

7th Annual Session OSCE PA Adopts Copenhagen Declaration



Parliamentarians voting on the Copenhagen Declaration.

The 7th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) was held in Copenhagen from 7 to 10 July. More than 300 parliamentarians from 54 OSCE participating States took part in the Session as well as observers from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the North Atlantic Assembly, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Nordic Council and Egypt.

Standing Committee

The main theme of the Session was “the development of the structures, institutions, and perspectives of the OSCE.”

A supplementary resolution on Kosovo obtained the required two-thirds majority vote in the Standing Committee necessary for consideration in the Committees and the Assembly.

On the first day of the Annual Session the Standing Committee had to vote on the recognition of the official delegation from Belarus. Two delegations from Belarus had presented credentials before the opening of the Copenhagen Session, each claiming to be the legitimate parliament of the former Soviet Republic and thereby forcing the creation of a Credentials Committee and the need for a vote to recognize one official delegation. The Assembly overwhelmingly voted to support the membership of the

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13th Supreme Soviet Delegation from the Republic of Belarus as the “last legally elected body” in that country. The Assembly’s vote reaffirmed its earlier recognition of the 13th Supreme Soviet as the legitimate Parliament of Belarus and its Delegation as the official representatives to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

The Standing Committee heard from the Russian delegation about plans for the 8th Annual Session of the OSCE PA in St. Petersburg next year and also accepted the invitation of the Romanian delegation for the 9th Annual Session in Bucharest in the year 2000.



New OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Ms. Helle Degn addressing the 7th Annual OSCE PA Session in Copenhagen.

Plenary Session

The 7th Annual Session was opened by the outgoing President of the Assembly, Mr. Javier Rupérez of Spain. In his address President Rupérez said that “we must try to offer reasonable solutions for our fellow citizens and, as fellow parliamentarians, bear all the influence we can on our respective governments and public opinions to achieve a peaceful and lasting arrangement for those who within our common boundaries suffer the scourge of violence, war, and death.”

The Prime Minister of Denmark, Mr. Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, also addressed the Assembly. He underlined that “if we did not have the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly we would have to invent one immediately,” and also mentioned three

reasons why the OSCE PA plays a decisive role in conflict prevention; “firstly, the Assembly contributes positively to both national and international political dialogue, thus serving as an engine for promoting democratic developments in Europe; secondly because the debates and recommendations of the OSCE PA contribute to the ongoing work of the OSCE within the fields of conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation; and thirdly, because OSCE Parliamentarians play an increasingly important role in promoting democratic values at their very root: the election process.”

Election monitoring by parliamentarians was also emphasized by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Polish Foreign Minister Bronisław Geremek, who men-

tioned the fact that during the past five years the OSCE PA has sent nearly seven hundred parliamentarians to more than thirty elections throughout the OSCE area. He encouraged all parliamentarians to carry on these important activities.

Mr. Geremek also addressed the issue of OSCE decision making. He noted that the OSCE PA has consistently recommended changes in OSCE decision-making procedures, particularly the requirement for unanimous consensus on nearly all decisions. While showing understanding for this position he asked the Assembly to consider the consensus requirement in a broader context than one of national or parliamentary politics. “Consensus is difficult to achieve, but it clearly pays off when it is reached,” said Mr. Geremek adding that he would not discount, however, the idea of “approximate consensus” which has been put forward and endorsed by the OSCE PA.

Following established tradition, Mr. Geremek next answered questions from the floor. There were also presentations by the OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Max van der Stoep, the Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Freimut Duve, all of whom took questions from the floor. The Assembly also heard remarks by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Ms. Leni Fischer and representatives from the North Atlantic Assembly, Russian Duma, European Parliament, CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, Nordic Council, and WEU-Assembly.

The OSCE Prize for Journalism and Democracy was presented to the British

writer and journalist, Mr. Timothy Garton Ash. The Prize – worth US\$ 20,000 – is awarded annually by the Assembly to journalists who, through their work, have promoted OSCE principles on human rights and democracy. Donors of the Prize are the Berlingske Fond (Denmark), Bertelsmann AG (Germany), Bonnier Group (Sweden), Southern Inc. and Hollinger Inc. (Canada) and Schibsted ASA (Norway). Mr. Garton Ash praised the OSCE for being “one of the few organizations really to try to seize the chance that was opened by 1989, a chance... of building a liberal order for the whole of Europe, not just for a part of it.”

The traditional Meeting of Women OSCE Parliamentarians discussed this year’s topic “The Role of Women in Connection with the OSCE’s Conflict-Prevention Activities.” A resolution was adopted which “calls upon the OSCE to increase through *inter alia* measures of affirmative action, women’s participation, and leadership in the decision-making bodies for conflict-prevention, and encourages the participation of more female personnel at all levels in field missions.”

The Copenhagen Declaration

A supplementary resolution on Kosovo was also approved. It appealed to all parties in the Kosovo conflict to return to the principles of non-violence and denounced the policies of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) for its military aggression against the Albanian population of Kosovo. While supporting the demands for strong autonomy for Kosovo, the Assembly reaffirmed the position that the principles of the international law with regard to the inviolability of frontiers and the territorial integrity of States, as

enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, should be respected in the case of the FRY and other States in the region. The Assembly appealed to President Milošević to speed up implementation of the commitments he entered into in the Moscow joint statement of 16 June 1998. The Assembly also called for the investigation and prosecution by the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia of crimes against humanity committed in Kosovo, the immediate withdrawal of Serbian special police units, and the end of operations against the civilian population.

The final Declaration – consisting of the draft resolutions as discussed and amended in the three General Committees – was debated in the Assembly on the last day of the Annual Session. After voting paragraph by paragraph the Assembly adopted the Copenhagen Declaration. Among other things, the Declaration “recognized that meeting the challenges of implementation of OSCE principles and commitments does not require the creation of new institutions and structures, but rather should involve a refinement of existing OSCE tools and resources in the pursuit of greater effectiveness.” Also, the Assembly continued to call for revision of OSCE decision-making procedures and urged the OSCE Ministerial Council to “consider expanding those circumstances under which the existing consensus-minus-one decision-making mechanism is utilized to include, *inter alia*, approval of budgets, deployment of missions, and selection of senior personnel.” The Assembly urged, “in particular, the establishment of continuous monitoring of compliance with OSCE principles and norms, so that implementation constitutes a basic and routine OSCE activity, including granting the Chairman-in-Office the power to invoke

an appropriate review mechanism,” and further recommended” that parliamentary institutions, including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, and the North Atlantic Assembly, intensify their cooperation in election monitoring and that an appropriate division of labour be developed between the parliamentary and governmental institutions, including separation of responsibilities between assistance with the organization of elections and judgement of the quality and fairness of those elections.” The Assembly further recommended “taking concrete steps to set up the early warning system of social and economic indicators with a direct link to security, as proposed at the Prague meeting of the Economic Forum of 1996.”

Officers Elected

The Assembly elected Ms. Helle Degn, Chair of the Foreign Policy Committee in the Danish Parliament, as its new President for a one year term. Ms. de Zulueta (Italy) and Mr. Enerem (Turkey) were elected, and Mr. Steny Hoyer (U.S.A.) was re-elected to three year terms as Vice-Presidents of the Assembly. From the First Committee Mr. Bruce George (UK) was re-elected as Chair, Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) as Vice-Chair, and Mr. Alcee Hastings (U.S.A.) as Rapporteur. From the Second Committee Mr. Jacques Floch (France) was re-elected as Chair, Mr. Jerry Grafstein (Canada) elected as Vice-Chair, and Mr. Thomas Onken (Switzerland) as Rapporteur. From the Third Committee Mr. Gert Weisskirchen (Germany) was re-elected as Chair, Ms. Dorota Simonides (Poland) re-elected as Vice-Chair, and Ms. Nino Burdjanadze (Georgia) elected as Rapporteur.

OSCE Assessment Mission Visits the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

An OSCE Technical Assessment Mission visited the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) between 14 and 22 July. The visit followed exploratory talks between Yugoslav officials and an OSCE delegation, headed by Ambassador Jerzy Nowak, in Belgrade on 3 July during which the FRY invited the OSCE to carry out an "assessment mission."

The Technical Assessment Mission, headed by Ambassador Hansjörg Eiff (Germany), included representatives of the OSCE Troika (Poland, Denmark and Norway), the Contact Group, the EU Presidency (Austria), a representative of Mr. Felipe González, and the OSCE Secretariat.

During its one-week visit the mission focused its work on the possible return of the Long-Term Mission to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, the return of the mission of the Chairman-in-Office's Personal Representative for the FRY (Mr. Felipe González), the situation on the ground in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, recent developments in areas of concern highlighted by Mr. González in his 1996 report, and the possible participation of the FRY in the work of the OSCE.

In Belgrade the mission met with the Foreign Minister, Federal and Serbian Ministers, the Chairman and members of the FRY Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees, leaders of the political opposition, and representatives of non-governmental organizations, the independent media and international organizations. It also met with represen-

tatives of regional parties from the Sandjak and Vojvodina.

In Kosovo, the mission met with local Serb authorities, political representatives of Kosovo Albanians, the Albanian Students Union, the Helsinki Committee and the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission.

In Montenegro, the mission was received by President Djukanović and the Prime Minister, the Chairman of the National Assembly, the Foreign Minister, the Minister responsible for ethnic minorities, and human rights and media representatives.

Concerning the situation in Kosovo, the mission concluded in its report that "committed, high-level international involvement in the negotiation process" was essential given the "total lack of trust between the two communities in Kosovo, against the background of increasing violence, and the distance between the political positions as to how the conflict could be resolved." The most pressing need, the report said, was for an immediate cessation of hostilities. The mission also expressed concern about the humanitarian situation.

The report affirmed the need for the rapid re-establishment of the OSCE Long-Term Missions to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina as well as the mission of Mr. Felipe González, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. The report cited the "deteriorating situation in Kosovo, together with the relative lack of progress on the issues identified by Mr. González in his

December 1996 report" as reasons for the need for OSCE involvement.

In this context, the mission noted that the situation regarding the media, judiciary, legal, and electoral systems "did not appear to have improved significantly" (since 1996). While the situation of the print media had improved, and a network of independent radio and TV stations had been set up outside Belgrade, "serious concern still remained in respect of the State media, the overall legislative framework governing the information sector and the Government's implementation of that legislation." The mission also cited a continuing lack of confidence in non-official circles in the legal system, including the legislation relating to the election process. The report also said the Law on the University "gave great cause for concern as it provided for Government control over the administration and teaching staff and limited the possibility of political expression by students."

The mission regretted that while the FRY indicated its readiness to accept the return of the OSCE Mission to Kosovo, it was only prepared to do so in return for the simultaneous participation of the FRY in the OSCE. The FRY was suspended from the Organization in 1992.

The mission recommended, and OSCE participating States supported, the continuation of OSCE-FRY talks. The next round of these talks are scheduled for Warsaw on 4 August.

Meanwhile, the situation on the ground deteriorated. In his regular report to the

United Nations Secretary-General on “information on the situation in Kosovo and on measures taken by the OSCE” (dated 24 July), Minister Geremek said that “all appeals by the international community for talks and a cessation of the hostilities have remained unanswered.” He informed the UN that “offensive operations, complete with heavy fighting and casualties, were the hallmarks of the period since 20 July. The civilian population also suffered losses and the numbers of the refugees from the area have grown”. He said that the OSCE Presence has reported a number of serious armed clashes inside Kosovo, close to the border with Albania, particularly since 20 July.

On 30 July the Chairman-in-Office issued a statement in which he expressed his “profound concern” about the further deterioration of the situation in Kosovo, including in the border region between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Albania. He deplored in the strongest terms the escalation of violence, bloodshed and the real threat of a full scale military conflict. He urged those involved to cease hostilities and any inflammatory action and to explore still existing avenues of political dialogue. He said that “the international community should act to stop violence, prevent war, and establish necessary conditions for peace talks.”

Mr. Geremek indicated that as the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE he has drawn the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to his judgement that the Kosovo crisis has entered into “a phase of unpredictable consequences for regional stability.”

He reiterated that the OSCE maintains its readiness to assist in a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Kosovo in the framework of decisions made by its participating States. In this context he pointed to the recent OSCE Technical Assessment Mission to the FRY. He called on the parties to assume positions conducive to taking up political dialogue and negotiated solutions.

Chairman-in-Office Visits Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 5 and 6 July OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Polish Foreign Minister Bronisław Geremek, paid a two-day visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina with stops in Banja Luka, Mostar and Sarajevo. In Banja Luka he met with Republika Srpska President Biljana Plavšić and Deputy Prime Minister Ostoja Kremenović, as well as opposition political leaders Ivanić and Živanović. In Mostar, he met with municipal and cantonal authorities. In Sarajevo, the Chairman-in-Office received an extensive briefing from the Mission’s senior staff, held a meeting with members of the Joint Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and joined a round-table discussion on the Human Dimension with the Ombuds-

men. He also met with High Representative Carlos Westendorp and BiH Foreign Minister Jadranko Prlić.

Throughout his trip, Minister Geremek stressed that the OSCE’s presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina was to assist in the peace process, and play a significant role in the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. He stressed the importance of the upcoming elections to be held on 12 and 13 September, and explained that he was visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina at this crucial time so that he could gain more knowledge and insight into the challenge currently facing the OSCE and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He also talked of the crucial task of building a civil society in which democratic and multi-ethnic principles eclipse nationalist concerns. A constant theme in that regard was the need for the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes of origin, as well as public administration and judicial reform. Minister Geremek stressed that the OSCE would devote its best efforts to preventing abuse of the media and promised continued efforts on election implementation. He noted, however, that while the OSCE would help in all of these respects, the main burden is with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina themselves.

Three New OSCE Centres in Central Asia

On 23 July the Permanent Council decided to establish three new OSCE Centres in Almaty, Ashgabat and Bishkek. The offices, which are to be established later this year, will perform a number of tasks. One of the most important will be to promote the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments as well as the co-operation of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and the Kyrgyz Republic within the OSCE framework. Special emphasis will be placed on the regional context, in all OSCE dimensions, including the economic,

environmental, human and political aspects of security and stability.

The Centres will facilitate contacts and promote information exchange with the Chairman-in-Office, other OSCE institutions and the OSCE participating States in Central Asia as well as co-operation with international organizations and institutions. They will also establish and maintain contacts with local authorities, universities, research institutions and NGOs and assist in arranging OSCE regional events like

seminars and visits to the area by OSCE delegations.

All of the Centres will liaise and co-operate closely with the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia, located in Tashkent, and with each other in order to maintain a coherent regional approach. It is envisioned that the staff of the Centres will consist of a Head of Centre assisted by a team of three experts seconded by OSCE participating States.

IN BRIEF



Ambassador Ján Kubiš, former Director of the Conflict Prevention (CPC), was awarded the **OSCE medal** on 15 July for his outstanding service to the OSCE. Ambassador Kubiš, who was CPC Director from July 1994 to July 1998 and Chairman of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials when

Czechoslovakia held the Chairmanship in 1992, is the second recipient of the OSCE medal. Former Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky was awarded the first OSCE medal in December 1997 in recognition of his distinguished service to the OSCE in Albania.

Mr. Iurie Leanca, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, addressed the Permanent Council (PC) on 9 July. He expressed the view

that the March elections in Moldova represented a step forwards in democratization in Moldova and briefly outlined the foreign policy principles of the new Moldovan Government. He referred to the lack of progress in settling the conflict in Transdnistria and to the growing level of crime in that region. He stressed the need for a mediated solution to the conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova. He also addressed the problem of the withdrawal of Russian troops from and the question of military transparency in Moldova, subject of an informal PC meeting on 8 July.



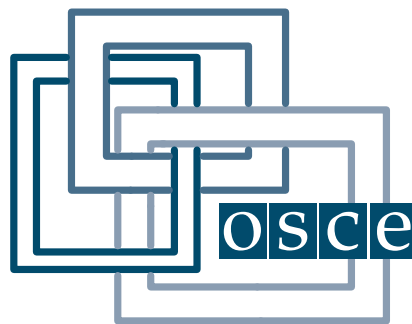
Ambassador Ján Kubiš (left) with OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona (centre) and the Chairman of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Adam Kobieracki.

An OSCE delegation, led by OSCE Secretary General Ambassador Giancarlo Aragona, took part in the **Third Meeting between the United Nations and Regional Organizations** in New York on 28 and 29 July. The topic for this year's meeting was "Conflict Prevention."

On 1 and 2 July an OSCE seminar on the "Interrelationship Between Central and Regional Governments" took place in Chisinau, Moldova. The seminar was organized by the Department for General Affairs in co-operation with the Government of the Republic of Moldova, with the assistance of the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

The seminar was attended by experts from 20 OSCE participating States, representatives of other international institutions and organizations (UNDP, UNHCR, CoE, World Bank, EBRD, Assembly of the European Regions, ICRC), the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, a representative of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, and a number of local NGOs.

The seminar was opened by Mr. Petru Lucinschi, President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Nicolae Tabacaru, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Moldova, and Ambassador



SEMINAR ON
INTERRELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN CENTRAL
AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
Chisinau, 1-2 July 1998

Giancarlo Aragona, Secretary General of the OSCE. Mr. Ion Ciubuc, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, made a keynote statement at the session on the case of Moldova.

The seminar provided a forum for exchange of information on experiences gained by various OSCE participating States. Detailed presentations of "country cases" on relations between central and regional governments were given by representatives of Canada, Switzerland,

the Russian Federation, France and Romania. An entire session was devoted to the specific case of Moldova – with contributions from the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Gagauz Region. The representatives of the Transnistrian region had declined an invitation to attend and to contribute to the seminar. During a panel discussion on the Interrelationship Between Central and Regional Governments – International Tools and Mechanisms, interesting contributions were made by international institutions and organizations.



On 15 and 16 July the OSCE and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), with the support of the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, organized a conference in Paris on "National and International Approaches to Improve Integrity and

Transparency in Government." The conference was designed to draw attention to the actions needed by national governments as well as civil society and the private sector for establishing and maintaining a framework for political stability and integrity as well as economic growth.

The conference brought together over 150 people from 37 countries and 10 international organizations. Participants included senior policy officials and experts as well as business and civil society representatives.

Discussions on the tools and strategies best suited to fighting corruption and organized crime, and for improving integrity and transparency in government, were grouped into the general themes of "Instruments to fight the international dimensions of corruption and organized crime," "Building Government Institutions" and "Mobilizing Civil Society."

One of the main points raised throughout the conference was that legitimacy of the state, lawful and accountable political powers, transparent government and bureaucratic process are among the factors which contribute to establishing and developing democracies with strong social cohesion. Clear competitive politics also have important economic consequences: they can bring effective resource allocation, raise growth and promote trade and investment.

The OECD and the OSCE have set up a joint website to which conference participants, as well as other users, are encouraged to report on follow-up activities such as seminars, workshops, or other conferences, as well as on relevant legislative developments. The site can be accessed at <http://www.oecd.org/daf/cmisis/bribery/pariscon.htm>.



25 Years Since First Stage of CSCE

Twenty-five years ago this month, on 3 July 1973, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) opened in Helsinki. It was, quite literally, a conference; the first stage in a series of meetings which resulted in the signing of the Helsinki Final Act on 1 August 1975 and which launched the CSCE process.

This first stage followed the Helsinki Consultations which began on 22 November 1972 and concluded on 8 June 1973 with agreement on Final Recommendations (also known as “The Blue Book”). These recommendations specified conditions concerning the CSCE’s organization, agenda, participation, date, place, rules of procedure and financial

arrangements. All European states, the United States of America and Canada were invited to these preparatory talks.

Foreign Ministers from thirty five States took part in Stage One of the Conference which was hosted by the Finnish Government in Helsinki. They adopted the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations. In open sessions, the Foreign Minister stated the views of their Governments relating to security and co-operation in Europe, and on the further work of the Conference. In the closed sessions, there was considerable debate on questions relating to procedure, particularly consensus and the role of Mediterranean “non-participating” States.

The Ministers decided that the second stage of the Conference would meet in Geneva on 18 September 1973 “in order to pursue the study of the questions on the agenda and in order to prepare drafts of declarations, recommendations, resolutions or any other final documents on the basis of the proposals submitted during the first stage as well as those to be submitted.” This second stage of negotiations, which was chiefly concerned with drafting the Helsinki Final Act, lasted until 21 July 1975. Stage Three, which began on 30 July 1975, was devoted to the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. This stage concluded on 1 August 1975.

Voices from Helsinki: 25 Years Ago

- *“The Conference that opens today is without precedent in the history of our continent. This is no meeting of the victors of war; nor is it the meeting of the great powers. Our Conference is the common endeavour of all concerned Governments on the basis of mutual respect and equality, to reach solutions on vital questions concerning all of us.”*

Urho Kekkonen, President of the Republic of Finland

- *“We have learned that there are no short cuts, no swift and simple courses, to the achievement of real peace and social and economic progress. Nothing is easy, nothing is swift, nothing is simple in our complex world. We have to proceed slowly and patiently, realising that the advances made by one generation may be lost by the next unless they are based upon firm foundations.”*

Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the United Nations

- *“Comparisons have been drawn with the Congress of Vienna and the Conference of Versailles. Those Conferences had a clear and urgent purpose: to bring peace and order to a continent ravaged by war. We have a different but no less important goal. It is not to make peace: it is to make a better peace.”*

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom

- *“What kind of a Europe would we like to see in future? First and foremost, a Europe of peace, a continent where aggression is excluded forever from the life of its people.”*

Andrei Gromyko, Foreign Minister of the USSR

- *“It would be no wonder if this very day, 3 July 1973, were to go down in the textbooks of history as a milestone in our age.”*

K.B. Andersen, Foreign Minister of Denmark

- *“Our goal should be a continent in which no nation feels threatened, a continent open to the free flow of people and ideas, and a continent enriched rather than divided by political and cultural diversity. Such a Europe will not come about merely by wishing for it or making declarations about it. Only time will tell whether we have accomplished anything here or not.”*

William Rogers, Secretary of State of the USA



The First Family Photo:

CSCE Foreign Ministers at the conclusion of Stage One of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Helsinki, July 1973

First row from left to right:

*Mr. Michel Jobert (France); Mr. Otto Winzer (DDR); Mr. Andrei Gromyko (USSR);
Mr. Ahti Karjalainen (Finland); Mr. Walter Scheel (BRD); Mr. William Rogers (USA); Sir Alec Douglas-Home (UK).*

Second row from left to right:

*Mr. Umit Haluk Bauylken (Turkey); Mr. Stefan Olszowsky (Poland); Mr. Bohuslav Chňoupek (Czechoslovakia);
Mr. Giuseppe Medici (Italy); Mr. János Péter (Hungary); Mr. Mitchell Sharp (Canada).*

Third row from left to right:

*Mr. Rudolf Kirchschläger (Austria); Mr. Max van der Stoep (The Netherlands); Mr. K.B. Andersen (Denmark);
Mr. Renaat van Elst (Belgium); Mr. Petar Mladenov (Bulgaria); Mr. Gean Luigi Berti (San Marino); Mr. Garret Fitzgerald (Ireland).*

Fourth row from left to right:

*Mr. Ioannis Christophides (Cyprus); Mr. Georghe Macovescu (Romania); Mr. Miloš Minić (Yugoslavia);
Mr. Alfred Hilbe (Liechtenstein); Mr. P.A. Oavalierato (Greece); Mr. Krister Wickman (Sweden); Mr. Dagfin Vårvik (Norway).*

Fifth row from left to right:

*Mr. André Saint-Lleux (Monaco); Mr. Pierre Graber (Switzerland); Mr. Laureano Lopez Rado (Spain);
Mr. Rui Patrício (Portugal); Mr. Dom Mintoff (Malta); Mr. Agostine Caseroli (Holy See); Mr. Einar Agustsson (Iceland).*

Helsinki Chronology

Helsinki Consultations.....	22 November 1972 - 8 June 1973
Stage One, Helsinki.....	3 - 8 July 1973
Co-ordinating Committee Meeting, Geneva.....	29 August - 2 September 1973
Stage Two Negotiations, Geneva.....	18 September 1973 - 21 July 1975
Stage Three, Helsinki.....	30 July - 1 August 1975

Free Inter-Ethnic Radio Network Looks to the Future

On 29 July, the Media Development Office of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted a conference at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna concerning the future of the Free Inter-Ethnic Radio Network (FERN), Bosnia and Herzegovina's largest independent radio network. The meeting was attended by a number of representatives from OSCE participating States, international organizations and the media. Support was expressed for the continuance of the important work of FERN.

FERN, which was hailed in a 1997 report by the International Crisis Group as "the media success story in Bosnia and Herzegovina," has been operating since July 1996. It has grown from a temporary, two month "elections radio" designed to provide accurate and unbiased information for the OSCE supervised elections in 1996 into a 24-hour news and public information service.

With initial funding from the Government of Switzerland and the Open Society Foundation, and current support from both the Swiss Government and the OSCE, the station has developed a national system of six transmitters and

more than 35 affiliate stations across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its news and information programs are listened to and relied on by an estimated 30 percent of the population. Its transmitters cover approximately 80 percent of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina for a potential audience of 3.4 million.

Radio FERN's schedule of news, information and entertainment programming is produced by a national staff of 28 personnel from across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its country-wide network of 40 correspondents, considered among the best in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and its several international correspondents, cover issues of prime importance to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. FERN's news stories are collected from the Republika Srpska and the Federation and are produced with an audience from both entities in mind. The Network also devotes a considerable amount of coverage to the activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina in issue areas like democratization, human rights, reconciliation and reconstruction. There is also a regular program addressing refugees, displaced persons and returnees.

Radio FERN plays a key role in the election process by broadcasting party statements, interviews and roundtable discussions involving each of the parties and candidates in the country. These programs allow for a pluralistic and balanced debate, free from bias and inflammatory language, during the run-up to the elections. This is one of the most illustrative examples of the Network's key role, not only in the continued development of a balanced and stable media environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also to the peaceful political rehabilitation of the country.

One of the main reasons for the 29 July donors conference in Vienna is that FERN is at a critical juncture. The financial commitments of the OSCE and the Swiss Government end after the September 1998 elections. At the meeting, it was noted that FERN's future will depend upon commercial investment, partnerships with other media organizations, and, if necessary, voluntary contributions. The goal is to make the station more self-sufficient, and commercially viable by encouraging corporate program sponsorship and commercial advertising.



Recent Publications about the OSCE

Ghebali, Victor-Yves, "L'OSCE et la négociation d'un document chartre sur la sécurité européenne", *défense nationale*, pp. 106-119, Juillet 1998.

Troebst, Stefan, *Conflict in Kosovo: Failure of Prevention?*, European Centre for Minority Issues Working Paper #1, May 1998.

OSCE “Researcher in Residence” Programme

In order to improve opportunities to carry out research on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the OSCE has created a “Researcher in Residence” programme.

About the Programme

The “Researcher in Residence” programme is designed to give researchers working on OSCE or OSCE-related topics the opportunity to carry out research in the OSCE archives in Prague.

The Prague Office of the OSCE Secretariat contains an archive of hard copies and digital files of all major OSCE documents since 1973. It also has an extensive library of books, monographs and periodicals on the OSCE and OSCE-related subjects.

Researchers will be provided with an office (with computer) in Prague and will have free use of the Office’s telephone, fax, and copy machines. The researcher or his or her sending institution would be responsible for covering all other costs. Researchers are encouraged to work independently, although they will be assisted by the staff of the Prague Office to the degree possible.

The duration of the “Researcher in Residence” designation would be for a limited period of time (2-3 months), although this time period can be flexible depending on the specificities of the research.

Researchers can use the opportunity provided by the programme to continue an ongoing project. Upon completion of their studies, researchers would be asked to deposit a copy of their work in the OSCE library. Any published work should acknowledge that part of the work was undertaken in the context of the OSCE “Researcher in Residence” programme.

Alternatively, researchers are encouraged to engage in a specific project which could be carried out within the period of time that they are “Researchers in Residence”. In this case the OSCE could facilitate the publishing of their work. Papers should be in one of the six official languages of the OSCE (English, French, German, Italian, Russian or Spanish).

“Researchers in Residence” would be encouraged to visit the OSCE bodies and institutions in Vienna as part of the programme.

How to Apply

The programme is open to all interested researchers. Priority will be given to researchers from OSCE participating States and States partners for co-operation. Special consideration will be given to researchers with a record of work on OSCE or OSCE-related issues.

Interested researchers are asked to submit their project proposals to:

“Researcher in Residence” programme
Attn: Walter Kemp
OSCE Secretariat
Kärntner Ring 5-7, 4th floor
1010 Vienna, Austria

fax: (+43-1) 514 36 96



News from the Field

The OSCE currently has ten Missions in the field as well as the Assistance Group to Chechnya, the Presence in Albania and the Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus. The following are highlights from the work of some of the field operations during the past month:

OSCE Presence Monitors Parliament and Border

The Presence continues its systematic observation of parliamentary procedure as a follow-up to the Tri-Parliamentary visits of January and June of this year. It reports that on 7 July the Democratic Party (DP) decided to start a new, indefinite boycott of Parliament. The DP also declined the invitation to participate in the final reading of the draft constitution. In a joint statement on 8 July the OSCE Presence in Albania and the Council of Europe Special Representative of the Secretary General issued a statement in which they called on the Democratic Party to reconsider its decision. They said that they regarded the move as “counterproductive to the consolidation of a democratic state based on the rule of law, for which all parties have a responsibility”.

New temporary border monitoring offices have been opened in Krume, Tropoje village, Padesh and Koplik. The border monitors continue to monitor incidents, refugee flows and the general security situation along the border. A deterioration of the security situation was noted in the Tropoje District.

Election Preparations Continue in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina is stepping up its preparations for the elections which are now

only two months away. Voter registration forms, including out-of-country applications are being verified and final voter registration statistics are being compiled. The next phase is the registration claim period, scheduled from 3 to 16 August, which will provide an opportunity for political parties, candidates and voters to satisfy themselves that the voters rolls have been properly prepared and for individuals to check and as necessary correct their own entry.

The Mission has been assisting the political parties in their preparations for the elections. Party platforms and candidate lists are being printed, published and distributed by the Mission in five newspaper editions, each focusing on one topic of the platforms. The Mission has also set up 15 Political Party Service Centres around the country to offer all parties free use of office equipment and meeting facilities, and as focal points for election-related information. The voter information campaign is continuing with the theme “We Need Better.”

Voting rules and regulations were adopted by the Provisional Election Commission (PEC) to ensure the accuracy, efficiency and control over the counting process. In addition, the PEC approved the guidelines on access to the media for the 1998 elections. They provide for equitable access to the media for all registered political parties, coalitions and independent candidates during the election period. All broadcast media

are required to give fair coverage and equitable access, provide for free broadcast time for presentation of platforms and a forum for discussions and debates. Media Access Support Teams are being deployed to co-ordinate and facilitate political party access to the media for the elections.

The Mission has expressed concern about difficulties in the implementation of the new Federation property law and is following the situation closely. The Mission has been working with the International Organization for Migration and the UNHCR regional offices to measure the impact of refugee return on the election.

Concerning regional stabilisation, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Article II and Article IV, General Carlo Jean, visited Bosnia and Herzegovina from 12 to 16 July for discussions on Civilian Military Co-ordination. Two observation flights took place from 14 to 16 July, covering approximately 100 military and civilian objects.

Assistance Group Monitors Security Situation in Chechnya

The OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya is closely following the political and security situation in Chechnya. The overall situation deteriorated in July with clashes in several areas of the republic, particularly around Gudermes,

and an assassination attempt against Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov.

Mission to Croatia Monitors Implementation of Return Programme

The OSCE Mission to Croatia is monitoring the implementation of the Croatian Government's Return Programme, particularly the establishment of new Housing Commissions in municipalities of potential return.

The Mission joined other members of the Article 11 Commission (in which the main international partners in Croatia are represented) in informing the Government about the terms for international participation in a Conference on

Reconstruction and Development proposed for the second half of October. These terms relate to "the expeditious and purposeful implementation of the Programme for Return, both as regards the processing of applications for confirmation of citizenship and travel documents and executing mechanisms for the repossession of property foreseen in the Programme."

To ensure a smooth transition from the United Nations Police Support Group (UNPSG) to OSCE civilian police monitors, due to arrive in October, a steering board and two working groups made up of officials from the OSCE Mission and the UNPSG have been set up.

Regional OSCE-UNHCR Meeting held in Skopje

On 13 July a regional meeting between OSCE and UNHCR representatives in the countries of the former Yugoslavia and Albania took place in Skopje in order to discuss issues related to refugees and displaced persons, to exchange views and information on this subject, and to examine ways of strengthening co-operation between the two organizations. The deliberations resulted in several concrete conclusions on how to enhance co-ordination and co-operation for facilitating the sustainable return of persons displaced by conflicts in the region.

UPCOMING EVENTS

	9-10	10-11	11-12
MO		!	
DI			
MI	X		
DO			
FR			X
SA		X	
SO			

The OSCE Seminar on "Regional Environmental Problems and Co-operative Approaches to Solving Them" will

be held in **Tashkent**, Uzbekistan, from **22 to 24 September**. For more information please contact the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities at tel: (+43-1) 514 36 151, fax: (+43-1) 514 36 96.

An International Conference on **sub-regional co-operation among OSCE**

States will be held in **Stockholm on 13 and 14 October**. It is being held under the auspices of the Polish Chairman-in-Office and hosted by the Swedish Foreign Ministry with support from the Institute for East West Studies.

A Conference on "**Governance and Participation: Integrating Diversity**" will be held in **Locarno**, Switzerland from **18 to 20 October**. For more information please contact the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities or the ODIHR.

The 1998 Mediterranean Seminar on "**The Human Dimension of Security, Promoting Democracy and the Rule of Law**" will be held in **Valletta**, Malta on **19 and 20 October**. Those interested in participating in or attending the Seminar should address their inquiries to the OSCE Secretariat, Department for General Affairs at tel: (+43-1) 514 36 190, fax (+43-1) 514 36 96.

The OSCE **Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues** will be held in **Warsaw** from **26 October to 6 November**. For more information see page 14.

REPORT from the High Commissioner on National Minorities

The Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) is located at Prinsessegracht 22, NL-2514 AP The Hague, The Netherlands, tel.: (+31-70) 312 55 00, fax: (+31-70) 363 59 10, e-mail: cscehcnm@euronet.nl

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

On 9 and 10 July the High Commissioner paid a visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He had a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Blagoj Handziski. He also had talks with leaders of political parties representing the Albanian minority in the country, the PDP and DPA. Meetings were also held with Skopje-based

Ambassadors and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Henryk Sokalski.

Discussions took in the most recent developments in the country, especially the current state of inter-ethnic relations, and considered the possible consequences of the situation in the region, particularly in Kosovo, for the security of the FYR of Macedonia. The HCNM was also informed about prospects for

the upcoming elections in the Republic in the autumn. He expressed again his belief that the only way to ensure the internal stability and peaceful development of the Republic was to strengthen inter-ethnic dialogue and understanding for one another's position, and to continue the process of seeking solutions to existing problems within the institutions of the country's political system.

UPDATE from the ODIHR

The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is located at : Ujazdowskie Avenue 19, PL-00-557 Warsaw, Poland, tel.: (+48-22) 520 06 00, fax: (+48-22) 520 06 05, e-mail: office@odihhr.osce.waw.pl

Information about Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

An OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting will be held in Warsaw from 26 October to 6 November 1998. It will be conducted in accordance with new modalities adopted by the OSCE Permanent Council on 9 July.

NGO participation is encouraged and all sessions of the meeting will be open to NGOs. There will be a special session to discuss the role of NGOs in the Human Dimension on the afternoon of Wednesday, 4 November. In the framework of the two-week-long event, a number of additional meetings will be organized on selected topics to provide increased focus on issues of specific concern, including Roma/Sinti issues and prevention of torture.

The organizational modalities and programme for the meeting will be posted on the ODIHR homepage of the OSCE website (<http://www.osce.org>), or can be obtained from Ms. Ania Sierant at the ODIHR.

Under the new modalities, three Supplementary Human Dimension meetings will, as a rule, be held every year in Vienna to discuss key substantive concerns raised at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting or Review Conference and to ensure proper follow up. The topics for these one-day meetings will be established by the Chairman-in-Office after consultations with participating States and OSCE institutions, including the ODIHR. NGOs will also be invited to participate in these meetings.

ODIHR Director presents Election Report in Ukraine

Ambassador Stoudmann, Director of the ODIHR, presented the Final Report of the Election Observation Mission for the March Parliamentary Elections to the Ukrainian authorities in Kiev on 1 July. Ambassador Stoudmann, together with Ambassador Charles Magee, OSCE Head of Mission to Ukraine, and Mr. Kåre Vollan, ODIHR On-site Election Coordinator, met with members of the Central Election Commission, the Deputy Minister of Justice and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Final Report concludes that the elections were managed with professionalism, although there remained some areas of concern to the ODIHR. The ODIHR did not call into question the

election results, but noted that there were some areas in which the election laws and procedures could be improved, including the streamlining of administration procedures and the simplification of the chain of command.

The report also expressed concern about the less than adequate climate that preceded the elections, in particular the level of violence, intimidation and harassment during the run-up to the election. This would require further investigation by Ukrainian authorities in order to remove the appearance of any improper political motivations.

The ODIHR report also noted that the installation of some elected deputies was hindered by unclear post-election complaint and appeal procedures. The existence of parallel appeal processes added confusion and uncertainty to the election results and obstructed the installation process.

The Ukrainian authorities responded positively to all of the recommendations, agreeing that the election laws could be improved and that further investigation of the events surrounding the election would be beneficial. The Ministry of Justice invited the continued participation of OSCE/ODIHR in the electoral reform process.

ODIHR Welcomes Expert in Women's Human Rights and Equality

The ODIHR is pleased to welcome its new Adviser on Gender Mainstreaming and Human Rights of Women, Ms. Alison Jolly. Ms. Jolly, who has been sec-



Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Gérard Stoudmann (left) with OSCE PA President Helle Degn (centre) and Secretary General of the OSCE PA, Spencer Oliver (right) at the ODIHR premises in Warsaw.

onded from the United Kingdom, will be reviewing all ODIHR projects to ensure that gender concerns are taken into account and appropriately integrated into the ODIHR's work. She will also help to develop and implement specific projects to enhance the human rights and empowerment of women.

Co-ordinators Appointed for the Caucasus and Central Asia

In an effort to streamline the increasing tasks of the ODIHR in the different countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, the ODIHR Director has appointed three current advisers to act as regional co-ordinators. Vladimir Shkolnikov and Vibeke Greni will be co-ordinators for the Caucasus, while Mr. Shkolnikov and Sandra Mitchell will be the co-ordinators for Central Asia. In addition to their regular responsibilities, they will follow closely and co-ordinate

all ODIHR technical assistance projects in these countries.

ODIHR Restructuring Creates NGO/Public Affairs Unit

Following a decision by the OSCE Permanent Council on 23 July, the ODIHR has merged the information and publications unit with the NGO unit. The new unit will be responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with non-governmental organisations in OSCE participating States and designing civil society assistance programmes aimed at increasing the role of NGOs in developing democracies. The new unit is also tasked to conceptualize and produce all ODIHR publications (including

the ODIHR website), and to disseminate information on the human dimension of the OSCE and ODIHR activities. The new NGO/Public Affairs Unit will be the ODIHR contact point for the press. The head of the unit is currently Ms. Vibeke Greni.

New OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President visits the ODIHR

Ms. Helle Degn, the newly elected President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and Mr. Spencer Oliver, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly, visited the ODIHR on 29 July to discuss co-operation between the ODIHR and Parliamentary Assembly, particularly in the field of election observation. In this context the necessity for the international community to speak with one voice when assessing an election was emphasised by both OSCE institutions.

Ms. Degn and Mr. Oliver also visited Professor Bronisław Geremek, Polish Foreign Minister and Chairman-in-Office, during their visit to Poland.

Election Monitoring News: Continued Focus on Azerbaijan

The Law on the Election of the President of Azerbaijan was amended once again on 10 July, following a series of meetings between the ODIHR and Azerbaijani officials. The latest amendments represent a further step forward in meeting ODIHR recommendations (see June OSCE Newsletter). Among other changes, the law now allows for domestic non-partisan observers and has expanded the composition of the Central Election Committee to include some representation of different political interests.

The ODIHR has provided two election experts who are at present assisting the Azerbaijan election officials in preparing the Rules and Regulations to supplement the election legislation.

The ODIHR will conduct a week long needs assessment mission to Azerbaijan starting 29 July to be led by ODIHR Election Adviser Nikolai Vulchanov. This will take place prior to the establishment of an Election Observation Mission to observe the Presidential elections on 11 October 1998.

Observation Mission Prepares for Elections in Slovakia

The ODIHR conducted a Needs Assessment Mission to Bratislava between 6 and 10 July in preparation for the upcoming Parliamentary elections in the Slovak Republic, scheduled for 25 and 26 September. The objective of the mission was to make a preliminary assessment of the pre-electoral situation in

Slovakia following the formal adoption of the revised Election Law.

The mission focused in particular on the attitude of the main political parties towards the new Election Law, as well as on an evaluation of the needs of the Election Observation Mission. The mission concluded that the ambiguity surrounding election campaigning on private and local media remains a matter of concern. The ODIHR Director and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media have sent a letter to the Slovak Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting further clarification on this issue.

The 5 percent threshold for all parties, including members of coalitions, was also a concern. This threshold has forced a substantial part of the opposition to restructure itself within a very short timeframe before the elections. Other issues also raised by the mission included the accreditation of domestic non-partisan observers and the transparency of the vote count and aggregation process.

The ODIHR has begun preparations for the Election Observation Mission, to start the week of 3 August 1998. Twelve long-term observers have been requested to arrive in Bratislava after 10 August.

Post-Election Technical Assistance Expert in Montenegro

Mr. John Anthony Walsh Spiller, MBE, has been seconded by the British Government, with the help of a voluntary contribution from the US Government, to assist in the implementation of recommendations following the Election Observation Mission to Montenegro. Mr. Spiller, who is a highly experienced election expert, will be based in Podgorica where he will run the ODIHR office.

In addition to the election observation follow-up, Mr. Spiller will be tasked to identify and work on other projects within the mandate of the OSCE/ODIHR aimed at further strengthening the democratic process in Montenegro.

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