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## **ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE (20 to 27 September)**

### **OSCE Chairman seriously regrets sentence against Belarus opposition leader Kozulin upheld during appeal**

NEW YORK, 21 September 2006 - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, expressed regret that the Belarus authorities had dismissed an appeal from Alexander Kozulin, an opposition candidate in last March's presidential election, and left the severe sentence in force. He called again for the release of all political detainees in Belarus.

### **OSCE holds high-level meeting with Council of Europe, discusses way to boost co-operation**

NEW YORK, 22 September 2006 - The OSCE held high-level talks with the Council of Europe and the two organizations agreed to keep boosting co-operation on fighting terrorism and trafficking in human beings, protecting national minorities and fostering tolerance.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, stressed the importance to work together to promote security, peace and stability based on human rights, democracy and the rule of law throughout Europe without dividing lines and without exceptions.

### **OSCE's Special Envoy closes the conference on Technology for Democracy in Brussels**

BRUSSELS, 27 September 2006 – The Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairmanship, Senator Pierre Chevalier, closed the conference on Technology for Democracy, organized by the Belgian OSCE Chairmanship. The conference aims to strengthen existing expertise on election issues by addressing opportunities, challenges and experiences related to electronic-voting.