

# *Secretariat*



OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (left) and Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis sign an agreement on common goals with regard to local and regional self-government in south-eastern Europe, in Strasbourg, 17 November 2005.

*Activities of the Secretariat | Partnerships for Security and Co-operation*

## Senior Adviser on Gender Issues

The OSCE enlarged its programme on gender issues in 2005. The Secretariat developed a strategy for gender mainstreaming in order to implement the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and increased the number of staff working on gender issues. There were also continued efforts to build staff capacity on this topic.

With the aim to promote the practice of gender equality and gender mainstreaming as essential elements of comprehensive security, the Ministerial Council redirected the programme on gender issues and endorsed the 2004 *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*. The Plan stipulates the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into OSCE activities, policies, programmes and projects. It further requires the development of a gender mainstreaming process in recruitment, the working environment and within structures. To establish the internal strategy for the gender mainstreaming process, the Senior Adviser on Gender Issues organized workshops with focal points for gender issues from missions and the gender unit of the ODIHR. The gender focal points, who were nominated by departments and units of the Secretariat, were instructed by the Senior Adviser on the requirements of the Action Plan and the basics of gender mainstreaming. Specific materials tailored to the needs of each department were developed in order to help gender focal points analyse respective activities and structures with regard to the integration of a gender aspect.

The 2004 Action Plan stipulates that the Secretariat and Institutions develop implementation plans with concrete measures for achieving its overall aims. The Senior Adviser, supported since September by a Gender Officer, is assisting the relevant structures to comply with this requirement. The Senior Adviser developed and introduced a comprehensive outline of the mainstreaming strategy and a collection of indicators to measure implementation.

Two seminars organized by participating States and supported by the Senior Adviser emphasized gender equality as a necessary element of comprehensive security. One seminar focussed on violence against women, the second on women in conflict prevention

and crisis management. Both themes were further discussed in the *Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking*, comprising representatives of the OSCE delegations. This forum further outlined the future role of the OSCE in combating violence against women and in promoting women's involvement in conflict prevention through the development of two Ministerial Council Decisions that were adopted in Ljubljana in December. The Senior Adviser and the Gender Officer provided substantial assistance in this work.

In March, the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) was reviewed and appraised. The Senior Adviser addressed the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the *United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women* in a high-level panel on the role of regional organizations in promoting gender equality.

To further promote a professional and gender-sensitive management culture and working environment, the Senior Adviser continued to monitor the implementation of relevant regulations and assisted Missions in the application of the policy against harassment and discrimination. She also worked to strengthen co-operation with the network of gender advisers from other organizations and institutions, the *Organizational and Institutional Gender Information Network (ORIGIN)*. This group provides a rich resource of experience and best practice in the integration of gender-sensitive policies into organizational structures, which is instrumental for gender focal points in the Secretariat and missions for the implementation of the Action Plan.

To raise awareness and build capacity for the integration of gender aspects into the work of the field operations, the gender unit also continued to assist the training section in the implementation of the induction course for staff and mission members. Furthermore, it participated in several thematic roundtables to ensure that all staff members are aware of the requirements of the 2004 Action Plan and are starting to become involved in the gender mainstreaming process. Specific modules on gender mainstreaming and women's role in conflict prevention were developed and used in staff training in various Missions.

## Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit

Supporting the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General, the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit (ATAU) provides a co-ordinating function among OSCE structures and Institutions involved in combating trafficking in human beings with a focus on the following activities: enhancing the awareness and understanding of human trafficking across the OSCE region; policy, planning and advocacy especially in the area of emerging trends of human trafficking and effective approaches to combating trafficking in human beings; and direct assistance to participating States in practical and technical areas, at their request.

In 2005, the Unit focused on raising the need for a victim-centred approach to combating trafficking, specifically in the area of protection and assistance provided to victims. It also called attention to the special needs of child victims of trafficking. In July, the OSCE participating States approved the *Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance*.

Specifically, the work of the ATAU includes:  
***Enhancing the awareness and understanding of human***

**trafficking across the OSCE region.** The ATAU planned and facilitated the following high-level conferences and expert meetings within the framework of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons. These included:

- *Taking a Stand: Effective Assistance and Protection to Victims of Trafficking*, in February;
- *Combating Trafficking in Children*, in March;
- Experts Consultation by the OSCE and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on *Developing a Legal Framework to Prosecute the Exploitation of Trafficked Persons*, in July;
- *Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation and Forced and Bonded Labour: Identification, Prevention, Prosecution*, in November.

**Policy, planning and advocacy.** Through its ongoing research and analysis, the ATAU maintained comprehensive information on anti-trafficking activities in the OSCE region. It applied this information to enhance awareness of emerging trends and approaches to combating human trafficking by:

- supporting the activities of the Special Representative in monitoring anti-trafficking activities undertaken by participating States within the context of country visits;
- co-operating with the Council of Europe in combating trafficking in human beings;
- advising the European Union States on the Draft Action Plan, in co-operation with the Special Representative and the Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team.

**Direct assistance and support to participating States.** In co-operation with relevant OSCE structures, the ATAU continued to assist participating States, upon request, in fulfilling the commitments stated in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in the following areas:

- development of National Action Plans;
- establishment of National Co-ordinating Mechanisms;
- review and reform of anti-trafficking legislation; and
- promotion of the development of National Referral Mechanisms.

**Priorities for 2006.** Working closely with the 2006 Belgian Chairmanship within the mandate to combat organized crime, the ATU will focus on the following areas:

- increasing awareness of all forms of trafficking in human beings, in particular for labour exploitation and forced and bonded labour as well as child trafficking;
- promoting a multi-dimensional approach to combating human trafficking, with special focus on protection and assistance to victims of trafficking;
- developing and strengthening national co-ordination mechanisms; and
- enhancing co-ordination of anti-trafficking efforts among OSCE structures and Institutions and among relevant non-governmental organizations.

## Strategic Police Matters Unit

The Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) aims to improve the capacity of participating States to address threats posed by criminal activity and to assist States in upholding the rule of law. In 2005, it focused on such work in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Georgia. It also combated trafficking in human beings, by building the capacity of law enforcement agencies to prosecute offenders. It addressed hate crimes and developed a database system to aid best practice in law enforcement.

The political upheaval in Kyrgyzstan in March focused attention on the OSCE Police Assistance Programme there. The Programme, launched after the shooting of five protestors by the Kyrgyz Militia during a minor demonstration near Aksy in March 2002, looked to strengthen police capacity to prevent conflict and manage public disorder, and resulted in the training and equipping of two specialized Public Order Management Units in Bishkek and Osh.

The Programme's first real test came on 24 March when large numbers of anti-government demonstrators massed outside the President of Kyrgyzstan's Office in Bishkek, demanding the immediate resignation of President Askar Akaev and his Government. The actions of the Kyrgyz Militia demonstrated that the

programme had succeeded in changing the policing culture. The Militia were not willing to contravene those professional policing practices, generally accepted by democratic States, in order to defend the governing regime at any cost.

On 7 April, the SPMU responded to developments by deploying the first of three police affairs officers to assist the OSCE Centre in Bishkek. The SPMU staff contributed to the overall OSCE Work Plan and created a one-year Interim Police Assistance Programme that addressed the most urgent short- and mid-term security problems in the country. The Interim Programme enabled the Kyrgyz Militia to ensure that the period of political transition passed peacefully, with law and order maintained throughout. The Programme also assisted the State Commission on Police Reform to "get back on track" with the elaboration of a detailed and concrete reform concept.

To further assist this process, three international police advisers were seconded to work side-by-side with the Minister of the Interior in Bishkek and policing officials in Jalalabat and Osh. This was the first time the OSCE had assigned an adviser directly to an Interior Ministry. (For more on this topic, please see page 21.)

In collaboration with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the SPMU provided instructions on *Human Rights and Policing* to the Kazakh Militia. This work led to the temporary appointment of a police adviser to the OSCE Centre in Almaty in September. Kazakhstan also hosted the *first OSCE Regional Sex Crimes Investigation Workshop*, from 8 to 10 November. The training included police practitioners from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

In Georgia, by March 2006, the SPMU and the OSCE Mission to Georgia will have completed a *Short-Term Assistance Project* that provides immediate assistance in the following areas: community-based policing, police training and development of a new human resources management system. In both Armenia and Azerbaijan, the SPMU supported the OSCE field operations in their implementation of the police training components of their respective Police Assistance Programmes.

To complement the OSCE's work combating trafficking in human beings, the SPMU focused on gathering evidence against offenders as an alternative to relying solely on victim testimony. A 12-day real-time simulation for law enforcement investigators, prosecutors, judges and non-governmental organization staff was held in Chisinau to demonstrate how sufficient evidence can be gathered, with existing resources, in order to prosecute successfully offenders without having to rely on the testimony of witness-

es. The training has already improved interviewing techniques and enhanced co-operation across the Criminal Justice Sector in Moldova. Another three OSCE field operations have requested this proactive training on behalf of their respective host-States.

In September, the SPMU organized a two-day meeting in Vienna for police experts on the subject of preventing and combating hate crimes. The meeting brought together more than 60 police investigators, representing 27 European and Central Asian countries, as well as a panel of distinguished experts. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity to share acquired knowledge in the field of hate crimes and showcase the work of the ODIHR's Law Enforcement Officers Hate Crimes Training Programme.

During 2005, the SPMU designed and tested a pilot of the *OSCE Policing OnLine Information System* (POLIS). These three databases consolidate all aspects of contemporary policing issues, lessons learned and good practice undertaken by the OSCE. POLIS enables policing and law enforcement practitioners to access the information they need when they need it, no matter where they are in the world. Lessons learned and best practice are more than safeguarded; they are accessible in such a manner that operational practitioners will actually use them.

[www.osce.org/policing](http://www.osce.org/policing)

## Action against Terrorism Unit

The Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) is the focal point for OSCE counter-terrorism co-ordination and activities. Established in 2002, it works closely with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (UNCTC) and its Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other international partners.

The ATU collaborates with the OSCE *Informal Group of Friends of the Chair on Combating Terrorism*, which has become an excellent medium for interaction between the Secretariat and participating States as well as a major forum for reviewing implementation of anti-terrorism commitments and elaboration of the OSCE's response to emerging terrorist threats.

Support for the ratification and implementation of the 12 UN anti-terrorism instruments remains a core function of the Unit. The ATU partnership with the UN and the ODIHR in workshops and bilateral consultations has contributed to a four per cent rise in the region's ratification rate over the last year, bringing it up to 92 per cent.

Another key function of the ATU is to provide counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to OSCE participating States. In 2005, the ATU organized four major OSCE region-wide expert workshops on:

- *Container Security*, funded by the United States, Slovenia and Sweden;
- *Enhancing Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters Related to Terrorism*, funded by Germany, the U.S., Liechtenstein and Sweden;
- *Suicide Terrorism*, funded by the U.S.; and
- *Combating the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes*, funded by the OSCE's unified budget.

Participation in these events included representatives from nearly all participating and Partner States as well as relevant international organizations. Follow-up actions have been initiated, including national training workshops and closer co-operation with specialized international organizations.

Continuing efforts to strengthen travel document security in the OSCE region, the ATU launched a new series of workshops on the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) standards for the handling and issuance of passports with a workshop for south-eastern Europe in Sofia, funded by the U.S., and another for Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan. These workshops are designed to assist participating States in the implementation of their commitment to prevent the movement of terrorist individuals or groups through effective border controls and controls relating to the issuance of identity papers and travel documents.



To foster timely information exchange among counter-terrorism practitioners, the ATU maintains a Counter-Terrorism Network, an Internet-based network designed to facilitate the flow of information between participating States, counter-terrorism officials in the States' capitals and the ATU. It also publishes a monthly electronic newsletter providing practical counter-terrorism training and capacity-building information.

To avoid duplication of efforts, the ATU regularly keeps inventories of all OSCE and non-OSCE counter-terrorism, border secu-

rity and law enforcement programmes in the region. The ATU provides this information to OSCE programme planners and holds workshops to inform them about counter-terrorism related activities in the region.

The ATU maintains a website containing information on current OSCE anti-terrorism programmes and activities and links to key organizations and partners in the fight against terrorism.

[www.osce.org/atu](http://www.osce.org/atu)

## Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

The range of activities in the OSCE's economic and environment dimension expanded further in 2005, especially with regard to environmental activities, the combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism, the fight against corruption and against the trafficking in human beings. The enhanced activity is based on the *2003 Strategy Document for the Economic and Environment Dimension*, the Slovenian Chairmanship's choice of priorities, the 13th Economic Forum as well as follow-up from previous forum meetings.

**Economic forums.** The office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) assessed the recommendations made at the 13<sup>th</sup> Economic Forum, held in May 2005, under the theme *Demographic Trends, Migration and Integrating Persons belonging to National Minorities: Ensuring Security and Sustainable Development in the OSCE Area* and suggested concrete follow-up in the three selected fields, for instance by developing a *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination* in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration.

In co-ordination with the 2006 Belgian Chairmanship, preparations have started for the 14th Economic Forum on the topic of *Transportation in the OSCE Area: Transport development to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability*. The first part of the Forum was held in Vienna on 23 and 24 January; the second part will be held in Prague from 22 to 24 May 2006. The first preparatory conference for the 14th Forum was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 7 and 8 November.

### Environmental activities

**Progress on Environment and Security Initiative.** The Environment and Security Initiative continued to implement its work programme for south-eastern Europe, the southern Caucasus and Central Asia. The in-depth assessment of the environmental situation in the Fergana Valley was completed

and launched. (More information on the initiative can be obtained at [www.envsec.org](http://www.envsec.org).)

**Disposal of hazardous waste and rocket fuel component.** A joint OSCE-NATO Technical Workshop was organized in Kyiv from 6 to 8 July on the disposal of rocket fuel component. In co-ordination with NATO, several needs assessment missions followed to Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. The melange disposal project in Armenia continued. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

**Awareness-raising.** The OCEEA supported the setting up of environmental information centres (Aarhus centres). In 2005, centres were established in Yerevan, Baku, Dushanbe, Osh (Kyrgyzstan) and Khudjand (Tajikistan). Plans for further centres are underway for Ganja (Azerbaijan), Tbilisi and South Ossetia (Georgia), Bishkek, Tashkent and Minsk. An environmental education programme (the *Green Pack*) is underway in Azerbaijan and Belarus.

**Water management projects.** The OCEEA and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) continued to support a project to facilitate an agreement between the two riparian states to the Dniestr River – Ukraine and Moldova, including the Transdnestr region – on how to develop co-operation on integrated water resource management in the Dniestr river basin. Other activities in river monitoring continued on the rivers Chu and Talas between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and on the Sava River through Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro.

**Economic activities.** Working closely with OSCE field operations, the OCEEA promoted the development of good governance, business opportunities and entrepreneurship within the OSCE region. In this context, it provided assistance in project development and extra-budgetary funding to support technical training for small- and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurial training seminars for youth, women and other vulnerable population

groups, as well as economic summer camps for young people.

**Combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.** In the framework of the Global Programme against Money Laundering, the OCEEA and the UNODC continued to support participating States in their efforts to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, in particular through a high-level conference on combating terrorist financing held in Vienna from 9 to 11 November, a workshop for financial sector supervisors held in Vienna in June and several national workshops. Co-operation also continued on establishing or supporting financial intelligence units in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania and Uzbekistan. A financial intelligence unit is a central, national agency responsible for receiving, analysing and disseminating to the competent authorities, financial information concerning suspected proceeds of crime and potential financing of terrorism, in order to combat money laundering and terrorism financing.

**Anti-trafficking programme.** The OCEEA's *Anti-Trafficking Programme on Public-Private Co-operation in the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings* was implemented in line with the OSCE

*Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings* to focus on the economic root causes and demand factor of trafficking as well as to mobilize the private sector in counter-trafficking activities. The Programme is a three-year umbrella programme, which currently consists of 13 project activities being implemented in eight OSCE participating States, including among others the empowerment of orphans in Ukraine. (For more on this topic, please see the box on page 14.) Other activities in 2005 included a project on *Public-Private Co-operation in Economic Empowerment for Potential Victims of Trafficking* through Vocational Training in Romania in co-operation with the International Business Leaders Forum's *Youth Career Initiative* and a project on *Women Entrepreneurship Training and Business Plan Competition* in Azerbaijan.

**Education.** The OCEEA continued to support the multi-year initiative *Central Asia Applied Research Network* by the Eurasia Foundation. The aim of the initiative is to strengthen institutional and human capacity in applied economic research among regional universities and research institutions in Central Asia.

## Report of the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre

*"In 2005, the CPC continued to be a key player in promoting co-ordination among the various operational structures of the OSCE. The heads of field operations, Institutions, and thematic units of the Secretariat are now increasingly working together to support the implementation of thematic and regional programmes to further advance security and stability in the OSCE area."*

**Ambassador Lamberto Zannier,  
Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre**

The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) co-ordinates the activities of the OSCE's field operations and assists them in the implementation of their mandates. It is also the focal point in the Secretariat for developing the OSCE's role in the politico-military dimension. In particular, the CPC is responsible for supporting the Chairmanship, the Secretary General and the decision-making bodies in implementing OSCE tasks in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The CPC comprises:

- the Mission Programme Section, which acts as the primary point of co-ordination and liaison with the OSCE field operations;
- the Project Co-ordination Cell, which provides support to field operations in the planning, development and evaluation of extra-budgetary projects;

- the Operations Unit, which plans future operations, identifies potential crisis areas by providing early warning and analysis, and is the focal point for border security and management issues;
- the Situation/Communication Room, which monitors developments in the OSCE regions and serves as an emergency crisis cell;
- the Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit, which provides advice and expertise to the politico-military dimension of security.

**Mission Programme Section.** The Mission Programme Section consists of four regional desks, covering south-eastern Europe, eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Mission Programme Officers responsible for these regions provide support and advice to the respective field operations on policy matters and on programmatic and managerial – including budgetary – issues. They also share and analyse with the Chairmanship early warning signals coming from the field and counsel on the most appropriate way forward. At the same time, they help prepare visits by the Chairman-in-Office, the Secretary General, and other OSCE officials to the field. They co-ordinate the preparation of Chairman-in-Office (CiO) visit files on substance, provide strategic advice, prepare visit reports, and ensure the appropriate follow-up.

In 2005, the **South-Eastern Europe Desk** actively supported the Chairmanship-in-Office in co-ordinating the work of the six

OSCE field operations in this region. This not only ensured that the OSCE remains effectively engaged in south-eastern Europe – one of the main priorities of the Slovenian OSCE Chairmanship – but also that it significantly contributes to consolidating the overall progress achieved since the OSCE became involved in the region.

The Desk further co-ordinated joint efforts by OSCE field operations and the Chairmanship in planning and organizing two follow-up meetings within the framework of the OSCE-facilitated process on inter-state co-operation in war crime proceedings launched in November 2004 in Palic, Serbia. One of the expert-level meetings took place in Brijuni, Croatia, in June; another in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in October 2005. In Brijuni, the expert meeting was preceded by a trilateral ministerial conference. The constructive exchange of views gave renewed impetus to the joint work of experts as the ministers expressed their full support for the work carried out within the framework of this process. The OSCE stands ready to facilitate further discussions at the political level, in support of the work at expert level.

The Desk devoted particular attention to the Kosovo issue, contributing to shaping a coherent and comprehensive policy meant to guide the future work of the OSCE in Kosovo/Serbia and Montenegro, in close interaction with its Partners of Co-operation.

The **Eastern Europe Desk** increased general support to its field operations in the area as the region gained greater attention in the different OSCE forums. Notable changes were the designation of two new heads of field operations, in the OSCE Office in Minsk and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, the latter following the death of Ambassador David Nicholas.

The Desk also helped the Chairmanship to engage with developments in Transdnistria with a view to strengthening efforts in the negotiations towards the peaceful settlement of on-going conflicts. The resumption of the Transdnistria negotiation process and the *Yushchenko plan* provided the process with new impetus. The Desk further assisted the office of the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine in satisfying the increased demand by the State authorities for projects.

The **Caucasus Desk** focused in 2005 on assisting the field operations in the region in their activities, particularly those relating to the settlement of on-going conflicts. For example, the Desk supported the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the CiO on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference in their preparations for and during a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories around Nagorno-Karabakh. At the beginning of the year, the Desk also assisted the Mission to Georgia to develop and implement plans for the closure of its Border Monitoring Operation, and helped identify requirements for the establishment of a Training Assistance Programme for Georgia's border guards. Finally, it provided a liaison function between the OSCE Secretariat, the International Election Observation Mission and the OSCE Office in Baku during the November parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan. Following dynamic political developments in the region, the **Central Asia Desk** took active part in the preparation of the high-level visits of the CiO, the Secretary General and the Personal Representative of the CiO to the countries in the region. In April,

the CPC supported the Chairmanship in reacting quickly and effectively to the deteriorating developments in Kyrgyzstan. The Director of the CPC worked together with the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Central Asia to facilitate a process of political dialogue and negotiation and to identify, together with the Kyrgyz authorities, key areas of assistance from the OSCE. As a result of their visit to Bishkek, a concrete work plan was set up, which identified major priorities for the OSCE presence in Kyrgyzstan in the short and long term. This also included a list of individual projects. The activities identified in the work plan were related to the preparations for the presidential election on 10 July and to the support of law enforcement agencies. (For more on this topic, please see page 21.)

**The Project Co-ordination Cell.** The OSCE field operations are increasingly implementing large and complex projects, both from budgetary and extra-budgetary resources. In close co-operation with the Mission Programme Section, the Project Co-ordination Cell supports the co-ordination of field operations' activities funded through extra-budgetary contributions with those implemented by the Institutions and the Secretariat. The Cell provides an effective channel for sharing views and technical expertise among field operations, Institutions and the Secretariat. In 2005, the Cell co-ordinated the assessment of 115 extra-budgetary projects planned by field operations with a combined value of over €31.2 million.

The Cell also supports programme managers in field operations in the planning, development and evaluation of their projects and programmes. Based on a resource manual developed together with the Department of Human Resources in 2003, the Cell continued to actively update and disseminate project management tools as a consolidated approach to project management. In line with the OSCE *Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality*, the Cell initiated the streamlining of gender aspects into the development and planning of field operations' projects.

**Operational planning, liaison and analysis.** The Operations Unit continued to be a key tool in supporting the Chairmanship and the participating States in operational planning. Background briefings and presentations were provided to representatives and high-ranking visitors of the participating States, and the Unit's small analytical team assisted the Secretary General, the Chairmanship and the participating States' delegations with background papers, analysis and speech writing. It played a major role in assisting the Chairmanship with the preparations, conduct and follow-up to the *Annual Security Review Conference* held in June. Discussions within all four sessions of the Conference led to a fruitful exchange of views and information on current major security issues, in particular anti-terrorism, border security and management and comprehensive security, as well as ideas to set strategies and define priorities for the coming year.

With the aim of developing and improving operational links with partner organizations, the Unit participated in the NATO Crisis Management Exercise in January and in the first EU-UN exercise study on co-operation in crisis management, both civilian and military, in April. The Unit also attended a series of events in London and Geneva, where recommendations were prepared for the 6<sup>th</sup> UN-Regional Organizations High-Level meeting in New York in July. It actively shared lessons learnt, situation assessments and



exchanged information on ongoing field activities during regular staff level meetings with partner organizations.

**Border security and management.** The team of experts established in the Operations Unit to deal with border management and security issues, held the second phase of the *OSCE South-Eastern Europe Cross-Border Co-operation Programme*. This phase of the two-year programme consisted of a series of five workshops, four within the Programme proper and one within a consortium of the *Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization (CARDS)*. This consortium promoted the implementation at an operational level of a number of cross-border agreements along land and sea borders and inter-agency co-operation as well as measures to curtail illegal immigration. Following the completion of the Programme's second phase, the Conflict Prevention Centre will evaluate the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of this programme to extract lessons which could be applied in other OSCE regions.

Following requests from participating States, the team conducted assessment visits to Central Asia, Georgia, and Belarus in order to provide technical assistance in improving border management and security.

The Operations Unit also supported the informal *Working Group on an OSCE Border Security and Management Concept* in drafting the Concept, which was adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana in December.

**Situation/Communications Room.** The Situation/Communications Room (Sit Room) provides a 24 hour/7 day-a-week service to the OSCE. The team of duty officers remains the central point of contact for the Organization, particularly out of working hours. Among its many services, the Sit Room ensures a continued media survey on relevant events and information dissemination during times of crisis and supports medical evacuation of staff members in distress. Through its constant monitoring of media outlets, the Sit Room fulfils an early warning function for the Secretary General. In 2005, Sit Room staff attended meetings with representatives of Situation Centres of other international organizations in New York and Brussels to establish a better information exchange.

**Forum for Security Co-operation Support Unit.** The FSC Support Unit provides support and expertise to the FSC Troika and to OSCE delegations by submitting detailed quarterly and monthly reports regarding the implementation of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures by participating States. In 2005, it played a major role in assisting the Chairmanship with the preparations, conduct and follow-up to the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in March and to the second *Annual Security Review Conference* in June.

This year, the Unit assisted participating States with nine assessment visits and with the development of projects on small arms and light weapons (SALW), conventional ammunition and rocket fuel component (*Melange*). Examples of such activities include: the successful implementation of projects in Tajikistan; the development of project plans on SALW in Belarus and on hazardous munitions in Ukraine and Kazakhstan; and the evaluation of the *Melange* problem in a number of OSCE States. These activities

were held in close co-operation with the OSCE field operations. The Unit provides field operations with expert advice on the issues relating to the development and implementation of projects. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)



**On 6 June, an OSCE Assessment Team visited Kazakhstan. Here they viewed some of the small arms and light weapons to be destroyed.**



**The Assessment Team also visited the conventional ammunition destruction facilities of the Kazakhstan Ministry of Defence in Kapchagay. Specialists showed them the process of dismantling shells.**

The Unit actively contributed to the *Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*, held in New York from 11 to 15 July. Supported by the participating States' delegations to the FSC, it organized and conducted an *OSCE side event devoted to the OSCE Activities to Assist Participating States in SALW-Related Areas*. It also participated in a number of preparatory events in the run-up to the Biennial Meeting of States 2005, in particular conferences in Beijing (Asian region including Central Asian Republics) and Algiers (League of Arab States); on the parliamentary oversight of armed forces in Prague (CIS countries); and in support of the OSCE's Partners for Co-operation.

The Unit also fostered co-ordination with NATO regarding the implementation of a number of projects. In order to increase the efficiency of assessment visits it organized a workshop in Kazakhstan on 1 and 2 June that explored problems related to stockpile security and destruction of small arms and light



weapons and conventional ammunition. The OSCE-NATO *Joint Technical Workshop on Rocket Fuel Component (Melange)*, held from 6 to 8 July in Ukraine, facilitated the identification of possible approaches to address this problem.

The OSCE Communications Network, which provides direct communications links between the capitals of participating States for the exchange of military information, was further upgraded in 2005. A new operating system and simplified network archi-

ture enhanced its efficiency, reliability and security. The Unit's Communication Network Cell operates the network and chairs the OSCE Communications Group, through which delegations provide their necessary input and oversight. The technical improvements make the Network even simpler and cheaper for all participating States to carry out their reporting commitments in the politico-military dimension.

[www.osce.org/cpc](http://www.osce.org/cpc)

## *Department of Human Resources*

The OSCE Secretariat's Department of Human Resources completed the rollout of the new Human Resources Management System with the January implementation of the Integrated Resource Management Agenda's (IRMA) Payroll and Labour Distribution modules in all OSCE Institutions and field operations. The completed rollout means that all the main human resource functionalities, including recruitment, training, and the administration of salaries and entitlements, have been streamlined and integrated onto one platform. This enhances reporting facilities and management control. The system, however, still requires improved usability and functionality. Since its implementation, the Department has provided continuous support and training on IRMA to Institutions and field operations.

The late approval of the 2005 Budget and Post Table meant that the Department could not advertise new posts in the first quarter of the year. However, new and improved procedures that shortened the period of time required to select and recruit staff helped offset the negative impact this caused. The Department issued 99 vacancy notices for contracted positions, attracting 8,878 applicants. During the year, 88 interview boards were held and some 440 candidates interviewed. The Department processed 2,700 nominations for seconded positions, resulting in the deployment of a total of 278 candidates to field operations and Institutions.

The Personnel Section assisted field operations and Institutions in all areas of human resource administration, but mainly with regard to policy direction and the accurate and consistent

application of staff regulations and rules. Consultations with the Advisory Committee on Management and Finance on the amendment of a number of staff regulations and rules, begun in 2004, have continued and, as a result, a number of changes were approved in March, July and September. The changes, which focus on social security issues, included an agreement that individual staff contributions could be transferred from the UN pension fund to the OSCE Provident Fund, and the implementation of a new health insurance provision for temporary incapacity, which provides enhanced conditions and protection for OSCE staff and the Organization.

The Training Section focuses on providing new staff with a smooth and efficient integration into the OSCE. In 2005, over 300 newly recruited OSCE officials attended one of 19 General Orientation "GO" Programmes, held in the Secretariat, prior to their arrival in Institutions and field operations. The Training Section directly manages the training needs of the Secretariat. It organized 28 seminars on relevant topics for some 220 staff members. In accordance with the OSCE's training strategy, it provided increased support to pre-mission training activities in participating States. The Section expects that demand for this type of support will continue in the future, especially in specialized fields such as election observation. In October, the second OSCE meeting on training and recruitment was held in Vienna, with the participation of more than 60 training and recruitment experts from capitals and representatives from the Secretariat, Institutions and field operations.

## *Department of Management and Finance*

The Department of Management and Finance (DMF) is the managerial, financial and administrative service and support department of the OSCE. It comprises Conference Services, Finance Services, Mission Support, Information and Communication Technology, Central Records and Documents Management (CRDM) and the Prague Office.

**IRMA and management reforms.** The DMF has been at the forefront of the OSCE's management reforms. The reforms, initiated in 2001 in response to OSCE's rapid growth, aimed at increasing the Organization's capacity to turn policy decisions into concrete operations with speed and flexibility, while improving cost-efficiency, transparency and accountability to participating States.

At the centre of the reforms is the *Unified Budget process* – a key tool for the Permanent Council in directing the work of the OSCE. After the Permanent Council endorsed the principle of programme budgeting, the DMF has improved the format, clearly linking programme objectives to programme resources.

In 2005, the management reforms reached a decisive stage and the OSCE's operational activities are now managed through a common, modern and integrated IT-based management system called *IRMA* – Integrated Resource Management system. *IRMA* calls for assigning clear responsibilities, authorities and lines of accountability. Accordingly, the regulatory framework was remodeled to reflect streamlined operational requirements and simplified work processes.

The regulatory framework now comprises 29 Instructions – 12 Provisional Financial and Administrative Instructions and 17 Staff Instructions. The last five Instructions were issued during 2005 and addressed the Unified Budget, Records and Document Management, Premises Management, Official Travel Management and Policy on Use of Computing Resources.

Another critical component of the management reforms is the *Doc.In* documents management system. Initiated in 2003 to improve the way the OSCE manages its knowledge and information, *Doc.In* will be fully rolled out to all OSCE locations by January 2006.

To provide OSCE Delegations access to reliable and up-to-date information on operational activities, the *Delegates' Website* is linked to a specifically developed "Dashboard" providing easy access to information such as meeting schedules, official OSCE documents as well as up-to-date and on-line *IRMA* reports on OSCE operational activities.

**Election support to Afghanistan.** As in 2004 – then for the presidential election – the OSCE sent an Election Support Team to Afghanistan. The operational and administrative components of the mission, which was dispatched to support the country's first parliamentary election in over 30 years, were carried out by a team of volunteers from DMF based in the Team's headquarters in Kabul. The difficulties in operating in such a distant and relatively hostile environment were considerable, but the Mission was successfully raised, conducted and completed at very short notice.

**New Secretariat premises in Wallnerstrasse.** In late 2007, the OSCE Secretariat and Representative on Freedom of the Media will move to new premises in a historic building – Palais Palfy in Wallnerstrasse 6. The premises, provided by the Austrian Government, are currently being refurbished. DMF is actively following the progress of the construction works. The premises will improve the OSCE's visibility by consolidating the Vienna-based offices in one representative building in the heart of Vienna.

**Supporting meetings and conferences.** Conference Services provide support to the respective Chairmanships and participating States of the OSCE, Joint Consultative Group and Open Skies Consultative Commission, as well as to the OSCE Secretariat in preparing for and conducting meetings and conferences.

In 2005, Conference Services also co-organized a number of events outside Vienna such as the Economic Forum Meeting in Prague, the Cordoba Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance, the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana and the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting in Tbilisi.

**Prague Office.** As the initial seat of the CSCE Secretariat (1991), the Prague Office inherited the historical collections of CSCE/OSCE conference documents and is the oldest institutional unit of the Organization. The core task of the Office – also known as the Research and Documentation Centre – is to efficiently preserve and make available OSCE legacy documents to its participating States and to academic researchers. In March, the Office moved to new premises in the embassy quarter, provided by the host country.

Throughout 2005, the Office worked closely with Conference Services and CRDM in building up the *Doc.In* database by posting over 3,500 files. It also welcomed 11 Master's and Ph.D. candidates in its *Researcher-in-Residence* programme and made presentations on OSCE activities to some 380 visitors. The Office provided support in launching the new public website and managing the on-line document library as well as the official mailing list. The Office continues to provide extensive support to events in Prague including the OSCE Economic Forum and the meetings of the OSCE Minsk Group.

**Looking ahead.** In 2006, the DMF will continue to consolidate information, procedures, support structures and reporting via the "Dashboards", to ensure that the benefits of the reforms are fully realized and the new management philosophy takes root. The Department will pay particular attention to providing training and support to administrative and programme staff, and to addressing management and systems issues arising from the implementation of *IRMA*. DMF will also play a key role in supporting the Secretary General's mandate by further enhancing the transparency and accountability of the budget process, through establishing clear strategic objectives with stronger links to programme activities and by making outputs increasingly results-oriented and measurable.

# *Partnerships for Security and Co-Operation*

## *Interaction between organizations and institutions in the OSCE area*

In 2005, the OSCE strengthened relations with partner organizations and institutions, such as the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, as well as with other regional and sub-regional organizations concerned with the promotion of security and stability in the OSCE area. Closer co-operation and better co-ordination with partner organizations responded to the decisions of the participating States, in particular the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit in 1999, the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century adopted at the Maastricht Ministerial Council in 2003 and other relevant Ministerial Council decisions.

Discussions on OSCE reform emphasized the importance of close partnerships. In their final report, the Panel of Eminent Persons underscored that “co-operation and co-ordination with other actors strengthen common and comprehensive security within the OSCE area”. The report called for further development of the relationship with the UN and the CoE as well as enhancing pragmatic and even-handed co-operation with other regional and sub-regional organizations. At the ensuing high-level consultations, held in September in Vienna, many delegations noted that the OSCE needed to identify ways to further improve co-operation and co-ordination with other organizations.

Such co-operation was also discussed at the OSCE *Annual Security Review Conference* in June in Vienna, where participating States demonstrated broad agreement on the importance of close co-operation and synergy of various international actors. Several organizations and institutions with security-related mandates participated in the two-day event, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the CoE, GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova), NATO, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, the UN Development Programme and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

At the end of the year, the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana adopted a number of decisions that underscored the importance of maintaining and building upon relations with partner organizations as an essential aspect in implementing those decisions and promoting comprehensive security in the OSCE area.

Consequently, the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and field operations maintained active contacts and co-operation with their counterparts in other international, regional and sub-regional organizations. The Secretariat’s Section for External Co-operation served as the focal point for fostering relations with partner organizations and institutions, as well as with the OSCE Partner States.

In 2005, new dynamics characterized the development of the OSCE’s relations, particularly with the UN and the Council of Europe. With the UN, the OSCE participated in and contributed to a number of meetings within the framework of UN co-operation with regional organizations that culminated in the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1631, in which the Council expressed its determination to further develop co-operation between the UN and regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

The partnership with the CoE was enhanced in April with the adoption of a declaration on co-operation between the two organizations and the launching of the OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group.

The OSCE took part in the traditional annual high-level Tripartite meeting bringing together the OSCE, the UN, and the CoE in Strasbourg in February. Discussions focused on the rule of law as a basic prerequisite for promoting security, stability and sustainable development across the continent. Representatives of the European Union Institutions (the Commission and Council Secretariat), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) took part in the meeting that was preceded by a working level target-oriented meeting on freedom of expression.

The OSCE also participated in the Steering Group on the future arrangements in Kosovo together with the UN, EU and NATO.

The OSCE *Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance*, which took place in Cordoba, Spain, in June, gathered several international and regional organizations and institutions such as the CoE, the League of Arab States, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia as well as the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research also participated.

In the fight against terrorism, the OSCE Secretary General addressed the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee for the first time. A series of Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) workshops served to enhance collaboration with various UN bodies, the European Union, the Council of Europe, NATO, CIS, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), G8 and INTERPOL. ATU also worked closely with the International Civil Aviation Organization, IOM and EU, to strengthen travel document security in the OSCE region.

The office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities worked with international financial institutions and partner organizations, in addressing, money laundering, financing of terrorism, business development, small- and medium-sized enterprises, good governance, human-capacity building and environmental problems. In relation to the 13<sup>th</sup> Economic Forum

that discussed demographic trends, migration and integration, the office also worked closely with the IOM and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

In 2005, the first meeting took place between the OSCE Senior Police Advisor, the Head of the Police Division in the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the Head of the EU Council Secretariat Police Unit.

The Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit convened three high-level OSCE conferences related to victim assistance and protection, combating child trafficking and trafficking for forced labour exploitation and forced and bonded labour. These conferences were held within the framework of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons, an open forum of international organizations and NGOs. An Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team was established at the working level to enhance co-operation through information exchange, joint anti-trafficking strategies and donor co-ordination. In 2005, the ATAU convened three such meetings which led to the OSCE's direct contribution to the EU Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

As part of an ongoing process of exchanging information on international Roma-related initiatives, the ODIHR co-organized three meetings of the Informal Contact Group on Roma with the involvement of a number of international organizations, including the recently established European Roma and Travellers Forum.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media continued close co-operation with other international organizations such as the CoE, in particular on legal issues, and UNESCO, whose representatives participated in meetings organized by the Representative and vice versa. The Representative also worked with NGOs that provided legal reviews, delivered information on media freedom on the Internet and monitored media developments. In December, the three special rapporteurs on freedom of expression of the OSCE, the UN and the Organization of American States issued a joint declaration on the Internet and freedom of expression and on the need to protect civil liberties during the fight against terrorism.

The OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly continued its close co-operation with other parliamentary institutions such as the European Parliament, the CoE's and NATO's Parliamentary Assemblies, the Assembly of the Western European Union and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS. The OSCE PA President participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which was attended by more than 100 Speakers from around the world.

In the field, the OSCE continued its tradition of inviting representatives of international organizations to regional Heads of Mission meetings to exchange information on existing and planned activities and to discuss co-operation.

The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference assisted

the High-Level Planning Group in fulfilling its mandated tasks. Contact was maintained with organizations such as the EU, CoE, UNHCR, ICRC and various international NGOs, on issues related to prisoners of war, missing persons and detainees as well as on the situation of internally displaced persons and refugees as well as de-mining questions.

## United Nations

The UN and OSCE substantially strengthened their relations. The OSCE participated in a series of events that culminated in the adoption of a UN Security Council Resolution on co-operation between the UN and regional organizations.

On 25 and 26 July in New York, the *Sixth High-Level Meeting of UN, Regional and Intergovernmental Bodies* took place with the participation of 20 organizations. The Secretary General represented the OSCE. The meeting addressed issues such as dialogue among civilizations, co-operation in peacekeeping, protection of civilians in armed conflict, disarmament and the protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism. The OSCE Secretariat and the ODIHR were involved in the preparatory process by providing input to three meetings (held in March, April and June). The high-level meeting adopted a Joint Statement recognizing the need for a more structured relationship between the UN and regional and other intergovernmental organizations as well as a Joint Statement on *Partnership among Civilizations*.

*"The task now ahead of us is to make sure that our co-operation mechanisms work as well as possible. They must be effective, efficient, and mutually reinforcing. They must be flexible and responsive to our rapidly changing and integrating world. And they must be consistent with the Charter and advance its principles and purposes."*

**UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, at the Security Council meeting on UN co-operation with regional organizations**

In October, the Security Council held a meeting on UN co-operation with regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. The OSCE Secretary General emphasized that with 55 participating States and 18 field missions, the Organization was well placed to assist the UN Security Council in dealing with regional conflicts, preventing conflict, transmitting data and analysis and implementing relevant decisions and resolutions of the UN Security Council. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a Security Council Resolution in which the Council expressed its determination to further develop co-operation between the UN and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security.

The OSCE continued to promote ratification of the 12 Universal anti-terrorism instruments and the drafting of anti-terrorism legislation. ATU organized two expert anti-terrorism workshops, on *Enhancing Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters Related to Terrorism* in collaboration with the UN CTC Executive Directorate and UNODC and on *Suicide Terrorism* with the UN Interre-



gional Crime and Justice Research. UN representatives took part in OSCE workshops on container security and combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

The OSCE opened a new chapter in its relations with the UN when the Permanent Council decided on 19 May to take on greater responsibility by monitoring war crimes cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro. The OSCE Secretariat's Legal Services Section responded to ICTY requests for waivers of immunity of former and current employees who were requested to testify at the ICTY and provided relevant documentation to the ICTY.

The OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues addressed the 49th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on the role of regional organizations in promoting gender equality. She participated in various UN expert and regional meetings in preparation for the UN Secretary-General's study on violence against women.

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, co-operating with the UNODC Global Programme against Money Laundering and the World Bank, ran workshops in interested participating States on combating money laundering and suppressing the financing of terrorism. Co-operation was maintained with UNDP, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and NATO on the Environment and Security Initiative. The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) also contributed to some projects, such as on the sustainable development of the Dniestr River between Ukraine and Moldova. UNECE will join ENVSEC as a main partner in 2006.

With reference to the politico-military dimension, the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre contributed to the *Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects* held in July in New York. Supported by the delegations of the Forum for Security Co-operation, the Conflict Prevention Centre conducted a Side Event on *OSCE Activities to Assist Participating States in SALW Related Areas*. In the run-up to the Biennial Meeting, the Centre participated in a number of preparatory events, in particular conferences held in Beijing, Algiers and Prague. It also contributed to a report of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research on *Strengthening European Action on SALW and Explosive Remnants of War* completed in November.

The Centre also participated in the third meeting of the Forum on Conflict Prevention for Central Asia organized by the UN Department for Political Affairs and hosted by the Tajik Government in Dushanbe in December. Participants discussed problems and interlinkages of terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime in Central Asia. The meeting concluded with a proposal to establish a regional analytical centre on conflict prevention in Central Asia.

The ODIHR worked with the UNHCHR, the UNHCR and the UNODC to develop joint activities related to the protection of

human rights, including of *non-refoulement* of trafficked persons, and the analysis of case materials on the implementation of the UN Palermo Protocol. The ODIHR contributed to relevant UN meetings on extradition and protection of human rights in counter-terrorism, tolerance and non-discrimination and promoting gender equality.

The UNHCR offered regular contributions to OSCE informal working groups and various high-level meetings. The UNHCR Liaison Unit in Vienna maintained frequent contacts and consultations with the OSCE Chairmanship, participating States, the Secretariat and other Institutions on issues such as the situation of the Uzbek refugees in Kyrgyzstan.

Relations between the OSCE field operations and the UN were particularly close in *south-eastern Europe*. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo forms a distinct component of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, the so-called Pillar III. It takes the lead in institution- and democracy-building and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law. It collaborated with various UN entities in general human rights monitoring and capacity-building. The OSCE Mission will strengthen co-operation with the UN Mission's Department of Civil Administration (former Pillar II) at the municipal level with a view to a gradual handover of functions and responsibilities to the OSCE. Co-operation on refugee returns, human rights, rule of law, democratization and the Kosovo Police School continued.

In conjunction with various UN entities, a number of projects were carried out in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro involving refugees, national minorities and gender equality. The Missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Serbia and Montenegro worked with the UNDP, EUFOR and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe on the destruction of small arms and light weapons.

**Southern Caucasus.** The Mission to Georgia supported the UN-led peace process in Abkhazia, Georgia and, as in the past, seconded a staff member to the UN Human Rights Office there. In the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, the Mission closely co-operated with UNDP and UNHCR on a large rehabilitation programme funded by the European Commission. The Office in Yerevan and UNDP worked on human dimension issues such as anti-corruption, anti-trafficking, elections, gender and the ombudsman institution. In Baku, the Office, UNHCR and IOM promoted anti-trafficking and balanced media coverage with respect to diversity.

In *eastern Europe*, the OSCE Mission to Moldova acted with various UN agencies, national and NGO actors to fight child trafficking and to improve the situation of minors and women in Transdniestria. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine carried out a programme on human rights awareness and education together with UN entities and other organizations, such as USAID, the British Council and Transparency International.

In *Central Asia*, field operations interacted with UN agencies to support the five participating States in strengthening institu-

tion-building, economic development, combating organized crime, gender issues and raising awareness on general human rights issues. Co-operation spanned regional projects linked to anti-terrorism and the ENVSEC Initiative. For example, the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, together with UNODC and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, organized a regional workshop on the implementation of universal anti-terrorism instruments. The OSCE Centre in Dushanbe co-operated with the UN Tajikistan Office of Peace-building and other international actors in helping the Tajik Central Commission for Elections and Referenda organize the February parliamentary elections.

## European Union

The enlargement of the European Union, the adoption of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the appointment of the EU Special Representatives for Moldova and Central Asia further promoted OSCE-EU relations.

In January, the Foreign Minister of Luxembourg representing the EU Presidency addressed the Permanent Council. He underscored the significance of enhanced EU-OSCE co-operation as well as the importance of the OSCE's contribution to the promotion of good governance, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

The Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General participated in two EU-OSCE Ministerial Troika meetings, one during each Presidency. Two meetings of the EU Political and Security Committee-OSCE Ambassadorial Troika also took place.

In October, the Secretary General of the OSCE addressed the EU Political and Security Committee in Brussels. He called on EU Member States to remain committed to the OSCE's further development and modernization and for the EU and OSCE to improve their complementary roles. The Secretary General held bilateral meetings with the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy/Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union and the European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy.

The High Representative and EU Special Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus briefed the OSCE Permanent Council on developments in their areas of responsibility. At the working level, the OSCE hosted the third EU-OSCE staff meeting in July. The European Commission participated in the work of the OSCE bodies through its Delegation to the International Organizations in Vienna.

In April, the CPC participated in the first EU-UN Exercise Study on co-operation in civilian and military crisis management. ODIHR officials explained the OSCE's human dimension at EU events linked to training for civilian aspects of crisis management and human rights concerns in the fight against terrorism. In the field of elections, the European Parliament participated in ODIHR observation missions to parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan,

Moldova, Albania and Azerbaijan, and to presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. In June, the ODIHR participated in a briefing in Brussels for European parliamentarians on its election observation missions.

With regard to tolerance and non-discrimination, the ODIHR increased co-operation with the EUMC, including by participation in high- and working-level inter-agency meetings, such as the ODIHR's expert meeting in March on hate crime data collection and in the development of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia information databases.

In *south-eastern Europe*, the OSCE missions worked closely with EU representatives on issues such as refugee return, national minority rights, police development and judicial and electoral reform.

The OSCE Presence in Albania and the EU held consultations to promote, for example, electoral and judicial reform, human rights, property reform and a non-monopolistic bill on digital broadcasting.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro, the OSCE Missions played a leading role in the "3x3" regional returns process on resolving regional returns-related issues by the end of 2006. With the assistance of the OSCE, the EC and UNHCR, the initiative aims to implement the Sarajevo Declaration on Return signed in January through effective and regular inter-state contact among the three countries.

In Serbia and Montenegro, a complementary partnership was developed with the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) on legal reform, including media development and law enforcement activities. The two organizations co-operated in particular in support of the implementation of the Roma Action Plan adopted by the Serbian government and on public administration reform in Montenegro.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo implemented the Bar Exam Training Project as well as a project to establish a comprehensive legal aid system for Kosovo funded by the EAR. With respect to the EU's Strategic Action Plan on Capacity-Building Tracking Mechanism for Kosovo, the OSCE Mission provided extensive input on such matters as governance, elections and referenda. The Mission worked closely with the European Commission's Office in Kosovo on legislation establishing the Independent Media Commission.

The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje participated in weekly meetings convened by the Office of the EU Special Representative to co-ordinate the international community's activities in the country. The Mission regularly exchanged security-related information with representatives of EUPOL Proxima and the EU Monitoring Mission. Together with EUPOL Proxima and the Ministry, the Mission oversaw police conduct investigations.

In Croatia, the Mission worked closely with the European Commission delegation on refugee return and advocated a legal framework for civil society development and a civil society strategy.

In **eastern Europe**, the Mission in Moldova co-operated with the EU Special Representative for Moldova on issues related to the settlement of the Transdnestrian conflict. They focused on the political negotiation process, the monitoring of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, democratization of the Transdnestrian region and the monitoring of Transdnestrian military-industrial enterprises. In Minsk, *ad hoc* meetings took place with visiting representatives of the EC Delegation in Kyiv.

In Ukraine, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator worked with the EC delegation on border projects and participated in periodic meetings initiated by the delegation on judiciary reform assistance. With financial assistance from the European Union, the office assisted the Ukrainian Central Election Commission in its effort to create a voter registry.

**Southern Caucasus.** In Armenia, the European Commission participated in the anti-corruption working group chaired by the OSCE Office in Yerevan. In Georgia, the Mission co-ordinated policing assistance with the EC delegation. The OSCE and the EC regularly exchanged information on developments related to the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian conflicts. The European Commission entrusted the Mission with the management of a large rehabilitation programme in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict and provided support to the OSCE economic Needs Assessment Study. The EU granted funds to the Mission in support of activities of the Georgian and South Ossetian sides within the Joint Control Commission on the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

**Central Asia.** The Centre in Almaty co-organized events with the EC Delegation on legislative issues concerning extremism, national security and non-commercial organizations. The Centre in Ashgabad expanded co-operation with TACIS (Technical Assistance for the Cities of the Independent States, a programme sponsored by the European Commission), mainly in the area of capacity-building of customs officials, computer and English-language training and assistance to Voluntary Farmers' Associations. The Centre in Bishkek received EU support for its Police Assistance Programme and upheld a working relationship with the EU Border Management Programme for Central Asia and Central Asian Drug Action Programme. The OSCE in Kyrgyzstan worked with EU-TACIS on issues of developing small business and attracting direct foreign investment, while the Centre in Tashkent co-operated with the EuropeAid EU Programme Project to support the newly established bicameral parliament of Uzbekistan.

**Council of Europe.** Relations between the OSCE and CoE were underpinned by a series of important strides that concluded with a Declaration on Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE. Adopted in April (PC.DEC 670), it encouraged the two organizations to work together and explore various forms of enhancing their co-operation. The Declaration was welcomed by Heads of State and Government at the Third CoE Summit (Warsaw, 16 and 17 May). A joint meeting between the OSCE Permanent Council and the CoE Committee of Ministers convened on 18 April in Strasbourg to focus on drafting the declaration.

Another significant step took place with the first meeting of the OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group in March, which was established to promote enhanced synergies and complementarity between the two organizations. The Co-ordination Group decided to target four areas for enhanced co-operation: the fight against terrorism, combating trafficking in human beings, promoting intolerance and non-discrimination and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. The second meeting of the Co-ordination Group on 30 September in Strasbourg reviewed progress.

Regular high- and expert-level meetings also took place focusing on a number of regional and thematic issues of mutual interest. In February in Strasbourg, the 14th high-level "2+2" meeting between the OSCE and the CoE was held with the participation of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the Chairman of the CoE Committee of Ministers and the two Secretaries General. A Joint Declaration was issued after the meeting stressing the two organizations' important roles in promoting security, co-operation, peace and stability across the continent and creating a Europe without dividing lines based on the core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Similarly, in July in Strasbourg, the 8th annual "3+3" meeting at the level of senior officials between the CoE and OSCE was held. Participants focused on country- and region-specific developments and various thematic issues including examples of good practices and lessons learnt in the field.

In their respective addresses to OSCE Permanent and Ministerial Council meetings and the annual Session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the two Secretaries General focused on pragmatic approaches in co-operation.

*"We work together because the Council of Europe and the OSCE share the same concerns about the future of Europe and have the common goal of making our continent a better, safer and fairer place."*

**Terry Davis, Secretary General of the CoE at the 13th Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana.**

On 17 November in Strasbourg, the Secretaries General of both organizations signed an OSCE-CoE Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in south-eastern Europe. Based on many years of close co-operation in the field between the CoE and the OSCE, the agreement aims to assist the countries concerned in benefiting more efficiently from the OSCE's experience in implementing local government assistance programmes and encourages them to comply with international standards on local governance.

Another example of enhanced co-operation was the convening of an inter-agency meeting on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in September in Paris, in which representatives from the UN, the ODIHR, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance of the CoE and the EUMC.

The ODIHR continued to work with the CoE on legal reform in OSCE participating States, gender equality and women's participation in democratic processes, local governance, elections, human rights, tolerance and non-discrimination and Roma- and Sinti-related issues. The ODIHR and the Venice Commission jointly reviewed draft constitutions and constitutional amendments in various participating States, as well as draft primary legislation on specific constitutional rights and anti-trafficking legislation.

The ODIHR worked closely with the CoE's Parliamentary Assembly and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, whose delegations took part in ODIHR observation missions to presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan; parliamentary elections in Moldova, Albania, and Azerbaijan; and municipal elections in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The ODIHR co-ordinated analysis of election-related legislation with the Venice Commission and published joint recommendations on legislation in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities actively participated in Co-ordination Group meetings and submitted proposals for further developing co-operation on national minority issues.

In **south-eastern Europe**, the OSCE Presence in Albania co-operated extensively with the CoE on electoral reform, media development and the implementation of a Best Practice Programme for Albanian local government units. It also continued ongoing co-operation on judicial reform.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Mission and the CoE worked together on the implementation of the *Beacon Scheme*, an initiative to raise standards in municipal government, on the development of entity-level laws on local self-government and on the issuance of the Roma Informal Settlements Report.

In Serbia and Montenegro, the OSCE Mission and the CoE provided advice on legal issues such as judicial and police reform, media legislation, civil society issues and refugee legal protection. They also co-operated on capacity-building such as the development of a national training strategy for local government officials.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo worked with the CoE to develop a framework for local governance reform and to ensure effective democratic governance at the local and regional level. They co-operated in training the Media Committee members of the Assembly of Kosovo and improving the central and municipal government's conformity with the CoE *Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*.

The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje worked with the CoE on rule of law, police reform, alleviation of ethnic tensions and free access to the media. The Mission and the CoE also conducted seminars for lawyers in private practice. They worked with the EC and the Stability Pact Task Force in drafting the Law on Broadcasting and assisted the Interior Ministry in drafting a Code of Ethics.

In Croatia, the recent signing of the OSCE-CoE *Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in South East Europe* reinforced work undertaken in good governance projects. In relation to the Roma national minority, co-operation took place on electoral reform. Together with the ODIHR and the Venice Commission, the Mission organized a roundtable on the bill on the State Election Commission.

In **eastern Europe**, the OSCE Mission to Moldova co-operated closely with the CoE in promoting freedom of the media and democratic reforms. The Mission had almost daily contact with the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the CoE and jointly encouraged education authorities on both sides of the Nistru River to continue negotiations on the functioning of Moldovan schools in Transdnistria.

In the **southern Caucasus**, the OSCE Office in Yerevan co-operated closely on human rights with the CoE, particularly by monitoring the legislative process. Joint initiatives concerned the Electoral Code, the *Law on Conducting Public Gatherings, Rallies, Demonstrations and Marches* and on combating corruption. The OSCE Office in Baku and the CoE supported implementation of the right to freedom of assembly by training police and security forces.

Human rights, systemic reform and anti-money laundering were the main fields of co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE Mission in Georgia. In addition, the Mission disseminated the CoE's human rights manuals, liaised with the CoE on cases of individual human rights violations and conducted consultations in the area of anti-trafficking and anti-torture. They collaborated on the establishment of a Higher School of Justice and provided the Georgian authorities with technical assistance in drafting legislation related to restitution of property rights for the victims of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

## NATO

The OSCE and NATO improved and deepened co-operation with a view to meeting new challenges in a changing security environment. Regular contacts took place at senior political and expert level.

In January, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed the North Atlantic Council, underscoring the importance of a number of joint activities in all three dimensions. In November, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office also addressed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. He highlighted key areas of co-operation such as joint work in south-eastern Europe, disposing of small arms and light weapons and combating terrorism. The NATO Secretary General addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 3 November and met bilaterally the OSCE Secretary General.

Regular OSCE-NATO staff meetings held at the level of the respective headquarters provided the necessary framework for dialogue on a wide range of issues, including combating terror-



ism, economic and environmental activities, border management, small arms and light weapons, regional issues and the Mediterranean dialogue. With the aim of developing and enhancing operational links with NATO, the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre participated in the NATO Crisis Management Exercise in January. The CPC fostered co-ordination with NATO in implementing a number of projects, including the OSCE-NATO Joint Technical Workshop on Rocket Fuel Component held in Kyiv, Ukraine in July.

*"In NATO, the OSCE will find a strong and co-operative partner. NATO has broadened its agenda and it has done so in line with the objectives shared by the OSCE (...) Over the past 10 to 15 years, Europe has made great strides, but it still remains unfinished business. The OSCE will have to continue to play a major role if our common goal of a continent that is whole, free and secure is to be realized."*

**Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary General in his address to the Permanent Council on 3 November.**

OSCE-NATO co-operation in the economic and environmental dimension continued to be productive, in carrying out joint projects on the disposal of rocket fuel components, combating money laundering and financing of terrorism, in particular in organizing a high-level conference on combating terrorist financing in Vienna in November, but also within the ENVSEC initiative.

The OSCE and NATO established close co-operation in Afghanistan, where the two organizations had complementary roles to play. The OSCE Election Support Team was deployed to Afghanistan for the period of 21 August to 2 October, during which NATO, in the form of the International Stabilization Force (ISAF), agreed to provide *in extremis* support to OSCE staff.

Representatives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly participated in the NATO PA Annual Session in November.

In **south-eastern Europe**, the OSCE Mission in Albania maintained close consultative contacts with the NATO Sub-regional Command on subjects of common interest. With the aim of creating an effective parliamentary oversight mechanism, the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the NATO Tailored Co-operation Programme and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces organized bilateral visits between Bosnia and Herzegovina and countries that shared comparably sized armed forces facing similar challenges in reform and stabilization.

In Serbia and Montenegro, the OSCE Mission and NATO supported defence reforms and strengthening the democratic control of the defence and security sector in such areas as parliamentary oversight and border security issues. The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje co-ordinated efforts in monitoring the political and security situation with NATO headquarters in Skopje. The Mission also took part in fortnightly security meetings chaired in rotation by EUPOL Proxima, OSCE and NATO.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo maintained close links with the NATO-Kosovo Stabilization Force (KFOR), which provided a secure environment for the Mission's activities in Kosovo. KFOR appointed a liaison officer to the OSCE, while OSCE Offices in the field regularly interacted with KFOR by exchanging information and recommending action. The Mission co-operated with KFOR on issues related to the justice system and respect and protection of property rights. OMIK's co-operation with KFOR led to a joint capacity-building effort to raise qualitative standards of local radio and TV stations.

In **eastern Europe**, by sharing information, the OSCE Mission in Moldova assisted the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency project for the disposal of pesticides and dangerous chemicals. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine worked with the NATO Office in Kyiv, concerning social adaptation of former military personnel. Together with the NATO Resettlement Programme, the Project Co-ordinator also ensured the continuation of a successful re-training programme for discharged officers.

In the **southern Caucasus**, the missions worked with NATO in the framework of the South Caucasus River Monitoring project. The Mission in Georgia exchanged information with NATO on their respective activities related to the disposal of obsolete weapons. The OSCE Office in Yerevan implemented a project to neutralize 872 tons of rocket fuel component. In co-ordination with NATO, and following the Azerbaijani Government's request, the OSCE conducted a Needs Assessment Mission to check the need for soil remediation in Azerbaijan and the disposal of other hazardous chemicals.

In **Central Asia**, NATO provided an expert on civil emergency planning for the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad's roundtable on cross-boundary co-operation. Co-operation also continued within the ENVSEC initiative. NATO's newly-appointed Liaison Officer for Central Asia established contacts with the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre and field presences.

**Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.** The OSCE and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe have co-operated in all three dimensions at the level of headquarters and in the field on issues such as small arms control, defence conversion, integration of the regional energy sector, refugee returns, parliamentary capacity-building, Roma and Sinti and anti-trafficking.

The Secretary General of the OSCE and the Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe discussed co-operation at a bilateral meeting. The Special Co-ordinator addressed the Permanent Council in June, noting the organizations' joint work particularly in the field. The OSCE PA continued co-operation in the framework of the Parliamentary Troika of the Stability Pact, along with the CoE PA and the European Parliament.

The OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre continued to implement the *Ohrid Border Security and Management Way Forward Document in close co-operation with the EU, NATO and the Stability Pact*, in particular by developing the second phase of the OSCE

*South-East Europe Cross-border Co-operation Programme.* This Programme consisted of a series of five seminars held in the region to develop operational aspects of cross-border management agreements on issues such as transition to border policing, joint training exercises, co-operation of law enforcement agencies and “blue-border” (seas, rivers and lakes) issues.

The SPMU’s Police Affairs Officer in charge of crime maintained regular contact with counterparts of the Stability Pact initiative to fight organized crime, including attending policy level meetings. Another important area of co-operation between the two organizations focused on implementing the Ohrid Process for Border Management and Security. In addition, OSCE field work on issues of combating organized crime and corruption and the media was linked to the Stability Pact’s work in those areas.

***International Organization for Migration.*** Co-operation between the OSCE and IOM continued at headquarters and field level. The IOM participated in the high-level and target-oriented Tripartite Meetings between the UN, CoE and the OSCE in February in Strasbourg, in the Ljubljana Ministerial Council as well as a number of other OSCE conferences and meetings, including the OSCE Economic Forum and its preparatory seminars.

Both organizations worked closely on anti-trafficking and migration in south-eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The OSCE Presence in Albania worked with IOM and UNHCR to implement a project, funded by the EU, on pre-screening asylum-seekers and migrants. The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission in Skopje together with UNICEF, IOM and others drafted an *Action Plan against Trafficking in Children*. The OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro co-operated with the IOM Mission in the framework of the National Referral Mechanism. The Mission to Croatia and IOM supported the Croatian Government’s Office for Human Rights in organizing an international conference against human trafficking held in October. A project combating trafficking in Ukraine, funded by the EU-TACIS, was implemented by IOM in partnership with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator. The OSCE Centre in Almaty interacted with IOM and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development with respect to the development of a national anti-trafficking plan. The OSCE Centre in Dushanbe and the IOM financed an information resource centre aimed at potential migrants.

In co-operation with the IOM, the ODIHR launched a new project in the Russian Federation related to the state programme on the regularization of migrant workers. The ODIHR and the IOM also undertook joint efforts in developing a mechanism for collecting data and exchanging information on migration issues to provide participating States with reliable migration-related data.

***International Committee of the Red Cross.*** At the headquarters level, the ICRC participated in the high-level and target-oriented Tripartite Meetings and relevant OSCE conferences and events, including the Ljubljana Ministerial Council. A delegation of the ICRC visited the OSCE Secretariat in January to meet representa-

tives of various departments and units in order to learn more about their activities, share information and discuss co-operation.

In the field, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission in Skopje co-operated with ICRC on access to prisoners. In Moldova, the two organizations followed the detention of two members of the Iliascu group in Transdnistria and detention conditions in both Moldova and Transdnistria. The ICRC and the OSCE exchanged information on monitoring of prison and police custody facilities in Kyrgyzstan.

***Co-operation with other regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives.*** In April, the OSCE Secretary General participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GUAM Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Summit of GUAM Heads of State in Chisinau, Moldova. In May, he represented the OSCE at the 8th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the South East European Cooperation Process in Bucharest, Romania. In May, he also participated in the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Central European Initiative (CEI), which took place under the CEI Presidency of Slovakia in Tatranska Lomnica, while in November the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General participated in the CEI Summit of Heads of Government in Piastany, Slovakia. In August, the President of the OSCE PA attended and addressed the 14th Session of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference. In December, the Secretary General attended the Forum of Community of Democratic Choice in Kyiv, Ukraine.

In July, the Executive Secretary of the CIS visited the OSCE Secretariat. In January, representatives of the OSCE Secretariat took part in a conference organized by the CSTO in Moscow. In April, the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings participated in the CIS Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Interiors in Minsk, Belarus. The SPMU maintained contact with the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative in Bucharest. The OSCE Mission to Croatia held consultations with the Migration Asylum Refugee Return Initiative as part of the South East European Cooperation Process, whose Secretariat is based in Skopje.

A number of representatives of regional and subregional organizations and initiatives, among them the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the CEI, the CIS, the CSTO, GUAM, and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, attended the OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana on 5 and 6 December. Regional and sub-regional organizations were regularly invited to other relevant OSCE events.

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

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The Secretariat, together with the OSCE Troika, further strengthened relations in 2005 with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation. The main focus was the implementation of recommendations contained in the Harkonen report following a Ministerial Council decision adopted in Sofia on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation.<sup>1</sup>

In 2005, co-operation with organizations and institutions beyond the OSCE region was further developed, in particular in the context of the *Sixth High-Level Meeting between the United Nations and Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations* (New York, 25 and 26 July). Relations were marked by increased cross participation in relevant activities as well as enhanced sharing of information, experiences and lessons learnt.

***Co-operation between the OSCE and its Mediterranean and Asian Partners.*** A number of recent Ministerial Council documents, such as the Maastricht Strategy to address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, as well as the Sofia decision, underlined the importance of deepening dialogue with the OSCE's Partner States, in recognition of the transboundary and transregional nature of modern security threats. The Harkonen report provided important guidance in pursuing this goal. In this process, the Section for External Co-operation provided continued support and advice to the Belgian and Bulgarian chairs of the Mediterranean and Asian Contact Groups.

Apart from the regular work in the Contact Groups, 2005 was marked by three central events. On 25 and 26 April, in Seoul, the OSCE-Korea conference on New Security Threats and a *New Security Paradigm* gathered participants from the OSCE and Asia. In his opening statement, the OSCE Secretary General highlighted the relevance of the Conference given the prominence of new security threats and increased interdependence on security issues in a globalized world.

The Head of External Co-operation presented the OSCE's strategy for addressing new security threats. Following the September 11 attacks, the OSCE reviewed its priorities and instruments and added new capacities. The OSCE co-operated with other organizations and partner States and acknowledged the potential spillover of security threats to adjacent regions.

In their conclusions, the Co-Chairmen (represented by the host country and the OSCE Chairmanship) stated that the conference provided an interesting exchange of ideas on the definition of new security threats and their manifestation. Strengthening relations between the OSCE and the ASEAN Regional Forum was also highlighted as a major recommendation of the conference.

The Secretary General was invited to address a Thailand conference on *Sharing of Experiences in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: Opportunities for Co-operation* (Bangkok, 16 and 17 June). He underscored the Conference's timeliness as it followed up one of the conclusions of the 2002 OSCE-Thailand Conference, which called for strengthening co-operation between the OSCE and Asian regions to effectively address issues such as human trafficking. He pointed out that combating trafficking in human beings topped the OSCE agenda, demonstrated by the 2004 appointment of a Special Representative of the CiO on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings as well as the creation of an Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit in the OSCE Secretariat. Conference participants discussed human trafficking in Asia and Europe; the critical role of legal and law enforcement measures in combating human trafficking; and regional solutions and models for co-operation. In the concluding summary, the Chairperson suggested strengthening relations between the OSCE and the Bali process.

On 8 and 9 September in Rabat, Morocco, the annual OSCE Mediterranean Seminar took place and addressed *The Role of the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners for Co operation in Migration and Integration Policies*. The Secretary General stressed that the event was an indication of a growing trans-Mediterranean consensus on shared security interests and concerns, as well as of a widening of common values and principles. Terrorism, migration, social and cultural integration and finding ways of maintaining security while respecting human rights were major political issues in the Mediterranean region, the OSCE area and around the world.

With regard to the main theme of the Seminar, he emphasized the cross-dimensional character of migration. Economic, environmental, cultural and security implications must all be addressed when considering migration. To do so, participants called for continued dialogue in the OSCE context between countries of origin, transit and destination. Some of the proposals arising from the

<sup>1</sup> See the Report of the Chairman-in-Office and the Reports of the Chairmen of the respective Contact Groups with the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and Asian Partners for Co-operation

discussion included measures aimed at facilitating the integration of migrants and of special contracts between the migrant and the host country.

Continuing its deepening dialogue with the OSCE's Partner States, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held its third Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean (Sveti Stefan, 9 October). In his opening address, the President of the OSCE PA reiterated the Assembly's determination to enhance the Mediterranean dialogue in the OSCE, as was stressed in the OSCE PA July Washington Declaration. In his keynote presentation, the OSCE Secretary General focused on prospects after the Rabat Conference, and highlighted the OSCE's co-operation with other organizations on improving dialogue amongst civilizations.

A representative of the External Co-operation Section participated in a workshop on *OSCE experiences in promoting democracy and co-operative security: an inspiration for the Mediterranean Partners and beyond?*, held in Istanbul on 3 to 5 March. The event, in which 35 experts and representatives from both governments and civil society in the Mediterranean participated, was organized by the Danish Institute of International Studies, the Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation. Participants discussed initiatives to include OSCE experiences and lessons learnt in areas such as election observation, the role of women and the possible creation of a regional conflict prevention research institute in the Mediterranean.

Following invitations from the Palestinian Authority, the OSCE Chairmanship tasked the Secretariat and the ODIHR to send a Training Needs Assessment Team for a short-term, one-time visit to the Palestinian Territories to observe the 9 January presidential elections. The Team spent 7 to 13 January in the Palestinian Territories, identifying areas in which the OSCE might offer expertise to the Palestinian Authority and to Palestinian civil society and presented them to the Permanent Council.

The second OSCE Election Support Team was deployed to Afghanistan for the National Assembly and Provincial elections of 18 September. (For more on this topic, please see page 23.)

The OSCE Ministerial Troika and counterparts from the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation met before the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana. Participants welcomed the more regular consultations on issues of mutual interest in 2005. The Secretary General expressed strong support for further strengthening the dialogue between the OSCE and its Partners.

**Co-operation with organizations and institutions outside the OSCE Area.** The *Sixth High-Level Meeting between the United Nations and Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations* (New York, 25 and 26 July) and the UN Security Council meeting on UN co-operation with regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security (New York, 17 October) provided regional organizations the opportunity to expand relations among themselves and to deepen knowledge about each other's roles and

mandates. In that context, on the margins of the Sixth High-Level meeting, the Secretary General of the OSCE held bilateral discussions with his counterparts, including the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the African Union.

The Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference addressed the Permanent Council for the first time on 14 November. He recalled the importance of promoting, protecting and improving shared common values of different cultures and of enhancing tolerance, dialogue and co-operation within and among nations and peoples. A bilateral discussion took place between the Secretaries General of the two organizations.

Mutual interest in exchanging practices on anti-terrorism, including through bilateral contacts and sharing of best practices, continued to be central to co-operation between the OSCE Secretariat's Action Against Terrorism Unit and regional organizations such as those mentioned above and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization. The Head of ATU briefed a conference in Algiers on *Building Counter-terrorism Capacity in Africa and Sub-regional Organizations* which was organized by the US National Defense University and the African Union's Centre for Strategic Studies. He also met representatives of the African Union and staff of the Union's Algiers-based Counter-Terrorism Centre with whom he discussed their partnership with the OSCE.

The Action against Terrorism Unit shared its experience in counter-terrorism at a regional seminar on Combating Terrorism (Cairo, 17 and 18 February) held by the League of Arab States, while the League participated in two OSCE workshops on counter-terrorism.

Upon the request of the Secretary General of LAS, the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons was translated into Arabic and launched in April as a model for co-operation in sharing experience between regional organizations. Germany sponsored the translation.

Given the establishment of the African Union's Election Unit and Election Fund, the ODIHR shared its expertise and information on election-related issues. In June, a Union official visited the ODIHR and discussed election observation methodologies as part of an ongoing dialogue between the two organizations.

As in the past, the OSCE-Asian Partner activities and the OSCE Mediterranean Seminar provided the opportunity for interface between the OSCE and regional organizations. Eleven ASEAN Regional Forum member States participated as observers in the OSCE-Korea Conference, seven in the Thailand Conference. At the Mediterranean Seminar in Rabat, League of Arab States and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization took part. The League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated in the *OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and other forms of Intolerance*. Representatives of the ARF, the League of Arab States and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization took part in the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana.