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The OSCE marks ten years in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Introducing the Belgian Chairmanship

Lithuania finds its niche



Forging ahead
beyond the
Dayton Decade



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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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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a pan-European security body whose 55 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

OSCE Chairmanship 2006: Belgium

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Message from the Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

OSCE field missions are, by nature, temporary things. But conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation often take quite a bit of time.

The OSCE has been involved on both these fronts in Bosnia and

Herzegovina for more than a decade. Its representatives first bravely ventured in during the war that nearly rent the country asunder.

The current OSCE presence took on its form after the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina — better known to the U.S. military as “the Gee-fap” and to the rest of us as the Dayton-Paris Peace Accords — that ended the conflict and assigned the OSCE specific tasks in elections, human rights monitoring and military stabilization.

Over time, these tasks, like Bosnia and Herzegovina itself, have evolved in line with progress made in what is known locally, if somewhat infelicitously, as “peace implementation”.

Elections, for instance, are now entirely out of our hands as Bosnia and Herzegovina has proven its ability to organize and run its own elections in accordance with the highest international standards. With the assistance of the OSCE and others, the country has moved forward remarkably quickly to having a single professional army, so that some of the arms control responsibilities assigned to the OSCE under Dayton no longer apply.

However, at a conference in December this past year sponsored by the Slovenian Chairmanship to mark the tenth anniversary of Dayton, several distinguished participants — including the High Representative, Lord Paddy Ashdown, and his predecessor, Wolfgang Petritsch — noted one lesson learned from this experience: the international community had neglected, until it was too late, aspects of the “soft side” of peace implementation.

They cited as examples two areas in which the OSCE Mission still works: civil society development and education, both clearly long-term endeavours. They also argued that these will only increase in importance in the years ahead.

My personal conclusion from all this is that, while “thematic missions” may soon be the latest addition to the OSCE’s bag of tricks, there remains no substitute for a sustained presence on the ground in troubled lands if we are to help establish peace, stability and security in Europe.

I very much hope that the articles in this issue of the *OSCE Magazine* about the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina will lead readers to the same conclusion.



Douglas Davidson
Sarajevo, 16 January 2006

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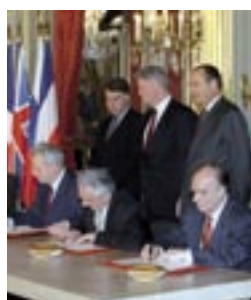
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Front cover: Illustration by Ray Bartkus for *OSCE Magazine*. Back cover: Illustration on the Dayton negotiations by Ray Bartkus for *Time Magazine*, 6 November 1995.

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