

# Partnerships for Security and Co-operation

## Interaction with organizations and institutions in the OSCE area

Interaction with other organizations and institutions constituted an important part of OSCE activities aimed at promoting comprehensive security and stability in the region.

Under the guidance of the Spanish Chairmanship and in accordance with relevant Ministerial and Permanent Council Decisions, the OSCE Institutions, field operations and Secretariat co-operated closely with other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives to increase synergies and enhance efficiency. The co-operation developed both at headquarters and in the field, with the Section for External Co-operation taking the lead in supporting the institutional contacts.

At headquarters level, the OSCE hosted the annual *Tripartite Meeting* in Vienna on 13 and 14 February. In addition to the United Nations (UN) and the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Union (EU), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), International Organization for Immigration (IOM), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) discussed the role of regional organizations in supporting the implementation of the *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* and the importance of human rights in the fight against terrorism.

The 2007 *Annual Security Review Conference* was attended by representatives from CIS, CoE, the European Commission, NATO, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (Stability Pact) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Partner organizations were regularly invited to relevant OSCE events, while the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other senior officials represented the Organization, upon invitation, in the Summit, Ministerial and relevant meetings of other organizations.

In the field, representatives of various international actors operating in Central Asia and the South Caucasus were invited to co-ordination meetings held in the margins of the Regional Heads of Mission meetings organized by the Conflict Prevention Centre in Tashkent in May and in Baku in October, respectively. Participants at the Tashkent meeting included representatives of the ICRC, NATO, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Bank (WB), Asian Development

Bank (ADB) and the Regional Anti-terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Participants at the Baku meeting included representatives of UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, CoE, ICRC, NATO, EU, UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDP/A), UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO), UN Observer Mission in Georgia and the EU Special Representative for South Caucasus.

Fostering co-operation on operational issues, the Conflict Prevention Centre exchanged best practices and lessons learned with other international organizations, particularly the UN and the EU. The Centre participated in a meeting with the representatives of situation/operation centres from various international organizations, including the African Union, EU, NATO, UNDPKO, UN Department of Safety and Security and the World Food Programme in October in Rome.

Throughout the year, the Action against Terrorism Unit pursued co-operation and interaction with more than 20 UN structures, international, regional and sub-regional organizations and specialized agencies to support and assist their counter-terrorism related activities, share experiences and facilitate contacts between national authorities and international organizations. With Lithuanian support, the Unit organized the second *Roundtable of Counter-terrorism Practitioners from Regional Organizations* on 19 and 20 June in Vilnius, gathering experts from 16 international, regional and sub-regional organizations to discuss ways of improving their contribution to counter terrorism.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities continued its participation in the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), in co-operation with UNDP, UNEP, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, as well as NATO.

The promotion of gender equality in international forums was the focus of the Gender Section in collaborating and interacting with other international organizations and institutions. Together with gender and diversity advisers from the UN system, the WB and the International Monetary Fund, the Gender Section participated in the Organizational and Institutional Gender Information Network aiming at sharing knowledge and policies with regard to gender mainstreaming and the promotion of gender balance in the workplace.

OSCE Secretary General, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (left), meets the European Union (EU) High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, in Brussels on 20 November. (Council of the EU)



The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media co-operated closely with the Council of Europe (CoE) and UNESCO. It strengthened its contacts with the EC's Directorate General Information Society and Media and participated in the second UN *Internet Governance Forum*. The Representative also co-signed a joint statement addressing diversity in broadcasting with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly fostered contacts and co-operation with other international inter-parliamentary bodies, including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the European Parliament, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS. The Assembly worked particularly closely with PACE during the six election observation missions in which it took part. In 2007, the Assembly chaired the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact. In this role, the Assembly organized two major events with parliamentary representatives of the CoE and the EU as well as representatives of the Stability Pact, a seminar on *Parliamentary Oversight over the Budget* in Belgrade, Serbia, and a Conference on *Security Co-operation in the Region* in Portoroz, Slovenia.

## United Nations

As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE paid considerable attention to developing co-operation with the UN.

The Chairman-in-Office presented the OSCE's priorities and activities to the UN Security Council on 28 September, highlighting how the OSCE concept of multi-dimensional and co-operative security and its varied instruments can positively contribute to UN work. The Chairmanship also represented the OSCE at the Security Council open debate on the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security on 6 November.

During his visit to UN headquarters on 21 August, the Secretary General, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and a number of high-level UN officials discussed the OSCE's contribution to peacekeeping and peace building, as well as its role in promoting tolerance.

The OSCE hosted the regular *UN-OSCE Staff-level Meeting*, which reviewed regional issues of common interest and co-operation in Vienna on 16 October. EU representatives attended the part of the meeting devoted to the situation in Kosovo.

The OSCE Secretary General and the UNODC Executive Director continued to meet regularly, providing a basis for reciprocal updates and co-ordination of activities related to counter-terrorism, the fight against trafficking and organized crime and police and border matters. Regular consultations also took place at the working level.

The OSCE Secretary General met with the UNHCR High Commissioner in Vienna in August, discussing how to strengthen co-operation and create operational synergies.

On border management issues, the Conflict Prevention Centre co-operated with the UN Counter-

Terrorism Committee in relation to activities in South-eastern Europe and on the implementation of UN *Resolution 1373*, a wide-ranging counter-terrorism measure. Close collaboration continued with UNODC on border-related activities in Central Asia and within the Paris Pact Initiative framework.

The Centre also provided input on OSCE activities to the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms Mechanism's database. On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the OSCE and UNDP, the OSCE started the joint implementation of a project on small arms and light weapons stockpile security in Belarus, and another on the destruction of ammunition, heavy weapons and toxic chemicals in Montenegro.

The OSCE contributed to the work of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) on issues related to enhancing controls over transfers of conventional arms and sharing of experiences on disarmament and non-proliferation among relevant international actors, also presenting its achievements and activities in the area of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition and the OSCE *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* and non-proliferation.

In order to draw key lessons, identify gaps and develop best practices through discussion on experiences in mediation, focusing on Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, Central Asia and South-eastern Europe, the Conflict Prevention Centre and the UNDP co-organized high-level consultations on *Operationalizing Mediation Support: Lessons from Mediation Experience in the OSCE Area* in Mont-Pelerin, Switzerland, on 22 and 23 May.

The Action against Terrorism Unit supported the UN in its implementation of the international legal framework for combating terrorism. The OSCE and UNODC organized joint events to promote international co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism. The Unit also participated in the Counter-Terrorism Committee's Executive Directorate on-site visits to Turkey and to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The OSCE promoted the UN sanctions regime against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban through the OSCE Counter-terrorism Network and various other activities.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities worked closely with UNODC's *Global Programme against Money Laundering* and the *Global Programme against Corruption*, holding regional and national events. Other joint activities included preparations for an up-to-date technical guide for the implementation of the *UN Convention against Corruption*, to be published in 2008.

The OSCE organized in close co-operation with the UNECE a *Conference on prospects for the development of trans-Asian and Eurasian Transit Transportation through Central Asia until the year 2015*, which took place in Dushanbe in October. Additionally, a *Roundtable on Border Crossing Facilitation and Good Governance in Customs* was jointly organized in Kyiv in December, also with the support of the International Road Transport Union. Joint projects fostering co-operation between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan were developed within the framework of the UNECE *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes*. Co-operation with the UNECE, as well as UNDP, was also furthered

within the framework of the UNECE's *Capacity for Water Co-operation Project* in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

The OSCE, UNECE and the European Forum of Judges for the Environment organized a high-level judicial seminar *Access to Justice in Environmental Matters* in Kyiv in June, allowing for an innovative exchange of experience among Supreme Court judges and judicial training centres. The Office of the Co-ordinator also initiated collaboration with the UN *Convention to Combat Desertification*, in particular in the Central Asian and Mediterranean regions. A technical workshop took place in Tashkent in November.

The UNODA and the Gender Section shared best practices on gender mainstreaming in military affairs focusing on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The Gender Section also participated in a UNDPKO training event on gender mainstreaming in police and peace-keeping operations. Together with the UN Office in Vienna, the Section organized a concert celebrating women's as well as water international days to highlight the gender perspective in environmental affairs.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights co-operated with the UN in promoting the *Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation* and participated in the UN's *7th Global Forum on Reinventing Government*.

## European Union

Relations between the OSCE and the EU were significantly enhanced in 2007, in terms of the level and intensity of dialogue and co-operation and of the range of substantive issues covered.

The German Minister for Foreign Affairs and President of the EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council highlighted the OSCE's key role in European integration and the potential of its confidence-building measures as a model for other regions in an address to the OSCE Permanent Council on 18 January. Addressing the Permanent Council in July, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, representing the EU Presidency, underscored the value of the EU and the OSCE taking a complementary approach to global challenges such as migration. The EU Special Representatives for South Caucasus, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova also briefed the Permanent Council.

The Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General participated in the OSCE-EU Ministerial Troika meetings held in January and November. Meetings of the Ambassadorial Troikas took place in May and October. Themes covered included co-operation in Central Asia, the situation in Kosovo and protracted conflicts. The OSCE Secretary General addressed the Political and Security Committee in May and November, under the respective EU Presidencies, and in the margins held a number of bilateral meetings with representatives of the EC and of the EU Council Secretariat.

The OSCE Secretary General and the Europe-Aid Director General signed a technical agreement in July streamlining the approval procedure for EC grants to eliminate the need for bilateral negotiation on a case-by-case basis.

The fifth *EU-OSCE Staff-level Meeting* was hosted by the OSCE in Vienna on 15 June, allowing for constructive exchanges of views and expertise on topics including Kosovo, Central Asia, combating trafficking in human beings and the EC financing framework.

The Conflict Prevention Centre exchanged information regularly with and maintained close co-operation with the EU on border issues. In particular, the Centre consulted regularly with representatives of the EU's Border Management for Central Asia (BOMCA) programme regarding forthcoming projects. The Centre participated in a meeting of the EU Security Policy Directors in Muenster, Germany, on 15 and 16 March, in a meeting of the Council of the European Union Group on the OSCE in May and in a joint meeting of the Group on the OSCE and the Group on Eastern Europe and Central Asia on 7 December.

In the framework of practitioner-level co-operation, the Action against Terrorism Unit briefed EU counterparts of the Council Secretariat, the EC and the Committee of the Regions on its work, with a view towards identifying potential synergies with existing and planned EU counter-terrorism activities. The Unit participated in a number of EU meetings and supported the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy while the EU participated in several of the Unit's events.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights co-operated with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. It regularly collaborated with the European Parliament during election observation missions and took part in seminars on election observation organized by the EC and the European Parliament.

On minority issues, the High Commissioner on National Minorities worked closely with the EC, in particular the Commissioners for Enlargement and for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy. This work focused on the protection of minority rights in EU candidate and pre-candidate countries as well as on the integration of minority groups.

## Council of Europe

Co-operation with the CoE developed, particularly in the four priority areas: action against terrorism, protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, combating trafficking in human beings and promoting tolerance and non-discrimination. The focal points presented joint reports on the achievements and plans in each area at the fifth and sixth meetings of the Co-ordination Group, held in March and October. The Co-ordination Group welcomed the progress achieved and encouraged further synergies, taking into account the different mandates and memberships of the two organizations.

At the invitation of the CoE San Marino Chairmanship, the *17th CoE-OSCE High-Level Meeting* took place in Madrid on 3 May in a '2+2' format. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing co-operation between the two organizations and discussed ways to consolidate synergies in the field and tackle regional issues.

The Secretary General of the CoE addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 5 July and held a bilateral meeting with the OSCE Secretary General.

In the framework of the *Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in South East Europe*, the OSCE and the CoE met in Strasbourg on 25 October to take stock of progress and discuss opportunities for additional joint projects and synergies.

The CoE participated in a number of Action against Terrorism Unit events dealing with counter-terrorism issues such as public-private partnerships and international legal co-operation, several times in the capacity of expert presenter, and moderated a session at the Unit's expert workshop on combating terrorist use of the Internet. The OSCE provided a moderator to a CoE international conference on addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, while the CoE contributed to the OSCE Counter-terrorism Network Newsletter.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities interacted with the Council of Europe on issues of migration, good governance, combating money laundering, financing of terrorism and corruption, including through cross-representation at events.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights continued its co-operation on election-related matters with the CoE's Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Venice Commission. Co-operation with the Venice Commission continued to prove invaluable in conveying consistent messages on legislation addressing constitutional matters. The two prepared joint or co-ordinated reviews and co-sponsored follow-up events to present comments and to engage in public discussions on the legislation in question. A mechanism aimed at ensuring the complementarity of their recommendations was established by the Office and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance.

The Office funded a website on Roma and Sinti and the Holocaust in 2007, a further step in the Office's long-standing co-operation with the CoE on Roma issues. The CoE Human Rights Commissioner made the keynote address during the special day on Roma at the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting*. Co-operation with the Commissioner covered all areas of the Office's mandate. The Office participated throughout the year in the high-level group on social inclusion of ethnic minorities.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities launched the first joint publication with the CoE, *National Minority Standards. A Compilation of OSCE and CoE Texts*, and maintained his regular contacts and joint ventures with CoE national minority bodies.

## North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

During the year, OSCE-NATO relations encompassed both practical co-operation and more intense political dialogue. Regular contacts took place at senior political and expert level.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed the North Atlantic Council on 19 November, commenting on OSCE involvement in election monitoring, Kosovo, the protracted conflicts on the territory of the former Soviet Union, counter-terrorism and Afghanistan.

On 11 July, the OSCE Secretary General delivered a speech to the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council providing an overview of the Organization and highlighting the values and commitments it enshrines. On that occasion, he also met with the Secretary General of NATO and other high officials.

Regular OSCE-NATO staff meetings took place in March and September where issues including regional matters and politico-military activities were discussed.

The Conflict Prevention Centre participated in the *NATO Partnership for Peace Trust Fund Workshop* in Washington D.C. in February, in order to share OSCE experiences in providing assistance. The Centre also maintained regular information exchange on project activities on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition as well as border-related activities within the *Ohrid Border Process* framework for the western Balkans.

Representatives from NATO attended a number of Action against Terrorism Unit events in 2007, including the Vilnius roundtable and the conference on enhancing public-private partnerships in combating terrorism. Additionally, NATO contributed to the OSCE Counter-terrorism Network Newsletter.

The Spanish OSCE Chairmanship, NATO and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities organized a workshop on environmental and security aspects of water scarcity, land degradation and desertification in the Mediterranean region in Valencia, Spain, in December. The conference produced a set of recommendations to international organizations for fostering environmental security in the region.

## Other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives

The Secretary General participated in the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) and in the *Tenth SEEC Summit of Heads of State and Government*, both in Zagreb in March and May, respectively, as well as in the meetings of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and of the Council of Collective Security of the CSTO in Dushanbe in October. Other senior officials represented the OSCE at the Summits of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova) that took place in Baku in June, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organization (BSEC) in Istanbul in June, and the Central European Initiative (CEI) in Sofia in November, as well as at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of BSEC in Istanbul in October, and the Stability Pact Regional Table meeting in Zagreb in May.

The Secretaries General of the CSTO and the Eurasian Economic Community addressed the OSCE Permanent Council in February and July, respectively. Representatives of a number of international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives attended the OSCE Ministerial Council in Madrid on 29 and 30 November, while the Secretaries General of the CSTO and GUAM, as well as the Executive Secretary of the CIS, held bilateral meetings with the OSCE Secretary General in the margins of the

Madrid Ministerial. The CSTO Secretary General and the CIS Executive Secretary participated in this year's *Tripartite High-level Meeting*, while the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre participated in the CSTO conference in Moscow in February. Representatives of the Action against Terrorism Unit and the Department of Human Resources visited the CIS Executive Committee in Minsk.

The OSCE continued in 2007 the fruitful co-operation developed with the IOM, in particular with the IOM Liaison Office in Vienna. Representatives of each attended the other's relevant events.

Institutional contacts with the ICRC were maintained with the visit to the OSCE Secretariat by the Diplomatic Adviser of the Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit in February.

The Conflict Prevention Centre worked together with the Stability Pact on border-related activities within the *Ohrid Border Process* framework. It also co-operated with the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearing House for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in developing related projects. The Centre maintained staff-level relations with the Wasensaar Arrangement and provided a presentation on recent OSCE action on small arms and light weapons at the meeting of its General Working Group on 18 October.

The Action against Terrorism Unit supported the work of specialized international bodies on container/supply-chain security, in particular the implementation of the World Customs Organization Framework of Standards as well as relevant efforts by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization. Joint OSCE and World Customs Organization workshops on the implementation of the Framework took place in Serbia and Kazakhstan.

In liaison with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Organization for Standardization, the Unit provided capacity-building measures on the implementation of electronic documents with biometric identifiers, as well as on government tender issues. This included the joint organization of an OSCE-wide event and a regional workshop focusing on the OSCE Mediterranean Partners. The International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) was also one of the Unit's main partners in its programme on enhancing travel document security and contributed to several OSCE events.

Throughout the year, the Unit furthered its relations with the CIS's Anti-terrorism Centre. The Centre participated in a variety of the Unit's events on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism and on combating terrorist use of the Internet.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities maintained its good working relationships with the ILO, particularly with its International Migration Programme, and the IOM, jointly producing and launching the Mediterranean edition of the *Labour Migration Handbook* in Arabic and English. It also contributed to the Vienna Migration Group meetings organized by the IOM.

The Office of the Co-ordinator co-operated with the OECD in the framework of the Anti-Corruption Network (*Istanbul Action Plan*), as well as

with the Stability Pact on combating corruption. The Office also continued its collaboration with the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism. The OECD contributed to the Regional Workshop on the *OSCE Investment and Business Guide*, organized in Albania in October. The OECD and the EBRD participated in the *OSCE Expert Workshop on the Systems of Indicators for Evaluation of State-supported SME Development Programmes* in Vienna in June.

## International financial institutions

With support from the World Bank, the EBRD and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the OSCE held a conference on the *Main Challenges for Providing Environmental Security and Sustainable Development in the Region of Central Asia: Degradation of Land and Pollution of Soil* in Tashkent in October, focusing on technology transfer, the management of water and land resources.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities focused his ongoing dialogue with international financial institutions on the need for greater efforts to promote social integration in the countries where he is engaged. This topic and the practical co-operation between the two institutions in the field, dealing with assistance in developing textbooks, curricula and the teaching of languages, were discussed at the meeting with the Vice-President of the WB for Europe and Central Asia. Also, the ADB continued to be a partner for the High Commissioner within the framework of regional co-operation and individual country engagements.

## Non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were invited and contributed to the main OSCE meetings and events. They also continued to co-operate with the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and field presences, frequently as project partners.

The Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media maintained close contacts with media NGOs in the whole OSCE area, including Reporters Without Borders, the International Press Institute, Article 19, Privacy International and the World Press Freedom Committee.

## Highlights of co-operation in the field

### South-eastern Europe

The **Presence in Albania** worked with the EC and the CoE on electoral reform, including a civil registration project, and with the EC on police assistance. It co-operated with the UN and NATO in Kosovo/Serbia on joint cross-border co-operation matters.

The **Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** worked in co-operation with international agencies such as UNHCR, UNDP, NATO, the EU Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EC Delegation, the CoE and the Office of the High Representative in various areas related to its programmes.

The **Mission to Croatia** worked closely in consultation with the EC Delegation, UNHCR and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former

Yugoslavia (ICTY) on the rule of law and return and integration of refugees.

The **Mission to Montenegro** further increased its level of co-operation and co-ordination with other international organizations in all programme areas, as a key element in its diplomatic and programmatic work.

The **Mission to Serbia** co-operated with UN agencies, such as UNDP, UNHCR, ICTY, UNODC, EU, CoE, NATO, the WB, the EBRD and others, as well as with NGOs in its five programme areas: rule of law/human rights, democratization, law enforcement, media and economy and the environment.

The **Mission in Kosovo** maintained its commitment to strengthen its good co-operation with other international institutions on the ground and with the governments of the participating States.

In close co-operation with the ICTY, the **Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje** implemented a comprehensive training programme on international humanitarian law, which was designed to assist judges, prosecutors and investigators in handling war crimes and complex crimes cases.

### Eastern Europe

The **Office in Minsk**, the UNDP and the Swiss Agency for Co-operation participated in the *Co-operation and Rehabilitation Programme* for Chernobyl-affected regions. It regularly consulted the UN, the European Union's *Technical Assistance to the CIS* programme (TACIS), and the WB on matters of mutual interest. The Office and the UN organized events celebrating the Human Rights Declaration and against domestic violence.

The **Mission to Moldova** co-operated closely with the UN, the CoE and the EU in promoting democracy, rule of law, freedom of the media and human rights as well as combating trafficking in human beings.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** enjoyed effective co-operation with UN agencies, IOM and La Strada.

The **Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference** continued its co-operation with UN agencies, in particular with UNHCR, on issues related to the conflict. In addition, the Office assisted in the release of prisoners of war in co-operation with ICRC.

### South Caucasus

The **Office in Baku** worked with the CoE on Freedom of Assembly legislation and ways to improve relations between media and government, with UNICEF on juvenile justice, with ILO on enhancing anti-trafficking efforts and with UNDP on improving aid co-ordination.

The **Mission to Georgia** co-operated with the main OSCE partners: UN agencies, CoE, EU and NATO. The implementation the €2.5 million *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* for the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict with the EC, UNDP and UNHCR provides an example of concrete co-operation in the field.

The **Office in Yerevan** co-ordinated international activities by chairing working groups on elections, anti-corruption, ombudsman, media legislation, gender,

anti-trafficking and migration. Most joint projects were conducted with UNDP, CoE, EU, WB and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

### Central Asia

The **Centre in Ashgabad** co-operated with UN agencies, the EU/TACIS Programme and the U.S. Peace Corps to train civil servants, address health and environmental issues and assist farmers' associations. The Centre's work with institutions of higher education expanded.

The **Centre in Astana** closely co-operated with various international organizations: on parliamentary development with the UNDP; on border security and management with IOM, UNDP and the EU's BOMCA programme; on transboundary water management with UNECE and with the UN Development Fund for Women and UNDP on gender issues.

The **Centre in Bishkek** held a training course for future staff members of OSCE field operations with a trainer from the UNDP Tajikistan Mine Action Centre. It co-operated with the CoE Venice Commission in the area of constitutional reform. The Centre also held regular consultations with the EC and a number of other international organizations.

The **Centre in Dushanbe** regularly co-operated with a number of international organizations, such as UNDP, the UN Tajikistan Office for Peacebuilding, the EU's BOMCA programme, the EC and other international aid and development agencies.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** worked together with UNDP to implement a project in the economic and environmental dimension. Co-ordination of activities with other international organizations and financial institutions was a regular feature of the office's work in 2007.

## Interaction with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE area

### Interaction with Partners for Co-operation

#### Report of the OSCE Chairmanship

During its Chairmanship, Spain made it a matter of policy to improve relations with the Partners for Co-operation and address some of the main proposals they had raised over time.

As a Mediterranean country itself, Spain made relations with the Mediterranean Partners a priority for the year. The *OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims*, held in Cordoba on 9 and 10 October, was a significant landmark in the relations with the Mediterranean Partners. For the first time, also, the second part of the *Economic and Environmental Forum* devoted a plenary session to *Challenges to the Management of Water Resources and to Countering Desertification in the Mediterranean Region*, at which experts from many Mediterranean Partners spoke.

Spain entrenched the practice of regularly inviting the Partners for Co-operation to meetings of the Permanent Council, where they now join participating States at the main table. The Partners also participated ever more in the meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Foreign Ministers at the Madrid Ministerial Council reached consensus on two important documents with respect to Partners. The *Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation* reiterates the participating States' interest in strengthening relations with them. The *Decision on OSCE Engagement with Afghanistan* was also a significant landmark. The Strategic Police Matters Unit assisted Afghanistan's efforts toward increased security and stability with an anti-narcotics training course for 10 Afghan Police officers. The Ministerial Council also saw the traditional meetings of the OSCE Ministerial Troika with the Partners for Co-operation.

The Spanish Chairmanship successfully concluded negotiations on the establishment of a Partnership Fund, which was finally adopted on the margins of the Ministerial Council in Madrid, thanks also to the efforts of Belgium and Finland, chairs of the respective Contact Groups.

With the support of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group and of the Secretariat, Spain also sponsored various events with a Mediterranean focus: a workshop on travel document security in November, a workshop on water management and land degradation in the Mediterranean in

December and a seminar launching the Arabic-language edition of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies*, also in December.

At the initiative of Belgium and Finland, the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups held their first joint meeting. They took stock of the relations between the OSCE and the Partners, taking into account a background paper prepared by the Secretariat, and elaborated a number of important proposals to enhance relations. The 2008 Finnish Chairmanship will further encourage such joint meetings.

#### Report of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation

**Work of the Asian Contact Group.** The Belgian Chairmanship held five meetings of the Asian Contact Group, focussing on issues in all three dimensions that offered good prospects for an increased dialogue. These included border management and security, land degradation and soil contamination, combating trafficking in human beings and human security. The Contact Group also held an in-depth discussion on intensifying relations between the OSCE and the ASEAN Regional Forum, the principal forum for security dialogue in Asia.

**OSCE-Mongolia Conference.** The main event of the year was the *2007 OSCE-Mongolia Conference on Strengthening the Co-operative Security between the OSCE and the Asian Partners for Co-operation*, which took place in Ulaanbaatar on 12 and 13 June, the first time Mongolia hosted the event. The agenda addressed issues such as voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments; the special needs of landlocked developing countries; transport development; land degradation and desertification; judicial reform, police assistance and border security and management, as well as democratization, human rights and fundamental freedoms as building blocks of security and stability.

Participants proposed enhancing opportunities for joint activities and result-oriented projects. They expressed wide support for the establishment of a Partnership Fund, which was achieved on the margins of the Ministerial Council, as a tool to realize those objectives. From the point of view of regional security, Central Asia was described as a linchpin between the OSCE and the Asian Partners. The meeting therefore highlighted the need to address landlocked countries' problems by fostering regional co-operation in transport and trade facilitation and by enhancing police capacity, border security and management.

**Human security event.** An informal workshop on promoting the concept of human security in the OSCE area was held in Vienna in May at the initiative of Japan and several other co-sponsoring countries. Some participants emphasized that the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative approach to security and the concept of human security have a great deal in common: they are both trans-national, multi-dimensional and serve to encourage action by both states and individuals to ensure security. Others wondered whether and how the human security concept would impact on activities already being pursued within the OSCE. A third group noted the lack of an agreed definition of what constitutes human security and the ensuing difficulties in relating the concept to the OSCE.

#### Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation:

*Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.*

*Finland chaired the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2007.*

#### Asian Partners for Co-operation:

*Afghanistan, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Thailand.*

*Belgium chaired the Asian Contact Group in 2007.*

The workshop allowed for an intensive and enlightening debate where participating States and Partners for Co-operation had a real opportunity to share their sensitivities. It was agreed to continue the dialogue at a next suitable occasion.

**Fourth Jeju Peace Forum.** From 21 to 23 June Belgium, together with the Secretariat, represented the OSCE at the fourth *Jeju Peace Forum* in the Republic of Korea, co-organized by the Jeju Peace Institute in affiliation with the International Peace Foundation. The *Forum* included a special session on the theme *From Helsinki to Jeju: Designing the Jeju Process for a Multilateral Co-operation Mechanism in Northeast Asia*. In the discussion, participants expressed interest in the OSCE as a model for promoting peace and security in Northeast Asia. The *Jeju Declaration* said that, "Today's critical security issues in Northeast Asia [...] urgently require new measures to encourage multilateral security co-operation in the region." Belgium stands ready to support the organization of a follow-up seminar in Vienna in 2008 on *Sharing the CSCE/OSCE Experience in Multilateral Security Co-operation with Northeast Asia*.

#### Report of the Chairmanship of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

**Work of the Mediterranean Contact Group.** The Mediterranean Contact Group, chaired by Finland, met seven times in 2007, further intensifying the exchange of ideas between the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners. In addition, several Contact Point meetings were held during the year in order to prepare the Ambassadorial meetings and the agenda of the 2007 *Mediterranean Seminar*.

At Contact Group meetings, participants discussed human dimension and security matters, such as OSCE anti-trafficking and anti-terrorism activities, as well as tolerance and migration. The latter was discussed both in relation to the OSCE and to the follow-up meeting of the *Ministerial Euro-African Conference on Migration and Development*, which took place in Madrid on 21 June.

The Contact Group addressed OSCE-area developments and topics presented by the Mediterranean Partners relevant to their countries and the OSCE.

Furthermore, the Contact Group held focussed discussions before and after major OSCE events, such as the *High-Level Conference on Combating Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding* and the *Annual Security Review Conference*.

The Spanish Chairmanship organized an informal meeting between the Partners and the three Personal Representatives in tolerance-related matters to discuss combating discrimination. To maintain momentum in this crucial area, Finland proposed tolerance as the theme of the 2007 *Mediterranean Seminar*, which all Mediterranean Partners welcomed.

As during previous years, the Special Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly in Vienna briefed the Group on Partnership-relevant aspects of the *Annual Session* of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Towards the end of the year the Contact Group and Contact Points prepared intensively for the Madrid Ministerial Council Meeting and the meeting with the OSCE Ministerial Troika, which resulted in the Declaration as well as the establishment of a Partnership Fund.

**OSCE Mediterranean Seminar.** The *Mediterranean*

*Seminar*, which took place in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 18 and 19 December, concentrated on the theme Combating Intolerance and Discrimination and Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding. High-level speakers discussed tolerance issues, prompting an exchange of views. Unfortunately, the political situation in the eastern Mediterranean and in the Middle East hampered both participating States and Partners from enhancing relations as much as both would have liked. Nevertheless, Finland hopes that this will remain an exception in the OSCE dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners. Finland was encouraged by the non-governmental organization side event that was organized for the first time on the eve of the Seminar and supported the recommendation to organize more such side events in future.

#### Report of the Secretary General

The Secretariat helped strengthen relations with the Partners for Co-operation by advising and supporting the Chairs of the respective Contact Groups, organizing a number of events with the Mediterranean Partners, and organizing the annual *Mediterranean Seminar and the OSCE-Mongolia Conference*. In preparation for the first joint meeting of the Contact Groups, the Secretariat also prepared an extensive background paper on relations between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation.

Upon invitation by the Afghan Foreign Minister, the Secretary General visited Kabul in July, where he held consultations with President Hamid Karzai, as well as with high-level representatives of the Government of Afghanistan. He also held consultations with high-level representatives from the main international actors based in Kabul, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force and the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan.

At the meetings, representatives discussed opportunities to deepen co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan. They highlighted a number of such areas, including assistance in the training and development of junior diplomats through sponsorships for exchanges with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek or OSCE internships. They particularly emphasized support to enhance Afghanistan's capacity to manage the border between its Northern provinces and Tajikistan, and additional training for Afghan police experts on counter-narcotics at the Domodedovo Academy in Russia.



Ambassadors of the six OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation (OSCE/ Susanna Loof)

As a follow-up to the Secretary General's visit, a representative from the Section for External Co-operation attended, upon special invitation by the Co-Chairs, the sixth meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, which took place in Kabul on 3 October. A representative of the Secretariat's Border Unit participated in a Paris Pact Expert Roundtable meeting that took place from 29 October to 2 November in Kabul.

As a follow-up to the 2006 *OSCE Mediterranean Seminar*, the Action against Terrorism Unit organized a travel document security workshop for the Mediterranean Region from 13 to 15 November in Madrid, Spain.

***The OSCE Mediterranean partnership "encourages both participating States and Partners to pursue common objectives as we tackle problems of a cross-border nature, including terrorism, trafficking in arms and drugs, organized crime, illegal migration, intolerance and environmental degradation."***

— Algeria's Ambassador Taous Feroukhi

Also as a follow-up, a seminar was held to launch the Arabic translation of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies*, a policy tool for government and social partner practitioners. The event was organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities under the auspices of the OSCE Spanish Chairmanship and the Kingdom of Morocco, and in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization. Discussion touched on various aspects related to the management of migration flows. It led to a number of recommendations for further OSCE action, including developing specific training modules for policy-makers as well as social partners, media and diplomatic staff; organizing thematic workshops based on certain chapters of the *Handbook*; and supporting further activities on gender sensitive labour migration policies. The Seminar took place in Rabat, Morocco, on 12 and 13 December.

***The OSCE's dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners "has the potential of contributing to regional stability through greater harmony in the way we confront shared challenges relating to peace, security, human rights, democracy, governance and regional development."***

— Jordan's Ambassador Shehab A. Madi

Following discussions at the second part of the *Economic and Environmental Forum* on challenges to the management of water resources and to counteracting desertification in the Mediterranean region, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities organized, together with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), an OSCE Chairmanship/NATO Workshop on *Water Scarcity, Land Degradation and Desertification in the Mediterranean Region - Environment and Security Linkages*. The workshop assessed the linkages between water scarcity, land degradation and desertification, on the one

hand, and security on the other. Participants discussed the appropriate policy response and the specific role the OSCE, NATO and other organizations could play in fostering environmental security in the region.

Participants stressed the need to raise awareness of the issue and increase dialogue among Mediterranean basin countries. Many underlined the importance of implementing a regional survey or assessment on water scarcity, land degradation, desertification and security. The keynote presentations, recommendations and conclusions of the working groups and written contributions will be published in 2008.

## **Interaction with organizations outside the OSCE area**

The OSCE further developed dialogue and co-operation at all levels with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE area. The Organization invited them to participate in relevant OSCE events, including the Madrid Ministerial Council.

In November, the Secretary General visited the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), where he held consultations with Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza and other OAS officials. The Chairman of the Permanent Council, together with the OSCE Secretary General, participated in a meeting in May of the Group of Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Vienna, held under the aegis of Azerbaijan. Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States (LAS), delivered a keynote statement at the Cordoba conference on intolerance against Muslims.

The Head of External Co-operation, upon invitation by Finland, made a presentation on the OSCE's experience in preventive diplomacy and confidence- and security-building measures at a meeting of the Inter-sessional Support Group of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Helsinki on 29 and 30 March. On the margins, contacts were established with the ARF Secretariat. Representatives of the Conference on Interaction and Security-building Measures in Central Asia and of the ARF participated in the *OSCE-Mongolia Conference*.

The LAS, the OIC and the OAS were involved in a number of events organized by the Action against Terrorism Unit, dealing with issues such as public-private partnerships in combating terrorism, enhancing travel document security and combating incitement to terrorism on the Internet. The OAS also actively contributed to the *OSCE Counter-terrorism Network Newsletter* and promoted the relevant work of the OSCE in its own counter-terrorism newsletter.

The Conflict Prevention Centre participated in a symposium LAS organized in Cairo in June on *The Road Ahead after the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons 2006 Review Conference: the Present and the Future*. The ODIHR participated in the *2nd Implementation Meeting on the Declaration of Principles for Election Observation*, organized by the OAS.