

The OSCE's Approach Towards Promoting Integrity in Customs and Border Services

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**OSCE-WCO Regional Integrity Seminar
Almaty/Kazakhstan, 11-12 July 2010**



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

Outline of the Presentation

- What is the OSCE and how do we work?
- The OSCE role in **combating corruption**
- **Consequences of corruption** for the trade and investment climate and ultimately security
- **Way ahead**, OSCE engagement in co-operation with partners

Our mission:

To work for **stability**, **prosperity** and **democracy** in 56 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.



56 participating States...



...from Vancouver to Vladivostok

The OSCE today

Three dimensions

Politico-military

Economic and environmental

Human

OSCE Role in Combating Corruption

Why?

Corruption is a threat to security...

Corruption, particularly in the customs sector is an impediment to economic development

OSCE has a clear mandate in both of the above areas



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OSCE Role in Combating Corruption

Mandate:

International Conventions (UN, OECD ...)

OSCE Ministerial Council Decisions

OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum Meetings

OSCE Border Security and Management Concept



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OSCE Role in Combating Corruption

Partnerships:

World Customs Organization (WCO)

World Bank Group

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
(UNECE)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Civil society and business associations



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OSCE Role in Combating Corruption

Actions:

- Publications:

OSCE Handbook on Best Practices in Combating Corruption (2004)

OSCE Best Practice Guide for a Positive Investment Climate (2006)

- Awareness raising, capacity building, policy drafting support



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Consequences of corruption

Latvia, 40% of the participants in a WB survey believed that:

“corruption is a natural part of our lives and helps solve many problems”

Source: WB survey 2004

Consequences of corruption (*Cont.*)

- **Fiscal insecurity**, reduces state income, jeopardizes provision of social services, health care, infrastructure etc.
- **“Corruption may corrupt”**
- Impedes **economic growth, trade and transport**

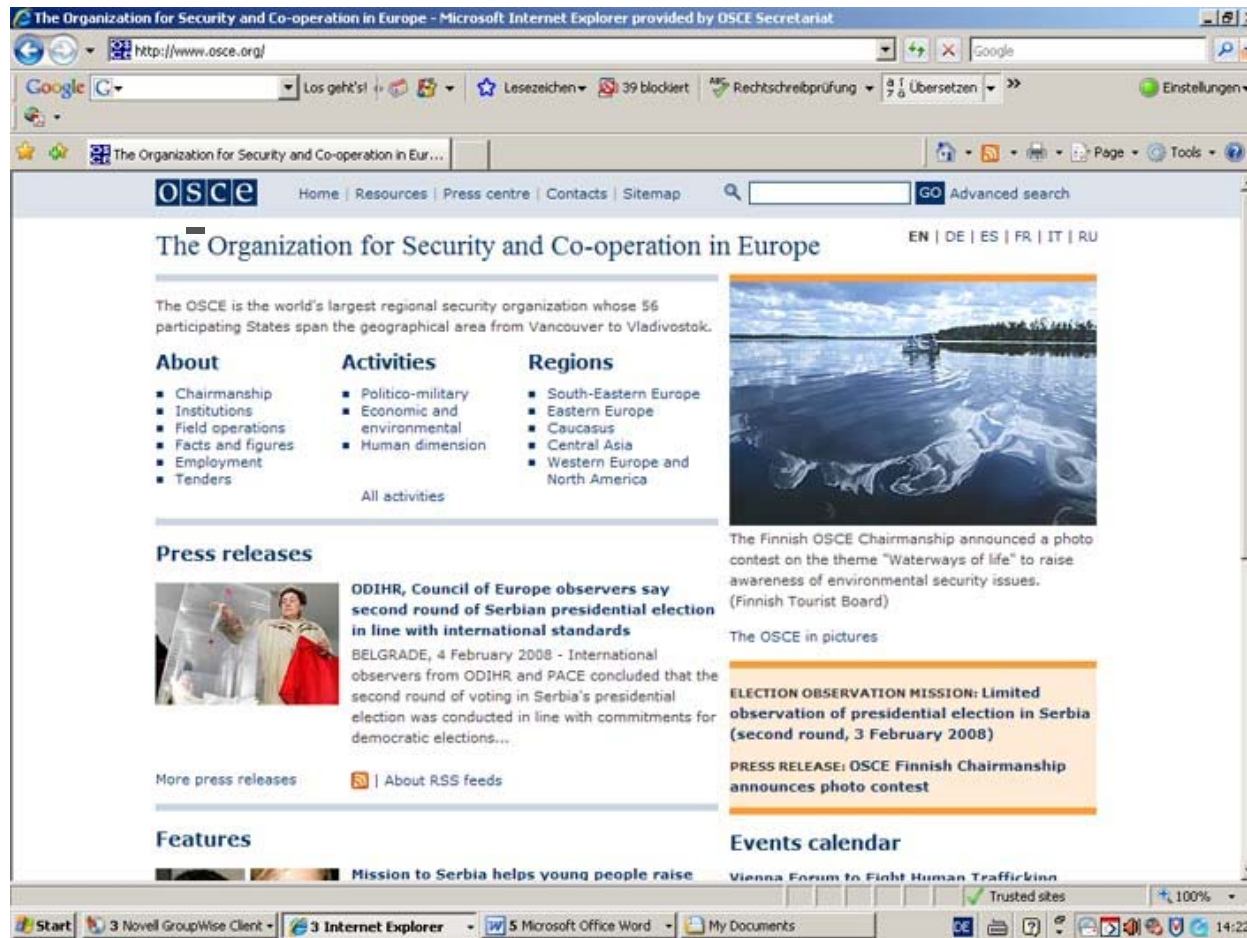
Consequences of corruption (*Cont.*)

- Reduces attractiveness of the **investment climate, development of SMEs** etc.
- Leads to **political instability**, undermines credibility of state institutions
- **Threat to security**, facilitates cross-border illegal activities

Way ahead

- Identify key problems and bottlenecks in a multilateral framework
- Identify solutions, best practices and further actions required
- Implement tailor-made activities at the national or regional level with the assistance of the OSCE, the WCO and other relevant players

osce.org - a great resource



The screenshot shows the OSCE website in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar displays "http://www.osce.org/". The page title is "The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe". The main navigation menu includes "Home", "Resources", "Press centre", "Contacts", and "Sitemap". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The page content is organized into several sections:

- About:** Chairmanship, Institutions, Field operations, Facts and figures, Employment, Tenders.
- Activities:** Politico-military, Economic and environmental, Human dimension. A link for "All activities" is provided.
- Regions:** South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, Western Europe and North America.
- Press releases:** A featured release titled "ODIHR, Council of Europe observers say second round of Serbian presidential election in line with international standards" dated 4 February 2008. A link for "More press releases" is also present.
- Events calendar:** A link for "Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking" is visible.

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications (Novell GroupWise Client, Internet Explorer, Microsoft Office Word), and the system tray with the time 14:22.

Thank you for your attention!

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