

# Kazakhstan seeks to “breathe new life” into interaction among participating States

*Kanat Saudabayev was appointed Kazakhstan's Secretary of State - Minister for Foreign Affairs on 4 September 2009. Shortly after assuming his new functions, including spearheading the country's preparations for its Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2010, Minister Saudabayev answered wide-ranging questions posed to him by OSCE Spokesperson Martin Nesirky. He described what the Chairmanship meant for Kazakhstan and its citizens and expressed confidence that its forthcoming regional and international security initiatives would breathe new life into the interaction among the OSCE participating States.*

**Martin Nesirky:** Kazakhstan will be the first Central Asian country and the first State from the former Soviet Union to chair the OSCE. What prompted your country to undertake this challenging mission?

**Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev:** The Chairmanship of the OSCE represents a logical next phase in the development of our young State. The OSCE and many of our partners in the Organization have played an important role in our achievements. During the 18 years of our country's independence, we have managed to build a strong market-oriented economy, to ensure democratic development and to strengthen inter-ethnic and interreligious harmony. From the very outset, Kazakhstan was an active participant and played a leading role in the processes aimed at ensuring security and integration in the Eurasian region. To demonstrate our commitment to ensuring peace, shortly after our independence, we renounced the world's fourth largest arsenal of nuclear weapons.

The OSCE has been playing a key role in maintaining the European security architecture and determining the nature of mutual relations among the various countries of Europe and the principles governing these relations. Time and again, the Organization has demonstrated its ability to bring “added value” to the security sphere. I am confident that the potential contribution of Kazakhstan towards regional stability, along with international security initiatives, will breathe new life into the interaction among OSCE participating States.



**Those about to assume the OSCE Chairmanship hesitate to reveal too much about their priorities in advance, but could you indicate what you intend to focus on and why?**

You are quite right: We will officially announce our priorities at the first meeting of the Permanent Council in January 2010. Until then, we all need to stand behind the efforts of the current Greek Chairmanship in carrying out its packed agenda.

At this early stage, however, I can definitely say that European security issues, the resolution of protracted conflicts and the stabilization of Afghanistan will be the focus of our efforts. We will also pay close attention to issues related to arms control and to the proliferation of dangerous materials and weapons of mass destruction. As a recognized leader in the non-proliferation field, Kazakhstan intends to make full use of the practices it has developed.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to combating the new threats and challenges of the modern age, especially international terrorism, religious extremism and the various forms of illicit trafficking and organized crime. As you know, the participating States have approved the theme of the economic and environmental dimension in 2010, which is “promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region”.

In the human dimension, tolerance and related issues will be among the main items on our agenda. Based on our own positive experience in maintaining peace and harmony in a multi-ethnic and multi-faith society, and in promoting international interreligious dialogue within the framework of the Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, we plan to focus on the many aspects of this subject, including gender and human rights.

**How do you plan to guide the Corfu Process that was launched under the Greek Chairmanship?**

The Corfu Process is the logical response of the OSCE community to the rather difficult and at times traumatic events that have occurred in the OSCE area in recent years. We will seek to maintain a dialogue on all aspects of pan-European security, which touches on all three dimensions and geographically encompasses not only the Euro-Atlantic area but also the vast Eurasian region.

The Corfu Process is in keeping with that approach. Its ultimate goal is to search for practical answers to specific questions. It has not set any limitations in terms of duration or content. We believe that the Corfu Process should be geared primarily towards topics that enjoy the most support and that have the greatest chances of being developed into concrete documents and programmes. We are in the midst of a series

of working meetings in Vienna, and if results emerge from these discussions, the Kazakh Chairmanship will have painstaking work ahead of it to implement any agreements that are reached.

**In your opinion, how does the OSCE differ from other organizations? How would you characterize its main strengths and weaknesses?**

The OSCE’s broad geographical coverage in its membership, its multilateral approach to stability and security, and the consensus principle employed in decision-making are features that add to our Organization’s uniqueness.



OSCE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF KAZAKHSTAN

Having said that, we have not always proved able to respond appropriately to situations of tension and conflict, despite the fact that the Organization was created as an early warning and crisis resolution instrument. I believe that this problem does not lie within the OSCE itself, but can be traced to the participating States’ lack of political will. In our search for compromise, we really should make maximum use of our unique platform for dialogue.

Kazakhstan is home to more than 100 ethnic groups.

## Meet Kanat Bekmurzayevich Saudabayev

- Secretary of State from May 2007 to August 2009
- Ambassador to the United States from December 2000 to May 2007
- Head of the Prime Minister’s Chancellery with the rank of Cabinet Member from 1999 to 2000
- Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and also accredited to Norway and Sweden, from 1996 to 1999
- Foreign Minister in 1994
- Ambassador to Turkey from 1994 to 1996

Minister Saudabayev holds a Ph.D. degree in philosophy from Kazakh State University and a Ph.D. degree in political science from Moscow State University. He is a graduate of the Leningrad State Institute of Culture and the Academy of Social Sciences attached to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Prior to joining the diplomatic service, he had a distinguished career in culture and the arts, earlier serving as director of the Kazakh Academic Theatre and later as Chairman of the State Committee of Culture. He speaks Kazakh, Russian, English and Turkish.



MAP: OSCE MAGAZINE/NOVA REUTER

<b>Population:</b>	<b>GDP per capita:</b>
16.4 million	US\$8,350 (2008)
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	<b>GDP (purchasing power parity):</b>
More than 130	US\$177,545 million (2008, IMF)

### How can Kazakhstan influence the resolution of protracted conflicts?

Unfortunately, most protracted conflicts in the OSCE area began in the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). As you know, President Nursultan Nazarbayev has personally played a part in ensuring a constructive dialogue between the parties to conflicts, both bilaterally and in various multilateral formats. Historically, Kazakhstan has enjoyed cordial relations with all the CIS countries and is involved in key investment projects in most of them. We do understand the arguments and problems of the parties and have always made an effort to take them into account, while making sure that we observe the fundamental norms of international law. This is precisely the approach we aim to take during our time at the helm of the OSCE.

At a practical level, we are planning to appoint a Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for conflicts, who will also chair or co-chair specialized negotiating bodies. We don't wish to overestimate our capabilities, but we will definitely spare no effort in seeking to make some progress in this difficult area. We also plan to place emphasis on preventive diplomacy. The crisis in August of last year convinced us of the need to do that.

### The world is in the grip of a financial and economic crisis. Do you think that the OSCE has a role to play in addressing the crisis?

Although the OSCE is not a financial organization, it should play an active part in dealing with the consequences of the global crisis, especially in confronting its negative impact on the security

situation in the OSCE region. For one thing, the Organization should identify the main areas in its mandate that are the most vulnerable to negative changes in the security sphere — for example, the migration processes in the OSCE area.

Within the context of the global crisis, migrants represent the most vulnerable economic sector in countries of both origin and destination. They belong to the category of most vulnerable people, along with refugees and internally displaced persons. The OSCE should consider how its activities can help to assist all interested countries to raise the level of their social, economic and legal protection for these people.

### As an important producer and exporter of energy, Kazakhstan is a major player in the global energy industry. How can its experience in this sector help the OSCE make a contribution towards increasing energy security?

The OSCE participating States do not have a common position regarding the Organization's role in ensuring energy security. We know that the Western countries are most interested in strengthening energy security and the security of energy supplies, especially given the problems that arose concerning gas supplies in Europe last winter. We also know that many participating States would like to exploit the OSCE's potential to ensure energy security in Europe.

Kazakhstan is a country with major hydrocarbon reserves. As a landlocked country, we are extremely interested in the export of raw materials to as many foreign markets as possible, including European markets. However, present-day realities show that many exporters of oil and gas prefer to resolve energy supply issues on a bilateral basis — the setting of prices, development of routes, volumes, and other factors — without the involvement of third countries or parties. These countries believe that the OSCE does not have the necessary experience and mechanisms to effectively maintain and strengthen energy security. For this reason, it would be very wrong to embrace inflated expectations of what the OSCE can achieve in terms of ensuring real energy security.

We believe, however, that the OSCE could serve as a convenient forum for the demonstration of political goodwill by the participating States, aimed at resolving energy security issues. Next year, as part of its activities in the second dimension, Kazakhstan will try to organize an exchange of views between OSCE States on this matter in the hopes of reaching a mutual understanding.

### What new approaches can be adopted to promote gender balance within the Organization and in the entire OSCE area?

Ensuring equality between men and women is an integral part of our policy, both within the



Organization and at the State level. This commitment, which is enshrined in the 1999 Charter for European Security, is key to strengthening peace, prosperity and democracy in the OSCE region.

In Kazakhstan, women account for 58 per cent of all civil servants and about 40 per cent of entrepreneurs. In seeking to create a competitive society, we will continue our efforts to ensure that the principle of gender equality remains deeply rooted in our country.

Naturally, we will do all we can to promote the policy of gender balance within the OSCE. Recently, we proposed to the participating States the themes for the OSCE's human dimension events in 2010. The first one on our list is a supplementary meeting on the promotion of gender balance and the participation of women in political and public life, which is planned for 8 March, International Women's Day.

**Kazakhstan has said it will focus on the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation. How do you picture the development of the OSCE's external relations in 2010?**

Kazakhstan is at the crossroads of the civilizations of Europe and Asia. We link our future with both the East and the West. In the modern world, the system of security and co-operation must not be regarded as specifically "European" or "Asian". Europe and Asia are closely tied to one another, geographically, politically and economically. These ties are particularly evident in Central Asia.

The OSCE's mechanism for dialogue with its Asian Partners is unique. It is important for us to intensify our interaction by continuing our traditional joint events and identifying additional areas of co-operation to strengthen mutual security.

We very much look forward to continuing to assist Afghanistan in the reconstruction of its economy, in close co-operation with the local authorities and other members of the international community, including the OSCE, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Economic Cooperation Organization.

We hope to intensify the dialogue between the OSCE and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States. After all, Kazakhstan helped initiate the creation of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), which is something like an OSCE in Asia. In 2010, at the third summit of the CICA heads of State and government, we are planning to organize an additional meeting for the OSCE Asian Partners, bearing in mind that they are all members of CICA, with the exception of Japan, which holds observer status.

**Kazakhstan will also be the first country with a field mission to hold the Chairmanship. What role does the OSCE Centre in Astana play in Kazakhstan's aspirations for reform?**

The work of the OSCE Centre in Astana will greatly assist Kazakhstan's Chairmanship. The Centre maintains good relations with government agencies and institutions of civil society and is implementing specific projects.

We support the OSCE Centre's efforts in promoting confidence- and security-building in the region, improving border security and management, managing transboundary water resources, assisting the Government to improve the legislative and institutional mechanisms for the development of civil society, combating money-laundering and countering corruption. I believe that the Centre's activities ought to be guided by the needs of society and should also promote close regional co-operation.

I might add that we are dealing with various challenges on our own and are promoting liberal reforms. We are determined to continue on a path leading to a more developed and politically engaged civil society and a mature political culture.

**How has Kazakhstan been preparing for the Chairmanship?**

Kazakhstan has been actively preparing for the Chairmanship in a responsible manner. A State commission on Chairmanship issues was set up under a presidential decree and has already been functioning. A Chairmanship task force has been hard at work in Astana. In Vienna, the work of the Chairmanship will be co-ordinated by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the OSCE.

Over the past two years, courses, seminars and training sessions have taken place at the Secretariat and in the OSCE's institutions in Vienna, Warsaw and The Hague, at the Centre for OSCE Research in Hamburg and in a number of European capitals. We are grateful to the Secretariat and the participating States for their support in preparing us to assume this major responsibility.

**What is the public image of the OSCE in Kazakhstan?**

People in Kazakhstan perceive the OSCE as a highly respected international organization. Interest in it has grown considerably since our country was selected to assume the Chairmanship. Our citizens are enthusiastically studying various aspects of the OSCE's work and actively discussing the problems currently facing the Organization. It is no exaggeration to say that Kazakhstan's opportunity to lead this influential body is giving rise to a feeling of pride among its citizens and a sense of involvement in the processes taking place in the Euro-Atlantic region. As President Nazarbayev has noted, the future Chairmanship is regarded as a strategic national project.

#### ON THE WEB

[www.mfa.kz](http://www.mfa.kz)

[www.osce2010.kz](http://www.osce2010.kz)

(to be formally  
presented on  
7 December)

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

# Taking turns at the helm

## The CSCE/OSCE Chairmanship through the years

**T**he OSCE's principle of changing chairmanships is an expression of the right of all States to play an equal part in the Organization. "The concept of a regularly changing chairmanship pre-dates the OSCE, harking back to the time when it was still a 'travelling conference'," says Thomas Fischer, a specialist on the Organization's history. "In fact, the rules of procedure that were debated in Finland preparatory to the 1973-1975 Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) stipulated a daily — or in some cases even twice daily — rotation of the chairing of meetings."

The leadership role of today's Chairmanship first emerged from the Paris Summit in November 1990, which envisaged the CSCE as the main guarantor of security in a new Europe free of dividing lines. The gathering drew up the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, which heralded the beginning of the transformation of the Conference into today's Organization by giving it a Secretariat and other permanent structures and operational capabilities.

"The European Community's rotating presidency and regular meetings served as the model for the CSCE/OSCE Chairmanship and ministerial meetings, although in the case of the OSCE, the Chairmanships are not really 'rotating'," says Wilhelm Höynck, Ambassador-at-Large of the Federal Republic of Germany in the early 1990s, who later served, from June 1993 to June 1996, as the first Secretary General of the CSCE/OSCE.

"The need to respond operationally to the conflicts in Yugoslavia lent urgency to the discussions at the CSCE Council's first meeting in Berlin in 1991 and its second meeting in Prague in 1992," he adds. "Both events led to a formal definition of the role of the Chairman-in-Office at the third Summit, held in Helsinki in July 1992."

The possibilities and limitations of the Chairmanship were shaped by decisions taken at these events:

**The Helsinki Summit of 1992** agreed that the Chairman-in-Office would be responsible "for the co-ordination of and consultation on current CSCE business", and would be requested "to communicate ... decisions to the CSCE institutions and to give them such advice regarding those decisions as may be required". The "preceding and succeeding Chairmen, operating together as a Troika, ad hoc steering groups and personal representatives, if necessary" would provide assistance to the Chairman-in-Office.

**The Budapest Summit of 1994** agreed that "overall responsibility for executive action will remain with the Chairman-in-Office" and that "the term of Chairmanship will normally last one calendar year".

**The Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto, Portugal, in 2002** sought to streamline the working methods of the Chairmanship by adopting a decision (see page 23) stating that the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office would be "designated as such by a decision of the Summit Meeting or the Ministerial Council as a rule two years before the Chairmanship's term of office starts". Furthermore, the functions of the Chairmanship "shall be exercised by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the participating State so designated ... together with his/her staff, including the Chair of the Permanent Council".

The following pages show a photographic gallery of the foreign ministers who have represented the 18 Chairmanships so far, starting with then German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

**10 September 1991, Dom Soyuzov, Moscow, third meeting of the Human Dimension Conference of the CSCE (10 September-15 October 1991).** German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was a strong advocate for the principle that commitments in the human dimension were "matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States". The resulting "Moscow Mechanism" provided the option of sending experts to help participating States resolve a specific human dimension issue.



### First Chairmanship: Germany June-December 1991

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, CSCE Chairman-in-Office. Foreign Minister and Deputy Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany (1974-1992). Honorary Chairman of Germany's Free Democratic Party (FDP) since 1992. Managing Partner of Hans-Dietrich Genscher Consult GmbH since 2000.



SENÁT ČR

### 1992: Czechoslovakia

Jiří Dienstbier, CSCE Chairman-in-Office (1 January-2 July 1992). Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia (1989-1992). Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1998-2001). Member of the Czech Senate since 2008.



CZECH FOREIGN MINISTRY

### 1992: Czechoslovakia

Jozef Moravčík, CSCE Chairman-in-Office (3 July-31 December 1992). Last Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia (July-December 1992). Foreign Minister of the newly formed Republic of Slovakia (March 1993-March 1994). Prime Minister of Slovakia (March-December 1994). Mayor of Bratislava (1998-2002).



JARL HJALMARSON FOUNDATION

### 1993: Sweden

Margaretha af Ugglas, CSCE Chairperson-in-Office. Sweden's second female Foreign Minister (1991-1994). Member, European Parliament (1995). Chairman of the Board, Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation, since 2002.



WWW.BOLOGNA.CHIESACATOLICA.IT

### 1994: Italy

Beniamino Andreatta, CSCE Chairman-in-Office (1 January-11 May 1994). Foreign Minister (1993-1994). Defence Minister (1996-1998). Died 26 March 2007.



ITALIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY - PRESS SERVICE

### 1994: Italy

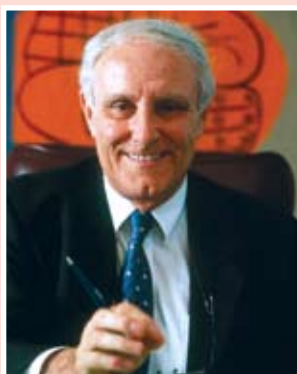
Antonio Martino, CSCE Chairman-in-Office (12 May-31 December 1994). Foreign Minister (May-December 1994). Defence Minister (2001-2006). Former professor, LUISS University in Rome. Member of the Parliament's Defence Committee.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### 1995: Hungary

László Kovács, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Foreign Minister (1994-1998 and 2002-2004). Member of the Council of Wise Men of the Council of Europe (1997-1999). Vice-Chairman of the Socialist International (2003-2008). European Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union since 2004.



KEystone

### 1996: Switzerland

Flavio Cotti, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (1994-1999). President of the Swiss Confederation (1991 and 1998).



CENTRE OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DANISH MFA

### 1997: Denmark

Niels Helveg Petersen, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Foreign Minister (1993-2000). Member of the Danish Parliament (Member of the Presidium, 2005-2007).



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### 1998: Poland

Bronisław Geremek, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Foreign Minister (1997-2000). Professor, Chair of European Civilization at the College of Europe - Natolin (2002-2008). Member, European Parliament (2004-2008). President of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe (2006-2008). Died 13 July 2008.





OSCE/SUSANNA LOOF

### 1999: Norway

Knut Vollebæk, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Foreign Minister (1997-2000). Chairman of the Panel of Eminent Persons on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE (2005). Ambassador to the United States (2001-2007). OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities since 2007.



ÖVP-BUNDESPARTEI

### 2000: Austria

Wolfgang Schüssel, OSCE Chairman-in-Office (1 January-4 February 2000). Foreign Minister (1995-February 2000). Chancellor of Austria (2000-2007). Member of the Austrian Parliament.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### 2000: Austria

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office (5 February-31 December 2000). Foreign Minister (February 2000-2004). European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy (2004-2009).



BRAGAN

### 2001: Romania

Mircea Dan Geoana, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Foreign Minister (2000-2004). Member of the Romanian Senate since 2004. Speaker of the Senate since 2008.



OSCE/ALEX NITZSCHE

### 2002: Portugal

Jaime Gama, OSCE Chairman-in-Office (1 January-6 April 2002). Foreign Minister (1983-1985 and 1995-2002). President of Portugal since 2005.



OSCE/PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

### 2002: Portugal

Antonio Martins da Cruz, OSCE Chairman-in-Office (7 April-31 December 2002). Foreign Minister (2002-2003).



OSCE

### 2003: Netherlands

Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, OSCE Chairman-in-Office (1 January-3 December 2003). Foreign Minister (2002-2003). Secretary General of NATO (2004-2009). Chair for Peace, Law and Security at Leiden University since September 2009.



BELGA-BENOIT DORPAGNE

### 2003: Netherlands

Bernard Rudolf Bot, OSCE Chairman-in-Office (4-31 December 2003). Foreign Minister (2003-2007). President of the Board, Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy; and President of the Board of Governors, Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael.



OSCE/MIKHAIL EVSTAFIEV

### 2004: Bulgaria

Solomon Passy, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Foreign Minister (2001-2005). Chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee (2005-2009). Founding President and Honorary President of the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria.



BOGO

### 2005: Slovenia

Dimitrij Rupel, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Reappointed Foreign Minister (November 2004–November 2008). Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Foreign Affairs (November 2008–February 2009).



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### 2006: Belgium

Karel De Gucht, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Foreign Minister (2004–2009). European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid since 2009.



OSCE/MIKHAIL EVSTAFIEV

### 2007: Spain

Miguel Ángel Moratinos, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. Foreign Minister since 2004.



LEHTIMUJA/PEKKA SAKKI

### 2008: Finland

Ilkka Kanerva, OSCE Chairman-in-Office (1 January–4 April 2008). Foreign Minister (2007–2008). Member of Finnish Parliament since 1975.



OSCE/MIKHAIL EVSTAFIEV

### 2008: Finland

Alexander Stubb, OSCE Chairman-in-Office (5 April–31 December 2008). Foreign Minister since 2008.



PERSONAL

### 2009: Greece

Dora Bakoyannis, OSCE Chairman-in-Office (January–5 October 2009). Foreign Minister (2006–5 October 2009).



AFP PHOTO/CARL COURT

### 2009: Greece

George Papandreou, Chairman-in-Office (since 6 October 2009). Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Greece since 6 October 2009.

## Role of the OSCE Chairmanship

The Chairmanship steers the political leadership of the OSCE; oversees the Organization's activities in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; represents the OSCE; and co-ordinates and guides the OSCE institutions.

Meeting in Porto, Portugal on 6 and 7 December 2002, the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted guidelines for the activities of the Chairman-in-Office in greater detail than ever before. The foreign ministers' Decision 8 was aimed at making the Chairmanship's working methods "consistent with new practices and experience acquired over the past decade" and "ensuring that its actions are not inconsistent with positions agreed by all the participating States and that the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States is taken into account".

In brief, the Chairmanship:

- Presides over and co-ordinates Summit Meetings and meetings of the Ministerial Council, the Permanent Council and subsidiary bodies, and reports on its activities;
- Co-ordinates the decision-making process concerning current OSCE business and sets the priorities for the activities of the OSCE during its year in office, supported by the executive structures of the Organization;
- Provides the Permanent Council with drafts, reports and overviews for its consideration;
- Provides the Permanent Council with recommendations on specific issues;
- Communicates views and decisions of Summit Meetings, the Ministerial Council and the Permanent Council to the Secretariat, institutions and field operations and provides them with advice and guidance on activities;
- Carries out its responsibilities for appointments and assignments;
- Represents the OSCE externally, in consultation with the participating States and with the assistance of the Secretary General; and
- Appoints personal representatives when dealing with a crisis or a conflict or to ensure better co-ordination of the efforts of the participating States in dealing with a specific issue.

The year culminates in an annual meeting of the Ministerial Council, which is the principal decision-making body of the OSCE in years when a Summit Meeting is not convened. The last Summit took place in November 1999, in Istanbul.

*These pages were prepared with the assistance of Ursula Froese, Press and Public Information Section.*



# Going right to the core

## A school for OSCE Chairmanships



BY DIANA DIGOL

**Hamburg, Germany.** Here at the Centre for OSCE Research (CORE), we take pride in the fact that ours is not a conventional and standard academic institution. We combine research with capacity-building, publishing and teaching, much of it on demand. We are the only think tank in the world specifically dedicated to carrying out research about the OSCE. We have a productive relationship with the Organization, often co-operating with it on special projects. But we are also independent from it and don't shy away from providing it with candid and constructive criticism.

Given the relatively young life of our institution — it is not quite ten years old — I believe we have had our fair share of interesting projects that are making a difference in Central Asia and beyond. For example, CORE helped develop the concept for the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and played a significant role in getting it off the ground.

Nonetheless, it helps to be reminded that there are still so many more untapped opportunities out there to be of service — such as in early 2007, when Kazakhstan approached CORE for help in strengthening the knowledge and skills of its diplomats in connection with the country's aspiration to take its turn at the helm of the OSCE. Here was a unique chance for CORE to contribute to the capacity of what could well be the first-ever CIS and Central Asian State to chair the largest regional security organization in the world.

The CORE staff immediately put their collective OSCE expertise to work by designing course modules tailored to the needs of officials from Kazakhstani ministries. In autumn 2007, five young diplomats from Astana arrived at our headquarters in Hamburg and immersed themselves enthusiastically in a packed four-week programme.

From 10 September to 6 October, Mondays to Saturdays, the group attended lectures by 25

Vienna, 10 June 2009.

Young diplomats from Lithuania and Kazakhstan with the CORE team.

experts from CORE, the OSCE Secretariat, the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). To complement this theoretical knowledge, CORE organized on-site briefings and discussions for the Kazakhstani in Vienna, at ODIHR in Warsaw and at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

Shortly after the training, at the end of November 2007, the decision that Kazakhstan had been anticipating did take place: the participating States agreed at their Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid that the Central Asian country would take over the Chairmanship in 2010, succeeding Greece and preceding Lithuania. The training agenda was now more relevant than ever. Following the positive evaluation of the pilot programme, CORE was asked to repeat similar courses for a second group of Kazakhstani diplomats — five men and five women — from 1 to 29 June 2008.

Meanwhile, looking ahead to its Chairmanship in 2011, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry also recognized the potential benefits of the courses. This year, I was entrusted with organizing and co-ordinating a third round of training, which posed a different set of challenges. For the first time, it was going to be a mixed group — 12 diplomats from Lithuania and six diplomats from Kazakhstan. Furthermore, we had been asked to move the training to Vienna and to limit it to two weeks, from 1 to 14 June, since it was proving difficult for participants to be away from their duties for a whole month.

My main concern was how to maintain the high standards that had been set by my colleagues, while adjusting to new circumstances. We decided that, to make the most of the time we were allotted, we would divide the 18 participants into three groups during the first week. Each group would focus on one of three topics: the human dimension; conflict prevention and field operations and the HCNM; and the new security threats and challenges, including economic and environmental issues.

During the second and final week, the participants came together for the sessions devoted especially to Chairmanship matters, ranging from special procedures to the role and responsibilities of the Chairman-in-Office.

“The intensive and well structured programme not only provided us with a close look at the way the Organization works in practice, but also took us right to the very core of the common commitments and responsibilities of participating States,” said Timur Sultangozhin, First Secretary at the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Warsaw. “This training is especially useful for those of us who have been appointed to serve as liaison officers in OSCE institutions and

in key capitals in the OSCE area.” Mr. Sultangozhin himself has recently taken up this role at ODIHR.

Usen Suleimenov, Kazakhstan’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the OSCE, said that, apart from the theoretical aspects of the training, “what I found most useful were the practical case studies, including our simulation of decision-making situations. I hope that future Chairmanships continue Kazakhstan’s initiative to tap into the training offered by CORE”.

“Naturally, because so much material was covered in two weeks, it was inevitable that there would be some gaps,” said Dainius Baublys, Head of the OSCE Chairmanship Division in

24 June 2008, Vienna. OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut and Frank Evers, Deputy Head of CORE (centre), with young diplomats from the Foreign Ministry of Kazakhstan who took part in the second Chairmanship-related training course conducted by CORE.



## CORE AND KAZAKHSTAN

**The Centre for OSCE Research** (CORE), an independent think tank within the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), was founded in 2000 at the initiative of IFSH Director Dieter S. Lutz, a leading name in peace research in Germany. After the death of Professor Lutz in 2003, Wolfgang Zellner, a co-founder of CORE, assumed responsibility for promoting the research centre’s vision.

CORE has hosted a number of visiting fellows and students from Kazakhstan and has carried out several joint activities with the country’s leading academic and research institutions. In 2007, in co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Almaty, CORE organized one-day seminars on the OSCE at five Kazakhstani universities in Almaty, Astana and Karaganda. This year, from 23 to 28 November, CORE and Kazakhstan’s academic community organized a one-week workshop in Almaty on OSCE conflict-prevention mechanisms, funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

CORE’s 16 staff members come from Germany, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. More than half of them are employed through projects that are funded by research foundations, international organizations, the German Federal Foreign Office and a wide range of partners.

[www.core-hamburg.de](http://www.core-hamburg.de)





The Centre for OSCE Research (CORE) is part of the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy in Hamburg, Germany.



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the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry. "It helped that the course materials could be downloaded from a website and could be reviewed beforehand. The reading materials and the lecturers could not have been better."

Both the Kazakhstani and the Lithuanians agreed that their daily joint activities enabled them to start thinking of themselves as a partnership preparatory to their being part of the same OSCE troika.

"I realized from being in the same sessions with our counterparts from Kazakhstan that learning how to function as a team and building good interpersonal relations with people from different cultural backgrounds at all levels are crucial to the whole Chairmanship process", said Lithuanian attaché Nijole Naginyte, who is based in Vilnius. "It was also good to get to know OSCE staff with whom we will be working closely before and during Lithuania's Chairmanship of the OSCE."

Egle Morkunaite, who spent three years with the Lithuanian Delegation to the OSCE in Vienna and is now a Third Secretary in her

ministry's OSCE Chairmanship Division, said that she welcomed the chance to update and expand her knowledge of the OSCE.

"Working at the Delegation, one co-ordinates the same sets of issues under a specific portfolio, so one does not often get the chance — nor find the time — to keep abreast of other issues in any great detail," she said. "I experienced several 'a-ha' moments during the two weeks, when I suddenly gained new insights into the nuances of some complex topics."

The group benefited from 45 lecturers during the first week and another 20 experts from the OSCE Secretariat and OSCE delegations. Jonathan Stonestreet, Senior Election Adviser at ODIHR, took on one of the heaviest teaching loads by covering OSCE election-related commitments in six teaching units of 90 minutes each.

Another lecturer was Manuel Marion, Deputy Head of the Secretariat's Strategic Police Matters Unit. "The advantage of this programme is that we are able to sow the seeds that yield a good harvest for the benefit of the key players in the forthcoming Chairmanships. The courses serve to open the eyes of future Chairmanship team members to issues that we in the Secretariat deal with every day. Since we're the ones who provide continuity to the OSCE's work, it's our responsibility to share this institutional memory."

I might add that the responsibility of CORE goes beyond designing the courses and ensuring that everything runs smoothly. My colleagues Wolfgang Zellner, Frank Evers and Anna Kreikemeyer, who were the organizers of the previous sessions, are also regularly featured speakers. This year, in addition to my organizational role, I taught a course on "Introduction to the Human Dimension".

Again and again, feedback reveals that perhaps one of the most appreciated aspects of the programme is that it tries to be as practical as possible. We hope to build on this approach — providing participants not only with an appreciation of the fascinating history and *raison d'être* of the OSCE, but also giving them an intimate look at its internal dynamics.

I hope that future — and aspiring — Chairmanships will continue to keep us here at CORE on their radar screens. If this training becomes established practice, it will be a feather in the cap of CORE as it celebrates the tenth anniversary of its founding in January 2010.