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OSCE

MAGA

ZINE

The cartoon issue: Turning crisis into opportunity
Reconciling rights and responsibilities

Police and ethnic minorities:
Unleashing the power of partnerships

For peace's sake:
Serbian journalists go "on the war path"



tolerance

mutual respect

freedoms

rights

understanding



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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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- Secretariat, *Vienna*
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Message from the Chairman-in-Office

Three months into my term as Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, I am pleased to have this opportunity of giving a brief overview of the Chairmanship's activities so far.

Right at the outset, one of our priorities was facilitating progress in ending the frozen conflicts in Moldova-Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia. Several visits to the region and high-level meetings have taken place, aimed at encouraging the parties to continue their dialogue and to contribute constructively to conflict settlement.

I visited Serbia and Montenegro in mid-February in view of the challenges that the State-Union is facing — most importantly, the discussion on the future status of Kosovo and the coming referendum in Montenegro.

We have also been engaged in raising the profile of the politico-military and the economic and environmental dimensions of the OSCE's work.

A high-level seminar in Vienna on 14 and 15 February examined the impact of globalization and technological developments on military doctrines. And the Economic Forum, following a new format, is focusing on the dual role of transport: fostering greater regional co-operation and stability, and enhancing security in the OSCE region.

The Chairmanship is devoting considerable attention to the human dimension as well. A comprehensive agenda of events has been drawn up, with valuable contributions from OSCE delegations and institutions. Democratization, human rights and fundamental freedoms are the subject of regular and candid discussions with participating States and NGOs, notably on my visits.

Promoting the ratification and implementation of the Palermo Convention against organized crime was the subject of a seminar organized with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in March. Other related events are scheduled for April and throughout the year.

Following the important decision taken at the Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana to strengthen the effectiveness of the OSCE, I am happy to say that our work in this area has begun. The Chairmanship hopes to conclude this matter at the Ministerial Council Meeting in Brussels at the end of the year.

Dealing with unexpected events is, obviously, a natural part of the Chairmanship's activities. We should always be prepared to tackle new challenges, such as those stemming from the energy debate sparked off early in the year, and the controversy regarding the publication of cartoons in some OSCE countries.

I stand ready to contribute as best I can towards a positive outcome to every one of these issues, highlights of which will be featured regularly in the *OSCE Magazine*.

Karel De Gucht
Foreign Minister of Belgium
31 March 2006



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Belgian Chairmanship website: www.osce2006.be

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