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ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE (28 September to 4 October)

The King of the Belgians, Albert II, visited the OSCE

OSCE Chairman-in-Office called on leaders to help solve tense "frozen conflicts" VIENNA, 28 September 2006 – The King of the Belgians, Albert II, attended the OSCE Permanent Council and took part in a working meeting. He also delivered a brief speech at an official lunch.

In the presence of the King, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, addressed the Permanent Council. He called for political leaders to show vision and take responsibility to help solve "frozen conflicts" that threaten to erupt anew at any time. Minister De Gucht told that the Organization needed to restore confidence in the 56-nation body as an effective instrument for peace and stability throughout Europe.

OSCE Chairman-in-Office eased tensions by brokering transfer of Russian military officers from Georgia to Russia

TBILISI, 2 October 2006 - The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Minister Karel De Gucht, flew to Georgia and brokered the return to Russia of four Russian military officers charged with espionage. Minister De Gucht met Minister Bezhuashvili and President Saakashvili before the Russian officers were handed over.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office urged the two States to abide by the principles of international law, to refrain from provocations and to resume dialogue.

On behalf of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, State Secretary for European Affairs Didier Donfut opened the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting WARSAW, 2 October 2006 – On behalf of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office State Secretary for European Affairs Didier Donfut opened the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM).

The HDIM is Europe's largest human rights conference and is a forum where representatives from government, civil society and international organizations discuss the implementation of OSCE commitments in the human dimension.