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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (23 February - 1 March)

Rupel Calls for Closer Cooperation between OSCE and CoE

STRASBOURG - The OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel said on 23 February that the OSCE and the Council of Europe (CoE) should work together effectively on issues such as human rights and terrorism. "Complementarity can be healthy as long as we do not waste resources, provoke forum shopping, or step on each other's toes in the field," he said in an address to the CoE committee of ministers' deputies. The Chairman-in-Office said both organisations should concentrate on activities in the field. Rupel also met the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, Polish Foreign Minister Adam Daniel Rotfeld, and the Secretaries General of the OSCE and the CoE, Jan Kubiš and Terry Davis. In a joint statement, the participants said they were committed to enhancing co-operation between the OSCE and the CoE, in order to ensure complementarity and avoid unnecessary duplication of activities.

Rupel Presents OSCE Agenda to Parliamentary Assembly

VIENNA - The OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel addressed the organization's Parliamentary Assembly on 24 February to present the current plans and activities. "These are interesting and dynamic times in the OSCE. Changes are required and necessary," he stressed. The panel of eminent persons, which is expected to unveil proposals for OSCE reform, will present its vision for a new impetus for political dialogue, he explained. The OSCE Chair also summarised his recent meetings with officials in Ukraine, Russia, Serbia-Montenegro, Germany, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, making special mention of the organisation's active role in determining a future of Kosovo.

Peterle Appointed OSCE Chair's Representative for Central Asia

LJUBLJANA - The OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel appointed on 22 February former Slovenian prime and foreign minister Alojz Peterle as his personal representative for the OSCE states in Central Asia. Peterle, former Prime Minister of Slovenia and now a member of the European Parliament, already accompanied Rupel on his visit to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Peterle will assist the OSCE Chair in maintaining contacts at the highest political levels in each of the countries concerned, with a view to identifying possible areas for strengthening co-operation within the framework of the OSCE's activities.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, 4 to 9 MARCH - The OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel is to visit the US.

CHISINAU, 14 MARCH - The OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel is to visit Moldova.