

ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE (13 July to 19 July)

OSCE Chairmanship's Special Envoy visits Montenegro

PODGORICA, 12-13 July 2006 - The Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office, Senator Pierre Chevalier and the OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut attended the Statehood Day celebrations in Podgorica. The two OSCE high officials met Montenegrin authorities, Prime Minister Djukanovic and Speaker of the Parliament Krivokapic. They also held talks with the leader of the SNP Predrag Bulatovic, and visited the newly established OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office voices deep concern at "harsh" jail sentence imposed on Belarusian opposition leader

BRUSSELS, 14 July 2006 – The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, has expressed his deep concern following the announcement of guilty verdicts and a jail sentence on Dr. Alexander Kozulin, an opposition candidate in last March's presidential elections in Belarus.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office regrets delay of JCC meeting and detention of Russian diplomats in Georgia

BRUSSELS, 17 July 2006 - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, has expressed regret at the postponement of a meeting of the Joint Control Commission for the resolution of the Georgian - Ossetian conflict. Minister De Gucht also said he was concerned at two recent incidents where Russian JCC representatives were detained by armed Georgian authorities. The Chairman-in-Office went on to urge both sides to refrain from any action which could exacerbate the situation on the ground.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office meets US Secretary of State

WASHINGTON, 19 July 2006 - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht met with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to discuss OSCE matters. Minister De Gucht also met US Assistant Secretary of State (European Affairs), Daniel Fried.