

## High Level Visit

### Visit of the Chairman-in-Office to Uzbekistan

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office (CiO), the Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, visited Uzbekistan on 16 February. In his meetings with President Islam Karimov, Foreign Minister Elyor Ganiyev and the Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of Parliament Erkin Khalilov, the CiO welcomed Uzbekistan's initiatives to bring about more co-operation among states in the region. "The main political, economic and social integration processes in Central Asia cannot be successful without Uzbekistan's involvement," he said. The CiO commended the personal efforts of President Karimov to promote integration in Central Asia and work towards the development of a single market in the region, adding: "Establishing such conditions could attract more foreign investment and ensure stable development and prosperity for the whole region."



## New Appointment

### New Head of Centre



Miroslav Jenca, a career diplomat from Slovakia was appointed as Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent on 1 February. He succeeded Ambassador Ahmet Kamil Erozan of Turkey. Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Jenca was Slovakia's Representative to the European Union's Political and Security Committee in Brussels. Mr. Jenca also served as Ambassador to Mexico, Columbia and Venezuela, based in Mexico City from 1998 to 2001.

His earlier postings were in Dublin, as Counsellor and Charge d'Affaires, and in Mexico City, as Press Secretary. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Jenca successfully worked as Deputy Political Director and Director of the Department responsible for the EU and NATO countries and also Head of the Division for Development Co-operation and Trans-border Co-operation.

## Parliamentary Reform Assistance

### ODIHR Assessment of Uzbek Election Law

The Office for Democratic Institution and Human Rights (ODIHR) published an assessment of the Law on Elections of the Oliy Majlis (<http://www.osce.org/odihr/?page=elections&div=analyses>) on 21 February. While a few positive changes have been introduced, the Election Law requires significant improvements in order to comply with OSCE commitments and other international standards. The OSCE/ODIHR assessment of the Law on Elections of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan is offered to the authorities, as well as political parties and civil society of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with the intention of supporting improvements to the legal framework for democratic elections, and to bring the law more closely in line with OSCE commitments and other international standards for the conduct of democratic elections.

## Politico-Military Dimension

### Container Security Workshop

The Centre in Tashkent facilitated the participation of senior officials with relevant portfolios to the Container Security Workshop, held on the 7-8 February in Vienna. The workshop provided a forum to discuss container security development, raise awareness, exchange information on best practices and explore possibilities for the OSCE participating States to promote and enhance container security, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations. During the Sofia Ministerial Council in December 2004, the OSCE had decided to organise an experts' workshop having recognised the vulnerability of transport networks, the important role of container shipping in global economy and in enhancing security.

## Economic and Environmental Dimension

### Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship

The Centre in Tashkent signed a co-operation agreement with National Youth Social Movement KAMOLOT and its affiliated Youth Business School on implementation of a year-long joint project on 17 February. Eighteen training courses on entrepreneurship for youth are planned to hold in all provinces of Uzbekistan. Young potential entrepreneurs will learn major elements of entrepreneurship and practical aspects of running business. Participants will be encouraged to develop business plans. Two best business plans from each province will be recommended for funding at zero or low interest rates to a local commercial bank.

### Promotion of Civil Initiative in Environmental Security

The 4th issue of a Central Asian environmental bulletin was presented by the Centre in Tashkent on 28 February. This issue of "Environmental Security and Civil Initiative" focuses on regional co-operation and integration issues, the Aarhus convention on public access to environmental information, rational use of water resources, eco-tourism in rural areas and environmental legislation. The quarterly issue is a joint product of Public Environmental Advocacy Centre ARMON, the State Committee for Nature Protection and the Institute for Strategic Research and Interregional Studies of Uzbekistan.



## Human Dimension

### Training Series for Prosecutors

On 26 January, the Centre in Tashkent started a series of practical skills trainings on ethics, trial preparation and improving analytical and leadership abilities for Uzbek prosecutors. The project is expected to improve overall performance of prosecutors and enhance their professional skills. This year-long project is being implemented jointly with the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan and the American Bar Association/Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) in partnership with the Procuracy Training Centre under the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan.

### Women in Society

On 23 February, Centre in Tashkent together with United Nations Development Programme and the Uzbek Chamber of Commerce supported the Women's Forum "Place and Role of Women in the Democratic Renewal of Society". It was initiated by the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and the Association of Women's NGOs MEHR. The Forum was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Chairperson of the Women's Committee Ms. Svetlana Inamova. It hosted about 120 participants including Members of Parliament, representatives of the ministries, state organizations, NGOs, entrepreneurs and mass media.

## Cross Dimensional Activities

### Youth Network



The OSCE Centres in Central Asia launched the second year of activities within the Central Asian Youth Network (CAYN) by gathering a new group of students for a 5-day research seminar, which took place on 21-25 February, in Issyk-kul, Kyrgyzstan. The participants included 54 students from all five Central

Asian countries, 13 supervisors from around the world, and numerous guest speakers and session moderators from the OSCE Secretariat and ODIHR. The aim of the seminar was threefold: students were introduced to the OSCE principles and commitments; discussed the topics of their group research with other participants; and they were trained in rhetoric and academic writing skills.