

DECEMBER 2006

OSCE

Transition: Belgium hands over
the Chairmanship to Spain

MAGA

Montenegro:
Seizing the momentum

ZINE

Asian Partners:
A meeting of minds



Hanging on to
hope in Croatia



The *OSCE Magazine*, which is also available online, is published in English and Russian by the Press and Public Information Section of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The

views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the OSCE and its participating States.

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 Printed by Manz Crossmedia

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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a pan-European security body whose 56 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

OSCE Chairmanship 2006: Belgium

OSCE Structures and Institutions

- Permanent Council, *Vienna*
- Forum for Security Co-operation, *Vienna*
- Secretariat, *Vienna*
- OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, *Vienna*
- Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, *Warsaw*
- High Commissioner on National Minorities, *The Hague*
- OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, *Copenhagen*

Field Operations

Caucasus

- OSCE Office in Baku
- OSCE Mission to Georgia
- OSCE Office in Yerevan
- The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

Central Asia

- OSCE Centre in Almaty
- OSCE Centre in Ashgabad
- OSCE Centre in Bishkek
- OSCE Centre in Dushanbe
- OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Eastern Europe

- OSCE Office in Minsk
- OSCE Mission to Moldova
- OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

South-eastern Europe

- OSCE Presence in Albania
- OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- OSCE Mission to Croatia
- OSCE Mission in Kosovo
- OSCE Mission to Montenegro
- OSCE Mission to Serbia
- OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

Message from the Chairperson of the Permanent Council in 2006



Like a beehive that never sleeps, the OSCE bustled with vitality again this year. Its dedicated men and women upheld the Organization's ideals and translated them into action.

How the Belgian Chairmanship went about providing leadership, fostering inclusiveness and expanding co-operation is described in the lead article in this issue of the *OSCE Magazine*.

One of the year's most significant developments took place when we welcomed Montenegro as our 56th participating State. We were the first international organization that the newly independent State chose to join — thereby casting an eloquent vote in favour of the OSCE's values, norms and commitments. At the Permanent Council, it took just two weeks for the accession process to be completed!

The special series of articles on Montenegro in this issue illustrate the kind of progress that is possible when there is unbridled co-operation between the OSCE and its host on the ground.

I am pleased that a special section is dedicated to our Asian Partners for Co-operation. They have shown a steady interest in the gradual, multidisciplinary and consensual approach to security so characteristic of the OSCE. So far, they have maintained a cautious, non-committal style. Perhaps the time is ripe for further engagement on both sides, applying the experience gained.

We pay tribute to Anna Politkovskaya, the Russian investigative journalist. Her murder is a clear warning that the right to freedom of expression is never secure. Let us hope that she will not have died in vain.

The cover story gives the returns issue in Croatia a human face. OSCE field missions have joined forces with the EU and the UNHCR to accelerate the process and devise alternative solutions. We have been strongly supporting this effort. Although this tragic chapter in history has not yet been closed, the OSCE has been playing a crucial role in the attempts to do so.

And, since the OSCE never sleeps, the next Chairmanship is poised to take over the helm, bringing with it fresh ideas and renewed energy, as the interview with the Spanish Foreign Minister reveals. Such are the dynamics of the OSCE.

Ambassador Bertrand de Crombrughe
 Head of the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the OSCE
 Vienna, December 2006