



**Representative on Freedom of the Media, ten years on:
Compliance with commitments remains prime pursuit**

**Mission to Croatia, 1996-2007
Closure and completion based on common goals**

**Modelling the OSCE for a robust
“Helsinki Generation”**



Confronting the digital age

Freedom of the media

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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe works for stability, prosperity and democracy in 56 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.

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Message from the Secretary General

Hofburg, 13 May: The OSCE Secretary General launches the Model OSCE project.



If there is a single quality that has driven the OSCE since its inception in 1975, it is the ability to change. By this, I mean an uncanny capacity to take the strengths of the Organization — its *acquis* of shared values, its cross-dimensional approach, its inclusiveness, and its broad experience in crisis prevention and management — and adapt them to new needs and circumstances, almost as quickly as these fluctuate.

This quality has once again come to the fore. We are responding to developments in the OSCE area, notably to the tensions inside Georgia's conflict zones, where the Chairman-in-Office had led from the front, and also to challenging new directions set by our foreign ministers in Madrid last November.

Many decisions were reached at the Ministerial Council meeting in 2007. Two stand out in highlighting the potential of the OSCE to undertake strategic initiatives over the longer term.

The first one concerns the decision reached on Chairmanships between now and 2011. This has opened up an unprecedented prospect for multi-year planning. The Finnish Chairmanship has seized this opportunity, hosting a ministerial meeting of the "Quintet" — Spain, Finland, Greece, Kazakhstan and Lithuania — in Helsinki in early June.

The second concerns the decision to deepen the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan. This is an important step, not least because it underscores the Organization's will to use its accumulated experience in border management, law enforcement training and institution-building to address the most urgent security challenges — and to do so with the Partners for Co-operation.

Less dramatic than these two, but also in line with the wishes of the participating States, the Secretariat is developing proposals for an internal environmental policy. I draw attention to this because I find it vital for the OSCE to become "greener". Raising awareness is a first step.

The Organization's ability to adapt while remaining true to its mission is also reflected in the two milestones featured in this issue of the *OSCE Magazine*: the tenth anniversary of a unique OSCE institution, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the launching of leaner operations in Croatia.

This issue also provides a sneak preview of an exciting initiative that looks to the future with optimism: The Model OSCE Conference, the role-playing event for young people in early July, promises to prove both fulfilling and fun.

Marc Perrin de Brichambaut
 Vienna, June 2008

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