

# OSCE

## NEWSLETTER

### Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



OSCE/Schenker

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mircea Geoana (left), meets with the President of the Macedonian Parliament, Stojan Andov, during a visit to Skopje (interpreter, centre).

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## OSCE expands its Mission in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Permanent Council agrees to almost double the number of international personnel

In response to a request from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has agreed to further enlarge the number of international personnel in its Mission there. In its decision of 6 September, the 55-nation Permanent Council accepted a report setting out a budget that will allow the Mission to almost double the number of international personnel deployed in the host State, from 26 to 51.

This is the third strengthening of the Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje to be agreed by the OSCE this year, during which the country has seen several

months of conflict involving ethnic Albanian extremist groups and the country's armed forces, mostly in towns and villages near its northern border.

On 22 March, after fighting first flared up, it was decided by the Permanent Council to double the number of international personnel from eight to 16, while another 10 personnel were agreed on 7 June.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, welcomed the Council's latest decision as a valuable contribution by the OSCE to the overall efforts of the international community to assist in finding

a peaceful solution to the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

"At the request of the host State, in due time, the OSCE will develop a programme to further assist the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the field foreseen under Annex C of the Framework Agreement signed on 13 August", he said.

Annex C of the document signed by representatives of the Macedonian and Albanian communities, among other things sets out ways in which international agencies can help to ensure stability in the country. Negotiations on these

next stages are continuing between the Government in Skopje and the international community.

The OSCE monitors will base their role on the Mission's existing mandate. They will monitor and report regularly on the security situation in the host State. The increased presence of the OSCE will positively affect the overall security situation, as well as the process of confidence- and security-building – an area in which the OSCE has both

considerable experience and several mechanisms at its disposal.

Earlier, on 30 August, Mrs. Ilinka Mitreva, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, addressed the OSCE Permanent Council. Praising the role of the OSCE during the period since the crisis first erupted, she said the country now found itself “in a very sensitive, if not crucial stage on the road to lasting stabilization”. The Minister called for future

co-operation with the OSCE along the lines of its mandate and the assistance foreseen under Annex C of the Framework Agreement.

The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, which has been in the country since 1992, is the OSCE's longest continuous field activity. Its newly-appointed Head, Craig Jenness, a Canadian who was previously Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, took up his duties on 20 August.

## Improving trust in police during crisis situations

A series of crisis management workshops, held between June and August by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, helped build contacts between security forces and local authorities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

By Michael McNamara

Not that anybody needed to be reminded of the seriousness of the situation, but it was driven home on the way to the first workshop when we met a convoy carrying a destroyed military vehicle outside Skopje, on the highway north to Tetovo.

We later learned that the convoy was carrying three soldiers from the Bitola area, who had lost their lives when the vehicle was attacked. Two members of the OSCE Spillover Monitoring Mission to Skopje, attending the OSCE crisis management workshop, had to leave for Bitola as a result of the rioting and looting of minority-owned shops that followed the news.

The first of a series of seven workshops, organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Mission to improve the ability of local authorities and security forces to manage crisis situations, was held in Mavrovo, in the north-west of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in early June.

The workshop featured presentations by experts from the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), the police service of



Superintendent Roy Fleming of the Royal Ulster Constabulary speaking to participants at the first OSCE/ODIHR crisis management workshop in Mavrovo.

Northern Ireland, and a representative of KFOR, the NATO-led protection force in Kosovo, about the respective roles of the police and army in crisis situations.

“The workshops were designed to focus the participants on how consultation and co-operation between them could be developed,” said Superintendent Roy Fleming of the RUC. “This was achieved by my sharing policing experiences from Northern Ireland and inviting

the participants to consider, within the Macedonian context, how the trust and confidence in the police, so vital in a democratic society, could be improved”, he explained.

The workshops also included an ODIHR presentation on the international legal norms relevant in a crisis situation.

“Respecting international humanitarian and human rights obligations should not be understood as an impedi-

ment to the operations of security forces, but rather as an essential part of a strategy that aims at de-escalation and the moral isolation of the armed groups,” said Michael Meyer, then the ODIHR Balkans Adviser.

At the workshops held in the west of the country, in Gostivar, Kichevo and Debar, it emerged that the level of co-operation between municipal authorities and security forces varied greatly from town to town. What also emerged, in many cases, was a general desire to improve liaison, even if this was often accompanied by a reluctance to take the first step. As a direct result of one workshop, the first meeting was held between the mayor and the police commander of the town concerned.

Slavomir Ukropec, a Field Monitor with the OSCE Mission, said another result of the workshops was that co-operation between security forces and the monitors in the field improved. “The previous negative perception of the OSCE that existed in the villages, especially among Macedonians, was dispelled”, he said.

Encouraged by the atmosphere of the first workshops, a further three were held in early July for the Tetovo area, the Greater Skopje area and the Kumanovo area, the latter hastily organized to take advantage of the cease-fire agreed on 5 July.

According to Imer Selmani, the Mayor of Saraj, the atmosphere of the second meeting was very positive. Saraj is a predominantly ethnic Albanian village between Skopje and Tetovo, which

in the weeks following the seminar became an area of ethnic conflict. He said he was pleased with the “positive approach of the other mayors, especially of the Macedonian mayors.” He added that “relationships were improved, in the sense that after establishing first contacts there is regular communication now”.

The mayor of Kumanovo, Slobodan Kovacevski, was especially pleased with the information shared and the concrete examples given. The workshop encouraged him to organize a similar meeting

*“It cannot be said that the media played a positive role in this crisis.”*

in Kumanovo, in which the role of NGOs and international organizations was discussed. “After our workshop, people were able to better understand the role of these organizations”, he said.

### **Raising awareness**

The workshops have also greatly assisted in raising awareness at local level throughout the country of the Organization’s role in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. According to Harald Schenker, Media Adviser at the Mission, the OSCE has been subjected to a concerted campaign of misinformation by certain media in the country. Standards vary hugely in the deregulated media in the country.

“It cannot be said that the media played a positive role in this crisis”, said Mr. Schenker.

The third round of seminars were held in the south of the country during the last week of August. These workshops had an additional task of explaining the Framework Agreement, signed two weeks before, in particular the aspects relating to local government and policing reform.

Andreas Raab, Political Adviser at the Mission, said he was pleased with the workshops’ results. “In some instances the workshops brought about the first exchange of ideas between mayors and the police.”

“The workshops fostered dialogue between different communities, and helped create a better atmosphere in the relationship between the police, security forces and the international community”, he added.

*Michael McNamara is the OSCE/ODIHR’s Monitoring/Public Affairs Officer*

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# Final section of Dayton/Paris Peace Accords is put into place under the OSCE

It has taken more than three years, but negotiations have yielded an important agreement which includes confidence- and security-building measures to enhance stability across the entire region of South-Eastern Europe

A major negotiating success for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe can be reported at the forthcoming meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers to be held in Bucharest. Twenty participating States have been able to reach consensus on a document which concludes the single remaining aspect of the 1995 Dayton/Paris Peace Accords, which marked the formal end of the Bosnia and Herzegovina conflict.

The new document, announced in July, contains measures that provide for security and stability “in and around the former Yugoslavia”. It was the last of three instruments which the Dayton/Paris Peace Accords – officially known as the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina – had mandated the OSCE to elaborate and implement.

The first instrument, Article II, provided the framework for the negotiation of an agreement on confidence- and security-building measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The second, Article IV, provided the framework to negotiate a sub-regional arms control agreement between Yugoslavia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Negotiations on Articles II and IV were concluded in 1996 and both articles are being implemented.

Talks on the third instrument began in early 1999 – after a year spent negotiating the mandate in 1998 – under Ambassador Henry Jacolin of France, Special Representative for the Article V negotiations. The aim of these talks was to devise measures to enhance stability as a whole within the region.

“The negotiations were long and sometimes very difficult”, he said, “but with the political will and flexibility of



OSCE/Olgjarnik

*Ambassador Henry Jacolin, talking to the press after the release of the Concluding Document of the Negotiations under Article V*

all twenty participating States they were able to be brought to a successful conclusion”.

Although the talks were hampered by being suspended during the crisis in the province of Kosovo, the later admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the OSCE – in October 2000 – paved the way for their successful conclusion.

## **Voluntary CSBMs**

The process has yielded a document called the Concluding Document of the Negotiations under Article V of Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It contains a list of voluntary confidence- and security-building measures that will mainly build on those found in the Vienna Document 1999. These are tailored to regional requirements and can be considered an augmented catalogue of

guidelines, which the participating States can utilize in accordance with their own respective national security requirements.

Such voluntary measures as increased military contacts and joint training are included in the document. A commission has also been formed to review the implementation of these measures, which are expected to go into effect on 1 January 2002.

The 20 OSCE participating States involved in negotiating the agreement were: Albania, Germany, the United States of America, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Netherlands, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Turkey, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

## **In an interview with the *Newsletter*, Ambassador Henry Jacolin, Special Representative for the Article V negotiations, described how the OSCE succeeded in reaching a consensus on the Concluding Document**

### ***What are the key provisions of the Concluding Document of the Article V negotiations?***

They are the confidence- and security-building measures decided by the 20 States. These are very important, especially those concerning border areas. But something even more important is that, for the first time in the history of the region, all the countries sat together around the table for three-and-a-half years to decide on a number of measures which will be useful for them and which will create confidence, reduce tension and increase transparency.

### ***How, in concrete terms, will these measures enhance stability?***

What creates instability? It is the unpredictability of the neighbour. When you know the neighbour you no longer consider him as unpredictable. A concrete example of how the measures will be implemented on the

ground would be the hotlines that will be established between the commanders on each side of a border. These will enable them to speak together on the telephone whenever there is some incident. They will become used to discussing together and that will create confidence. Therefore, what is very important is not only the measures that have been decided but also how they are implemented.

### ***Why are there no arms control provisions in the final agreement?***

Two happy political developments occurred during the period of negotiations. The first was the signature of the new Adapted Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty in Istanbul in 1999, and the other was the return of Yugoslavia to the OSCE last year. The arms control provisions were no longer considered necessary, as the result will be achieved through the new CFE Treaty.

### ***How would you describe the negotiations? Were there many obstacles on the way?***

There were all kinds of obstacles, but this is normal in international negotiations. It was a heterogeneous group of 20 states including Yugoslavia, each of which had its own security interests and different needs. So this did not make the negotiations simple. However, Yugoslavia itself behaved positively during all the negotiations. And finally, the will of all the countries concerned to have a good concluding agreement paved the way for success.

### ***When will implementation of the agreement begin?***

It was agreed that the provisions would start to be implemented at the beginning of next year, to allow time for the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in December to take note of the conclusion of the negotiations and, so to speak, to give their blessing to the final product.

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina finally agrees on an election law**

After a long period of stalled negotiations and false starts, the foundations have now been laid for elections to be run by the country itself, following six successive elections organized and supervised by the OSCE

*By Alexander Nitzsche*

**A** necessary building block for democratic reforms and accession to European institutions is now in place: on 21 August, the Bosnia and Herzegovina House of Representatives adopted an election law – just in time for the start of preparations for

the October 2002 presidential elections.

One of the most drawn-out issues since the beginning of the work of the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina has finally been brought to a conclusion. After more than two years of intense lobbying work by the international

agencies, first and foremost by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Office of the High Representative (OHR), the Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliament has adopted an election law.

This landmark step by the country's main legislative body was welcomed

wholeheartedly by representatives of the international community as “a major step forward for the country on its way to joining European institutions and the consolidation of democracy”.

“It is heartening to see that months of work aimed at reaching a compromise have now produced a successful result”, the international agencies added.

Over recent months, both the OSCE Mission and the OHR repeatedly reminded the country’s authorities that the adoption of an election law not only represented a cornerstone of the country’s democratic development, but was also an important prerequisite for accession to the Council of Europe.

The adoption of the law did not come a moment too soon. The constitution stipulates the holding of presidential elections in October 2002, which requires an urgent start on the preparations, organizational as well as purely technical. This is why the OSCE and other international agencies have urged the authorities to begin work as quickly as possible in order to meet important deadlines.

#### Advice and support

Having organized all the elections since the end of the conflict in the country in 1995 – a total of three general, two municipal and one entity-wide polls – the OSCE Mission is best placed to give the necessary advice and technical support to the authorities to make the first elections under national control a complete success.

From the very beginning, the OSCE Mission, together with the OHR, has

OSCE/Mission to BiH



*OSCE election officials seal a ballot box after the closure of the polls during the municipal elections held on 13 and 14 September 1997.*

been involved in drawing up an election law for Bosnia and Herzegovina. From late 1998, a National Working Group, composed of OSCE and OHR legal experts, international specialists, and local legal experts, worked on draft legislation. In December 1998, the Peace Implementation Council meeting in Madrid put the OSCE Mission in charge of a campaign “to introduce the permanent election law and aid in its passage through Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Parliamentary Assembly”.

On 17 March 1999, the OSCE launched a massive information campaign, which not only put forward all the essential elements of the election law, which at the time had not yet been officially published, but also allowed every sector of society – youth, women, non-governmental organizations, media, and others – to actively participate and share their views on the new election law.

The main idea of this campaign was to engage as many Bosnians as possible in a dialogue about the election law, through discussions groups, round

tables, seminars, contact programmes, and even chat sessions and online debates on the OSCE Mission’s website.

In autumn 1999, the draft election law was finally presented to the public and put before the Bosnia and Herzegovina’s House of Representatives. Despite the efforts of the OSCE and OHR to convince the country’s decision-makers and parliamentarians that without the adoption of this crucial law, the path to European institutions would be blocked and future elections under national control would not be possible,

the law was not passed by Parliament. Later attempts to ensure the law’s adoption equally failed.

#### Watershed event

It is against this background that the August decision by the Bosnia and Herzegovina House of Representatives is a long-awaited, important step forward for the country, and a watershed event for the democratic future of the country.

Only with a solid foundation for holding its own elections, can a country efficiently drive forward the necessary democratic reforms, which themselves create the necessary preconditions for economic development, higher employment, and the effective combating of corruption. Moreover, this decision has now made it possible for the country to quickly become a part of the European family, which will provide new incentives for development and progress.

*Alexander Nitzsche is a former Deputy Spokesperson of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

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NEWSLETTER

# On police patrol in southern Serbia – with Abdulah and Slobodan

A new OSCE police training programme, expanded in August, shows good results.

By Stella Ronner

*The unimaginable has recently become a reality, thanks to the involvement of the OSCE: an ethnic Albanian police officer and his Serb colleague now carry out joint police patrols in municipalities of southern Serbia. The background to this remarkable change is explained here.*

*Sluziti i stititi* – to serve and defend – is the slogan of the police force in Serbia. But the headline on an article about the police on the front page of the Serbian daily, *Politikasame*, 15 July, focused on a new and different aspect. It read: ‘Abdulah and Slobodan in the same patrol’. The article itself took a close look at the activities of the OSCE Mission to the

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), in particular at its multi-ethnic police training programme for southern Serbia.

Since the end of May, ethnic Albanians and Serbs have been undergoing the same training, organized jointly by the OSCE and the Serbian Ministry of Interior, and conducted by Serbian and international instructors. The first two phases concluded on 14 July, but a third, even more ambitious phase began last month.

Even the physical procedures, such as the proper way to make an arrest, were carried out as standard – but performed by an ethnic Albanian on his Serbian colleague and vice-versa. Building confi-

dence between ethnic Albanians and Serbs is at the core of the training and, although only a few months have passed since the programme began, the results are already tangible.

The officer whose name featured in the headline, Abdulah Beciri, graduated from the second phase of the police training on 13 July. Commenting on his new role he said, “I don’t think about arresting an ethnic Albanian or a Serb, but about arresting a criminal. Criminals all speak the same language, they understand each other very well.”

Over the course of two months, a total of 60 police underwent this special training. These officers represented the



ZOOM Press

Police officers taking part in the multi-ethnic police training session in Bujanovac.

first multi-ethnic police force to be deployed on the streets with the aim of re-balancing the ethnic Albanian presence in the police structures of three municipalities in southern Serbia, namely Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, where they carry out regular police duties in joint patrols.

Abdulah's Serbian colleague, Slobodan, listening to the conversation, nods in agreement and corrects a journalist who uses the present tense to ask about the problems in southern Serbia resulting from the activities of armed Albanian rebels. She should use the past tense instead, he insists.

Both Abdulah, a native of Presevo, and Slobodan were successful graduates: *me sukses* for Abdulah, *uspesno* in Slobodan's case. Both officers stress the importance of having been born and grown up in the area. Studying from the same handbook was really no problem. No surprise either, therefore, that the graduation party organized that night turned out to be such a success.

Apart from teaching subjects on the general police curriculum, the courses – held in the *Dom Kulture* or House of Culture, in the centre of Bujanovac – focused on issues which are at the core of the OSCE mandate, such as respect for human rights and dignity, as well as police ethics.

### OSCE involvement

The OSCE's involvement in policing in Yugoslavia stems from the decision by NATO to hand back control to Yugoslav forces over the last area of the five-kilometre buffer zone around Kosovo, the so-called "Ground Safety Zone". It quickly became clear that multi-ethnic police patrols would be crucial to the success of the operation to restore stability and security in the area. And it was decided that the OSCE should take the lead role in organizing the training programme for multi-ethnic policing.

As the Head of the Mission to the FRY, Ambassador Stefano Sannino, told participants on the training course: "The joint Serb-Albanian participation in the police training is meant to contribute to the restoration of confidence among the people living in the three municipalities.

This joint training is also in itself a sign that the co-existence of different ethnic communities is possible."

When the OSCE started these police training activities, this goal seemed far from easy to achieve. Discussions about multi-ethnic police training began months ago, following the so-called "Covic-plan", named after the Serbia Deputy Prime Minister in charge of solving the crisis in southern Serbia.

The first two phases of multi-ethnic police training, namely three five-day refresher courses and a five-week training programme for candidates with some police background, started on 21 May. Meanwhile, the OSCE Mission to the FRY had started preparing for the third phase.

This is the latest phase of this programme, which began on 6 August. For the first time the training includes entirely new recruits and lasts for about 12 weeks. Up to 100 future police officers at a time will be put through the training centre in Mitrovo Polje. The final goal is to train a total of 400 new police officers by May 2002.

The design of this course, the basic training of new recruits, required a considerable amount of preparation and close co-operation with the Serbian police authorities and the local Albanian political leaders. Candidates were publicly invited to apply at the end of May. To be eligible, they had to fulfil a certain number of requirements with respect to age, education and physical and psychological condition.

The OSCE Head of Mission travelled to southern Serbia at the end of July, to personally explain these requirements to all interested inhabitants of the region. These public meetings in the town halls of all three municipalities, which drew hundreds of people, seem to have had a considerable impact: by the end of July, more than 500 candidates had submitted their applications for the third phase of the programme.

After a selection procedure carried out jointly by all three interested parties (Serbs, Albanians and the OSCE), the third phase of the multi-ethnic police training could begin. In Mitrovo Polje, the students are expected to success-

fully complete four educational components that together make up the curriculum of the basic multi-ethnic police training.

The first consists of courses on general policing: this means that students are being given lessons on issues such as criminal and traffic law, code of conduct, human rights, democratic policing and ethnic diversity. The second component, operational police skills, contains elements such as the use of force, defensive tactics, and weapon retention and disarming.

### Performance evaluation

During the third segment, students have to successfully complete a series of theoretical courses on firearms, before being allowed to move to the range for live firing practice. Finally, the fourth component consists of tactical training and builds on the previous courses, with students learning how to stop vehicles, to deal with civil disturbance, how to search buildings or vehicles and how to carry out pursuits on foot.

The 12-week training programme will then be followed by 16 weeks of "on the job" training, commonly referred to as field training, carried out on a one-to-one basis with an experienced officer. Following the successful completion of the field training, officers will remain on probation for another 24 weeks, with their performance continuously evaluated.

As with the two previous phases, the training will be delivered by international and Serbian police instructors. The latter are responsible for teaching the students Serbian police law and internal police procedures. The languages being used are Serb, Albanian and English. Interpreters and translators are provided by the OSCE.

Meanwhile, the OSCE is doing its utmost to initiate improvements to the training course, where needed. For the moment, the attention is focused on identifying more interpreters and on persuading more female candidates to apply for the next course.

*Stella Ronner is Spokesperson for the OSCE Mission to FRY*



# Support for democratic policing gradually moves up agenda for OSCE in South-Eastern Europe

By Alexander Nitzsche

*Since 1998, the OSCE has become more and more involved in the reform and training of police forces in the countries of South-Eastern Europe. Currently under discussion is a way to bring the Organization's police expertise to bear on the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.*

Wherever the OSCE has become involved in recent years in the countries of South-Eastern Europe, it has been faced with the legacy of post-socialist structures and violent conflict, often based on dramatic rifts in societies along ethnic lines. In nearly all cases, the role of the police forces – either during the conflict or in the aftermath – has been crucial. Since 1998, the OSCE has worked increasingly on the monitoring and training of police forces in South-Eastern Europe, initiatives which have rapidly become success stories for the Organization.

The list of the OSCE's engagements in the region is long. And Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and southern Serbia, may soon be joined by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

But the OSCE's biggest endeavour to date has been the training of 4,000 police cadets in Kosovo, with all ethnic groups learning alongside each other, and performing regular service in the province.

"This school is a unique endeavour", says Steve Bennett, the director of the Kosovo Police Service School (KPSS). "Under the auspices of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, we are

recruiting, selecting and training police officers – men and women, who may be Albanians, Serbs or from any other ethnic group – to provide the population with a professional, community-based and democratic police service. Such a project has never been undertaken to this extent before by the international community."

The police school, which opened in September 1999 in Vushtrri/Vucitrn, about 40 kilometres north of Kosovo's capital Pristina, can house some 670 students. It has so far trained 16 classes.



*Graduation ceremony for police trainers at the Kosovo Police Service School at Vushtrri/Vucitrn north of Pristina.*

The selection process for new candidates is hard – it consists of oral interviews, medical and psychological examinations, as well as physical agility evaluations and background investigations, to ensure that the newcomers are fit for duty and up to the tasks with which they will be confronted.

What cadets learn in the 12 weeks of training, largely resembles the training received by new police officers in the West: investigation of crime, self-

defence tactics, legal affairs, police patrol duties, use of firearms, first aid, conflict intervention, traffic control. Some classes, however, focus on very specific issues which are relevant in the Kosovo context, such the handling of refugees, forensics, and policing in a democratic context. All the cadets have to demonstrate a commitment to protecting the human rights of all persons.

The most recent multi-ethnic police training programme was started to cater for officers from the towns of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It also brings together Albanian and Serb officers for joint patrols in a region that, only a year ago, was the main battle zone between those two ethnic groups (*see story on pages 7 and 8*).

In other countries in South-Eastern Europe, the OSCE's engagement in police affairs has taken a different shape. In Albania for example, police officers have for a long period been struggling with certain elements of democratic policing, such as gender issues. To assist the police forces with developing the officers' skills and knowledge on such issues, the OSCE Presence in Albania, together with the OSCE

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), organized training sessions focused on specific problem areas (*see Newsletter, July/August 2001, page 14*).

Neighbouring Croatia was the first country where the OSCE became involved in police activities. In October 1998, the OSCE Mission to Croatia took over the responsibility for monitoring the performance of the Croatian police in Eastern Slavonia (Danube Region)

from the United Nations Police Support Group. A Police Monitoring Group was established, consisting initially of a total of 120 officers.

One of the main goals of this mission was to help develop greater professionalism in the local police force and to ensure that the Croatian Government of the time initiated appropriate changes in police administration. This was largely successful, with the result that the Monitoring Group, which was active until 31 October 2000, was closed down, since both the security situation in the Danube Region and the performance of the local police had improved.

The OSCE Mission in Croatia, however, continues to monitor the local police force, and – with a small number of international civilian police officers – provide help to the local senior police officers.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission has no specific mandate for engagement with the country's police forces, which is part of the UN mandate. However, the OSCE and the UN together launched several initiatives in recent

years aimed at developing the professionalism of policing in the country.

In May 2000, the two organizations published and disseminated guidelines both for police officers and media representatives on how to interact and deal with each other. This was prompted by a number of incidents where police officers and journalists had come into conflict during the exercise of their duties. The guidelines were intended to improve the professional relationship between the police and the media, and to foster better understanding of their mutual rights and responsibilities.

In the framework of the police and judicial reform strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE and the UN distributed handbooks to the police explaining the newly adopted criminal code and criminal procedure of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the country's two entities. The OSCE Mission also produced an educational film on this topic, as well as on domestic violence, for inclusion in a training programme for the local police forces.

These initiatives demonstrate how

comprehensively the OSCE has become involved in police issues in South-Eastern Europe. Increasingly, it is being recognized that, through its field structure as well as its institutional knowledge and experience – including its human rights expertise – the Organization is very well placed for future tasks in reforming, training and advising police forces in the region.

The Framework Agreement, concluded on 13 August in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, provides for a possible role for the OSCE regarding police issues. It invites the OSCE, among other international agencies, to increase its training and assistance programmes on democratic policing in the country. These potential new programmes could include such topics as human rights training, technical assistance for police reform, developing a code of police conduct, and police advisors in sensitive areas of the country.

*Alexander Nitzsche is Public Information Officer (Kosovo) in the OSCE Secretariat.*

## Implementing international media standards

Several OSCE Missions are now benefiting from a new assistance programme

*By Hanna Vuokko*

*Earlier this year, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media launched a new support service to Missions, designed to provide advice and assistance on the legal aspects of media freedom in participating States.*

In May 2000, at one of the regular round tables that bring together the media and public information focal points of more than 20 OSCE Missions, one of the problems that was identified as the experience of many field offices was the lack of legal advice in various media matters. The need arose regularly

when, for example, discussing current and draft media and broadcasting laws and their compliance with international media obligations and standards, advising on new press codes, and sharing “best practice” examples on different media issues from other OSCE participating States.

As a result, among the recommendations formulated by the meeting, the Third Public Affairs Round Table, was a request for more assistance and advice to the field presences by the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media on legal issues related to media.

When the Representative, Germany's Freimut Duve, had succeeded in obtaining specific budget funds for this purpose in 2001, he requested information from all the Heads of the Missions about their specific needs. Some prompt – and creative – responses were received, and four projects have already been started or fully implemented. Meanwhile, the Representative is currently considering additional proposals from the field presences.

The first assistance project focused on Kazakhstan, where a new draft media law was causing concern for the OSCE Centre in Almaty. The Representative's

Office engaged an independent expert, Dr. Karol Jakubowicz, to conduct an analysis of the draft law and its compliance with OSCE commitments and other international media standards.

The analysis raised concerns about some of the proposed features of the law, e.g. the restricting of the re-transmission of foreign programmes and the definition of websites as mass media, thereby subjecting them to registration requirements. A number of examples were also provided on the way in which different questions have been solved in other countries. The OSCE Centre distributed the analysis widely in Kazakhstan as a contribution to the public debate. It can also be found on the web: [www.osce.org/fom](http://www.osce.org/fom)

### Media licensing

The OSCE Office in Baku approached the Representative for assistance on the question of broadcasting licences in Azerbaijan. The Representative again engaged an independent expert, Ms. Helena Mandic who works for the international body regulating broadcasting in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A round table was organized in May



*A media law expert, Mr. Zairov, speaking at the first meeting of the Media Law Working Group in Tajikistan, 22 August.*

by the OSCE, focusing on the licensing question, at which Ms. Mandic drew up recommendations for an improved framework for licensing Azeri television and radio companies.

The establishment of an independent, non-political, licensing commission was proposed. The recommendations of the round table were presented at a conference on media hosted by the Council of Europe a week later.

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek and its field office in Osh had a different type of

request for the Representative: direct legal advice to journalists. The field office is preparing a legal project trying to increase the knowledge of journalists of their rights and obligations. With assistance from the Representative, the field office will engage a lawyer to provide free-of-charge legal advice and consultations to print and electronic journalists from the region, both before and after broadcasting or publishing a report or article.

However, the most substantial of the assistance requests so far has been made by the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan. There, the Mission is to undertake a project to develop and promote a new media law for the country. A 15 member committee, consisting of among others of Tajik legal experts, parliamentarians, leaders of political parties, and NGO representatives, has been set up to discuss and propose draft legislation. The project is expected to take six months. Meanwhile, the public will be kept up to date on the drafting process through articles in the local media.

*Ms Vuokko is an Adviser to the Representative on Freedom of the Media*

## Reform of *propiska* – abolishing restrictions on freedom of movement

It is not the kind of work that grabs headlines, but the long-term engagement by the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine to help reform *propiska* – the cumbersome registration procedures for foreigners and its own citizens – will improve the lives of millions

*By Dr. Vladimir Shkolnikov*

It was a long day for the young Canadian traveller sitting next to me on a Kiev-bound plane from western Europe. He had started his journey in the wee hours in Montreal, and had yet another flight to take, from Kiev to Simferopol in the Crimea, where the Canadian's Ukrainian wife was visiting her parents.

“At least once I get to Simferopol, I do not have to register with the police anymore”, said my seat neighbour with a sigh of relief. Until 1 July this year, anyone coming to Ukraine for longer than three days and staying with friends or relatives had to include on his or her itinerary a visit to the Ministry of Interior's Department of Visas and Registration.

This visit often took hours of standing in lines, and involved filling out numerous forms and paying registration fees. A failure to register could lead to detention and a fine, should a visitor be stopped for a document check by police.

On 1 July, the situation changed due to a Presidential Decree. Now foreigners coming to Ukraine can bypass the

unpleasant procedure described above. A simple border guard stamp now provides sufficient evidence to establish that a foreigner is staying in Ukraine legally.

The young Canadian did not know that the person seated next to him in the plane listening to his story was an adviser with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), which has carried out a project with the Ukrainian Presidential Administration to review registration procedures for both foreigners and citizens of the country.

Ukraine is not unique among OSCE participating States in retaining cumbersome registration procedures for foreigners and its own citizens, failure to follow which could result in fines and even time in jail. These registration procedures are a legacy of the Soviet period, when the state restricted freedom of movement and choice of place of residence.

This system, best known by its Russian name *propiska*, made it illegal for citizens of the Soviet Union to reside and hold jobs anywhere but in the part of the country where a person was registered, i.e. had *propiska*. Introduced for the purposes of the planned economy, the system deprived people of their basic human right of choosing a place of residence, since change was virtually impossible.

The legacy of this system has proved to be enduring in the former Soviet states. Many people understood that the *propiska* system contravened the international standards on freedom of movement and choice of place of residence. However, the vexing part was that this system served many other purposes. It was used, for example, to keep records for the provision of social services and as a basis for voter registers.

Many people started challenging the *propiska* system, either in the courts or in real life, by moving to places where new opportunities had emerged. Even though the *propiska* system was no longer enforced as stringently as during the Soviet period, people who moved from their original place of residence frequently found their rights violated.

For example, people who had moved

from the places where they had *propiska* were prevented from exercising their right to vote because their names were not in the voter registers. Even more desperate was the plight of people who had to leave their places of residence due to internal conflicts and man-made disasters. Many of them found that they could not have access to vital services due to lack of registration, while state officials were confounded by the prospect of having to manage large-scale population movements.

There was a dearth of expertise on how long-established democracies man-

*Democratic changes do have benefits for the economy in seemingly small but important ways.*

age to register their citizens while not restricting freedom of movement and choice of place of residence. This is why the ODIHR offered assistance to a number of participating States in the reform of their registration systems.

Such a project cannot produce immediate results, of course. The work in Ukraine was preceded by a two-year engagement in the review of human rights legislation by the ODIHR and the Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine. The choice of partners for the freedom of movement review proved to be critical. The Department of Citizenship of the Presidential Administra-

tion took the lead in this project on the Ukrainian side.

In addition to the review, two training visits were organized. The initial visit was to Denmark, a country with one of the first systematic population registration systems in the OSCE region (the registration system works so well, the country does not need to conduct censuses anymore). The second was to Moldova, one of the former Soviet countries that has been in the forefront of the reform of the registration system (the Constitutional Court of Moldova found the *propiska* system contrary to the right to freedom of movement and choice of place of residence). Both trips provided first-hand experience on how reform can be implemented.

The experience of the Ukraine project shows that democratic changes do not happen overnight. Yet when the political will is supplemented by well-targeted assistance, changes are possible. Citizens as well as foreigners, including investors, no longer have to worry about registration. Democratic changes do have benefits for the economy in seemingly small but important ways.

The ODIHR has had similar experiences of long-term engagement with a number of the OSCE participating States. In early 2000, the ODIHR held a meeting of NGO and government representatives in Almaty on the issue of freedom of movement. One of the main recommendations of the meeting was to abolish the so-called “exit visas” for citizens of Kazakhstan travelling abroad. The OSCE maintained a dialogue with Kazakh authorities on this topic, and very recently exit visas made their own exit, thanks to a decree by the Government of Kazakhstan.

Similarly, the ODIHR is engaged in a number of countries where it continues to work on the development of migration legislation. It is not the kind of work that immediately grabs headlines, but the overall impact is felt by ordinary people, including the young Canadian travelling to Ukraine.

*Dr. Shkolnikov is the OSCE/ODIHR Migration/Freedom of Movement Adviser*

# Polish experts assist in third phase of OSCE human rights monitoring project in Armenia

OSCE/Centre in Yerevan



*Zuza Fialova (centre) and Alina Pomorska (left), from the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, introduce the first phase of the human rights monitoring training in Armenia earlier this year*

Two experts from the Polish Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (PHFHR) paid a visit to Armenia at the start of August to initiate the latest phase of an OSCE-assisted project on training in human rights monitoring and reporting. The project, which is being jointly implemented by the PHFHR, the OSCE Office in Yerevan and the Warsaw-based OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, is aimed at reforming the penal, educational and judicial systems.

It will help to achieve this aim by improving the quality of independent monitoring and reporting of the human rights situation, as well as by increasing the participation of non-governmental

organizations (NGOs) in decision-making processes.

Following up work carried out in two earlier phases, participating NGOs developed and submitted several small-scale monitoring projects. Four of these were selected by the project organizers for the third phase. The four concern detainees' and prisoners' rights to access to the outside world; students' rights to higher education and the democratization of educational institutions; refugees' rights in the context of the military service; and working conditions in lower courts.

### Third phase

The two Polish experts, Zuza Fialova and Marek Nowicki, paid a working visit to Armenia from 1 to 6 August, to advise

teams on the general organization of their work. They discussed the concept and eventually reviewed the preparatory work, as well as the implementation plan and the mechanisms of the monitoring projects.

The three joint organizing bodies – PHFHR, ODIHR and the OSCE Office in Yerevan – will help the monitoring teams to carry out their work and then disseminate the results to the relevant authorities and to the public. It is expected that reports will be finished by November.

Some 20 people attended the lectures and participated in the exercises and concrete simulations during the first and second phases of the project, which were conducted in March and May this year by experts from the PHFHR.



## News from the field

*The OSCE currently has Missions or other field activities in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo (Yugoslavia), Latvia, Skopje (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia. The following brief reports reflect some of the recent work which these field operations have undertaken.*

### **OSCE in Kosovo opens office for political party registration**

In the run up to the Kosovo general elections, scheduled for 17 November, the OSCE-supported Department for Democratic Governance and Civil Society, part of the province's Joint Interim Administration Structure, opened a contact office at the end of July. Its task is to assist with political party registration. As part of the ongoing work of the Department to promote transparency in the political registration process, the office not only provides documents related to party registration, but also makes all submitted applications available for review and public comment. Five political parties are currently under consideration.

### **OMIK starts candidate registration for Kosovo elections**

With the beginning of a three-week registration period at the end of August, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) continued its preparations for the November Kosovo Assembly elections. All political entities certified by the province's Central Election Commission were authorized to submit lists of up to 110 candidates. The OSCE then had to ascertain that they met the necessary requirements to participate in the elections. These requirements, set down in the Constitutional Framework, entail that candidates must be eligible to vote, and that they must not be members of the Kosovo Police Service, the Kosovo Protection Corps, or a judge or prosecutor.

### **Round tables on fighting poverty and public access held in Almaty**

In August, the OSCE Centre in Almaty held two round table meetings, one on combating poverty and a second on the implementation of Aarhus Convention principles in Kazakhstan. From

19 to 22 August, representatives of Kazakh NGOs and governmental institutions came together in Uralsk in the west of the country to discuss issues related to the fight against poverty with representatives of oil and gas companies. The event, organized by the OSCE with the support of the British Embassy in Kazakhstan, together with the *Akimat* of the West Kazakhstan Province as well as the NGO International Business Centre, aimed at providing the participants with international expertise to implement a poverty-reduction strategy in western Kazakhstan.

On 15 August, the Centre in Almaty held a round table on ecological matters related to the implementation of principles deriving from the Aarhus Convention. Issues discussed by the participants from the country's NGO community and governmental offices included ecological legislation and the possible future preparation of a draft ecological code or doctrine.

### **Almaty Centre conducts training session on women's rights**

In the framework of a project on 'Women's Rights Awareness' started in 2000, the OSCE Centre in Almaty, Kazakhstan, organized from 23 to 28 July a "training of trainers" session on the 'Development of Leadership for the Promotion of Women's Rights'. The event was arranged in the context of a joint project run by OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Centre in Almaty. Under the guidance of an experienced trainer, Lesley Abdela, the women, many of whom had already taken part in last year's project, were able to gain additional skills and deepen their knowledge on NGOs and election campaigns. They then returned to their own regions in order to train other potential women candidates. Other

presentations and/or contributions to the workshop were made by OSCE/ODIHR Adviser on Gender Issues, Sonja Zimmermann, and OSCE Almaty Human Rights Officer, Birgit Kainz, who conducted a session to discuss future programmes. It is hoped that, in the long run, this will lead to a greater involvement of women in Kazakh politics.

### **Conference on protection of minorities held in Armenia**

On 30 and 31 August, the OSCE Office in Yerevan together with the NGO, CIVITAS, held a conference on the legal and practical implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Armenia. The event, which took place in Sevan, Armenia, focussed on international standards and compliance with domestic legislation, and on practical problems relating to the preservation of language, culture and religion. Some 80 participants from Armenia's National Assembly, governmental institutions, NGOs and international organizations, as well as a large number of representatives from national minorities, held a useful meeting that facilitated the exchange of views and addressed a number of important issues.

### **Mission to Tajikistan trains students on civic issues**

From 20 August to 3 September, some 80 Tajik university students participated in an OSCE-organized civic education summer camp. This event, organized by the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan's field office in Khujand, focussed on issues related to democracy, state institutions building, political systems and civil society. The young people, studying in the Sughd Province in northern Tajikistan, came from a variety of backgrounds. They worked and studied

together, supervised by professional trainers, to gain experience and obtain practical skills. Besides various educational and practical activities, sports and other leisure activities also featured on the camp's programme. This civic education project aimed at promoting a greater understanding of political and civic issues among the younger generation of Tajikistan. The workshop enjoyed financial support from the German Government.

### New Head of OSCE Mission in Skopje takes up duties

On 20 August, the newly appointed Head of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje, Craig Jenness from Canada, took up his duties. Prior to his new position, Mr. Jenness was Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, which he joined in early September 1999. From 1996 to 1998, he headed the Human Rights department in OSCE's Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina,



*Owen O'Sullivan, Head of the OSCE's field station in Tirana, speaking at the round table for representatives of the Albanian judiciary*

where he had also previously worked with the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission.

### OSCE Presence continues to push anti-corruption effort in Albania

Like many other states in transition, Albania has struggled – with some success – to establish rule of law and properly integrated law enforcement struc-

tures. Crucial to this process is effective co-ordination and co-operation between police, prosecutors, and the judiciary. For several months the Legal Counselor's Office (LCO) of the OSCE Presence in Albania, has been organizing round tables with the participation of judges, prosecutors, and judicial police representatives, throughout Albania.

The discussions have revolved mainly around the ever-present problems of trafficking and the acquisition and preservation of evidence. Additionally, a pack of materials prepared by the LCO containing recently enacted laws has been distributed to all the participants, following comments by the participants in the first round table that they had problems in simply acquiring such documents. The next step will be a digest of recommendations for the Ministries of Justice and Public Order. The LCO will monitor the implementation of improvements and make further suggestions where appropriate.

## IN BRIEF



In a statement issued on 20 July, the **OSCE Secretary General, Jan Kubis**, expressed his deep regrets over the deaths of three members of the European

Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in the north-western part of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. "The OSCE Mission and its staff members work shoulder-to-shoulder with their EUMM colleagues to monitor the situation in the field. Therefore, the EUMM losses are also ours", the Secretary General said. "I send my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, their colleagues and friends", he added.

The **OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana**, met on 31 July with Paskal Milo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, which currently holds the Chairmanship of the South-East European Co-operation Process (SEECP). The two officials tried to identify means



*The President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Askar Akaev, during a recent visit to the OSCE Permanent Council*

through which both the OSCE and the SEECP could render assistance in achieving a peaceful settlement to the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Issues, such as fighting organized crime, trafficking and corruption were also addressed. Other topics of discussion were the preparation for the Stability Pact Regional Conference

to be held in Bucharest this October, and the OSCE Ministerial Council scheduled for December.

On 22 August, the **Chairman-in-Office (CiO)** welcomed the decision taken by the Kyrgyz President, Askar Akaev, to sign a decree on pardoning the well-known human rights activist, Topchubek Turgunailyev. Mr. Geoana strongly encouraged Kyrgyzstan to pursue all efforts to promote the democratic process in the country and in this respect to display the same attitude towards other activists. He further emphasized that the tenth anniversary of the country's independence offered a good opportunity for similar gestures to confirm the commitment.

A statement sharply condemning the fatal attack on a British soldier serving with the NATO forces in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was issued by the **CiO** on 27 August. "Such a provocative act is only designed to thwart the attempt by the international community to implement the agreement

signed by both Macedonian and Albanian communities in the country on 13 August”, Mr. Geoana stated. The CiO appealed to the country’s authorities “to do everything in their power to identify and prosecute those responsible for the death of the British soldier.”

**Ambassador Avraham Toledo**, the new Ambassador of Israel to the OSCE and the UN organizations in Vienna, took up his duties on 15 August. He replaces Nathan Meron in this position.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Toledo was the Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN Industrial Development Organization and the UN Office in Vienna.

On 20 August, **Ambassador Alexander Alekseev**, the newly-appointed Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the OSCE, arrived in Vienna. Among other positions, Mr. Alekseev has represented his country in the Embassy to India and as Ambassador to Pakistan. He also worked as Director of the Third Asian Department

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Alekseev was born in Moscow in 1946.

**Ambassador Aleksandar Tavciovski** has been appointed as the new Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE. He previously held this position from November 1993 to December 1997. Prior to his latest appointment, he served as Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Macedonian President, and Secretary of the Euro-Atlantic Committee of his country’s Government.



**PRESS PROFILE**  
*Excerpts from international media coverage of the OSCE and its activities over recent weeks.*

## BELARUS

### *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 3 August*

‘The closer the presidential election in Belarus gets, the more doggedly the country’s leader, President Lukashenko, is sticking to his claim that he is a victim of dark intrigues. This serves above all the purpose of justifying his increasingly sharp attacks on political opponents as well as on the West. Now he is directing his attacks at the OSCE, thereby giving fresh impetus to a conflict that has been going on for months. He accused its Mission in Minsk of being the opposition headquarters. The OSCE, which denied the accusations, replied by criticizing the Belarusian government for its unwillingness to co-operate.’

### *Reuters, 3 August*

‘Western countries have expressed concern about the fairness of the upcoming election. The Vienna-based OSCE this week said its election monitors were facing delays entering the country... Lukashenko has accused the OSCE of training spies, but officials have said

they would allow the monitors to enter the country, once their paperwork was in order.’

### *Financial Times, 8 August*

‘The OSCE has warned Belarus that the results of September’s presidential election would not be regarded as credible if its polling monitors were shut out... “Time is running out,” said Gerard Stoudmann, Director of the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. “As a result of this obstruction, it is already too late to conduct the kind of fully-fledged observation that we do in other countries. The credibility of the entire election process is being drawn into question.” The OSCE had hoped to begin monitoring on 1 August. It says it needs six weeks before an election – polling is scheduled for 9 September – to conduct an effective operation.’

### *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 14 August*

‘Meanwhile, the OSCE Mission in Minsk, which could not have a better leader than the courageous German diplomat, Hans-Georg Wieck, is forced to balance on a knife-edge and has to suffer the tempers of the despot while at the same time trying not to discourage the opposition. Referring to opponents of the regime who have disappeared, alleged death squads and an unchallenged dictator, there remains no other choice even for people of goodwill than to agree with the sceptics within the

Belarusian opposition, who accuse the OSCE of having conducted a policy towards Lukashenko that has had a more stabilizing than relentless effect.’

### *Interfax, 15 August*

‘The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on Wednesday received an invitation to observe the presidential elections in Belarus on 9 September ... 28 ODIHR representatives from 15 countries are expected to come to Belarus to conduct long-term observation.’

### *Interfax, 16 August*

‘The Belarusian government doubts the objectivity of the OSCE ODIHR in the presidential election, the Foreign Ministry announced in Minsk on Tuesday. The authorities, “being guided by the wish to have a democratic, fair and transparent presidential election,” have sent invitations to observers from OSCE member states, the ODIHR, the European Parliament, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the statement says... The Belarusian government has noted the fact that the ODIHR refused full-scale monitoring of the parliamentary election in Belarus in 2000 but “the OSCE did not hesitate to make a doubtful conclusion on the non-recognition of the election results.” Belarus regards this attitude as “politically motivated” and thinks that “the OSCE ODIHR is not free in its decision making.”’



**Reuters, 21 August**

‘The OSCE said on Tuesday it had been forced to scale down its plans to monitor a presidential election in Belarus next month after pressure from the authorities... “Two key OSCE staff were denied entrance to Belarus without explanation,” said Hrair Balian, the head (of the ODIHR elections monitoring section). “The scope of the mission will necessarily be limited as a result of the late invitation to observe the election.” Balian said the authorities had also tried to ban the group from talking to the media ahead of the election. “These are unprecedented restrictions of our activity,” he told a news conference.’

**Reuters, 23 August**

“‘The authorities are paralysing our work,” said Vladimir Gudeyev of the Belarusian Club of Voters, a non-governmental organization which wants to monitor the election. “They have seized (from us) computers belonging to the Organization for Security and Co-operation (in Europe) without any proper reason,” he said. The OSCE itself, which said that the parliamentary elections last year were neither free nor fair, has criticized the authorities for delaying entry of its staff into Belarus...’

**Interfax, 29 August**

‘In the run-up to the 9 September presidential elections in Belarus, US Secretary of State Colin Powell has called on that country’s authorities to abide by the general democratic principles laid out by the OSCE and the United Nations... The Belarusian Authorities

have continuously violated human rights and other commitments made by Belarus as an OSCE member nation [sic]...’

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA**

**Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 7 August**

‘In the ethnic Albanian majority area of the Presevo valley, the training of the ethnically mixed police force began on Monday. The instruction of the first 100 police cadets is being led by the OSCE, which also has responsibility for the training of the multi-ethnic police force in neighbouring Kosovo. The courses by Serbian and international experts last three months.’

**The Guardian, 24 August**

‘Photograph JA 042/038 extinguished hope. (Dragan Piljevic) recognised the blue Adidas tracksuit bottoms, navy socks with two red stripes, cream blouse and black jacket (of his missing mother). He stared and felt his head burning. He shrieked... The photographs of clothing were taken by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to help the United Nations identify the corpses.’

**FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

**Reuters, 13 August**

‘Macedonian tanks and artillery blasted ethnic Albanian guerrillas along

a northern front and rebels burned buildings in occupied villages after the signing of a peace accord on Monday, Western observers said on Tuesday... Fighting stopped after an hour at the request of monitors from the OSCE and European Union Monitoring Mission.’

**Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 14 August**

‘In Skopje, representatives of the four biggest Macedonian and ethnic Albanian parties signed the reform document that had been negotiated in Ohrid. The ceremony, at which high representatives of the EU, Nato and the OSCE were present, took place out of public view in the residence of President Trajkovskiy... (Nato Secretary General Robertson), together with the EU foreign policy coordinator, Javier Solana, as well as the Romanian and the Belgian foreign ministers as representatives of respectively the OSCE and the EU, took part in the signing ceremony.’

**Die Presse, 14 August**

‘As soon as Nato troops are inside the country, it will be more difficult to accuse the other side for any break of the ceasefire, as has frequently been the case during the last weeks. Monitors from the OSCE will be observing the situation.’

**Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25-26 August**

‘The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the US State Department and a UN-officer have repeatedly pointed out in the last few weeks that Albanian separatists of the UCK have committed ethnic cleansing against Macedonians.’

## Quiet Diplomacy in Action

*The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities*

Ed: Walter Kemp ■ Foreword by Michael Ignatieff

This comprehensive account of the work of the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoel, has been written by his Senior Adviser. It takes the reader behind the scenes to explain how the “silent diplomat” fulfilled his conflict prevention mandate for over eight years in more than 15 countries. Major linked documents are annexed.

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### ELECTIONS



#### ODHIR observes 2nd and 3rd rounds of parliamentary elections in Albania

The International Election Observation Mission concluded after the second round of the Albanian parliamentary elections that problems remain which show that further substantial improvements are needed. On election day itself, 8 July, most polling stations functioned well and voting generally proceeded without incident. However, the international observers reported a number of serious concerns, including isolated cases of police interference, detention of election commission members, and ballot stuffing. Voting could not take place in a number of electoral zones, as a result of the disruption of preparations by election commission members. Elsewhere, the counting was completed quickly, but technical procedures were frequently not followed correctly.

The international observers also reported a number of irregularities from the first round elections, in particular in some hotly disputed constituencies. In these constituencies, conflicting counting protocols raised concerns about the accuracy of the results.

The two weeks leading up to the third round of Albanian parliamentary elections highlighted the remaining electoral deficiencies. The third round election day, 22 July, was generally calm and passed without problems at most polling stations. However, very serious irregularities were witnessed by observers in certain constituencies.

The international observers were particularly concerned with the inability, even after three rounds of voting, to complete the election process and allocate the proportional seats; irregularities in counting and tabulation that under-

mined confidence in the results in certain constituencies; the ineffectiveness of the appeals procedure; undue politicization of some Zone Election Commissions and Voting Centre Commissions, which sometimes disrupted the election process; and blatant attempts at fraud through ballot stuffing and other manipulations in some polling stations, including by voting centre officials, in plain view of international observers.

The ODIHR will issue its final assessment of these elections during September.

The International Election Observation Mission for the second and third round of voting was a joint undertaking of the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. An ODIHR long-term election observation mission, with 10 election experts based in Tirana and 18 long-term observers deployed to the regions, was established in late May, headed by Nikolai Vulchanov.

#### Final reports issued on Croatian and Bulgarian elections

The OSCE/ODIHR has released its final reports on the local government elections in the Republic of Croatia, held on 20 May 2001, and the parliamentary elections in Bulgaria, held on 17 June 2001. The reports are available on the ODIHR website at

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

### DEMOCRATIZATION



#### Training on women's rights in Georgia and Azerbaijan "makes a difference"

One of the main objectives of the ODIHR's 2001 gender projects in Azerbaijan and Georgia is building civil society in rural areas and promoting women's leadership by increasing the number of women with training and leadership skills in the regions. In order



OSCE/ODIHR

Participants at an ODIHR training workshop for women's rights trainers, held in Georgia, May 2001.

to strengthen local training capacity, the ODIHR selected 22 local trainers from different regions of both countries for a "training of trainers" programme.

Following a first training workshop organized by the ODIHR in April and May, the participants went back to the regions where they live and conducted their own training sessions there. In July, the local trainers met again with ODIHR experts to evaluate the local training workshops and to develop a programme and the methodology for further training sessions which will be conducted by the participants in their home regions between July and October 2001.

Over the summer, a total of more than 800 women in different regions of Georgia participated in training seminars on women's rights and participation in society, organized by the local trainers under the ODIHR project on women's leadership and NGO coalition building.

The ODIHR work on gender issues in the regions of Azerbaijan and Georgia is one of the very few assistance initiatives taking place outside the capitals. According to reports of participants, the programme is making a difference and having a strong impact on their lives by providing and giving access to information on women's rights and motivating them to be active in society. The project is highly welcomed and appreciated by the governments and civil society representatives in both countries and continues to receive broad media coverage there.

#### **Yerevan hosts ODIHR round table discussion on torture prevention**

On 13 and 14 July, the ODIHR held a round table discussion on torture prevention in Armenia. The event was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and the OSCE Mission in Yerevan. The round table resulted in an open dialogue on ways to prevent torture and other forms of degrading or inhuman treatment or punishment, held between key ministries, law enforcement agencies as well as representatives of the legal and non-governmental community.

The meeting addressed Armenia's

experience in treaty reporting to the United Nations Committee Against Torture, ways to follow-up the Committee's concluding observations and recommendations as well as the issue of making treaty reporting a more transparent and effective domestic process. The participants discussed a wide range of other topics such as penitentiary reform and the question of impunity. The open discussions resulted in the development of a list of recommendations on the establishment of safeguards against torture, and the identification of issues for concrete follow-up. The ODIHR and the OSCE Mission in Yerevan will continue to work with the Armenian authorities on these issues on the basis of this established dialogue.

## ROMA AND SINTI ISSUES



### **Round table to raise awareness of Roma multi-confessionalism held in the Vojvodina**

On 13 July, a round table on multi-confessionalism of Roma in the Vojvodina was held in Novi Sad, as part of the ODIHR programme on Roma under the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. The meeting was the first in a series of activities developed by the Contact Point to raise public awareness of the religious and linguistic diversity of groups commonly referred to as "gypsies" or Roma and Sinti.

Among the participants were various Roma and Roma-related groups living in the Vojvodina, such as the Ashkalie, Egyptians, Beias, Arlie, Gurbet, and Sinti. Each of these groups usually belongs to one of the main religious denominations in the region. Representatives of the regional government of the Vojvodina, Roma women's organizations, and Roma refugees and internally displaced persons also participated in the round table.

The round table served to bring the cultural complexity of the Roma population in the region on to the agenda, a precondition for effectively addressing

discrimination, increasing contacts between Roma and non-Roma, and assisting efforts aimed at the political mobilization of Roma.

### **Croatian Roma NGOs contribute to national strategy for Roma**

Croatian Roma NGOs continued the process of contributing to the development of a national strategy for Roma at a meeting in Zagreb on 29 and 30 July, co-sponsored by the ODIHR within the framework of its programme on Roma under the Stability Pact. This process was initiated in order to involve Roma NGOs from the beginning in the elaboration of a national strategy on Roma issues. Sixty participants representing 36 Roma NGOs and representatives of various international organizations discussed in working groups the six main themes identified so far in the draft outline of the national strategy: citizenship and residence regulations, health, housing, employment, education, and social welfare. A number of recommendations were adopted by consensus in the working groups. The recommendations have been forwarded to the Croatian authorities. As a next step, a conference with Roma NGOs and governmental officials will take place in October 2001.

### **Moldovan Roma set up working group to talk with government**

Moldovan Roma NGOs meeting in Chisinau on 22 and 23 August to develop a strategy for improving the situation of Roma, established a working group to conduct a dialogue with the government on implementing this strategy. The meeting was co-sponsored by the ODIHR Contact Point, the OSCE Mission in Moldova and the Open Society Institute. It was part of a series of activities by the Contact Point and the OSCE Mission in Moldova to assist the authorities and the NGOs in policymaking on Roma issues.

At the meeting, the Romanian Roma Centre for Social Intervention and Studies conducted a training session on NGO advocacy to combat discrimination in access to public services.



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### High Commissioner meets UNHCR and Council of Europe officials

During his first weeks as OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Rolf Ekeus has established contacts with a number of international organizations with which his Office works in close co-operation. On 19 July, he met the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers, in Geneva. The next day he attended the 2+2 meeting in Strasbourg, where he met with senior Council of Europe and OSCE officials.

### High Commissioner urges dialogue on Hungarian "Status Law"

The High Commissioner has been closely following developments concerning the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries (also referred to as the "Status Law"). This law, which has been the focus of considerable debate between Hungary and some of its neighbours, was among the issues discussed by Mr. Ekeus when he visited Bucharest and Budapest from 23 to 25 July.

In Bucharest, the High Commissioner met with a number of Romanian officials including President Ion Illiescu, Prime Minister Adrian Nastase,



Rolf Ekeus, High Commissioner on National Minorities since 1 July

and Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana (who is also the current OSCE Chairman-in-Office). He discussed Romania's objections to the Status Law and was briefed on Romania's efforts to protect and promote the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Particular attention was paid to the recently adopted law on public administration reform and the Government's Roma strategy. Mr. Ekeus also took the opportunity to meet with representatives of

Romania's Hungarian community in order to familiarize himself with issues of concern to them.

However, a major reason for the visit was to enable the High Commissioner to meet with Romania's OSCE Chairmanship team in order to outline his views on his role as High Commissioner and to strengthen co-operation between his office and the Chairmanship.

In Budapest, the High Commissioner met with a number of senior government officials including Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi, the Minister of Justice, and the Head of the Office for Hungarians Abroad. The High Commissioner sought clarification about the motivation for the Status Law, the process of its approval, and the repercussions of its implementation. He urged the Hungarian Government to consult with those neighbouring countries in which the law could have repercussions.

While in Hungary, Mr. Ekeus was informed about the government's policy on minority issues (particularly minority self-government and the representation of minorities in the National Assembly) and its views on the situation of Hungarians living in Slovakia, Romania and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

## Journal of Conflict, Security and Development

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# REPORT

## from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is located at Rådhusstræde 1, DK-1466 Copenhagen K, Denmark, tel.: (+45-33) 37 80 40, fax: (+45-33) 37 80 30, e-mail: osce@oscepa.dk

### PA President Severin addresses OSCE Permanent Council

On 30 August, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Severin delivered his second address to the OSCE Permanent Council. He highlighted the Assembly's importance in bringing public support to the OSCE and thus mobilizing political, legislative, human, financial, and budgetary resources for the OSCE, as well as acting as a link between the Organization and national parliaments and governments.

Mr. Severin also drew attention to the unanimous adoption of a Resolution on transparency and accountability by the OSCE PA, during its Annual Session in Paris last July.

"Parliamentarians demand from the OSCE the same democratic principles that we advocate at national level... it will be impossible for us to reach the goals of our Organization as long as our own internal structures do not live up to

the democratic standards we apply elsewhere. The outcome of the last OSCE Ministerial Meeting held here in Vienna last December clearly shows the existence of a democratic deficit in the OSCE", he said.

In this regard, Mr. Severin informed the Permanent Council that the OSCE PA Standing Committee had established an *ad hoc* committee to monitor and promote the implementation of the PA's policies. As another area in need of reform, Mr. Severin highlighted the OSCE's decision-making procedures.

"The consensus rule, combined with the lack of transparency, has led to a situation where one country can block any important proposal and does so secretly avoiding responsibility", said Mr. Severin.

"The approximate consensus system, proposed by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, would not remove the



OSCE PA  
OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President, Adrian Severin.

general principle of the consensus, but it would eliminate the single country veto which prevents the Organization from acting in a timely and effective manner."

# NEWS

## from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

The Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is located at Kärtner Ring 5-7, A-1010 Vienna, Austria. Tel.: (+43-1) 512 21 45-0, fax: (+43-1) 512 21 45-9, e-mail: pm-fom@osce.org

### ALC TV in Uzbekistan comes under pressure

On 7 August, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, intervened with Abdulaziz Kamilov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, concerning the fate of Shukhrat Babadjanov, the Director of ALC TV. A criminal case had been opened against him based on an alleged forgery of a recommendation letter to become a member of the Union of Artists of Uzbekistan.

This happened shortly after ALC TV was refused a licence. As a result of these actions against Mr. Babadjanov and his television station, he finally decided to flee the country later in August.

### Media Representative focuses on harassment of press in Belarus

The 17 August seizure of 400,000 copies of a special issue of the Belarus independent newspaper, *Nasha Svaboda*, at the private publishing house 'Magic',

was of great concern to the Media Representative. In a letter addressed to Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Khvostov, Mr. Duve stressed that he understood that the special issue had been confiscated when police from the Committee for Financial Investigation came to the publishing house and seized the issue for "inaccuracies in *Magic's* financial accounts."

Mr. Duve noted that *Nasha Svaboda* had published 15 such special issues,

however, this was the first one to be confiscated. He underlined in his letter that *Nasha Svaboda* had received an official warning from the State Press Committee for publishing in the special issue information about a statement allegedly made by the country's President Alexander Lukashenko during a meeting with his executive branch. The warning contained a threat to close down the newspaper for three months if the press law was violated again.

"The OSCE considers equal access to the media essential for free and fair elections", wrote Mr. Duve. "Using alleged financial irregularities of the Magic printing house to confiscate an entire special issue with information on one of the candidates is what I call "structural censorship". Threatening to

close down a private newspaper for publishing a statement about the leading politician, President Lukashenko, also does not conform to OSCE standards."

On 23 August, the OSCE Representative issued a statement to the Permanent Council raising the case of *Nasha Svoboda*, as well as several others. In the pre-election period, there had been numerous incidents of pressure on the independent media, which were affecting the media's work in Belarus. Mr. Duve noted that on 22 August alone, tax police officers confiscated several computers belonging to the independent daily, *Narodnaya Volya*, and the State Committee for Financial Investigation "visited" *Nasha Svaboda* and another independent newspaper, *Belorusskaya Delovaya Gazeta*.

The printing of a *Narodnaya Volya* edition containing the election platform of the opposition candidate, Vladimir Goncharik, was interrupted. Also on 22 August the state distribution company refused to sign a contract with *Belorusskaya Delovaya Gazeta* to sell an additional print run in September. Law enforcement authorities in Orsha, in eastern Belarus, seized all the computers of the private newspaper *Kutseina*, while the private newspaper *Pahonya*, in Grodno near the Polish border, had been subject to pressure by law enforcement agencies, an action condemned by the Belarusian Association of Journalists.

The Media Representative appealed to the Government of Belarus to cease these unending, blatant violations of freedom of expression.

## REPORT

## from the OSCE Secretary General and the Secretariat

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### SG addresses Parliamentary Assembly Meeting in Paris

On 6 July, the Secretary General, Jan Kubis, addressed the Tenth Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly (PA) with a panel of OSCE officials, informing his audience about the current issues relating to the management of the OSCE. On the margins of the meeting, Mr. Kubis met also with the PA President, Adrian Severin, to discuss ways and means of improving co-operation between the Secretariat and the PA.

### Consultations held with French MFA

At the invitation of the French Foreign Ministry, the SG had working consultations in Paris on 5 July, before the official beginning of the Parliamentary Assembly meeting. Mr. Kubis met the Director of the Section for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament, Gerard Araud, for talks mainly focused



*On 21 August, the new Ambassador of Israel to the OSCE and the UN organizations, Avraham Toledo, paid a courtesy call on the Secretary General, Jan Kubis*



*The Secretary General (right) meets the new Ambassador of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE, Aleksander Tavciovski*

on European security-related issues. He also met Marcel Escure, Deputy-Director for Multilateral Affairs, and his colleagues, to discuss with them OSCE activities in different fields, and proposals for strengthening the Organization and its Secretariat. Discussions also touched upon the question of legal personality for the OSCE and the work of the Secretariat, including personnel and staffing issues. Finally, Mr. Kubis met Co-Chairman of the Minsk Group, Philippe de Suremain, with whom he discussed developments on the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

#### **SG discusses Council of Europe presence in two OSCE offices**

On 12 July, the SG met the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (CoE), Walter Schwimmer. Among other topics, the two officials discussed the question of a possible CoE presence in the OSCE Offices in Baku and Yerevan. Mr. Kubis confirmed that the OSCE, as always, welcomed the deployment of CoE experts and their association with OSCE offices, who would support CoE activities and liaise directly with the host countries. This would also enhance the degree to which action could be co-ordinated, as well as furthering general co-ordination between

the two organizations. In advance of the Senior Officials 2+2 meeting on 20 July in Strasbourg, the SG also gave a briefing on planned OSCE activities in the Chechen Republic and on the importance of thorough co-ordination between the CoE, OSCE and the host country. The two officials discussed the international observation of the presidential elections in Belarus, and reviewed future contacts between their organizations.

#### **Further talks held on combating trafficking in human beings**

Against the background of the Permanent Council Decision of 12 July on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Secretary General met the Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact Task Force on this issue, Helga Konrad on 16 July. They discussed the PC Decision and possible co-operation with the Task Force in its implementation as well as administrative support for Ms. Konrad's office.

In response to the Permanent Council Decision, Mr. Kubis is in the process of informing other international organizations about the position and measures taken by the OSCE and the objectives in combating trafficking. He has in addition provided them with the OSCE Code of Conduct and other relevant documents.

#### **SG meets John Renninger from UN Department for Political Affairs**

On 18 July, the SG met in Vienna John Renninger from the Department for Political Affairs at the United Nations (UN) Secretariat. One of the points of discussion was possible follow-ups to the fourth UN-Regional Organizations high-level meeting and to the joint Tashkent conference by the OSCE and the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.



*The new Ambassador of Russia to the OSCE, Alexander Alekseev, paying his first visit to the Secretary General.*

### **SG receives visit of Japanese Parliamentary Delegation**

During a visit to Vienna, a Japanese Parliamentary Delegation, together with the Ambassador of Japan and other Embassy officials, met the Secretary General, on 24 August. The delegation raised a number of points, mostly concerning the contribution of the OSCE to European security and stability, and its co-operation with other international organizations. The officials exchanged views on the growth of the interaction between international organizations as a result of historical developments in Europe, the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security, and the valuable contribution by Japan to OSCE activities.

### **Participation in Alpbach 2001**

At the invitation of the President of the Austrian College/European Forum Alpbach, Erhard Busek, the Secretary General participated on 26 and 27 August in the Political Symposium European Forum Alpbach 2001, which this year had the topic, 'Europe – Vision and Reality'. Mr. Kubis delivered a statement as a member of a panel on Europe, Russia and the USA. On the margins of the event, the SG held bilateral meetings with Louis Michel, the Foreign Minister of Belgium, current holders of the European Union Presidency. The two officials discussed the priorities of the EU Presidency of concern to the Organization, various activities of the OSCE and EU, as well as areas of mutual co-operation. Mr. Kubis also met the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Goran Svilanovic, who expressed his appreciation for the activities of the OSCE Mission in Belgrade.



*Brunson McKinley, IOM Director General (left), and OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis, signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, on 30 August.*

### **SG meets Foreign Minister of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

On 30 August, the SG met the Foreign Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Milinka Mitreva, who gave an address to the Permanent Council the same day. The main topic of their discussion was the situation in Ms. Mitreva's country, as well as the request of her Government for additional OSCE monitors.

### **Memorandum of Understanding signed between OSCE and IOM**

In view of expanding contacts and co-operation in the field between the OSCE and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the IOM proposed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the OSCE Secre-

tariat. Following a similar precedent with other partners, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and after consultation with the Chairmanship, the SG signed the Memorandum on 30 August.

The signing ceremony took place during the visit to Vienna of Brunson McKinley, the Director General of the IOM, who also addressed the Permanent Council. The Memorandum of Understanding will further facilitate concrete co-operation on the ground between the two organizations, and among other aspects, establishes mechanisms for information exchange, consultations and other contacts, while respecting fully the mandates of the IOM and the OSCE, including its Institutions and Missions.

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<b>OSCE Newsletter</b> (monthly) Volume VII (2000), Volume VI (1999), Volume V (1998), Volume IV (1997), Volume III (1996), Volume II (1995), Volume I (1994)	OSCE Secretariat	From January 1998 to April 2001 in the six OSCE official languages (English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish). Since April 2001, in English and Russian
<b>Fact Sheet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ What is the OSCE? <sup>1</sup></li> <li>■ The OSCE Secretary General and the Secretariat</li> <li>■ Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights<sup>2</sup></li> <li>■ Representative on Freedom of the Media</li> <li>■ High Commissioner on National Minorities</li> <li>■ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly<sup>2</sup></li> <li>■ Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>3</sup></li> <li>■ Mission to Croatia<sup>3</sup></li> <li>■ Mission in Kosovo<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	OSCE Secretariat	<sup>1</sup> 'What is OSCE?' is available in all six OSCE official languages.  <sup>2</sup> Also available in Russian.  <sup>3</sup> Also available in local languages.
<b>OSCE Handbook</b> general information on OSCE, Third Edition updated June 2000; Russian edition updated December 2000	OSCE Secretariat	English and Russian
<b>Survey of OSCE Long-Term Missions and other OSCE Field Activities</b> (March 2001)	OSCE Secretariat/ Conflict Prevention Centre	English
<b>The Secretary General's Annual Report on OSCE Activities</b> (1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000)	OSCE Secretariat	In all six OSCE official languages
<b>OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Semi-annual Reports</b>	ODIHR	English and Russian

Publications	Publisher/ Editor	Language(s)
<p><b>Other publications on democratization and human rights are available at the ODIHR website:</b> (<a href="http://www.osce.org/odihr/publications.htm">www.osce.org/odihr/publications.htm</a>)</p>	ODIHR	English
<p><b>Bibliography on the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities: Documents, Speeches, Related Publications.</b> <i>Third Edition</i></p>	The Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations, The Hague, March 1997	English
<p><b>The Role of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in OSCE Conflict Prevention – An Introduction</b></p>	ibid. June 1997	English Russian
<p><b>Chronological Review from 1973 to 1998 of CSCE/OSCE official publications</b> <i>List of bound versions of documents issued at the conclusion of a review, follow-up and other major CSCE/OSCE events including the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures</i></p>	Prague Office	English
<p><b>Reference Manual – Decisions Compilation</b> 1993-94, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 1999 and 2000)</p>	Prague Office	English



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# Survey on OSCE Newsletter

In a continuous effort to improve the quality of our public information output, we would kindly ask you to take a little time to answer a few questions on the OSCE Newsletter. Your feedback will be considered in a review of the publication to be carried out soon. Any additional comments or suggestions are welcome, but please answer as many of the basic questions as possible. You can either fax this sheet to the number: +42 02 24 22 38 83, or you can mail it to:

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- very informative
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{smart/attractive/useful = 10; dull/unattractive/confusing = 1}

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- fortnightly
- monthly
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## Q4: You normally read the Newsletter:

- on the website
- as a conventional (“hard copy”) publication

## Q5: You tend to focus on:

- human interest stories
- photographs
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- reports from the OSCE Missions / Institutions

**Q6: Are you satisfied to receive the Newsletter in English?**

- Yes
- No

**Q7: If you answered No to Q6, please say why:**

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
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|---|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please indicate)                                |  |

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(e.g. comments or suggestions for improvements or other information about the OSCE you would like?)

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**Many thanks for your patience and your collaboration.**  
**Press and Public Information Section and OSCE Prague Office**