

## **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE (19 October – 25 October)**

### **Chairman-in-Office: OSCE Committed to Settling Transdniester Dispute**

CHISINAU - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel stressed the organisation's "commitment to finding a peaceful political settlement to the Transdniester question", after he held talks with senior officials in Moldova on 18 October. Chairman-in-Office also held talks with Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin and Transdniestrian leader Igor Smirnov. Talks with Smirnov touched on plans to stage elections in Transdniester in December. "The current situation in Transdniester does not create an atmosphere conducive for democratic elections in the region," Chairman-in-Office said.

### **Chairman-in-Office meets President Yushchenko**

KIEV - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel met Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on 19 October in Kiev for talks dedicated to the issue of Transdniester. Chairman-in-Office stressed there was little possibility that the OSCE could monitor elections planned in Transdniester in December. However, the Chairman-in-Office was optimistic about the possible outcome of the renewed negotiations, which are to take place in the 5+2 format on 27 October. This question was also discussed during his meeting with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk on 18 October.

### **Chairman-in-Office Meets Transdniester Mediators**

LJUBLJANA - OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel held a meeting with mediators on the Transdniester conflict from the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE as well as the US and the EU as observers on 21 October in Ljubljana. Chairman-in-Office stressed that the Chairmanship was intensifying its efforts to find a political settlement of the Transdniestrian question. He welcomed the enlargement of the negotiating format with representatives-observers from the EU and the US, who attended the meeting for the first time. The Chairman-in-Office also stressed that a lack of progress towards a settlement would only foster instability and prevent economic progress of the region.

### **OSCE Determined to Improve Situation of Roma and Sinti**

WARSAW - An international conference on the plight of Roma, Sinti and Travellers took place on 20 and 21 October in Warsaw. The focus of the event was the implementation of the action plan for the improvement of the situation of the Roma and Sinti within the OSCE, the Council of Europe's relevant recommendations on Roma and Travellers, and relevant EU standards. Head of Slovenia's OSCE Task Force, Ambassador Boris Frlec emphasised the determination of many states and international organisations to improve the situation of Roma, Sinti and Travellers across Europe and to combat discrimination against these groups. The conference was organised jointly by the Slovenian OSCE Chairmanship, ODIHR, Poland's interior and foreign ministries, the Council of Europe, and the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia.