



**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL

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ON OSCE ACTIVITIES**

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I. Introduction

The difficulties encountered in 1995 in dealing with both new and old conflicts highlighted the risk of the transition period being further extended. The general atmosphere was marked by uncertainties about the potential and role of the UN and regional and subregional organizations. While the demands and needs for international involvement further increased, the limits to the availability of international support and the reluctance of States and international organizations to extend their involvement indicated unresolved structural problems. Against this background and under the leadership of the Hungarian Chair, the OSCE increased its contribution to conflict prevention and resolution, began developing new approaches to military aspects of security and started the discussion on a Security Model for the 21st century.

In the reporting period (November 1994 to October 1995) it became apparent that the decisions of the Budapest Summit, as reflected in its acceptance of the name “**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**,” had strengthened the OSCE structures and considerably increased its potential for political consultation and operational conflict management. Insisting on the implementation of basic OSCE commitments, Hungarian Foreign Minister László Kovács was able to exercise the Chairman-in-Office’s crucial lead function in initiating and managing OSCE support of efforts aimed at achieving peaceful solutions to the serious problems in Chechnya in the Russian Federation. With his rapidly increasing responsibility and workload, the Chairman-in-Office engaged the Troika (Hungary, Switzerland and Italy) at both the Ministerial and Permanent Representative level in Vienna. In the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference, the dynamic joint chairmanship of the Russian Federation and Finland considerably improved the chances of negotiating a settlement; the High-Level Planning Group advanced the planning for a first OSCE peacekeeping operation for this area to a stage allowing early action once the necessary financial and personnel requirements are met and the political conditions are fulfilled by the parties.

As the prospects of a negotiated settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina improved, the OSCE’s involvement in the post-conflict phase became more specific. The OSCE’s operational capacities will be challenged by the demands of support and monitoring before, during and following elections, as well as preparations for regional security arrangements and continued support for the function of ombudsmen in the federative structures. At the same time, the OSCE is also getting involved in Human Dimension support activities in Croatia.

The new and increasingly central role of the Permanent Council in Vienna provided the OSCE with a permanently available body of OSCE participating States, strengthening

both the consultative and operational functions of the Organization. This helped also to provide political support for the tasks of the eight operative OSCE Missions and the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya. Work relating to these specific tasks and to a broad spectrum of current issues, consultations with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, regular briefings of the Director of the ODIHR, and also the work on the Security Model, all contributed to developing a culture of political consultation, where the concerns of participating States are discussed and their security interests heard.

After a consensus was finally reached to admit the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as a participating State of the OSCE, the number of fully participating States rose to 53. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is still excluded from participation in OSCE activities; the status of this country vis-à-vis the OSCE is unclear.

Encountering the obstacles to an early resolution of conflict once the threshold of violence has been crossed, the conflict prevention capabilities of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the ODIHR were further expanded and strengthened.

Taking account of the increasingly crucial role of economic and environmental factors in the transition process of Central and Eastern European as well as Central Asian OSCE States, the OSCE continued its efforts to provide a clearer direction and a higher profile to its activities in the economic dimension, including environmental issues.

The Forum for Security Co-operation improved its internal structures so that its consultative as well as negotiating tasks could be more easily carried out.

While taking great care to maintain its basically unbureaucratic character, the OSCE continued to consolidate its administrative infrastructure. But with the steadily increasing volume of its operational activities, the Organization can only preserve its administrative flexibility if its participating States are ready to provide a greater number of qualified personnel on a seconded basis.

In 1996 the OSCE will have to cope with a number of foreseeable challenges: the deployment of a first multinational OSCE peacekeeping force; an important OSCE role in Bosnia and Herzegovina; early results in negotiating and implementing regional security measures for Southeastern Europe; and the development of an imaginative and realistic concept for the Security Model for the 21st century. Decision-making, operational management and the readiness to provide rapidly the necessary personnel and financial resources might well prove a real test of OSCE's political will and operational capabilities.

As this is the last annual report of the first Secretary General of the OSCE, I would like to add that the performance of the OSCE's rapidly increasing tasks will entail taking full advantage of the Secretary General's mandate in support of the Chairman-in-Office, so as to involve him more actively in all aspects of the management of the OSCE.

II. Activities of the OSCE

1. Political Consultations and Negotiations

The Budapest Summit decisions, by streamlining the structure and to some extent defining the tasks of the Ministerial (MC), Senior (SC) and Permanent (PC) Councils, enhanced the OSCE's capacity for consultation, negotiation and decision-making. The role and competence of the PC were strengthened, with almost all OSCE States now represented in Vienna, the seat of the PC, by a permanent OSCE Delegation. ("OSCE Ambassadors" also represent their countries in the Joint Consultative Group of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and in the Open Skies Consultative Committee). The SC in Prague, meeting twice in 1995, attracted high-level participants from capitals and developed its function of assessing and guiding the work of the PC. The Forum for Security Co-operation agreed on a monthly rotating Chairmanship and better use of the "FSC Troika," providing clearer direction and greater continuity in this second permanent OSCE Vienna-based body.

2. Early Warning, Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management

Preventive diplomacy and crisis management continued to be the main area of the OSCE's operative action. The increased authority of the CIO and greater involvement of the Troika facilitated OSCE action in the preparatory and implementation phases before and after adoption of consensus-based decisions by the Council. This helped narrow the traditional gap between early warning and early action, the most critical period in the initial phase of the crisis management process.

2.1. Missions

While the number of long-term missions remained unchanged compared with the preceding reporting period, the overall number of OSCE field operations has grown; the mandates of some missions were adjusted to meet political, military and humanitarian requirements in the field.

The carefully elaborated mandate of the OSCE Chechnya Assistance Group is a good example of the OSCE's - and OSCE States' - ability to adjust OSCE instruments to the specific circumstances of a given situation (see 2.1.8.).

Great attention was given to fully exploiting the potential of the HCNM and the ODIHR in relation to the work of the Missions. Continuous efforts were made by the Missions, the CIO and the Secretariat to ensure close co-ordination and co-operation between the Missions and other international organizations.

The annual meeting of all Heads of OSCE Mission (HOMs) and of other OSCE representatives was held in Vienna (20-22 June). The reports of the Heads of Mission showed the very broad spectrum of the Missions' mandates and the great variety of mandate-oriented activities. The reports also highlighted the importance of initiatives by the Heads of Mission and their teams for achieving progress. Addressing the problems presented by six-month rotation for Mission staff, the Heads of Mission pleaded for a greater continuity. Most Heads of Mission spoke in favour of more substantive support from OSCE institutions and more flexibility within the framework of their budgets so as to facilitate ad hoc measures such as round tables, seminars, etc.

The HOM's meeting also illustrated once again the extent to which the progress and success of a Mission depend on the quality of the HOM and his staff. It will be difficult to maintain the prevailing high standards if, more and more frequently, the choice of HOMs and Mission staff is limited to a single person.

For the first time, a Mission member lost his life in the performance of his duties. Mr. Antanas Nesavas from Lithuania was killed in Tbilisi in a fatal car accident.

As the work of a number of Missions is approaching the phase of conflict settlement, the OSCE is increasingly faced with a new question: What kind of "guarantees" can the OSCE provide for the implementation of a negotiated settlement by all concerned? While

it is clear that the OSCE cannot give formal guarantees, it is also clear that the OSCE as such and OSCE States through the OSCE have at their disposal a fairly wide range of possibilities for fostering and “protecting” the implementation of peaceful settlements negotiated with OSCE involvement. This is another area where pragmatic development of OSCE instruments is needed.

Since its inception in April 1993, the Mission Support Section (MSS) of the CPC Department of the OSCE Secretariat has been responsible for daily support of OSCE field missions and other OSCE non-local activities. This includes logistics, procurement, transportation, inventory control, communications, personnel, insurance, and preparation of mission budgets, etc. As more missions are organized, deployed and/or expanded, the complexity and scope of the efforts of the MSS have also increased.

At the beginning of 1995, the MSS supported eight field missions. During the reporting period the Chechnya Assistance Group was added to the OSCE field operations, as well as three field offices of the Mission to Sarajevo, three field offices in Tajikistan, one in Moldova, the Skrunda Radar Station Representative, the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference, and the OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia in Tashkent.

A total of 79 authorized seconded personnel are working in the field missions.

2.1.1. Mission to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina

The Mission continued to be non-operational. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has made the Mission’s readmission conditional on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia’s status as a fully participating State of the OSCE.

This Mission’s reporting has been partly replaced by reports from OSCE States, in particular, those of the OSCE Troika. Information thus submitted to an ad hoc working group is reported weekly to the PC. The discussions in the PC serve to remind the OSCE of its specific commitments vis-à-vis the continuing problems in those regions of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which must not be excluded from the efforts to find negotiated solutions to conflicts in the territory of former Yugoslavia.

2.1.2. Mission to Skopje

The Spillover Monitoring Mission to Skopje has, within the framework of its mandate, shifted its priorities from monitoring the border situation to monitoring the internal situation, especially in the context of relations between the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the ethnic Albanian population and between different ethnic groups.

A major challenge for the Mission in 1995 was the February unrest in connection with attempts to establish a private Albanian university in Tetovo, which was regarded as illegal by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia authorities. The Mission, with the support of the HCNM, was actively involved in defusing the situation.

Since the host State has been finally admitted as a participating State of the OSCE, the Mission's operation will be more straightforward.

2.1.3. Mission to Georgia

In 1995 the Mission intensified its activities in several areas of its broad mandate. It increased its efforts to foster and focus dialogue between Georgians and the authorities in the region of South Ossetia concerning a political solution to their conflict. In late 1994, after having drafted a status proposal for South Ossetia within Georgia, the Mission organized separate colloquia with officials from the Georgian and the South Ossetian sides to discuss the draft. The status proposal was finalized in December in the light of the comments received. Although there is still no agreement on the status question, the Mission's proposal helped to start the discussion of key issues that have to be addressed as part of a settlement process. In Georgia's constitution, adopted on 29 August 1995, provisions on territorial structure have been left open, partly in order to leave room for negotiated solutions with the regions of South Ossetia (and Abkhazia).

On 1 March 1995 the Mission sponsored a round table discussion between leading Georgian and South Ossetian figures on the nature of the conflict and on possible ways of resolving it. There was agreement on the need to resolve the conflict by peaceful means only.

The Joint Control Commission (JCC), established to direct and control the Joint Peacekeeping Forces in South Ossetia, was revived in November 1994 with the

participation of the OSCE Mission under a new mandate, giving it also the authority to deal with the political aspects of a settlement. However, a formal working group on political issues has not yet been established. After another six-month pause, the JCC met again in June 1995 in Moscow. The subsequent July meetings in Tbilisi and in Tskhinvali were significant in that they saw the first official visit by senior South Ossetian officials to Tbilisi since the beginning of the conflict in 1989. A joint declaration, agreed upon by the two sides, to move towards direct political talks on the future status of South Ossetia was a major achievement; a week later, however, South Ossetian representatives partially withdrew their delegation's approval of the declaration.

At the July session of the JCC, the Mission proposed a broader effort to foster economic reintegration of South Ossetia into the Georgian economy. The Mission continues to promote pragmatic co-operation between Georgian and South Ossetian officials on a local level.

The Mission has continued to monitor the Joint Peacekeeping Forces (JPKF) in South Ossetia, as mandated in March 1994.

Despite repeated efforts, it has still not been possible to obtain the formal consent of the South Ossetian authorities for the opening of a branch office in Tskhinvali. In April the Permanent Council approved an increase in the authorized strength of the Mission by two officers to 19, once the branch office has been established.

Closely co-operating with the Tbilisi authorities and with their support, the Mission has significantly stepped up its activities to promote human rights and political reform in Georgia as a whole. To improve awareness of its goals and mandate, the Mission has opened a human rights and public relations office with easy access for the public. It has carried out visits to detention facilities and attended a trial of alleged political prisoners.

The Mission has been working with the staff of Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze to flesh out the latter's proposal to establish a regional human rights court for the CIS countries. Together with the ODIHR, and with considerable support from the EU and a number of international organizations, the Mission assisted the authorities in the preparation of the parliamentary and presidential elections at the beginning of November and co-ordinated their international monitoring.

The Mission has also increased its presence in Abkhazia for monitoring the human rights situation there.

2.1.4. Mission to Moldova

The reporting year was marked by increased efforts by the Moldovan Government and the authorities of the Trans-Dniester region to search for a comprehensive political settlement to the conflict.

The meeting between President Snegur and the leader of the Trans-Dniester area, Smirnov, on 7 June gave new impetus to the comprehensive settlement process agreed upon at the April 1994 leadership meeting. Both sides have instructed their teams of experts to develop specific wording and provisions of a law on a special status that would gain common acceptance. The expert groups had several meetings chaired by the Head of the OSCE Mission and the Russian President's Personal Representative.

At a further leadership meeting on 5 July, an agreement on the non-use of military force and economic pressure - a significant confidence-building measure - was signed by the two sides. The agreement, which represents a major step forward, was also signed by the mediators, i.e. the Head of the OSCE Mission and the Russian Representative. Under an innovative provision, the OSCE Secretariat has been designated as depository of the agreement.

In spring 1995, the Mission opened a permanent office in Tiraspol in support of its activities in the Trans-Dniester area. As a result, the Mission is now better placed to explain to the people in the area conditions for a successful settlement.

The Mission maintained its active involvement in the Joint Control Commission (JCC), although revised principles of co-operation between the JCC and the Mission have yet to be formally concluded.

Based on the Budapest decisions, the Permanent Council discussed at a number of meetings the assistance which the OSCE could offer in the implementation of the agreement on the withdrawal of the Russian troops (former 14th Army) from Moldova that was reached a year ago. No decision could be taken as yet.

2.1.5. Mission to Tajikistan

The parliamentary elections in Tajikistan held on 26 February were not monitored by the OSCE, as the Government of Tajikistan had not taken into account OSCE recommendations regarding the electoral law and the conduct of the elections. While the Permanent Council regretted this fact, it welcomed the declared intention of the Tajik authorities to take the recommendations into account at a later stage.

Co-operation between the Mission and the Government of Tajikistan has since improved substantially, particularly in the field of human rights. A project for a national human rights institution with ombudsman functions was worked out in co-operation with the Mission and with expert input from the ODIHR.

In an effort to promote awareness of OSCE principles, the Mission has established a discussion group which regularly brings together on the Mission's premises figures from various walks of life in Tajikistan.

As the UNHCR wanted to withdraw from certain areas of Tajikistan, the Permanent Council requested the Mission to follow the human rights situation of returning refugees and internally displaced persons in these areas of Tajikistan with a view to facilitating their reintegration into Tajik society. The Mission has taken over from UNHCR three branch offices in the south of the country, initially for a six-month period, its authorized strength was temporarily increased by three members. The Mission has co-operated closely with UNHCR and UNMOT in preparation for this new task.

The Mission continued to follow the inter-Tajik talks under UN chairmanship. The agreement signed on 17 August by President Emomali Rakhmonov and the leader of the Tajik opposition, Said Abdullo Nuri, to hold non-stop negotiations with the aim of concluding a general agreement on establishing peace and national accord in Tajikistan, has opened up new vistas in this process. But the agreement has yet to be implemented. Also, a series of security incidents in eastern Tajikistan and still worsening economic indicators underscore the complexity and difficulty of the overall situation.

2.1.6. Mission to Ukraine

From the outset the Mission has concentrated its work on the Crimean issue. The Mission had a specific role in the legislative and administrative disputes between the authorities of Kiev and Simferopol regarding the status of Crimea. At the initiative of the OSCE Mission and the HCNM, a Ukrainian Round Table was organized in Locarno, Switzerland in May in order to promote dialogue between the parties and discuss the future status of

Crimea as an autonomous part of Ukraine. The Round Table contributed considerably to improving joint discussions of the many outstanding problems.

In the second half of the year, the Mission focussed on issues related to the Crimean Tatars. A Round Table on this particular issue was organized by the Mission and the HCNM in September in Yalta. All participants welcomed this possibility for review of and informal discussions on the many outstanding problems.

2.1.7. Mission to Sarajevo

The purpose of the mission is to assist the Ombudsmen of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who are organs of the constitution of the Federation. The Mission was launched in October 1994. Initially it supported the process of selecting the Ombudsmen from among the representatives of the three ethnic groups concerned. On 20 January 1995 the three Ombudmen (from the Moslem, Croat and Serb communities) were officially sworn in.

In order to extend the scope of their activities beyond Sarajevo, the Ombudsmen and the competent authorities of the Federation decided to establish branch offices in Zenica and Mostar. In March and April the Ombudsmen nominated their deputies for these branch offices, which became operational in May.

The blockade of Sarajevo in spring 1995 seriously hampered the Mission's operations in support of the Ombudsmen, as Mission members and the Ombudsmen were unable to move in or out of Sarajevo. By June 1995, the Ombudsmen had registered over 400 cases, with cases from outside Sarajevo representing more than 30 per cent of the total, thus testifying to the increased importance of the branch offices. The majority of complaints concerned property rights and other problems related to the refugee situation. There were increasingly frequent cases of unlawful imprisonment and various manifestations of "silent ethnic cleansing" that required attention.

In August, in the wake of military operations in Croatia and in Bihac, the Ombudsmen were asked to assist in coping with the new waves of refugees. To support the Ombudsmen's operations in this area an office was opened in Tuzla, and the Ombudsmen also established their presence in Velika Kladusa.

The Mission maintains close contacts with the authorities of the Federation, with UNPROFOR as well as other foreign missions in Sarajevo.

2.1.8. The OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya

After the outbreak of war-like fighting in Chechnya that put in jeopardy basic OSCE commitments, the Russian Federation accepted OSCE involvement in the efforts to find negotiated solutions.

Following reports by the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office and other OSCE officials from their visits to the area, the Permanent Council decided on 11 April 1995 to establish an Assistance Group. Its mandate is to promote respect for human rights, to help foster the development of democratic institutions and processes, and to promote a peaceful resolution of the crisis in accordance with OSCE principles and the constitution of the Russian Federation. The Group, initially consisting of a team of six diplomats, began its work in Grozny on 26 April.

A month later, direct talks between the parties involved in the crisis began at the premises of the Assistance Group and the Group chaired them. The talks included representatives of the Executive Authorities of the Russian Federation, of the Committee of National Accord, and of representatives of the rebel Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. On 30 July an agreement to end hostilities was signed by Russian officials and representatives of Dudayev. The agreement provides for an immediate cessation of military hostilities, the liberation of all forcibly detained persons, the gradual withdrawal of troops, including the unconditional disarmament of illegal armed formations, and the cessation of military acts. A Special Observer Commission composed of representatives of all sides and of the OSCE was established to supervise the implementation of the agreement. As the implementation of the agreement met with serious difficulties, sporadic fighting and terrorist attacks on high-level Russian officials increased, the implementation and negotiating process was brought to a halt. In spite of a number of unfriendly acts from local Grozny authorities and a direct armed attack on the AG premises, the AG remained in Grozny, thus ensuring its availability at a particularly critical time.

2.1.9. Mission to Latvia

The Mission closely followed events leading to the adoption of the Law on Non-Citizens approved in April 1995. The Mission considers this to be a balanced piece of legislation and emphasizes at every opportunity the importance of adequate implementation. It is therefore following the implementation process closely and has established contacts with the competent authority, the Naturalization Board. The Mission observes the naturalization process as a whole and makes on-site evaluations of the tests that are part of the naturalization procedure.

The Mission followed events relating to the retired military personnel of the Russian Federation remaining in Latvia in violation of bilateral agreements.

2.1.10. The OSCE Representative to the Russian-Latvian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

The Permanent Council established, on 23 February 1995, an OSCE Representative and Alternate Representative to the Joint Commission on Military Pensioners. The OSCE Representative is tasked, *inter alia*, to consider, at the request of either party, questions relating to the application of the provisions of the Agreement on the Social Welfare of Retired Military Personnel of the Russian Federation and their Family Members Residing on the Territory of the Republic of Latvia. The OSCE Representative will consider jointly with Latvian and Russian representatives appeals on matters involving the rights of persons to whom the Agreement applies and participate in the adoption of recommendations and decisions on the basis of consensus.

In June 1995, representatives of the parties as well as the OSCE Representative reached an agreement on the modalities of the work of the Joint Commission. In particular, the OSCE Representative focused on problems related to the pensioners' rights to housing and work permits, investigated individual cases and prepared reports containing recommendations for the Latvian side.

2.1.11. The OSCE Representative to the Joint Committee on the Skrunda Radar Station

In accordance with the Agreement between Latvia and the Russian Federation of 30 April 1994 on the Legal Status of the Skrunda Radar Station During its Temporary Operation

and Dismantling, the CSCE in June 1994 had welcomed requests by Latvia and the Russian Federation for CSCE assistance in implementing the Agreement. On 23 February 1995 the Permanent Council took a decision on the Terms of Reference for an OSCE Inspection Regime. At the request of the Permanent Council, the OSCE Representative and Alternate Representative were appointed by the Chairman-in Office on 6 April 1995. Two periodic and two extraordinary inspections may be scheduled for each year. The first periodic inspection was carried out from 28 to 30 August in a businesslike and co-operative manner. The inspection served its confidence building purpose.

2.1.12. Mission to Estonia

The Mission closely followed developments related to citizenship issues, including the adoption of the Citizenship Law, as well as amendments made to the Law on Aliens, which came into force in early July 1995. The Citizenship Law, which the Mission has considered acceptable in general terms, was adopted in January 1995. The Mission is following the implementation of this law, as well as matters connected with the Law on Aliens.

The Mission continued its work on issues related to language training for russophone inhabitants, and has emphasized its importance as a means of close connections between Russian speakers and their Estonian environment.

In April the OSCE Mission organized a seminar in north-eastern Estonia aimed at improving understanding between various communities in Estonia and exploring how their integration could best be pursued.

2.1.13. The OSCE Representative on the Estonian Government Commission on Military Pensioners

The OSCE Representative on the Estonian Government Commission on Military Pensioners, who was appointed by the CIO, took up his office on 16 November 1994. The said Commission will make recommendations on the issuance of residence permits.

2.2. The Conflict in the Area Dealt with by the Minsk Conference

On 6 January, the CIO named Mr. Jan Eliason of Sweden and Mr. Valentin Lozinsky of Russia as co-chairmen of the Minsk Conference. The Co-chairmanship, agreed upon at the December 1994 Budapest Summit, established a single coordinated effort of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Russian Federation within the OSCE framework. On 21 April, Finland took over the Co-chairmanship from Sweden; the CIO appointed Mr. Heikki Talvitie as the new Finnish Co-chairman.

Heads of State or Government decided at the Budapest Summit to deploy a multinational OSCE peacekeeping force subject to an appropriate resolution from the UN Security Council following the conclusion of a political agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict. To plan the establishment, composition and operations of such a force, a High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) was set up in Vienna, replacing the Initial Operations Planning Group.

In July, the HLPG submitted to the CIO its Concept for the OSCE Multinational Peacekeeping Mission for the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict.

In August, the CIO appointed Ambassador Stanislaw Przygodzki of Poland as the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference. The Personal Representative's main task is to facilitate the achievement of a political settlement of the conflict through a continued presence in the area, including assisting in efforts to promote the continuation of the ceasefire.

2.3. Sanctions Coordinator and Sanctions Assistance Missions (SAMs)

More than 200 customs officers and other experts continue their work in seven SAMs located in Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Ukraine. The SAMs assist and advise the host countries in their implementation of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and

Montenegro) in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. SAMs operations are financed by the OSCE (except for personnel costs, which are borne by the sending States). Their mandate has been extended until 31 December 1995.

The operational headquarters of the SAMs, SAMCOMM, are located in Brussels. Financed and partly staffed by the EU, it has the function of facilitating the communications and co-ordination between the SAMs and the authorities of host countries, ensuring the follow-up of cases of suspected breaches of sanctions and bringing evaluation reports to the attention of the European Union, the OSCE Liaison Group and the UN Sanctions Committee. The OSCE/EU Sanctions Co-ordinator, co-located with SAMCOMM, is overseeing the entire operation, providing basic direction and co-ordination between all levels and participants involved in the enforcement of sanctions.

In February the Sanctions Coordinator visited Budapest and Tirana for talks with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and other representatives of the Government, National Bank and Danube Commission in Hungary; and with the Government and authorities in Albania, where ways for the better application of the Oil Pre-Verification System (OPVS) designed to curb oil smuggling into FRY, were discussed.

In May he visited New York for talks with UN officials and certain delegations. He also addressed the Security Council (Arria Procedure) and participated in the 123rd meeting of the Sanctions Committee on Yugoslavia.

In June he visited Valetta (Malta) and Nicosia (Cyprus) for talks with government officials and the Governor of the Central Bank. The discussion focused on the extension of the OPVS between Greece/Albania and Italy/Albania, also between Cyprus/Albania and Malta/Albania. In Cyprus, the issue of off-shore companies controlled by persons or entities in FRY was also discussed.

In June he visited Skopje (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) for talks with the President of the Republic, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and other government officials. The discussions focused on the need to reduce the level of sanctions violations with regard to rail and truck traffic into and out of FRY.

From 17 to 23 October 1995 he visited New York for talks with UN officials. He participated in the 131st meeting of the Sanctions Committee on Yugoslavia and was received by the President of the Security Council.

During the same period the Sanctions Coordinator's Staff undertook a series of missions to New York, the Balkan countries and other OSCE member States for talks with regard to a better implementation of sanctions. SAMCOMM members also undertook a number of sanctions related missions.

2.4. Other Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management Activities

In March a PC decision welcomed the **Pact on Stability in Europe** adopted on 21 March in Paris as a further step in enhancing stability in Europe. The decision reiterated that, in accordance with the Budapest Summit Declaration and the Budapest Decision on Strengthening the CSCE, the OSCE is the repository of the Pact and is entrusted with following its implementation. Further to the March PC decision, the 31st PC agreed on a practical follow-up to the Pact which specified steps the OSCE would take in its repository function. The upcoming Budapest Ministerial Council will be informed of the progress achieved and invited to endorse the general thrust of this work.

The Convention on Conciliation and Arbitration within the CSCE entered into force on 5 December 1994 after the deposit of the twelfth instrument of ratification on 5 October 1994. The first meeting of the members of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was held on 29 May in Geneva. The agenda of the meeting included, *inter alia*, adoption of the rules of procedure for the first election of the Bureau and the first appointment of a registrar, election of the President of the Court, election of two conciliators as members of the Court and of two alternates, adoption of the rules of the Court, etc. Mr. Robert Badinter was elected the President of the Court and Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher - his Deputy.

3. The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

Tensions involving minorities today are a major cause of instability and violence in the OSCE area. The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Max van der Stoel, who has held this post since 1993, further intensified his efforts to defuse minority-related problems at an early stage.

3.1. In his report after his October 1994 visit to **Albania**, the HCNM formulated a number of recommendations concerning the situation of the Greek minority in the south of the country. These related, in particular, to education in the Greek language, increasing opportunities available to the Greek minority for employment in public service, ways of promoting dialogue and building trust between the authorities and members of ethnic minorities, and relations between the State and the Orthodox Church of Albania. During his visit to Tirana in July 1995, the HCNM focused on relations between Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He also discussed the critical situation in Kosovo.

3.2. As in previous years, in 1995 the HCNM visited **Estonia**. He focused on the implementation of legislation relating to citizenship and aliens and on the question of language training and testing for persons seeking naturalization. The HCNM appealed to OSCE States to provide assistance for programmes in this field.

3.3. The HCNM paid several visits to **Hungary**, discussing the implementation of the law on national minorities and the situation of the Slovak minority in Hungary.

In 1993, the HCNM had recommended the establishment of a three-member team of experts to analyze the situation of the Hungarians in **Slovakia** and Slovaks in **Hungary** (see 3.10. below). During their fourth visit to Hungary, in June 1995, the experts were joined by the HCNM. They concentrated on the functioning of the local Slovak minority governments and the Slovak national self-governing body established earlier in the year. Issues discussed included the parliamentary representation of minorities, the establishment of a minority ombudsman, and education in the mother tongue.

3.4. In May 1995, the HCNM made his second visit to the Central Asian part of the OSCE area. In Almaty, **Kazakhstan**, he had extensive meetings both with leading state officials and with representatives of the Slavic and German communities in Kazakhstan. He paid particular attention to language and citizenship issues, as well as to ways of fostering dialogue between the authorities and ethnic minorities at national and local levels.

3.5. In May 1995 the HCNM visited Bishkek, **Kyrgyzstan**, for a two-day **Seminar on Interethnic Relations and Regional Co-operation** organized by the HCNM in response to the interest expressed by the President of the Republic. The seminar focused on interethnic relations in Kyrgyzstan, and brought together government officials, representatives of Kyrgyzstan's ethnic communities, representatives of the Governments of Kazakhstan, Russia and Tajikistan, and international experts on minority issues.

3.6. The HCNM continued to pay attention to developments in **Latvia**, in particular, to the implementation of the law on citizenship and a draft law on former USSR nationals (law on non-citizens), which took into account his comments. The HCNM also expressed his appreciation of the governmental draft programme for the setting up of a Human Rights Council authorized to give advice on human rights matters, receive individual complaints and engage in human rights education. Stressing the importance of training in the Latvian language, the HCNM appealed to OSCE States to provide assistance for programmes in this field.

3.7. The HCNM continued to take an active interest in the situation of the Albanian minority in **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**. During several visits to the country, he discussed ways of expanding educational opportunities at higher and secondary levels for young Albanians living in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and of improving their access to employment in the State administration. He suggested the creation of a Higher Educational Centre for Public Administration and Business. The HCNM, through interventions with officials at the highest levels and with leaders of the Albanian community, helped to defuse the tensions that had broken out after a group of Albanians started an Albanian University in Tetovo without governmental approval.

3.8. At the invitation of the Moldovan Government, the HCNM made his first visit to **Moldova** at the end of 1994. In Chisinau, he met with the President of the Republic and with leading government officials and parliamentarians. The HCNM visited the region inhabited by the Gagauz, an ethnically Turkic population of Christian faith, and examined the Law on Gagauz Autonomy then being debated by the Moldovan Parliament. He also visited the Trans-Dniester region in northeastern Moldova, which has a large Russian-speaking population.

3.9. The HCNM continued his involvement in **Romania**, paying special attention to legislation on minority education, and discussed the creation of an ombudsman. He recommended strong action to prevent discrimination against the Roma and to curb ethnic hostility and hatred.

3.10. The HCNM made a number of visits to **Slovakia**, dealing specifically with the situation of the Hungarian minority. In June 1995, he accompanied the team of experts on their fourth visit, during which they concentrated largely on education issues, including the Concept of the Ministry of Education for Education in the Ethnically Mixed Areas, the training of teachers for state schools in those areas, and the creation of bilingual alternative education classes.

3.11. The HCNM made several visits to **Ukraine**, in the course of which the situation of the Crimean Tatars was discussed. Deported to Central Asia, the Tatars have recently been returning to Crimea in large numbers. However, they face serious problems in housing and education. The HCNM also dealt with the dispute between the Ukrainian Government and Parliament, on the one hand, and the Crimean Parliament, on the other, concerning the constitution adopted by the Crimean Parliament.

A three-member team of international experts on constitutional and economic matters visited Kiev and Simferopol on three fact-finding missions and submitted reports on their findings to the HCNM.

The HCNM and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Ukraine co-chaired a Round Table in Locarno, Switzerland. Comments and recommendations were subsequently sent to the Government of Ukraine with the request that they be passed on to the Ukrainian Parliament and to Crimea.

4. The Human Dimension

4.1. Democratic Institutions Building

During the reporting period the OSCE has been particularly active in providing assistance with democratic institution building.

The ODIHR assisted the OSCE mission to Sarajevo by arranging a training seminar for ombudsmen, bringing together ombudsmen of western and eastern Europe. A network of ombudsmen was established to provide the ombudsmen in Sarajevo with expertise. In Tajikistan the ODIHR advised the Tajik Government on an ombudsman office. Currently, the ODIHR is preparing a draft manual on national human rights institutions to assist OSCE participating States in the establishment of such institutions.

4.2. Election monitoring

The Budapest Summit tasked the ODIHR with the preparation of a framework for the co-ordination of election monitoring. After consultations with relevant international organizations, a draft framework was presented to the Permanent Council in May. The implementation of the framework was successfully tested in Armenia on a joint OSCE/United Nations operation for the observation of the July parliamentary elections.

Parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan (5 and 19 February 1995). The first democratic elections to the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan were monitored throughout the country by approximately 60 observers from OSCE States and NGOs. An ODIHR representative organized support activities for the observers, including briefings, background materials, translation of laws and statistics, as well as liaising with the Kyrgyz authorities on a wide range of issues. The second round was monitored by a group of Swiss observers who shared their reports with the ODIHR. Observers had access to almost all polling sites and received all necessary information from polling officials. It was concluded that these elections could be considered as generally reflecting the will of the people.

Parliamentary elections in Estonia (5 March 1995). These were the second parliamentary elections held in Estonia since it re-established its independence in September 1991. A group of 14 international observers from the participating States and NGOs, including one observer from a non-OSCE country monitored the elections. In general ODIHR considered these elections to have been conducted in accordance with the principles contained in the Electoral Law. There were some complaints from individuals that their applications for citizenship were being delayed, preventing them from voting and that some Estonian citizens were not included in the voting register. To prevent this from happening again ODIHR suggested that next time the registration of candidates should take place at an earlier stage of the electoral process.

Local Referendum on the Inclusion of Certain Localities in Gagauzia, Republic of Moldova (5 March 1995). The purpose of the referendum was to enable localities of Moldova having Gagauz population to decide whether they wished to be included in the autonomous territorial entity of Gagauzia. A group of twenty observers, including a Council of Europe delegation, monitored the referendum. ODIHR and the OSCE Mission to Moldova co-ordinated the activities of the observers. Some concerns were raised about the procedural integrity of the referendum. Results showed a strong vote in most localities in favour of inclusion in Gagauzia.

Local Elections in Moldova (16 April 1995) were the first local elections since Moldova proclaimed its independence in 1991. With the assistance of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, the ODIHR established an office in Chisinau shortly before the elections. It was noted that, at all levels, the electoral authorities implemented the electoral law in a competent and dedicated manner. In general, the polling stations functioned in a satisfactory manner and elections were well organized.

Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Belarus (14 and 18 May 1995) were the first parliamentary elections held in the independent Republic of Belarus. Two ODIHR representatives co-ordinated the monitoring process. Delegations from several international organizations and parliamentary associations also observed the elections. The total number of accredited international observers was in excess of 200.

It was concluded that the electoral process fell short of the OSCE commitments with respect to political campaigning. Provisions dealing with secrecy of voting were not strictly enforced. Taking into account the deficiencies of the electoral legislation, the voting itself was, despite some irregularities, conducted in a generally adequate manner.

The ODIHR made specific recommendations on the need to clarify the interpretation of certain provisions of the Election Law, and the fair allocation of broadcast time and newspaper space to political parties and candidates.

Parliamentary elections in Armenia (5 and 29 July 1995). The election monitoring unit was established in early May and was the first joint OSCE/UN operation of election monitoring. The observers were drawn from 18 OSCE participating States and several non-governmental organizations.

The Armenian elections showed some encouraging signs in terms of democratic development. However there were a number of negative points. One political party was suspended prior to the elections, the composition of the Electoral Committees was unbalanced and changeable. The Law of Election was applied selectively and inconsistently. The secrecy of voting was not always strictly observed. Moreover, none of the court cases which were filed against the Central Electoral Committee had been resolved by the end of the elections. Nevertheless, the voting process itself went smoothly.

To improve the process in the future, it was recommended that the Central Electoral Committee should be a non-political body and the counting process should be made more transparent. Future election laws should also prohibit the presence of police or military persons in polling stations.

Parliamentary elections in Latvia (30 September and 1 October 1995). These were the second democratic parliamentary elections to be held in the Republic of Latvia. The elections were observed by representatives of 11 OSCE States including a delegation from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The electoral officials administering the polling stations showed a great level of professionalism.

There was still some concern on polling day concerning the guaranteed secret voting and the airing of political messages in the polling stations themselves.

Concern arose over a part of the legislation governing the election to the Sixth Saeima which does not fully uphold the spirit of the OSCE commitments of the Copenhagen Document 1990. It contravenes Article 7.5 guaranteeing to “respect the rights of citizens to seek political or public office, individually or as representatives of political parties or organizations, without discrimination.”

To ameliorate future elections, Latvia should develop a voting register. It was also felt that although the question of citizenship itself was not an issue, the fact that one third of the population was left out of the political life of the country remains a concern.

Parliamentary elections in Croatia (29 October 1995). These were the first democratic elections to be held in Croatia. Observers came from 14 OSCE countries and several non-governmental organizations. Due to the late passage of the electoral legislation there was little time left for a meaningful political campaign. There was nevertheless a broad range of political parties and candidates participating in the elections.

The recent displacement of a large number of Croatian citizens and the present political and social climate shortly after military operations raise concern about the ability to achieve universal and equal suffrage in an atmosphere conducive to strengthening democratic institutions. Concern remains also about the more fundamental questions of the extent of diaspora voting and how this was organised.

The absence of non-partisan domestic observers and the restrictive regulations governing party observers as well as delays in broadcasting opposition party campaigns by the State media were further points of criticism.

In the future, there should be more transparency towards amending the election legislation, the introduction of non-partisan observers and better, more equal access to the media. A general voter education programme might help to reduce the number of invalid ballots.

4.3. Seminars, Symposia, Meetings

During the reporting period the ODIHR organized and its experts participated in the following events:

4.3.1. Rule of Law and Democratic Institution Building

Building Blocks for Civil Society: Freedom of Association and NGOs, 4-7 April, Warsaw. The Seminar was attended by 286 participants, which is the highest number since CSCE seminars were initiated in 1992. One-half of the participants were representatives of 123 non-governmental organizations.

International Seminar on the Constitution of Tajikistan, 14-15 June, Dushanbe, for parliamentarians and jurists.

Second Annual Warsaw Judicial Symposium, 5-10 June, for lawyers from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and neighboring countries.

Expert Seminar on the Changing Role of the Judiciary, 29-30 May, Tbilisi, sponsored by the Supreme Court, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Seminar on Tolerance, 23-26 May, co-organized with the COE and UNESCO; Bucharest, Romania.

Expert Seminar on the Changing Role of the Judiciary, 3-4 April, Riga, sponsored by the Supreme Court, Riga, Latvia.

OSCE Mission Seminar on Russian-Estonian Relations, 6-8 April, Johvi, Estonia.

Expert Consultation, 15-20 January, organized by the President's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Constitutional Court, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Expert Consultation, 11-12 January, organized by the Supreme Court of Estonia and the OSCE Mission to Estonia, Tallinn and Tartu.

Expert Consultation organized by the Supreme Court and Parliament of Latvia, 10 January, Riga.

4.3.2. Media

Seminar on Print Media Management, Chisinau, Moldova, 11-13 May 1995, co-organized with the Independent Journalism Center in Moldova.

Seminar on Print Media Management, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 11-13 September 1995, co-organized with UNESCO for the Central Asian States.

4.3.3. Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, 2-19 October, Warsaw

The meeting examined implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments as well as reviewed practical functioning of existing mechanisms and procedures for monitoring compliance with existing commitments. Several recommendations for the future human dimension activities for the OSCE were made in the course of discussion.

4.4. Contact point for Roma and Sinti Issues

The Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI) within the ODIHR was established by decision of the Budapest Summit.

After thorough consultation with the Office of the HCNM and several Romani associations, as well as with international organizations, in particular, the COE and the UNHCR, the following main objectives were identified for the activities of the Contact Point:

- focus on addressing discrimination and violence against Roma and Sinti;

- disseminate information on Roma and Sinti issues, including information on implementation of commitments pertaining to Roma and Sinti;
- encourage development of Roma and Sinti organizational capacity and assisting co-operation between Romani and Sinti associations and organizations.

Regular consultations on current activities of the CPRSI were organized on the occasion of OSCE seminars. A workshop on networking of contacts and co-operation with Romani and Sinti associations took place in October.

5. Security Co-operation

5.1. New Measures in the Field of Arms Control and Confidence- and Security Building

The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted in November/December 1994 the following documents:

- *The Vienna Document 1994*. It expands the provisions of the previous Vienna Documents on military information exchange and integrates in its framework measures previously adopted by the FSC in 1993, concerning
 - increased openness in defence planning and
 - a Programme for Military Contacts and Co-operation.
- *The Document on the Global Exchange of Information*, obligating participating States to exchange annually and without geographical limits information on major weapons and equipment systems and personnel in their conventional armed forces, as well as on the command structure of their forces.
- *The Document on Principles Governing Non-Proliferation in the field of nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, and the transfer of missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, and their components and technology*. Measures include, *inter alia*, support for the existing international agreements in these fields, and, more specifically, the obligation to incorporate the existing commitments in national legislation.

5.2. The Code of Conduct

A major document finalized during the reporting period is the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*, adopted at the Budapest Summit. It is a comprehensive document relating to the military and defence policies of participating States both in times of peace and of war. It commits States subscribing to it, *inter alia*, to co-operate in the field of security, to establish and maintain democratic control over their armed forces, and to ensure respect for existing international obligations.

5.3. FSC Seminars

The seminars offered an opportunity for brainstorming and discussing issues outside the framework of formal negotiations.

5.3.1. The Seminar on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers (20-21 June). The Seminar offered an opportunity to exchange information and experience in various areas including export laws, control lists, licenses, enforcement practices and procedures, possibilities for better international co-operation in preventing undesirable or unauthorized transfers, increased transparency through international efforts, co-operation in the field of control agencies, and combating illegal conventional arms transfers. Follow-up action includes a questionnaire to be prepared by the CPC which will be circulated on an annual basis. The CPC will compile the information provided. The CPC will also receive national control lists and data of a designated national contact point and will make available on request the national control lists and a list of the contact points.

5.3.2. The Seminar on Regional Arms Control in the OSCE Area (10-12 July). Topics included the politico-military context for regional arms control, regional security, tailoring and applying arms control and CSBMs to regional concerns, regional security issues and further tasks of the FSC, and other regional issues.

5.3.3. The Seminar CSBMs and Arms Control: Application and Compliance, organized by the CPC, was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan (16-23 May). Its main objective was to strengthen the implementation of and compliance with arms control provisions in the OSCE framework. The Seminar aimed at providing officials from the Central Asian OSCE States who are responsible for compliance with arms control provisions in the participating States in the region with a better understanding of the CSBM and other arms control regimes in the OSCE framework.

5.4. The Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM), 12-14 April

Delegations agreed the AIAM has become a flexible tool, a useful vehicle for the development of new techniques and measures.

The AIAM tried to determine whether agreed measures still correspond to reality or whether they should be changed. The meeting gave its attention to questions such as the validity, practical implementation and improvement of existing measures, as well as their further development.

Working Group A (WGA), a subsidiary body of the FSC, mandated with implementation and monitoring of measures adopted by the FSC that prepared the AIAM was also instructed by the FSC Decision to ensure its appropriate follow-up and to prepare FSC debates on implementation. Pursuant to that decision, WGA devoted its every fourth meeting entirely to implementation.

6. Other Important Activities

6.1. Integration of Recently Admitted Participating States

The Budapest Summit requested the ODIHR and the Secretary General to arrange further meetings and seminars relating to the Programme of Co-ordinated Support.

6.1.1. In addition to seminars arranged by the ODIHR and CPC, the **Seminar on Rehabilitating the Environment** (10-14 October) was organized by the Department of Chairman-in-Office Support in Tashkent/Urgench, Uzbekistan. The Seminar provided an OSCE framework for environment-related discussion among the participating States of Central Asia and fostered their contacts with the rest of the OSCE community and international organizations.

6.1.2. At the request of the CIO, the Secretary General visited Tajikistan from 7 to 9 January. He conducted a series of talks with the President, the Acting President of Parliament, the Foreign Minister and the Minister of Justice. In his talks in Tajikistan the Secretary General focused on the need to improve the electoral law and process so as to bring them into line with OSCE standards and requirements.

6.1.3. Based on recommendations set in the Secretary General's report on his visit in 1994 to the OSCE participating States of Central Asia the Permanent Council decided on the establishment, for one year, of an **OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia**. The Office became operational in July in Tashkent.

6.1.4. The Permanent Council established a Voluntary Fund for Fostering the Integration of Recently admitted Participating States.

6.2. The Economic Dimension

The Third Meeting of the Economic Forum (7-9 June, Prague) considered various aspects of regional economic co-operation in the fields of trade, investment, infrastructure and, in particular, their relevance for security. A number of specific proposals on improved integration of the economic dimension into the work of the OSCE were made.

6.2.1. **The Role of Tourism in Promoting Better Understanding Between Different Cultures** was the subject of an OSCE seminar held in Bucharest (6-8 November) with the assistance of the Department of Chairman-in-Office Support. The seminar offered an opportunity to conduct an open and result-oriented dialogue on the main issues and prospects for the development of co-operation in this field.

6.2.2. The Government of Bulgaria hosted in Sofia an OSCE **Seminar on the Role of Trans-European Infrastructure for Stability and Co-operation in the Black Sea Region** (15-17 November) organized with the assistance of the Department of Chairman-in-Office Support. The seminar analysed the need for developing and upgrading transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure in the Black Sea Region with a view to contributing to an accelerated European integration process.

6.3. Press and Public Information

Any institution in a civil society needs public support for its development. The Secretariat has undertaken a number of efforts to spread information about the OSCE, but the results

have been very limited. Combined and indeed enhanced efforts on the part of the Chair, the OSCE States and the Secretariat as well as other OSCE institutions will be needed to make OSCE activities better known.

6.3.1. Press Relations

The Secretariat (Department for Chairman-in-Office Support) has made an effort to improve access to and quality of information as well as to develop contacts with the press and the public. The Secretary General and OSCE officials have made more frequent public appearances and have improved their contacts with the media.

In order to inform the public of the work of OSCE Missions, journalists were invited to accompany the Secretary General on his visit to the OSCE Mission to Georgia in June.

6.3.2. Publications issued by the Institutions increase public knowledge of the OSCE

The DCIOS continued to publish the monthly **OSCE Newsletter** and distribute it to the OSCE States and about 1,000 outside subscribers.

The first issue of the **OSCE Handbook** prepared by the DCIOS provided comprehensive and factual information on the institutions, activities and mechanisms of the OSCE.

The Secretariat prepared a reference manual on CSCE/OSCE decisions and supported compilation projects conducted by private institutions.

As in previous years, the ODIHR has produced four issues of the **OSCE ODIHR Bulletin**.

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act the ODIHR published two books: **Human Rights and the Judiciary - a Collection of Documents** and **OSCE Human Dimension Documents**.

In addition to publishing the English version of the OSCE Human Dimension Documents in book form, the ODIHR co-ordinated the translation of several key OSCE Documents into non-OSCE languages (Latvian and Estonian). Projects are currently underway for translations into Tajik and Georgian.

In August the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues started producing a bi-monthly **CPRSI Newsletter** which, *inter alia*, lists the reports received by the ODIHR on the implementation of OSCE Commitments related to Roma.

The OSCE Secretariat has extended various forms of support and co-operation to other publications reporting on OSCE, in particular, the **Helsinki Monitor**.

6.3.3. A highlight of OSCE activities in 1995 were the events held to mark the **20th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act**.

In Vienna the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the OSCE Secretary General jointly organized a ceremony with the participation of the Federal President of Austria on 30 June.

More than three hundred participants, representing governments of the OSCE States, parliaments, interational organizations, research institutes and NGOs, attended in July the Seminar **Twenty Years of the Helsinki Act Towards a New Security Model** organized by the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

The Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the **Conference Commemorating the Twentieth Anniversary of the Signing of the Final Act on 1 August**. The conference took place in Helsinki and was attended by eminent persons who had played a key role at the beginning of the CSCE process.

On 8 September, an international Symposium entitled **20 Years After Helsinki: The OSCE and the European Security Policy in Transition**, organized by the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, was held in Hamburg, Germany. The event also served as an occasion for launching the OSCE Yearbook.

The upcoming Swiss Chairmanship marked the **Twentieth Anniversary of the Final Act** with a meeting held on 20 October in Geneva. Diplomats, scholars, journalists and NGOs discussed the OSCE contribution to the historic change in Europe in 1989 and also focused on the current and future role of the OSCE in confronting new challenges.

The Seminar on the OSCE: Assessment and Future Prospects, organized by the Prague-based Open-Media Research Institute, was held in Prague on 28 October, inaugurated by the CIO and attended by senior representatives from OSCE participating States, as well as academics.

6.3.4. A study from a Public Relations Agency **OSCE Communication Strategy** provided a basis for setting priorities for strengthening and improving the OSCE's press and public information effort.

III. The Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

The 4th Annual Session of the PA was held in Ottawa, Canada, from 4 to 8 July 1995.

The Ottawa decision document contains three resolutions that track the three "baskets" of the Helsinki Final Act. The first resolution on Political Affairs and Security emphasizes, *inter alia*, strengthening the OSCE and the importance of the progress being made in OSCE activities in the Causasus and reiterates concern over the continuing military conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The resolution also calls on the OSCE to actively explore decision-making procedures based on an approximate consensus.

The Resolution on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment, underlines the importance of the role economic stabilization plays in the security dimension.

The Resolution on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, states, *inter alia*, the need to establish an international criminal law and court covering war crimes.

In addition, the PA Standing Committee agreed to the setting up of an ad hoc Committee on a Code of Conduct on Democracy and Human Rights which PA President Swaelen will appoint at a later date.

Mr. Frank Swaelen was re-elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly by acclamation. Five Vice-Presidents were also elected for three-year terms: Steny Hoyer, an opposition leader in the U.S. Congress; Mrs. Helle Degn, former Minister and Chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Danish Parliament; and Mr. Andras Barsony, Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian National Assembly. Mr. Erkin Khalilov, Speaker of the Uzbekistan Parliament, and Mr. Kazys Bobelis, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lithuanian Parliament, were both elected to one-year terms.

IV. Relations with International Organizations and Institutions

The ongoing inter-institutional dialogue on a political level was complemented by increased co-operation on specific topics like election monitoring, mission activities and humanitarian assistance.

Co-operation between the CSCE and the UN was again on the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the UN General Assembly that, on 11 November 1994, adopted a resolution on the co-operation between the UN and the CSCE.

While welcoming the increased co-operation between the two organizations, the resolution (49/20) requests the UN Secretary-General to explore with the CSCE Chairman-in-Office further improvements in this regard.

The resolution also “supports the activities of the CSCE to contribute to stability and the maintenance of peace within its area.”

Most significantly, the resolution “encourages the participating States of the CSCE to make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of disputes in the Conference area, through conflict prevention and crisis management by the Conference, including peacekeeping.”

In April, a Representative of the CIO met UN Representatives in New York and discussed ways and means of possible UN assistance in the preparation of the OSCE peacekeeping operation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In February, the CIO convened a meeting in Budapest to discuss co-operation and co-ordination in humanitarian causes with other international organizations. Attending the meeting were representatives from the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the United Nations Office in Geneva, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The OSCE was represented by Senior Officials from the Troika countries, the HCNM, the Director of the ODIHR and the Director of the CPC.

In Geneva Representatives of the CIO, the OSCE Troika, Directors of the ODIHR and the Conflict Prevention Centre had talks with the Representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

International Committee of Red Cross and the Council of Europe on operations for channelling humanitarian assistance to Chechnya.

In June, Heads of Mission met with Representatives of the Council of Europe, the ICRC and UNHCR, who gave presentations on the activities of their organizations in OSCE mission areas. This helped identify more specifically areas for practical co-operation in the field and contributed to a better understanding of the complementary elements of the respective mandates.

Close contacts and co-operation between the COE and OSCE continued. Two meetings between the respective Chairmen and the Secretary General were held and will be continued.

In October, the second high-level (“two+two”) meeting between the OSCE and the COE was held in Prague. Attended by the CIO, the Secretary General, the HCNM, the Director of the ODIHR and the COE represented by the Czech Foreign Minister and COE Secretary General, the meeting focused on cooperation in former Yugoslavia, exchange of experiences in the field of compliance monitoring, cooperation in election monitoring, CBMS, information exchange, combating racism, aggressive nationalism, xenophobia, anti-semitism, situation of ethnic minorities in Europe, etc.

Working-level contacts and information exchange continued with the UN, UNDP, WEU, NATO, CBSS, CIS, etc.

V. Relations with Non-Participating States (NPS)

The OSCE continued its co-operation and interaction with the NPS Japan and Republic of Korea and also with the non-participating Mediterranean States (NPMS) Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia.

Pursuant to the Budapest decisions an informal open-ended contact group was established within the PC framework to enhance dialogue with NPMS.

In July, the Troika held ministerial-level consultations with NPMS Foreign Ministers or their Representatives. The participants stressed the global character and the indivisibility of security and agreed on the importance of a comprehensive approach to security and on the growing significance of non-military aspects of security. They stressed the

interdependence between security in the OSCE and Mediterranean areas and the common interest of the OSCE and the Mediterranean States in resolving the crises there.

The NPMS suggested that the CIO submit proposals to the upcoming OSCE Ministerial Council in Budapest on the enhancement of the relationship and status of these States vis-à-vis the OSCE and the extension of its scope to Jordan and Mauritania.

The NPMS expressed their interest in the OSCE's experience and its rules and principles and also its structures and institutions with a view to benefiting from them in their future co-operation. The Troika invited high-level officials from these States for an information visit to the OSCE in Vienna.

In the context of fostering links with NPMS the **Seminar on the OSCE Experience in the Field of Confidence Building** was held in Cairo, Egypt in September organized by the Department for Chairman-in-Office Support and the host Country. Attended by prominent experts, the seminar was an important landmark in OSCE -NPMS rapprochement and offered the NPMS an opportunity to draw upon relevant OSCE expertise.

In November, senior officials from these States attended a special briefing programme at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna.

VI. Contacts with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The Budapest Summit of 1994 requested the Secretary General to make a study of how participation of NGOs can be further enhanced. OSCE Participating States and over 600 NGOs were requested to submit their views and proposals.

Based on ideas generated during the exploratory phase, the Secretary General submitted in September the requested study containing a number of specific proposals aimed at enhancing NGO participation in OSCE activities and calling, *inter alia*, for full compliance by participating States with their commitments vis-à-vis NGO involvement in OSCE activities; holding annual Meetings to be arranged by the PC Chairman with NGO

participation; organising briefings for NGOs prior to major OSCE events; convening informal meetings with NGOs on specific topics in Vienna; and appointing a Vienna-based NGO Liaison Officer in the Secretariat.

Traditionally, the ODIHR has played a key role in liaising with NGOs.

In June, a training workshop was organised by the ODIHR in Vilnius, Lithuania on Capacity Building and Communication for NGO Leadership, the purpose of the workshop being to impart to human rights-oriented NGOs in the Baltics professional, organizational, communication and administrative skills, along with a basic understanding of the OSCE and the role played in it by NGOs. Further workshops of this nature are planned and the next training will possibly take place in Tbilisi. Skopje and Ljubljana are also prospective sites for workshops.

Continuing the process launched by the 1994 Stadtschlaining Seminar, the CPC assisted the Institute for Research and Security Studies (IRSS) by organizing the **Seminar on Exchanging Knowledge and Conflict Management**, which was part of an ongoing expert consultation co-ordinated by the CPC and the IRSS. The purpose of the seminar was to examine methods of communication and information management with the aim of improving conflict management.

VII. Administration and Finance

Activities in this area were aimed at further developing the administrative and financial structures and procedures of the OSCE with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of related support services for the benefit of OSCE operations. Special attention was given to the preparation of comprehensive Staff Regulations and Rules, as well as Financial Regulations.

1. Organizational and Personnel Matters

A new office was established in Tashkent effective 1 July 1995. The staffing of the Prague Office was gradually reduced. The High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) was established in January.

The total number of OSCE staff continued to increase in 1995. Currently some 155 persons, including interpreters, translators and conference typists, are employed by the three OSCE institutions. Around 120 of these work at the Secretariat (114 in Vienna and 6 in Prague), 25 at the ODIHR in Warsaw and 10 at the Office of the High Commissioner in The Hague.

New Staff Regulations and Staff Rules were elaborated and presented to the Permanent Council in April.

A Provident Fund was established effective 1 July for staff whose security upon retirement is not provided through affiliation with the national social security system at their respective duty station.

An in-depth analysis and a job classification exercise covering all OSCE posts were carried out with the help of an external expert on the UN job classification system. Based on the results of this study, the Secretary General presented a report in September on the implementation of the OSCE salary structure, which had been adopted by the Permanent Committee on 21 July 1994.

A system for periodic evaluation of staff members' performance was established in April.

2. Financial Matters

A unified budget for 1995 was initially adopted in November 1994 by the Committee of Senior Officials. This budget was revised during the first months of 1995 to take account of the outcome of the Budapest Summit and a revised budget was adopted by the Permanent Council on 6 April. This budget was again reviewed in July. Thus, the budget currently in force was adopted by the Permanent Council on 25 July and totals 321.4 million Austrian Schillings, equivalent to some 30.6 million US Dollars.

The unified audited financial statements for 1994, including the report of the External Auditors, were submitted to the Permanent Council on 19 September. The Auditors attached to their report an unqualified audit opinion.

New Financial Regulations were elaborated and submitted to the Permanent Council in April.

A Voluntary Fund to Foster the Integration of Recently Admitted Participating States was created in March and a formalized administrative and financial procedure for the management of all voluntary contributions was established in August.