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## **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (23 March - 29 March)**

### **Rupel to Visit Kyrgyzstan as OSCE Chairman**

Ljubljana, 29 March (STA) - The OSCE chairman, Slovenia's Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, is due to visit Kyrgyzstan this Thursday to meet interim Prime Minister and acting President Kurmanbek Bakiev, interim Foreign Minister Roza Otunbayeva and interim Interior Minister Felix Kulov.

### **Kyrgyz Crisis Dominates Slovenian Chairmanship Activities**

BISHKEK/LJUBLJANA - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel came out to call for calm in Kyrgyzstan on 21 March, after thousands of opposition protesters took to the streets to protest against election fraud. As tensions continued to rise, Rupel dispatched his Personal Representative for Central Asia, former Slovenian Prime Minister Alojz Peterle, to Bishkek in a bid to offer assistance in easing the situation. Speaking to the press on 24 March, just as the opposition entered the capital of Bishkek and took control of the government palace, Rupel said the OSCE did not intend to take sides in Kyrgyzstan, but instead wanted to help in the establishment of a democratic process.

### **Rupel Talks to Lavrov, Fischer and Rice About Kyrgyz Crisis**

LJUBLJANA - OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel held telephone conversations with his Russian, German and US counterparts on 24 March in which he underscored the need for the restoration of order in Kyrgyzstan and for dialogue between all sides, leading to new elections. Officials exchanged views on the latest developments on the ground, highlighting the role of the OSCE. They reaffirmed their commitment to helping in a bid to find a political solution to the crisis as soon as possible. "It is imperative that security and stability should be restored," Rupel said after he spoke to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

### **Kyrgyz Tensions Top Agenda of EU-OSCE Troika Meeting**

BRUSSELS - The EU and OSCE want to defuse the tensions in Kyrgyzstan, OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel said after the 23 March meeting of the OSCE and EU troikas. It was emphasized that EU and OSCE were trying to facilitate dialogue between the two opposing sides in this Central Asian country. Developments in Kosovo, Moldova and Georgia as well as OSCE financing issues were also on the agenda of the meeting between the OSCE and EU officials.

### **OSCE Chair Stresses Need to Build on Kosovo Progress**

PRISTINA - OSCE Chairman Dimitrij Rupel welcomed the formation of a new government in Kosovo and called on all parties in the province to continue to work together and build on the already achieved progress as he visited the province on 25 March. Rupel also called on the new government of Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi to assume full responsibility for stability in Kosovo. He said it was not the time to burn bridges, but to work together to ensure a European future for the Balkans. He also reiterated the need for the participation of all sides in the political process in Kosovo. Rupel met Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova, newly-appointed Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi, Speaker of the Kosovo Parliament Nexhat Daci and the UN Administrator in Kosovo Soeren Jessen-Petersen.

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

YEREVAN, 30 MARCH - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel will visit Armenia.

BISKHEK, 31 MARCH - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel is due to visit Kyrgyzstan.

TBILISI, 1 APRIL - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel will visit Georgia.

BAKU, 2 APRIL - OSCE Chair Dimitrij Rupel will visit Azerbaijan.