



# Back to HELSINKI



Exactly thirty-three years have passed since the Helsinki Final Act had been signed and the OSCE has returned to the place where it had all started, to its source.

However noble the action might have been, the time of return has not been the best one.

During the years that followed after 1975, we were all witnesses of a great transformation that turned the Conference into the Organization and how the number of participating

states increased from 35 to 56. Today we can see the excellent OSCE settings in Vienna both, in the Hofburg and in the Palffy-Erdödy Palace, we can sense that OSCE institutions and missions are influential and highly respected.

Yet, the 2008 has been a dreary year in international relations. The world has been faced with the economic crisis, there are several frozen conflicts in the Euro-Asiatic region, Kosovo declared unilaterally its independence and a war broke out

unexpectedly in Georgia depriving the OSCE and other institutions of the possibility to send out an early warning about an imminent conflict. With such a gloomy panorama, in spite of the excellent atmosphere created by Finland, the skillfulness and enthusiasm of the CiO Minister Stubb, the support of so many delegations, including the Spanish-Greek-Finish troika, the European Union headed by France and accompanied by the USA and NATO members, it was impossible to make a breakthrough that would

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enable the necessary step forward in the two areas that have been in the stalemate in the course of last year: the celebration of a new summit after the one held in Istanbul in 1999 and the consensus about the Ministerial Declaration.

In such a complex situation, the conference was successful as much as it could have been: 50 foreign ministers gathered in Helsinki with important talks being held about the world situation. A well-established declaration was adopted on Nagorno-Karabakh reflecting the efforts of Armenian and Azerbaijan leaders in resolving their bilateral problem. Fifteen decisions were adopted, and among them also the ones about the necessary reinforcement of the legal framework of the OSCE and the rule of law, the fight against terrorism and trafficking in human beings, the convention on small arms, the implementation of the Alliance of Civilizations, etc.

Nevertheless, there was no formal Ministerial Declaration and the reason behind was the inability to reach an agreement on three subjects:

- the use of adequate language with respect to the Georgian crisis while the investigating committee is still revising the responsibility of the parties involved in the war.
- the absence of consensus on the reduction of conventional arms and armed forces
- the call for a summit which, as everybody understands, has to be prepared with great care and perhaps even preceded by the "other" summit on European security organized by presidents Medvedev and Sarkozy in an attempt to identify new design in the architecture of European security

All these reasons were obvious and all the objections were real. There is also the fact that the Russian Federation has not been quite content with the direction,

which the OSCE is moving in, with the ODIHR criticizing rights and freedoms in the countries of the former Soviet Union during its yearly conferences and monitoring of their election systems. The standpoint of Moscow is that the OSCE does not reflect the new reality of the 56 participating states and their relative forces in the world affairs.

Attempting to reach an agreement on the Declaration on the eve of change of the US administration and the period of crystallizing the role of the USA in the world affairs, with the Russian Federation striving to regain the prestige of a superpower which has gradually faded over the years, most certainly was not the best moment for reviving the spirit of Helsinki.

Even though the absence of Condoleezza Rice, who was visiting India after the terrorist attacks in Bombay and trying to restore the damaged relationship between India and Pakistan, was noticeable, and despite the somber speech of Lavrov, questioning the necessity of the OSCE existence, which were clear signals that best reflected the current moment, dozens of ministers pointed out the necessity to breathe life into the Helsinki spirit.

During those three glorious days in Helsinki, back in August 1975, the sun in the city never stopped shining. During the three days of December 2008, the delegates gathered at the Helsinki Fair, never even saw the daylight. The hope remains that Greece, as the cradle of a large part of the European culture, will shed a bright light on the future road of the OSCE in the forthcoming year.



Ambassador Jorge Fuentes  
Head of Office

10 Nov - Meeting with Amb. dr. Mario Nobilo, Head of the III Directorate for International Organization and Security within the Foreign Ministry

16 -18 Nov - Arrival of Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

17 Nov - Dinner hosted by HoO in honor of Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Ambassador of US., France, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Finland and UNHCR are invited

19 Nov - Meeting with the General Police Director Mr. Vladimir Faber

21 Nov - Meeting with Minister of Interior Mr. Tomislav Karamarko

1 December - HoO to speak at RACVIAC Seminar on "Combating Irregular Migration and Trafficking on Human Beings" RACVIAC Zagreb, 1- 2 Dec, RAKITJE, HoO speech, contact Captain Jože Čebular

2 Dec - Field visit with Development Minister Čobanković to Lika: Donji Lapac, Vrhovine municipality

4-5 Dec - HoO participates at the 16th OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki

9 December - Ambassador Fuentes was invited for a meeting with Prime Minister Ivo Sanader

10 December - HoO attended a celebration to mark the 4th Anniversary of Work of the Judicial Academy, also Ambassador Fuentes represented the Office at the ceremony hosted by the Croatian Red Cross, where among other individuals and organisations, the OSCE presence in Croatia was given an award.

11 Dec - HoO invited to give a lecture on OSCE by Dr. Mladen Andrić, Dir of Diplomatic Academy, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

12 Dec - Activities report press conference and presentation to OSCE member states ambassadors.

## OSCE and other international partners verify notable progress in the implementation of Housing Care Programmes

**O**n 2 December 2008, following an invitation by the Minister for Regional Development, Petar Čobanković, the Head of the OSCE Office in Zagreb, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, visited Donji Lapac and Vrhovine, two returnee municipalities in the Lika-Senj County, and accompanied the Head of the EC Delegation to Croatia, Ambassador Vincent Degert, the US Ambassador to Croatia, Robert Bradtke and the Head of the UNHCR Office in Zagreb, Ambassador Wilfried Buchhorn. The OSCE Office was also represented by two heads of units and other staff.

The purpose of the field trip was to visit apartment buildings in Donji Lapac and Vrhovine, which are presently under construction but intended for the accommodation of former occupancy/tenancy rights (OTR) holders, along with several prefabricated houses constructed for the same purpose.

The gathering in Donji Lapac was hosted by the Head of Municipality, Ilija Obradović. During his opening presentation, he emphasised that Donji Lapac faced a dramatic decrease in its population after the war. The majority (about 80%) of the current population was of Serb ethnicity while the remaining ones were the Croatian settlers from Bosnia. Approximately 60 percent of Donji Lapac households belong to elderly people. The unemployment rate is very high and agriculture is the main source of income. The ongoing school year saw only 99 pupils attending primary school in Donji Lapac while secondary education is not even available locally. Obradović also pointed out that Donji Lapac was geographically isolated from the rest of Croatia, and how the renewal of infrastructure, especially the construction of a road connecting the municipality with the closest traffic arteries, was a precondition for the economic revitalization of the area.



Minister Čobanković, in his address, highlighted that Donji Lapac was probably the least developed local self-government unit in Croatia. He agreed with Obradović that construction of infrastructure was a necessity if the sustainability of return was to be maintained. The State Secretary in the Development Ministry, Milivoj Mikulić, informed the delegation about the activities of the State Administration in the Areas of Special State Concern, pointing out that “presently 1,803 apartments in 118 apartment buildings intended for the accommodation of former OTR holders were under construction or reconstruction. “Benchmarks will be fulfilled, with the exception of four towns – Knin, Benkovac, Obrovac, and Korenica,” Mikulić added.

Ambassador Fuentes, Head of the OSCE Office in Zagreb acknowledged the importance of field visits as they provide the best illustration of reality that sometimes cannot be seen as

clearly from Zagreb. Fuentes said that “the Office does not only verify that the apartments are built or reconstructed, but also that they are of a standard quality and allocated to persons who are eligible to them”. He also underlined that equal revitalization of every part of Croatia was crucial.

Ambassador Degert stated that: “the presence of so many state officials at such a gathering was a signal how determined the Government is in accomplishing the return process”. “However”, he added, “the sustainability of return is also very important,” emphasising the need for investing additional efforts in order to achieve that sustainability. Ambassador Degert stated the Delegation of the EC would very soon present to the 28 EU member states its recommendations for the opening of the Chapter 23.

Public Affairs Assistant  
Dorijan Klasnić

## Three speeches - the HoO participation

In the course of recent weeks, the HoO participated in three important seminars organized by the Igman Initiative, the RACVIAC and the Diplomatic Academy respectively.

The first seminar dealt with the problems of the SEE on its road to the European Union and the opening speeches were delivered by the President Mesić, the four regional Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Committees for the EU Integration and Ambassadors Degert and Fuentes.

The OSCE Head of Office pointed out in his presentation the idea that Europe will not be complete until all the countries of the continent that wish to join the EU have been able to integrate. He reminded that there are still 22 European countries that are not members of the Union, 7 of which are in the SEE.

He added that the main obstacles which hamper the integration of majority of the SEE countries ensue from the triple transition these countries had to undergo: from communism to free market, from federation to independence and finally, the most important one of them all, the transition from war to peace which included the necessity to resolve serious problems related to the millions of refugees that needed to be assisted and thousands of war criminals that had to be tried.

Finally, Ambassador Fuentes spoke about the feelings that invariably all the candidate countries which joined the EU had, and those feelings were similar to the ones Croatia and Turkey are experiencing now: feelings that the candidate country is not negotiating properly while attempting to integrate into the EU as rapidly as possible, that the Commission has been treating a new candidate in a far tougher way than the candidate countries in the past and that even if, in spite of all the obstacles, the candidates succeed in joining the EU, they would be absorbed by the more powerful members. Ambassador Fuentes actually wanted to make a point that the candidates were wrong:

every candidate country negotiates to the best of its abilities and the European Commission treats all candidates in the same way, by way of applying the same standards even though the *acquis* is becoming more and more complex. The European Union does not deprive of sovereignty any new member, quite the contrary, it helps them to grow and reach the strongest development level possible, which is the most convenient policy for the whole club.



Ambassador Fuentes delivering a lecture at the Diplomatic Academy, Zagreb 11 December 2008.

On 1 December RACVIAC organized a seminar on Irregular Negotiation and Trafficking of Human Beings. Fuentes spoke about the swift transformation Europe has been suffering from as a consequence of immigrations of people escaping from the less prosperous regions of the world to the continent. This is a phenomenon that will change the human landscape in Europe. In less than 20 years, one out of five citizens of the European Union will be a Turk - after Turkey has joined the EU, one will be an immigrant and only the 3 remaining ones will belong to the indigenous Europeans.

The new reality will have an equal number of advantages and disadvantages. On one hand, the worst situation European continent could be faced with is the massive arrival of immigrants, but on the other hand, it would be even worse if all of them would suddenly decide to return to their countries of origin leaving our economies completely thwarted.

After all, the best portrait of our future continent could be the one of an old European man, sitting in a wheelchair pushed by an immigrant who additionally pays old man's pension through his contributions to the social welfare system.

Fuentes also analyzed the different models of integration of immigrants following the French, German and British patterns, the relation between the immigration and security and the perspective of this problem in the SEE once those countries have been fully integrated in the EU.

The presentation that Ambassador Fuentes delivered at the Diplomatic Academy on 11 December, dealt with the "Past, present and future of the OSCE".

The past of the OSCE is actually the CSCE or the process that the East and West had conducted jointly thirty years after the II WW had ended by way of signing the Helsinki Final Act, a sort of a peace treaty that had never been signed before. The CSCE was considered to be one of the most successful diplomatic operations of the 20th century which put an end to the Cold War.

The present started in 1995, with the institutionalization of the Helsinki process when the Permanent Council, the Secretariat and the Parliamentary Assembly, as the three main bodies were born together with several missions with a purpose of correcting democratic deficiencies, especially in the countries of the former USSR and the ex-SFRY, which continued to exist after the disintegration of federal countries, *inter alia*, also thanks to the OSCE.

The future of the organization depends on the manner in which the 56 participating states, especially the larger ones, will evolve in the next years. The internal attitude of the USA, the reappearance of Russia as a superpower and the position of the EU, will define the role of the OSCE in the next decade.

## Official visit of the HCNM, Ambassador Knut Vollabaek

The OSCE Office in Zagreb, and this was the case before with the Mission to Croatia as well, receives on regular basis visits of different CiOs (Passy, Rupel, de Gucht, Moratinos), Secretary Generals (Jan Kubis, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut), Chairmen of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE (Goran Lehnmarker), Directors of ODIHR (Christian Strohal, and hopefully we will soon be visited by the new Director, Janez Lenarčič), the CPC Directors (Zanier, Herbert Salber), Heads of Missions in the region (Ambassadors Urstadt, Davidson, Radicati, Badescu, etc.).

Jandroković, Minister of Education Primorac, four MPs who represent 22 minorities in the Parliament - Radin, Čuhnli, Memedi and Tanković; he also met with Mr. Pupovac, MP from the SDSS - the Serb party, the Head of SDF Džakula, Tim Gazivoda, President of the CNM Tolnauer, the Ombudsman, Mr. Malčić, and State Secretary for State Administration Palarić. Apart from visiting the OSCE Office and discussing with the HoO and Heads of Units, Ambassador Vollabaek and his team met with a number of Ambassadors who are especially knowledgeable and concerned with the topic of national minorities.

skills and wisdom, offering the help of the institution he represents in the extent which touches the two remaining programmatic issues of the mandate: the contradictions created by the parallel education between the Croatian and Serb children, particularly in Eastern Slavonia; the insufficient implementation of Article 22 of the CLNM in the field of employment of minorities in the central and local administration - if one takes into consideration that minorities represent 12% of the population in the country, but they only occupy 4% of positions in the administration; and finally, the possibility of dual vote for the minorities at the parliamentary elections - voting for party slates and for minority representatives.



The visit of Ambassador Vollabaek, which ended with a trip to Vukovar where he met the mayor of the city, Zdenka Buljan, and other local representatives, had an additional, clear, justification in the fact that the HCNM's competence does not pertain only to those countries where the OSCE has a fully operational mission, but also to all other European, American and Asiatic countries which are participating states in the Organization.

Head of Office,  
Ambassador Jorge Fuentes

After the visit of the former HCNM, Swedish Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, Norwegian Ambassador Knut Vollabaek, who is the newly appointed HCNM, came in the period between the 17th and 19th of November to Croatia for a short but an intense trip which enabled the HCNM and his team - the Head of Cabinet, Mr. Sjoeborg, and Senior Advisers Schupp and Sabandze - to exchange views on the topic of national minorities with the main personalities that hold responsible positions relevant to this issue: President Mesić, Prime Minister Sanader, Vice-President of the Croatian Government Uzelac, Foreign Minister

The visit of High Commissioner Knut Vollabaek to Croatia was of particularly delicate nature, ensuing from the fact that the mandate of the Office, following the decision of the OSCE PC in Vienna, no longer includes the topic of national minorities. If the visit of the HCNM would have been interpreted as the reopening of the topic, it would have given the authorities in Croatia an impression that the OSCE, after closing the Mission, left the country through the door and came back through the window.

However, Ambassador Vollabaek resolved this problem with remarkable



## Head of Office meets new Minister of Interior and Police Director

In November, the Head of Office Ambassador Jorge Fuentes met with the newly appointed leadership of the Ministry of Interior - Minister Tomislav Karamarko and Director General of Police Vladimir Faber. A personnel shake-up at the Ministry of Interior as well as the Ministry of Justice took place in October following several mafia-style murders in central Zagreb of prominent persons, including Ivo Pukanić, owner and chief editor of Nacional and a colleague as well as the daughter of a well-known attorney. While discussing a number of topics, including the level of security and ethnically motivated incidents, the Head of Office particularly focused on the role of the police in war crimes investigations, including inter-state co-operation.

The Head of Office met Minister Karamarko on 21 November at the Ministry. The Minister expressed his strong support for the new Director General and explained that the goal of the new team was to professionalize and de-politicize the police. Ambassador Fuentes and the Minister discussed the inter-connectedness of war crimes and organized crime, the Minister indicating that both require a proactive and co-ordinated approach between the police, prosecutors, and security services. He also highlighted that both require extensive cooperation with neighboring countries. The Minister emphasized that several meetings between police authorities of the countries in the region had already taken place in the one month since he assumed his new position with a primary goal of



intensifying co-operation. Toward this aim, the Minister informed that he would attend a meeting of regional Ministers of Interior in Sarajevo at the end of November. The Minister noted that additional police reforms undertaken by Croatia as part of the harmonization with Chapter 23 of the EU acquis would also soon be issues for neighboring countries with EU aspirations.

Given the key role of the police in effectively investigating war crimes and ending impunity, Ambassador Fuentes emphasized the importance of robust participation by the Ministry of Interior in the Plenary between the Office and the Ministry of Justice, Chief State Attorney, and representatives of the Supreme Court and Ministry of Interior regarding issues of prosecution of war crimes. The Minister pledged his continued support to this forum.

On 19 November, the Head of Office met with the Police Director

General. The Director General explained that his main objective was to further professionalize the police service, which he considered to require additional de-politicization. Mr. Faber indicated the need for additional reforms, including changes in legislation related to police authority and a greater focus on crime prevention. He considered it equally important to take steps to improve the public's trust and confidence in the police service since citizen input was key to successful crime prevention and investigation.

The Director General commented that the vacuum created during the transition had permitted organized crime to gain a foothold in Croatia. In addition, he noted that due to the arms embargo during the 1991-1995 conflict, Croatia had to rely on organized crime to obtain weapons for its defense, which allowed elements of organized crime to become established in state institutions.



## Ministry of Justice Plenary on war crimes issues - update on *in absentia* convictions

Faber also saw the property privatization process as another opportunity for organized crime to gain influence. A police service that was overly politicized including numerous personnel changes linked to changes in Government also permitted organized crime to thrive. Faber expressed his view that Croatia was not yet sufficiently effective in dealing with criminal elements that had infiltrated state structures. He saw this as a key challenge now for the police to address the "top of the crime pyramid" as part of Croatia's advance to the European Union.

The Director General also emphasized the close relationship between war crimes and organized crime, explaining that many war crime suspects from countries in the region joined criminal organizations after the war. Hence, by addressing war crimes, the issue of organized crime would also be addressed. Mr. Faber acknowledged the importance of and need for improved inter-state co-operation between police authorities. He stressed that in the short time he had been in his post, he had several meetings with counterparts from Serbia. He emphasized that while weaknesses in regional cooperation between state authorities was a legacy of the war, regional criminal groups never ceased their cooperation and were in many ways better organized than police authorities.

Ambassador Fuentes stressed the key role of the police in war crimes investigation, indicating the importance of the Ministry's continued engagement with the Plenary. He commended the Director General for his ongoing reform efforts and expressed hope that the new measures would improve police capacities in fighting organized crime and putting an end to impunity for war crimes.

Mary Wyckoff  
Head of War Crimes Proceedings  
Monitoring Unit  
Alan Švarc  
Legal Officer

On 8 December, the Head of Office participated together with the Head of the Delegation of the European Commission and the Head of the ICTY Liaison Office in the fourteenth Plenary meeting dedicated to the discussion of issues related to war crimes proceedings with the Minister of Justice, Chief State Attorney, and representatives of the Supreme Court and Ministry of Interior. This meeting marked the first Plenary with the recently appointed Minister of Justice Ivan Šimonović.

One of the main topics of discussion during the meeting was the Ministry's proposed mechanism for the review of final *in absentia* convictions for war crimes. In previous discussion and correspondence, the Ministry of Justice and Chief State Attorney have acknowledged that some of the approximately 120 final verdicts convicting about 500 persons, primarily Serbs (many from the early 1990s) are based on insufficient facts or evidence. These past verdicts continue to have a present-day impact because arrest warrants are pending, which trigger arrests and extradition proceedings.

A mechanism proposed to facilitate review of these *in absentia* convictions is contained in the draft Criminal Procedure Code, which is pending in Parliament. Under the proposed law, state attorneys could request a 'renewed' trial by submitting new facts that would tend to lead to either an acquittal or conviction for a less serious offence. The convicted person could also lodge a request without being in custody in Croatia.

As the Chief State Attorney reported during the Plenary, local state attorneys have begun a systematic review of all final *in absentia* convictions in order to determine which verdicts are *bona fide*, which appear unfounded, and

which require further investigation in order to assess thoroughly. He estimated that based on current information, state attorneys would initiate requests for renewed trials in relation to approximately 100 persons, which constitutes more than twenty per cent of all those subject of final *in absentia* convictions. He noted that the requests would be concentrated in several jurisdictions. He indicated that once the draft law became effective, local state attorneys would begin to file requests with the relevant local courts. Further implementation would depend on additional investigations requested by state attorneys from the police as well as the co-operation of other States of the former Yugoslavia and convicted persons.



The Minister of Justice added that given the sensitivity of this issue, the Judicial Academy would provide training for judges and state attorneys in January 2009.

Successful implementation of this review will hopefully lead to the elimination of unsubstantiated verdicts thereby avoiding unnecessary criminal proceedings in Croatia and third countries. Future Plenary discussions will focus on the indicators and means by which the Office could assess the effectiveness of the proposed review mechanism within a reasonable time.

Mary Wyckoff  
Head of War Crimes Proceedings  
Monitoring Unit

## OSCE Office in Zagreb presents its latest Report to OSCE participating states ambassadors and the media

The Head of the OSCE Office in Zagreb, Ambassador Jorge Fuentes, hosted a presentation of his latest report to the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna.

The Office's Report outlines progress made by Croatia in 2008 on mandate issues. These issues include war crimes accountability and access to housing for former occupancy/tenancy rights holders encompassed by the Government's Housing Care Programmes.

Ambassador Fuentes said that: "the Office continued comprehensive monitoring of all national war crimes proceedings as well as its advocacy for systematically addressing suspected war crimes, which remain unprosecuted". Ambassador Fuentes continued by saying that "in 2008, Croatia improved its system for the investigation and prosecution of war crimes. In particular, gains have been made due to inter-state co-operation between prosecutors. The Office welcomes the latest initiatives by Croatia to better deliver equal justice for victims and perpetrators and will follow their implementation, including increased engagement of police." He added that "equally important will be ensuring a climate which allows people with information to come forward free of intimidation".

The Office has continued reporting on the progress in the implementation of the Government's Housing Care Programmes designed to provide housing for some 5,000 former Occupancy/Tenancy Rights holders.

Earlier in the morning the Office held a press conference on the same topic in which Ambassador Fuentes said that "the Office is satisfied with the progress in number of cases solved, quality of housing achieved and the timeframe in which Croatia runs its Programmes". Fuentes also added that "the Office can now consider the 2007 benchmark accomplished and the 2008 one progressing correctly, although with a delay."



TOP: Ambassadors Jorge Fuentes, Ann-Marie Nyroos of Finland and Ourania Arvaniti of Greece, together with OSCE Office heads of units presided the meeting with OSCE member states ambassadors, Zagreb, 12 December 2008.

BOTTOM: The HoO, the head of Executive Unit, Enrique Horcajada, Public Affairs Assistant, Dorijan Klasnić and the Office's interpreter, Zvezdana Lalić during the press conference dedicated to the latest Office's report on Croatia, Zagreb 12 December 2008.





## Housing care models and eligibility of housing care recipients

The legal basis for the Government's Housing Care Programme for Former Occupancy/Tenancy Rights Holders, created to provide a shelter for approximately 5,000 minority returnee families, is contained in the provisions of the Law on Areas of Special State Concern.

The recipients of housing care, who reside inside the areas of special state concern, can be accommodated based on several models:

- a) rent of a state owned house or apartment;
- b) rent of a damaged state owned house and donation of construction material;
- c) donation of a state owned construction plot and donation of construction material for constructing a family house;
- d) donation of construction material for reconstructing a family house or constructing a family house on the applicant's construction plot;
- e) donation of construction material for constructing an annex to the existing housing unit;

After they have received housing care, the beneficiaries sign a contract with the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management, pursuant to the provisions of the Law on Apartment Rental and start paying protected rental fee, which amounts to slightly more than HRK 2.00 per square metre. After they have permanently resided in the allocated dwelling for ten years, the beneficiaries are entitled to purchase the apartment under very favourable conditions. In Knin, for example, it is envisaged that one square meter will cost between € 120 and 170. In some cases, and that should be defined with the Minister's instruction, the allocated housing units could be purchased before the expiration of the ten-year term. Every beneficiary's household member has the status of housing care recipient/protected lessee, and therefore has the same eligibility status as the beneficiary himself/herself.



Those applicants, who opt for a damaged family house, receive from the Ministry a donation in the form of construction material and an additional sum of HRK 10,000 for financial support, while those who wish to construct a new family house receive HRK 15,000 in addition to construction material.

The recipients of housing care who reside outside the areas of special state concern are entitled to be provided with accommodation in the form of a state owned apartment in apartment buildings. They enjoy the status of protected lessees, along with all their household members, but they cannot purchase the allocated apartments.

Momir Vukmirović  
National Programme Officer

## Photo Story

### “At the same time, at the same place”



On Friday 12 December, in a downtown restaurant in Zagreb, the traditional End of the Year gathering for the OSCE Staff in Croatia took place. Since the closure of the Mission on the opening of a much reduced office, the OSCE employees' working rhythm changed dramatically. The Zagreb based Office, beside it's obvious work in the capital, needs to cater for the rest of the country too. Every week our teams travel across Croatia and across Zagreb. Such occasions are rare and precious for us working mainly in-house so the occasion of the festive dinner was a great opportunity to take photos of colleagues, first of all in a relaxed mood and, what is most important, all together at the same time - at the same place.



A sad note on the party was the official good bye to Suzanne Salopek, National Democratisation Officer. After long consideration, being both a Croatian and Australian national, Suzane decided to continue with her career and family life in her place of birth, Sidney Australia.

*Good onya mate!*



photos by:  
Dorijan KLASNIĆ



## Staff donations for dog-shelter

Following a call for donations by the Animal Protection Organization "Spirit" from Zagreb, an upstart NGO providing shelter for stray dogs, the OSCE Office in Zagreb decided to organize a seven day collection of goods that might be of help for them.



Every once in a while, the Office donates old newspapers and gathers small contributions for such causes. This time the staff response was more than generous. Transport Officer,

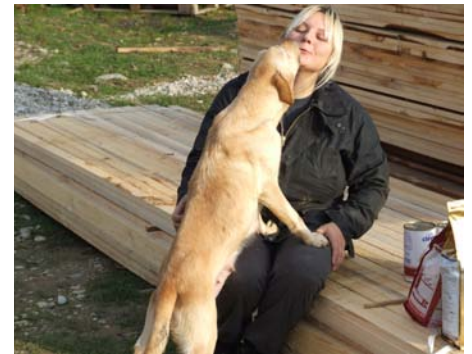
Gordana Frece and Public Affairs Assistant, Dorijan Klasnić visited Spirit on 19 October 2008 and were able to deliver a rather large contingent of blankets, linen, rubber toys, treats, healthcare food, premium dry food for puppies and other foodstuff (over 100 kg of it) as well as our usual load of old newspapers for bedding and old magazines for isolation.



Spirit is only in its second year of existence and, as the NGO's Head, Monika Potočki, told us, this year's

response to their appeal for donations was very good, to the point they are getting short on storage space for the goods received. On-site Spirit are housing some 50 grown dogs and a dozen puppies while many other are being sheltered in private homes awaiting possible new owners.

Thanks to the OSCE Office in Zagreb staff donations among others, the upcoming winter is going to be a little milder for these abandoned "men's best friends".



## PBPB Training

The head of the Executive Unit, Enrique Horcajada attended on 10 and 11 December a training course for the Performance Based Programme Budgeting (PBPB) resource persons in the pleasant town of Stadtschlaining in the picturesque Austrian landscape of Burgenland in order to get ready for the requirements of the next OSCE annual unified budget cycle. Enrique will become acquainted with objectives, outcomes, performance indicators, means of verification, outputs, activities, projects, etc., in time to begin with the drafting of the next Programme Outline (PO) for the Office in Zagreb.



## Security Officer's Meeting

Officials from all OSCE Field Operations met in Vienna on 20 and 21 November to exchange information on security and safety issues affecting the OSCE. Declan Greenway, the OSCE Head Security Manager, chaired this annual meeting for the last time as he will be leaving the OSCE after completing ten years of service. Before the meetings were adjourned, a nice and simple speech was delivered as token of appreciation for Declan's outstanding work in the OSCE.

The focal points were briefed about important issues the implications of which affect also the field of security such as the on-going discussion on privatization, terrorism (whereby the OSCE is normally not a target, but the only existing international organization in many areas of the world), gender equality considerations and the OSCE emergency communications. The gathering was once

again a good opportunity for reviewing and reminding of many other security aspects such as the use of unreliable airlines, fire evacuation exercises, etc.

Nonetheless, the most interesting speech was, undoubtedly, the one delivered by the representative of the Mission to Georgia about the evacuation of a field office in the South Ossetia which raised interesting questions about the non-family character of the OSCE and the possibility for the OSCE to consider an air-lift evacuation support. The representative from the OSCE Office in Zagreb updated his colleagues about the recent organized crime attacks, which are currently under expeditious police investigation, but have recently disrupted the peaceful existence in the touristic and safe Croatia. He also informed them, that opportunely, a club with a bad reputation, which had been opened very close to the OSCE office some time ago, had been replaced by a nice stylish restaurant.

## Photo Gallery



Ambassador Fuentes and prof. Miroslav Tuđman at the OSCE Office in Zagreb premises, 20 November 2008.



Ambassador Fuentes, unit heads Enrique Horcajada and Jan Repa and HC Officer Momir Vukmirović during the field visit to Donji Lapac municipality, 2 December 2008.



General Police Director, Vladimir Faber and Ambassador Fuentes met at the Police HQ, Zagreb 19 November 2008.



Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and his staff with Ambassador Fuentes in Zagreb, 17 November 2008.



HoO participated at the 16th OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki on 4-5 December. Here portrayed with Ambassador Neven Madej, Head of the Croatian Delegation to the OSCE in Vienna, and Ambassador Mario Nobile, Head of the III Directorate for International Organization and Security within the Foreign Ministry.



Interior Minister, Tomislav Karamarko and Ambassador Fuentes at the Interior Ministry, 21 November 2008.