

A seminar was held 10-11 December 2003 in London on technical assistance for OSCE participating States in South-Eastern Europe on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1373. The seminar was organized jointly by the ODIHR's Co-ordinator on Anti-Terrorism issues and the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK FCO) in co-operation with the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) and with the support of the ODIHR Advisor on South-Eastern Europe. The seminar was organized with the kind participation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCTC), the Counter-Terrorism Task Force of the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec).

Mr Rob Macaire, UK FCO and Ambassador Christian Strohal, Director ODIHR opened the seminar, stressing the need for co-ordinated action to prevent and combat terrorism while at the same time fully respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Presentations were given by experts from the United Kingdom government. Delegates attended from the governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), including the Office of the High Representative (OHR), Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYRoM), Serbia and Montenegro (SaM) and UNMIK. The European Commission (EC) and NATO were also present, alongside the OSCE Missions in Albania, BiH, fYRoM, Kosovo and SaM and a representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) as observers.

The focus of the seminar was the implementation of UNSCR 1373, in particular the 12 UN Conventions and Protocols relating to terrorism. Representatives of the UK FCO and Treasury gave presentations and led discussions on international action against terrorism, the submission of reports to UNCTC, suppressing the financing of terrorism, anti-terrorism legislation and balancing human rights and security. An overview was given by UNCTC, UNODC and ComSec of the requirements of the resolution and the importance of implementation in domestic legislation.

The representative of the Council of Europe's Counter-Terrorism Task Force gave a presentation on the work of the Council of Europe to prevent and combat terrorism, stressing the integration of the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all its activities. The representative also introduced its guidelines on human rights and the fight against terrorism and outlined the type of technical assistance that the Council of Europe offers to member states. UNODC presented its Global Programme against Terrorism, highlighting the extensive programme of technical assistance it has developed since UNSCR 1373 was adopted. Representatives from the OSCE outlined the work of the Action against Terrorism Unit and the work of the ODIHR's Co-ordinator on Anti-Terrorism Issues, in particular its focus on human rights protection and preventive action. The seminar concluded with presentations from the government representatives of Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, fYRoM and SaM.