



OSCE/MIKHAIL EVSTAFIEV

Jose-Luis Herrero from Spain took office on 12 January as the new **Head of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje**. He succeeded Ambassador Giorgio Radicati from Italy.

Gary D. Robbins, a senior United States diplomat, took up his duties as **Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** in October 2008.

He was previously Director for European Security and Political Affairs in the US State Department, a position he had held since early 2006. Earlier diplomatic postings had taken him to several countries in Europe, Africa and Latin America. He also served in the State Department's Operations Centre, which is responsible for communications and crisis management.



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Ambassador Robbins holds a doctorate of law from the University of California at Berkeley, a master's degree in strategic studies from the National Defense University, and a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from Whitman College. He also studied at the University of Strasbourg, the University of Stockholm and the University of Washington.

Before joining the Foreign Service, he practiced law with the firm of Graham and Dunn, in Seattle, Washington.

Ambassador Robbins succeeded Douglas Davidson, also of the United States.

"The OSCE has been playing a significant role in the region and in this country by building confidence among people of different ethnicities through reforms in policing, the judiciary and public administration," said Ambassador Herrero. "I look forward to being part of the Organization's continuing efforts in the region."

From February 2007 to the time of his new appointment, Ambassador Herrero was the Head of the OSCE Office in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Prior to joining the OSCE, he was Director General of FRIDE, an independent Madrid-based research institute. Between 1992 and 2003, he was with the United Nations in Kosovo, Geneva, Rwanda and Haiti, specializing in political and civil affairs and issues concerning human rights and the media. Earlier, he had also worked with the Secretariat of Amnesty International in London.

Ambassador Herrero holds a masters in public administration from Harvard University and a master of arts in political science and sociology from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Austrian diplomat **Werner Almhofer** assumed the post of Head of the **OSCE Mission in Kosovo** on 1 October 2008, succeeding Tim Guldemann of Switzerland.

Ambassador Almhofer has devoted much of his career to Balkan affairs since joining the Austrian Foreign Ministry in 1992. Prior to his OSCE appointment, he had been serving as his country's Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina since March 2005.



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As Deputy Head of Mission at the Austrian Embassy in Belgrade during Austria's EU Presidency in 1998, he co-operated closely with the EU Special Envoy for Kosovo, Wolfgang Petritsch. Later in 2000, during the Austrian Chairmanship of the OSCE, he was involved in preparations for the readmission of the then-Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into the Organization. (Yugoslavia had been suspended from the OSCE in July 1992.)

Ambassador Almhofer was head of the Unit for Common Foreign and Security Policy in the Austrian Foreign Ministry from 2002 to 2005. The relationship between the Western Balkans and Europe was a major focus of this area of responsibility.

Arsim Zekolli, of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, assumed the position of **Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad** on 10 February 2009, succeeding Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the time of his appointment, Ambassador Zekolli had been serving as Head of his country's Permanent Mission to the OSCE since March 2006. As Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council's Economic and Environmental Committee in 2007, he launched the region-to-region co-operation between countries in south-eastern Europe and Central Asia.

"Being a national representative is different from being a representative on behalf of 56 participating States," he said, "but I strongly believe that we are all united in our aspiration to achieve common benefits stemming from common values. Guided by the motto of *E Pluribus Unum*, our work cannot be hampered by differences as long as it is guided by shared values and ideals."

Prior to joining his country's foreign service in 2005, he worked in various capacities at the United Nations Office in Skopje (2000-2005), the National Democratic Institute (1999), the European Commission Delegation to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1998-1999) and the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (1994-1998).

Earlier in his career, Ambassador Zekolli was the foreign policy editor of several print and electronic publications. He



was also active in a local NGO responsible for promoting international co-operation.

He joined the Foreign Ministry in 2005 after studies in international relations at the Skopje University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius. He had earlier graduated with a degree in the history of arts and archaeology from the same university.



Goran Svilanović of Serbia, a politician, public servant and human rights legal activist, was appointed **Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities** on 1 December 2008. He succeeded Bernard Snoy of Belgium.

Mr. Svilanović was president of the Civic Alliance of Serbia political party (1999-2004). He served as Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (2000-2004), which was renamed Serbia and Montenegro in 2003. He was also a member of parliament (2000-2006).

He served as Chairman of Working Table I (democratization and human rights) of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (November 2004-2007). He was a member of the Senior Review Group (2005-2006), which proposed

the transformation of the Stability Pact into the Regional Co-operation Council.

Mr. Svilanović has played a key role in several groups and organizations, including the Centre for Antiwar Action, the International Commission on the Balkans and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights. Most recently, he was a consultant on south-eastern Europe for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and taught law at the Union University in Belgrade.

"After devoting many years to the countries in south-eastern Europe, which are now well on their way towards membership in the European Union, I am pleased to have joined the OSCE and to be working with a rich diversity of people," he said. "I look forward to helping strengthen confidence and co-operation among the participating States through the promotion of good governance and environmental security."

Mr. Svilanović added that, although the financial and economic crisis threatened to loom large in 2009, "we will stay focused on the OSCE priority issues within the mandate of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, including long-term challenges such as climate change, energy efficiency and migration."

Born in Gnjilane, Mr. Svilanović holds a PhD degree from the Union University in Belgrade and masters and undergraduate degrees in law from the University of Belgrade. He also attended the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, Saarland University and the European University Center for Peace Studies in Stadtschlaining, Austria. He is the author of a number of books, articles and other publications.