Office published a collection of 270 books in all OSCE working languages containing 17 years of conference proceedings. A corresponding microfiche collection and several thousand historical documents were also converted to electronic format. Once again, the Office provided extensive logistical support to the Prague session of the *14th Economic Forum*.

# Gender Section

During 2006, the Gender Section continued to work on the implementation of the *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality* as foreseen by Decision No 14 of the 2004 Ministerial Council. As mandated by the *Action Plan*, the Secretariat and institutions, with the support of the Gender Section, developed their own implementation plans which contained concrete measures, tasks and responsibilities for achieving the objectives set in the *Plan*.

In June, the Gender Section identified results achieved and constraints encountered in the implementation of the *Plan* and produced the first evaluation report, which the Secretary General presented to the Permanent Council. The report also outlined ways forward for achieving the goals of the *Action Plan*.

The Gender Section provided technical assistance throughout the year to all Focal Points for Gender Issues in the Secretariat,

missions and institutions through communication, co-ordination and discussions during the annual network meeting. The Section also developed the OSCE Toolbox for the Promotion of Gender Equality containing reference material on international commitments and standards, handbooks and guidelines on gender mainstreaming, as well as several OSCE-specific documents and instructions. Among these tools is a glossary on gender terms, a guide to gender mainstreaming in the organization of events, and a guide for Conflict Prevention Centre mission programme officers, entitled *Filling the Gaps: Gender in the Analysis, Policy and Strategy Development of the Conflict Prevention Centre*. The Gender Section visited the field on a number of occasions to provide direct support to field operations. It provided assistance and input to the Training Section in the development of gender-specific training, and throughout the year has participated in the gender session of the *General Orientation (GO) Programme* for new staff members.

In order to promote knowledge of the work on gender issues not only within the Organization but also among the public, the Gender Section produced two publications: a fact sheet in Russian and English and a booklet with more specific information on the promotion of gender equality and the way gender mainstreaming has been developed in the Organization over the last seven years.

To highlight the commitment of the Organization to combating gender-based violence, the Senior Adviser organized a public event in connection with International Women's Day in March. A film was shown documenting the plight of Afghan women due to conflict and displacement. A panel discussion followed, chaired

by the Ambassador of Norway to the OSCE. Among the speakers were the filmmaker, a representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and an Austrian Parliamentarian.

The Gender Section also continues to monitor the working environment, in particular in relation to equal treatment and equal opportunities for women and men. It assisted in the drafting of the new policy on harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination which was issued in March this year. The Gender Section also developed a booklet for all staff, with easy-to-read explanations on the new policy, in order to raise awareness of the importance of developing and maintaining a working environment with equal and fair treatment of all staff members.

## Legal Services

The lack of legal capacity and privileges and immunities in most participating States continues to be an obstacle to the smooth operation of the OSCE. Meetings of the *Group of Legal Experts*, gathering representatives from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Poland, Turkey, Russia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United States of America and the OSCE's Chairmanship, were assisted by Legal Services during June and September at the Hofburg. The *Group's* efforts to review and recommend solutions to effectively address the implications of the OSCE's lack of international legal status and uniform privileges and immunities reached a successful conclusion in 2006, culminating in a Ministerial Decision

creating an open-ended working group tasked to finalize a draft convention and to submit it through the Permanent Council to the Ministerial Council.

Legal Services expanded in 2006 and, accordingly, increased its support for activities in a number of important areas. Legal Services particularly focused on the creation of a proper legal framework for the execution of large projects on the territories of participating States and assistance on more complex legal issues to OSCE field operations and institutions.

## Office of Internal Oversight (OIO)

The Office of Internal Oversight made great strides this year in advancing the scope and breadth of audit work and in making the Office fully operational. Staffed with certified auditors, the Office of Internal Oversight is now an effective tool for monitoring compliance with the regulatory framework, providing assurance on the adequacy of internal controls and assisting managers in the achievement of their objectives. An independent validation team of experts conducted a quality-assurance assessment of the Office and certified that it is in full compliance with the standards and the code of ethics of the Institute of Internal Auditors. The internal and external audit regime of the OSCE was also reinforced this year by the work of the Audit Committee, which was established by the Permanent Council to oversee and advise on audit-related governance issues.

Using best practices, the Office of Internal Oversight relies on risk assessment methodologies to develop its audit workplan. The 2006 plan took into account risks associated with activities and operations, as well as the priorities of the Organization and audit work requested by management. While audit work for adequacy of controls and compliance with regulations continues to form the basis of the Internal Oversight programme, the Office

has expanded its activities to include management audits and inspections, programme evaluations and investigations. In 2006, it carried out reviews within the Secretariat, conducted field visits to missions and institutions, and issued a total of 23 reports containing more than 200 recommendations. In addition, the Office followed up on previous audit recommendations to ensure that management had addressed them effectively. More than 90 per cent of the recommendations of the past two years have been adopted, and management took steps to complete implementation of the remainder. The Office recently completed a review of the OSCE ethical framework and *Code of Conduct*, and issued a *Fraud Prevention and Detection Policy* and *Fraud Awareness Guidelines* for distribution throughout the OSCE. A robust training programme at the Secretariat, field operations and institutions is planned for 2007 to promote fraud awareness.

# Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)



Handbook on labour migration policies

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities carried out an increased number of activities in 2006, particularly within the area of environmental security, with the OSCE chairing the *Environment and Security Initiative* (ENVSEC, [www.envsec.org](http://www.envsec.org)). It also stepped up activities in the areas of combating money laundering, the financing of terrorism, corruption and trafficking in human beings, and conducted projects on migration and the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises. It

produced two major publications: a *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination* and the *OSCE Best-Practice Guide for a Positive Business and Investment Climate*. At the request of the Chairmanship, the Co-ordinator gathered information on energy security within the OSCE, which he presented to participating States. The OCEEA, in co-operation with the Energy Charter Secretariat and the International Energy Agency, organized an international conference in Brussels on the role of governments and international organizations in the field of energy security. This led to the adoption of a Ministerial Decision on *Energy Security Dialogue in the OSCE*, the implementation of which requires more energy-policy-oriented actions. The Ministerial Council Decision tasks the OSCE Secretariat to develop a dialogue on energy security and recalls the objectives of the Group of Eight Summit in St. Petersburg.

**Economic and Environmental Forum.** In co-ordination with the Chairmanship, the OCEEA brought to a successful conclusion the *14th Economic Forum on the topic of Transportation in the OSCE area: Secure transportation networks and transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability*. This not only led to a substantive Ministerial Decision on a *Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE* but also to a number of concrete follow-up activities. These included a training seminar on port security in Antwerp, Belgium, a workshop on *Transport, Security and Environmental Protection*, organized by the Norwegian Government in Tonsberg, Norway, two training seminars in Moscow and Belgrade on the implementation of the UN Economic Commission for Europe's *International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods* and an expert

workshop on the transit and transport problems of landlocked countries, in preparation for an OSCE conference on the prospects for development of trans-Asian and Eurasian transit transport through Central Asia until the year 2015, scheduled for late 2007.

The first preparatory conference for the OSCE's *15th Economic and Environmental Forum* was held on 16 and 17 November in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, with a focus on land degradation and soil contamination. The *Forum's* first session took place in Vienna in January 2007.

**Environmental Assessment Mission.** From 3 to 13 October, the OCEEA led an Environmental Assessment Mission to fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The Mission's mandate was to assess the short-term and long-term impact of wildfires, identify measures for counteracting detrimental effects and make suggestions for an environmental operation in the region, as foreseen in a UN General Assembly Resolution. The OSCE led a team including both local experts appointed by the Armenian and Azerbaijani authorities as well as experts from a number of international organizations.

**OCEEA supported dialogue on labour migration management in the area of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).** Following the recommendations of the *13th Economic Forum* and recent labour migration trends and patterns in the OSCE area, the OCEEA contributed to the intensification of the exchange of good practices and the sharing of innovative policies and initiatives in the area of effective labour migration management. The Office published a *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination*, which was prepared in partnership with the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization. The *Handbook* serves as a concrete tool for best-practice exchange and policy discussion. A first regional capacity-building workshop on developing effective labour migration policies was held with ten CIS member States in Moscow on 6 and 7 December. The *Handbook* was well received by policy-makers and migration experts from the region. As a result, the OCEEA is considering holding additional regional and national workshops in the region in 2007. The *Handbook* is currently available in English and Russian, with further translations planned.

# Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Combating trafficking in human beings remains a priority for OSCE institutions, bodies and field operations. The OSCE *Action Plan* puts forth recommended actions for the participating States based on a multi-dimensional and comprehensive approach.

The new Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings combined, through a 21 June Ministerial Council Decision, the functions of the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit into a new Office located within the OSCE Secretariat. Eva Biaudet, former Minister of Health and Social Services in Finland, was appointed to the position of Special Representative and Co-ordinator in October. The mandate of this Office, derived from a 2003 Ministerial Council Decision, includes providing assistance, upon request, to the participating States in the areas of awareness raising, policy planning and co-ordination at the national level, legislative reform capacity building and effective co-operation among governmental institutions, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to protect the rights of trafficked persons. The Office also plays a role in co-ordinating anti-trafficking efforts across the OSCE Secretariat, field operations and institutions. Consistent with its mandate to provide a comprehensive and human rights-based approach, the Office continues to raise the visibility and understanding of all forms of trafficking in human beings and to encourage the development of national and regional initiatives.

## Highlights of 2006

- The Alliance against Trafficking in Persons held a high-level conference on *Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children: Prevention – Protection – Prosecution* on 17 March. The Alliance, launched by the former Special Representative in July 2004, provides a forum for co-operation and the exchange of ideas among international and regional institutions, organizations and leading NGOs. This event marked the culmination of a joint project of the Special Representative, the *AGIS Programme* of the European Commission, the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior, and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the International Organization for Migration and the Swedish Migration Board, the Belgian Federal Police and the European Police Office (EUROPOL). The conference, held in Vienna and attended by close to 400 participants, focused on the exchange of good practices, as well as the elaboration of practical recommendations to prevent human trafficking, ensure comprehensive protection for victims and effectively prosecute perpetrators. The conference addressed the following main issues: specific measures to combat child trafficking via capacity building for law enforcement professionals; long-term mental and physical health consequences for victims of trafficking, in particular traumatization; and implications of the health status of trafficked victims, particularly women and children, for the prosecution.
- The first OSCE regional anti-trafficking conference in Central Asia, *Combating Trafficking in Human Beings – A Regional Response*, held in Astana on 18 and 19 May and organized in close co-operation with the authorities of Kazakhstan, the ODIHR, the Centre in Almaty as well as other field operations, brought together representatives from government agencies, civil society and international organizations in a successful dialogue on best practices and ideas for further co-operation. The reflections from the conference prove that a regional format of anti-trafficking events can contribute to the development of synergy and better cross-border co-operation, networking, wider attendance of local stakeholders and broader access to international expertise, and should be applied to other OSCE areas. A follow-up meeting in the region is planned for 2007.
- The Alliance against Trafficking in Persons' high-level conference *Trafficking for Labour Exploitation/Forced and Bonded Labour: Prosecution for Offenders, Justice for Victims* held in Vienna on 17 and 18 November, provided a forum for the exchange of concrete national experiences in bringing perpetrators to justice and ensuring legal redress for victims. The conference shed light on addressing all forms of trafficking in the OSCE region, and this emphasis was reflected in the Brussels Ministerial Decision on *Enhancing Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Including for Labour Exploitation, Through a Comprehensive and Proactive Approach*. By adopting this Decision, the participating States agreed to involve new actors in combating trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation, such as labour inspectorates, social protection units, medical institutions, the business community and others as well as to take relevant proactive measures in this specific area. The Ministerial Council also tasked the Permanent Council to consider ways to further strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, including for labour exploitation, taking into consideration, among other issues, the outcome of the November Conference.
- The Office published its first Annual Report, *From Policy to Practice: Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the OSCE Region*. This report provides an overview of the efforts of the participating States, as well as the OSCE bodies, in combating human trafficking and identifies challenges encountered in the implementation of the OSCE *Action Plan*. The conclusions and recommendations of this document will contribute to future programmatic activities and increase the ability of the Organization to provide assistance to the participating States.

# Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU)

The Strategic Police Matters Unit aims to support democracy and the rule of law in the policing services of all participating States. This year, the Unit implemented *Police Assistance Programmes* in several countries in South Caucasus and Central Asia, notably in Armenia and Azerbaijan, and a *Short-Term Assistance Project* in Georgia. The Unit also developed a new *Police Assistance Programme* emphasizing community policing and human resources management for the Georgian Police Academy, which will be implemented in 2007.

Together with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Unit hosted a joint workshop on the UN *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* on 2 and 3 March. The workshop resulted in an increase in timely responses by participating States to a UNODC self-assessment questionnaire regarding the *Convention*. Several States also provided updated information regarding their progress in bringing their laws into line with the *Convention*.

In order to address growing security threats from international terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and drug trafficking, as well as the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the Chairmanship and the Belgian Federal Police organized a one-day *OSCE Chiefs of Police Conference* on 24 November. Participants from more than 50 States affirmed their strong commitment to mutual co-operation and agreed to hold similar police chief meetings every three years.

The OSCE Policing OnLine Information System (POLIS), designed by the Unit, was launched on 24 November. The System is a comprehensive, multilingual database that provides information on all aspects of law enforcement activities within the OSCE area, including police assistance, training techniques and funding opportunities. It can be accessed at: <http://polis.osce.org>.

The Strategic Police Matters Unit believes that policing activities should be based on a set of internationally adopted and accepted standards, best practices and lessons learned. Under the leadership of the Senior Police Adviser and together with police experts from participating States and partner organizations, it produced a *Guidebook on Democratic Policing*. As a living document, the *Guidebook* will be open to the inclusion of newly adopted standards and future examples of good practice.

The Unit implemented a training programme, *Multi Agency Proactive Investigations into Trafficking in Human Beings*, which it had designed for police prosecutors, judges and NGOs in eight participating States. The unique programme develops the investigative skills necessary for prosecuting a human trafficking case without relying on a victim's testimony. Over the course of two weeks, trainees investigated a simulated case in real time.