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I. Introduction

Since the end of the Cold War, the OSCE has been confronted with changing risks and challenges in Europe. Europe's division is behind us, but new risks and challenges have emerged. The last decade of the twentieth century saw atrocities of a kind that had not been experienced since the end of World War II. To deal with these new challenges, in the early 1990s, the CSCE process became institutionalized to the point where the CSCE became an Organization recognized by its participating States as being "a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation".

The OSCE is an integral part of the web of interlocking institutions which deal with European security, human rights and economic issues. In view of the broad spectrum and complex nature of security issues and challenges now facing Europe, mutually reinforcing co-operation between the OSCE and other security organizations and institutions is crucial. The 1994 Budapest Document entitled "Towards a Genuine Partnership in a New Era" marked the beginning of a discussion on a model of common and comprehensive security for Europe for the twenty-first century, based on OSCE principles and commitments. This process was given impetus by the 1996 Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the Twenty-First Century, in which the participating States pledged to "strengthen co-operation with other security organizations which are transparent and predictable in their actions, whose members individually and collectively adhere to OSCE principles and commitments, and whose membership is based on open and voluntary commitments".

Development of a framework for pragmatic co-operation between the OSCE and its international partners moved further ahead at the 1997 Copenhagen Ministerial Council, at which guidelines on an OSCE Charter on European Security were drawn up. These included a common concept for the development of co-operation between institutions, which set out the parameters of a Platform for Co-operative Security designed to "strengthen the mutually-reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area". With the adoption of the Charter for European Security, including the Platform for Co-operative Security, at the OSCE Summit which took place in Istanbul in November 1999, the OSCE participating States pledged "to further strengthen and develop co-operation with competent organizations on the basis of equality and in a spirit of partnership".

The Platform suggests a pragmatic ongoing exchange of information and the fostering of co-ordinated approaches to avoid duplication and to ensure the efficient use of resources. It offers the OSCE as an *ad hoc*, flexible framework for co-operation between the various mutually reinforcing efforts and as a forum for subregional co-operation.

In emphasizing the need to strengthen the mutually reinforcing nature of interactions between organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of multiple aspects of security within the OSCE area, the Platform tasks the Secretary General with the preparation of "an annual report for the Permanent Council on interaction between organizations and institutions in the OSCE area" in addition to the regular annual report of the Secretary General on OSCE activities. This is the first time that such an annual report has been prepared.

The Platform also spells out specific instruments and mechanisms for the development of co-operation between the OSCE and international organizations. At the headquarters level, it suggests the following mechanisms for the enhancement of co-operation: use of regular contacts, including meetings; a continuous framework for dialogue; increased transparency and

practical co-operation, including the identification of liaison officers or points of contact; cross-representation at appropriate meetings; and other arrangements intended to increase understanding of their respective conflict prevention tools.

At the field level, the Platform focuses on regular information exchanges and meetings, joint needs-assessment missions, secondment of experts by other organizations to the OSCE, appointment of liaison officers, development of common projects and field operations and joint training efforts.

The above-mentioned mechanisms for co-operation have in the past few years been used at both the headquarters and the field levels. Meetings and political consultations at the headquarters level have facilitated dialogue and exchanges of information in support of activities in the field.

The political consultations, carried out at the headquarters level, are designed to promote and assist the Organization's activities in the field. Co-operation in the field between the OSCE and other international organizations is focused on fulfilling the tasks defined by the OSCE decision-making bodies, while aiming at avoiding unnecessary duplication and waste of resources. Co-operation is pragmatic, and develops on a case-by-case basis.

At the headquarters level, following a well established practice, a wide array of meetings are regularly convened with international organizations and institutions. These include tripartite high-level meetings (United Nations and its agencies, OSCE, Council of Europe, European Commission, International Organization for Migration and International Committee of the Red Cross), target-oriented meetings in the same composition, "2+2" high-level meetings (OSCE and CoE) and working level meetings with various international organizations, including NATO, European Union/European Commission, Western European Union, Commonwealth of Independent States, etc. A number of international organizations are invited to attend the annual heads of missions meeting, as well as to participate in joint assessment missions. This framework of co-ordination and exchange helps to determine areas of co-operation and to address modalities of interaction.

The OSCE Institutions, namely, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM), contribute to the strengthening of co-operation with international organizations and institutions through their field projects and meetings at headquarters level. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) is also instrumental in reinvigorating interaction with international organizations through the 'Parliamentary Troikas' (comprised of representatives of the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly) and the election observation missions (usually comprised of representatives of the same institution as above, with the addition of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly). Staff members of the OSCE Institutions and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly maintain regular contact with their counterparts. The common aim is to identify realistic ways of ensuring complementarity of methods and actions, while maximizing the use of resources, and reducing the risk of contradictory assessments and a divergence in positions.

Tripartite high-level meetings of experts, held since 1993, have provided a forum for the exchange of information between the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the OSCE. The tripartite high-level meetings, held annually, involve the Chairmanships and Secretaries General of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, as well as the Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva. Beginning in 1996, participation in the tripartite meeting was enlarged to include the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

and the Director of the ODIHR, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This year, for the first time, the European Commission was also invited to participate.

Target-oriented meetings in an expanded tripartite format have been another useful tool for co-ordinating activities regarding problems pertaining to a given region or major issues emerging in different regions. These *ad hoc* meetings, such as the meeting on police and law enforcement held this year, are particularly useful in co-ordinating the participating organizations' efforts on particular issues. Participation in the target-oriented meetings varies, but usually includes representatives of the OSCE Secretariat and Missions, the ODIHR, the HCNM, the UN and its specialized agencies, the ICRC and the Council of Europe.

One of the OSCE's closest partners is the **United Nations**. At the 1992 Helsinki Summit, the participating States declared the OSCE (at the time the CSCE) to be "a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations". On the basis of further guidelines established by the Stockholm Ministerial Council Meeting of December 1992, the UN Secretary-General and the CSCE Chairman-in-Office exchanged letters in May 1993 on a framework for co-operation and co-ordination between the United Nations Secretariat and the CSCE. Likewise, the United Nations gave the CSCE observer status at the UN in the same year. The two Organizations maintain contact through regular UN consultations with the OSCE Chairmanship, as well as through consultations between the two Secretariats.

Perhaps the best example of the close and innovative co-operation between the OSCE and the UN is the work of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, which represents a distinct pillar of UNMIK and bears responsibility for a number of tasks set forth in the OSCE-UN agreement. Moreover, the OSCE Mission participates in joint institutions created by UNMIK to administer the province in preparation for self-governance under the Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS). The OSCE has assumed responsibility for one Administrative Department, that of Democratic Governance and Civil Society Support, and participates, therefore, in the governance of the province.

In Croatia, the OSCE took on the unprecedented role of deploying civilian police monitors in the Croatian Danube region following the expiration of the mandate of the United Nations Police Support Group (UNPSG). The smooth handover from the United Nations was made possible by close co-operation.

Tajikistan affords another example of important collaboration between the UN and the OSCE in implementation of peace accords. Co-ordinated efforts by the two Organizations have been the driving force in the implementation of the general Agreement on Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan.

The assignment of one of the members of the OSCE Mission in Georgia to the United Nations Human Rights Office in Sukhumi, Georgia, has been another mutually useful method of co-operation. Through this assignment, the two Organizations have effectively consolidated co-operation in the human dimension.

An innovative method of collaboration between the OSCE and the UN in the field is the establishment of joint structures. The Return Facilitation Group, co-chaired by the OSCE and the UNHCR in Croatia, has been a useful mechanism for co-ordinating the return of refugees

and internally displaced persons in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and avoiding duplication of efforts.

UNICEF's involvement in the consultations on the draft of the OSCE Ministerial Council decision on children's rights broke new ground in relations between the OSCE and UNICEF. This involvement followed UNICEF's participation in the 2000 Human Dimension Seminar, which assessed the plight of children in armed conflict.

Relations are very close with the **Council of Europe**. At OSCE meetings, a representative of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe sits in the national delegation of the member State holding the Council of Europe Presidency. This arrangement has enabled the Council of Europe to participate in both formal and informal OSCE deliberations.

Since 1993, **bilateral ("2+2") high-level meetings** have been held regularly, between the Chairmen and Secretaries General of the OSCE and the Council of Europe. Participants on the OSCE side usually include the Chairman-in-Office, the Secretary General, the Heads of OSCE Institutions and the Head of the Section for External Co-operation. On the Council of Europe side, participants include the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, the Secretary General, the Chairman of the Rapporteur Group on Relations with the OSCE (GR-OSCE), other relevant rapporteur groups, and the Director for Political Affairs. The "2+2" high-level meetings address topical issues related to co-operation in the field, as well as issues related to the enhancement of the organizations' capabilities.

Since 1999, additional "2+2" meetings have also been held at the level of senior officials, with the aim of identifying concrete opportunities for co-operation. Such exchanges of information, at the headquarters level, have been instrumental in focusing the activities of both organizations, by avoiding overlapping and developing complementarity of activities.

Following the practice first established in 1998, co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE continued to develop through the OSCE's participation in the Council of Europe Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group on Relations Between the Council of Europe and the OSCE (GR-OSCE). The GR-OSCE meetings provide an important venue for reviewing and exchanging ideas on co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

This year, co-operation with the Council of Europe was further strengthened, with the signing of the Common Catalogue of Co-operation Modalities by the Secretaries General of the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The Catalogue was elaborated by the Secretariats of the two organizations following a series of discussions guided by the recommendations of the Council of Europe's Committee of Wise Persons and elaboration of the OSCE Platform for Co-operative Security. The Catalogue is a reflection of the scope and modalities of co-operation which seeks to preserve the institutional memory.

The Council of Europe and the OSCE have co-operated closely, in particular in the context of human rights, rule of law issues and election monitoring. The Council has been involved in the drafting of legislation in many of the countries with an OSCE presence. This has been done in co-ordination with the OSCE Missions, which have provided background information.

Following the drawing-up of terms of reference with the CoE, UNMIK and OMiK, which were exchanged in the form of letters on 23 June 2000, the Council of Europe observed the OSCE-organized municipal elections in Kosovo. The terms of reference also provided for the Council of Europe to monitor the registration process in Kosovo.

Another constructive way of addressing developments in the field is through the issue of joint statements. This year, the ODIHR issued joint preliminary statements with the Council of Europe Secretariat and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the occasion of the parliamentary and presidential elections in Croatia and the presidential elections in the Russian Federation.

The Council of Europe for the first time seconded its experts to the OSCE in 1999. In 2000, the Council of Europe overall seconded nine experts to the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. In July 2000, the Council of Europe also established a Secretariat presence in the Office of the ODIHR in Podgorica, which allows for close and pragmatic co-operation in efforts to assist Montenegro's reform process.

Initiatives undertaken by the CoE to support the work of the Russian Presidential Special Representative for Human Rights in Chechnya, Mr. Kalamonov, are closely co-ordinated with the OSCE/ODIHR. The ODIHR has also provided technical assistance to Mr. Kalamonov's office.

The OSCE also maintains a close association with the **European Union (EU)**. At OSCE meetings, the national delegation of the member State holding the Presidency of the EU - which also includes the **European Commission (EC)** permanent representative - speaks on behalf of all the States that make up the European Union. This allows the European Commission officials to follow discussions from the inside.

The European Commission and the OSCE have co-operated on the human dimension, where EC programmes often closely relate to OSCE activities. A recent innovative example of field co-operation is the joint effort of the EC and the OSCE to repair and open the Gura-Biculi Bridge in Moldova, on the main highway between Brest and Odessa. The project was initiated by the OSCE Mission and is financed by the European Commission. The reconstruction is the joint effort of Moldovan and Trans-Dniestrian authorities.

In several OSCE mission areas, co-operation takes place through regular meetings between mission and Commission staff on concrete projects. In some mission areas the European Commission has financed projects which stemmed from memoranda of understanding signed between OSCE/ODIHR and the host country.

Since 1996, the OSCE and **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** have been engaged in an expanding process of interaction and co-operation. Since 1999, working level meetings have been organized with NATO, with the aim of identifying concrete possibilities for co-operation. These meetings facilitate an exchange of information and experience between the OSCE and NATO.

NATO's Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina has provided vital support to the OSCE Mission during elections. Also, co-operation between the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the OSCE Mission in Kosovo has been productive. KFOR has established a Liaison Office within the OSCE Mission. The Liaison Office provides regular information on KFOR and OSCE activities in both directions. KFOR has also co-operated with the OSCE Mission on security requirements for the municipal elections.

OSCE annual economic fora are an important venue for the exchange of information between international organizations and the OSCE on economic and environmental issues.

Since the appointment of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities in the OSCE Secretariat in 1998, links with economic and financial organizations and institutions,

particularly the UN-ECE, the EBRD, the OECD, the European Commission and the World Bank have increased significantly. An important part of the Co-ordinator's mandate is to enhance OSCE interaction with relevant international organizations, and to minimize the amount of overlapping between the work of the OSCE in the economic dimension and that of other organizations.

Annual heads of missions meetings have been held since 1995 with the participation of representatives of international partner organizations. These meetings facilitate exchanges of experience, concepts and ideas.

Bilateral contacts are another important feature of co-operation. To facilitate co-operation at the bilateral level, the OSCE Secretariat has established points of contact which ensure liaison with the headquarters of our partner organizations. Bilateral meetings with partner organizations are held at all levels (Chairman-in-Office, Secretary General, senior official and routine). These meetings have frequently been used to address particular concerns. Moreover, mutual visits have been a useful mechanism for deepening co-operation between organizations.

Furthermore, since 1998, the OSCE has been co-operating with other international organizations and institutions in OSCE mission member **training efforts**, particularly in human dimension issues.

A pragmatic example of OSCE **co-ordination of activities by the international community**, both nationally and internationally, is provided by the Friends of Albania Group, which is co-chaired by the OSCE Presence in Albania and the European Union Mission. This flexible co-ordinating framework for international efforts is an excellent example of OSCE's ability to co-operate with other international organizations, including the United Nations and international financial institutions. The Group brings together bilateral and multilateral donors, together with a number of major non-governmental organizations. The Friends of Albania Group is engaged at both the local and the international levels in addressing the question of co-ordination and co-operation among international organizations. The Group provides a forum for information sharing, consultation and co-ordination on political, financial, economic and security-related matters with respect to Albania.

The Platform for Co-operative Security offers the OSCE "as a forum for sub-regional co-operation". Accordingly, a number of new initiatives have been developed that deal with regional issues in South-Eastern Europe. Certain perspectives are also opening up in the case of Central Asia.

The **Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe**, which has been placed under the auspices of the OSCE, serves as a forum for the development of closer co-operation between the OSCE and international organizations and institutions in that region. The OSCE Permanent Council was tasked by the Istanbul Summit Declaration to develop a regional strategy to support the aims of the Stability Pact. On 16 March 2000, the OSCE Permanent Council adopted a decision on the regional strategy for South-Eastern Europe. Under the OSCE regional strategy, projects have been developed based on expertise in the missions which address issues transcending national borders.

The co-operation and contribution of OSCE institutions and instruments and the provision of expertise to the proceedings of the Stability Pact's Regional Table and Working Tables has provided an important opportunity for interaction with international organizations.

An **information-sharing meeting on Central Asia** was held for the first time this year. The meeting, convened by the OSCE Secretary General in his capacity as Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Central Asia, brought together international organizations, international financial institutions and bilateral donors with projects in Central Asia. The meeting provided a forum at which a wide range of issues specific to Central Asia were addressed.

Co-operation with international organizations is expected to grow with the establishment of the **Operations Centre** in the OSCE Secretariat. This new structure has been the subject of a number of meetings, as the OSCE has sought to learn about the experience of its partner organizations with similar instruments and to explore ways for partners to contribute to each other's efforts.

II. Co-operation at Headquarters Level

In line with the Platform for Co-operative Security, adopted at the Istanbul Summit, which calls on the OSCE to “strengthen the mutually reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area”, the OSCE, throughout 2000, continued the practice of consultations with its partners at the headquarters level. Co-operation and political consultations at the headquarters level are crucial for strengthening mutually reinforcing relationships and fostering co-ordinated approaches that avoid duplication and ensure efficient use of available resources. Synergy among international organizations and institutions is paramount in early warning, conflict prevention, conflict management, and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts. Duplication of efforts results in a waste of scarce resources and may inhibit the overall efforts of international organizations, since certain activities are likely to receive undue attention while others may scarcely be touched upon. Duplication of efforts also enables the actors in the field to play one organization off against the other, especially in crisis situations.

The Platform for Co-operative Security specifies a wide array of consultation mechanisms and modalities for co-operation with international organizations and institutions. Many of these consultative mechanisms have been used in recent years. A new trend in co-operation with international organizations has, developed during the reporting period as a result of the decision that was adopted at the Istanbul Summit to establish the Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT) and the Operations Centre. Another important trend this year has been the increasing emphasis on regional approaches.

As in recent years, one of the highlights of co-operation at the headquarters level was a tripartite high-level meeting, held on 25 February 2000 in Geneva, between the Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and the Chairmanships and Secretaries General of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, as well as other participating organizations. The meeting facilitated an exchange of information about the activities of participating organizations in South-Eastern Europe, including Kosovo. The main focus of discussion was progress towards peace and stability in South-Eastern Europe. Participants reviewed their organizations' activities in support of the Stability Pact, and agreed on the need to improve co-ordination in respect of the working tables, where the comparative advantage of each organization should be maximized in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

The participants also considered the outcome of the **target-oriented meeting** on law enforcement, in particular the police, which was convened at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 24 February. The target-oriented meeting was held at expert level in an expanded

tripartite format. At the meeting, the experiences gained and the lessons learned in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) were shared.

The participation of OSCE experts in the target-oriented meeting was all the more important given the particular attention the Charter for European Security pays to police monitoring and police training. The Charter emphasizes the need to enhance “the OSCE’s role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the Organization’s efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation”.

Based on the experiences presented at the target-oriented meeting, a need was expressed to improve the interlinkages between standard-setting, field work and training. The importance of recruiting standards and training, both prior to mission deployment and during missions, was also addressed.

In addition to the tripartite and the target-oriented meetings, the OSCE Chairperson and the Secretary General met, in December 1999, with senior United Nations officials in New York. The meetings addressed institutional co-operation, and in particular, the innovative relationship between the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations. Other important opportunities for co-operation between the OSCE and the United Nations were discussed during consultations between the OSCE Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, Ms. Louise Frechette, in New York in April 2000.

During the reporting period, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General attended the annual session of the UN General Assembly in 1999, at which a report on co-operation between the UN and the OSCE, prepared by the UN Secretariat, was discussed and approved. The UN Secretary-General also addressed the OSCE Summit in Istanbul.

Matters concerning co-operation and developments in the field were addressed at the OSCE Permanent Council by Special Representatives of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. For example, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Bosnia-Herzegovina addressed the Permanent Council on 3 February 2000, while the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo addressed it on 4 May 2000.

Relations between the **Council of Europe** (CoE) and the OSCE continued to develop throughout 2000. This year, a “2+2” high-level meeting was organized in Vienna on 12 April. The meeting focused on the co-ordination of policies and explored potential areas of co-operation. Particular emphasis was placed on developments and the involvement of the two organizations in Chechnya, Kosovo, Montenegro, Moldova and Belarus. Other important points of focus included the human dimension, especially minority issues, and the development of the REACT concept by the OSCE.

Following the “2+2” high-level meeting in April, the Secretaries General of the OSCE and the Council of Europe signed a *Common Catalogue of Co-operation Modalities*, which focuses on the co-operation between the two organizations. The Catalogue, prepared by the Secretariats of the OSCE and the Council of Europe, reflects the two organizations’ commitment to the mutual reinforcement of action and an attempt to guarantee institutional memory. It shows not only where the OSCE currently stands in its relationship with the Council of Europe, but also where it can and should go from here.

Another “2+2” high-level meeting took place in Rome on 31 October 2000, under the Italian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The participants discussed the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia after the elections, as well as developments in the Caucuses and Central Asia.

The “2+2” expert-level meeting, held in Vienna on 18 July 2000, dealt with current developments in South-Eastern Europe. It paid special attention to modalities of co-operation in crisis situations and to co-operation within the framework of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe.

Following the practice first established in 1998, co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE continued to be further strengthened by the Council of Europe Ministers’ Deputies’ Rapporteur Group on relations between the Council of Europe and the OSCE (GR-OSCE). In line with existing practice, the OSCE participated in and addressed the meetings of the GR-OSCE. Representatives of both the OSCE Chairmanship and the Secretariat contributed to the meetings, which proved to be an important forum for an exchange of ideas on agenda-setting and co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

Co-operation between the two organizations was given new impetus by visits of high-level officials on both sides. For example, the OSCE Chairperson addressed the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in January 2000, and also participated in the 106th session of the Committee of Ministers on 11 May 2000. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe also addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 30 March 2000. The impetus was further reinforced by an address of the OSCE Secretary General at the meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies of the Council of Europe on 18 May 2000.

Likewise, co-operation with the **European Union (EU)** continued to expand throughout the reporting period. As the EU is developing a new policy on civil conflict management along lines similar to the OSCE’s policy, consultations in Brussels focused on conflict management capabilities and REACT and co-operative interaction between the two organizations.

The OSCE Secretary General met with Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU General Affairs Council, in December 1999, and with Christopher Patten, Commissioner of the External Relations Directorate-General, on the margins of the inauguration of President Mesic of Croatia, in Zagreb, in February 2000. On both occasions, views were exchanged on areas of co-operation.

Representatives of the OSCE Secretariat were invited to participate in a meeting, on 22 November 1999, on the topic of conflict-management capabilities of the European Union. The meeting was followed up by discussions in early February 2000 on REACT, conflict-management capabilities and future co-operative interaction between senior officials of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and the Secretariat of the EU Council. At the invitation of the Policy Unit and Early Warning Unit (PPEWU) of the Council of the European Union, REACT and possible EU participation in it were discussed between the OSCE and the European Union in Brussels on 16 March 2000.

Upon an initiative of the French Presidency of the EU, a meeting was held by the EU (EC, Council Secretariat, Presidency, and delegations) on civilian aspects of crisis management with the UN, Council of Europe, and the OSCE, in Brussels on 24 October. The meeting provided an opportunity for a first exchange of information and recommendations on civilian crisis management. This meeting was followed by a meeting on 25 October on “strengthening of the rule of law in the context of crisis management”. Close co-operation on police activities was identified as a priority. Strengthening of co-operation in the field of the rule of law was recognized as an important area of co-operation.

Links between the Political Affairs Division of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** and the OSCE Secretariat continued to develop along the lines set out in the Platform for Co-operative Security. The practice of holding regular senior staff meetings that was

established in 1999 continued in 2000. At the meetings, experts shared the lessons learned from field activities and discussed the co-ordination of activities in the light of the establishment of the OSCE Operations Centre.

During the working-level meeting in February 2000, NATO officials presented to the OSCE the lessons learned from its engagement in Kosovo. A second working-level meeting took place in July 2000. The meeting addressed topical issues of interest for OSCE-NATO co-operation, such as the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and the Caucasus.

In February 2000, the OSCE was invited to observe the CRISEX 2000 exercises, which provided OSCE officials with first-hand insight into NATO and Western European Union (WEU) crisis management processes in action.

High-level visits such as that by the NATO Secretary General, Lord Robertson, and his address at the OSCE Permanent Council on 2 November 2000, have been another useful mechanism for furthering co-operation between the two Organizations.

A representative of the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Secretariat** visited the OSCE Secretariat on two occasions in the reporting year. The meetings between the representatives of the CIS and the OSCE helped the two organizations increase mutual awareness about their respective activities.

Partner international organizations and institutions were also invited to the **1999 Istanbul Summit of the Heads of State or Government**. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the Secretary General of NATO addressed the Summit and others were given the possibility to submit written contributions.

The **Annual Heads of Mission Meeting** has provided another important forum for the multilateral exchange of information, experience and ideas between the OSCE and its partner organizations. The participants in this year's Annual Heads of Mission Meeting, held in June, included the Council of Europe (CoE), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The meeting was useful in familiarizing the representatives of the international organizations with the challenges faced by the OSCE missions in the field and with opportunities for co-operation.

This year, following an initiative by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), Mary Robinson, at the Permanent Council of the OSCE in June 1998, the OSCE continued to participate in the development of a joint approach to **human rights training** for field missions. In this context, a human rights training needs assessment mission to Kosovo, consisting of representatives from the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the UNHCHR and the EU, took place from 29 May to 2 June.

Training in human rights was also the subject of consultations between the Council of Europe and the OSCE Training and Capacity-Building Unit which took place in Strasbourg on 3 and 4 July 2000. The consultations explored possible forms of co-operation between the two organizations in human rights training as well in that of training in the rule of law and democratization.

A meeting of training experts from participating States was organized by the OSCE in Vienna, on 17 July 2000. Representatives of the UN, the CoE and the EU took part in the meeting.

The OSCE's activities relating to **economic and environmental challenges to security** constitute another important field for co-operation. In addressing these challenges, the OSCE Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) continued his work throughout 2000 to intensify contacts with international agencies and economic institutions. The OCEEA's efforts resulted in several rounds of consultations with, *inter alia*, the UN/ECE, UNDP, UNEP, and other parts of the UN system, both at headquarters and in the field, such as UNODCCP, UNHCR and ILO; the European Commission (in Brussels); the EBRD; the OECD; the IAEA; the Council of Europe; the World Bank and various NATO departments. The OCEEA participated in many meetings hosted by international organizations and international financial institutions.

Co-operation in the economic field was further discussed in a meeting between the OSCE Secretary General and representatives of the EBRD in London, in March 2000. The Secretary General held further talks on the same topic with representatives of the IMF, the World Bank and the EBRD, on the margins of the Eurasian Economic Summit in Almaty, held in April 2000.

As part of the OCEEA's ongoing activities, the **Eighth Economic Forum** was held in Prague from 11 to 14 April 2000. Major international organizations and international financial institutions participated in the Forum, which focused on economic aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation: the challenges of transformation. As a follow-up to the Eighth Economic Forum, the Austrian Chair organized a seminar in Vienna from 5-6 October on how to optimize inter-institutional relations in the economic and environmental field.

Joint endeavours in the economic and environmental sphere in Europe were also the subject of attention by high-level representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe at the OSCE Permanent Council. The Permanent Council was addressed by the Executive Director of the UN/ECE, Yves Berthelot, on 1 June 2000. On 14 September, the Executive Secretary of the UN/ECE, Danuta Hübner, addressed the Permanent Council during a special session devoted to the economic dimension.

It is noteworthy that in the past year an important trend in co-operation with international organizations has emerged. There is a growing focus on strengthening of regional approaches as a means of addressing challenges in the OSCE area.

Subregional co-operation has become an important element in enhancing security across the OSCE area. The Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, which has been placed under the auspices of the OSCE, is an example of OSCE's active involvement at the regional level. The OSCE Permanent Council also adopted a decision on the regional strategy for South-Eastern Europe, on 16 March 2000. In the case of Central Asia, where each country is different and is faced with its own challenges, it has been recognized that some topics deserve attention at the regional level.

During the reporting period, there has been an increase in the contribution of the OSCE, its institutions and instruments and their expertise to the proceedings of the **Stability Pact** Regional Table and the working tables. The Stability Pact working tables have provided the OSCE with another venue for interaction with international organizations, including regional initiatives in the countries of South-Eastern Europe.

The OSCE has been assigned the lead in certain task forces of the Working Tables, such as the Task Force on Gender under Working Table I and the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings under Working Table III. Also, the OSCE Chairmanship chairs the informal Working Group on Military Contacts of Working Table III. The OSCE participated in the

Stability Pact's Regional Funding Conference in March 2000. In 2000, of the 12 OSCE-led projects (of which some have been developed jointly with the Council of Europe) seven have been accepted for inclusion in the "Quick-Start Package" of the Stability Pact.

The Stability Pact's senior officials, chairs of working tables and chairs of task forces have reported to the OSCE Permanent Council and have had bilateral meetings with OSCE officials. For example, the Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact, Bodo Hombach, addressed the Permanent Council on 20 January 2000, and the Chair of Working Table III on Security Issues, Kim Traavik, addressed the Permanent Council on 17 February and on 19 October 2000. Earlier in the year, the Chair of Working Table I on Human Rights and Democratization, Panagiotis Roumeliotis, was in Vienna for an exchange of views.

More recently, the first item on the OSCE Permanent Council's agenda of 7 September 2000 was the Regional Return Initiative under the Stability Pact. Hans Koschnik, Chairman of the Stability Pact Steering Committee for the Return of Refugees, delivered a statement on the current state of affairs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

In an effort to foster regional and international co-operation in countering threats caused by drugs, organized crime and terrorism, the ODCCP and the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship co-organized an **international conference on "Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: An Integrated Approach to Counter Drugs, Organized Crime and Terrorism"**, which took place on 19/20 October in Tashkent. Representatives of more than 60 states and more than 40 international organizations and non-governmental organizations participated. At the conference, two documents were endorsed by the five States of Central Asia. The Conference was opened by the Chairperson-in-Office, Austrian Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner, and the ODCCP Executive Director/UN Under-Secretary General Pino Arlacchi. The delegations from the five Central Asian countries were headed by ministers or deputy ministers. The five OSCE presences in Central Asia actively participated in the conduct and preparations.

The **information-sharing meeting on Central Asia**, held for the first time this year, with international organizations, international financial institutions and bilateral donors, is another innovative approach to addressing regional challenges. The meeting was convened by the OSCE Secretary General as the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Central Asia in July 2000. The meeting provided for an exchange of information and ideas on improving co-operation among the 15 organizations which participated in the meeting and are active in the region. The meeting focused on enhancing co-operation in combating drug trafficking, extremism and terrorism.

Co-operation at the headquarters level this year allowed the OSCE to effectively address a number of complex situations which required a multi-institutional and a multi-faceted response. Political consultations at the headquarters level have helped enhance the potential for such a response by establishing the needed support and the framework for co-operation at the field level.

IV. OSCE Institutions

1. Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

1.1 European Union

1.1.1 European Commission (EC)

Following the model of the Central Asia Programme, the ODIHR and the European Commission, together with the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Minsk, started in 2000 to implement a joint programme aimed at creating improved conditions for democratization and the establishment of a pluralistic political system in Belarus.

As part of its efforts to formalize co-operation between international organizations on Roma and Sinti issues by establishing a European contact group on Roma affairs, the ODIHR Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues supported, as a first step, the establishment of an informal contact group on Roma. In addition to the ODIHR and the Council of Europe, the European Commission was represented at the first meetings of this group in 2000.

In the field of election observation and technical assistance, the ODIHR, together with the European Commission, participated in a joint needs-assessment mission to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to assess the election environment prior to the municipal elections and to identify possibilities for technical assistance projects. The International Election Observation Mission set up for the Russian presidential elections closely co-operated with the EU Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) project on capacity building in the field of election monitoring. The European Commission was closely associated with the discussions on the establishment of an international election observation mission for the Belarus parliamentary elections.

1.1.2 European Parliament (EP)

The European Parliament takes part in election observation missions on an ad hoc basis. In December 1999, Members of the European Parliament monitored the Russian parliamentary elections, and a joint preliminary statement was issued together with the ODIHR. The European Parliament attended the technical meetings on the establishment of an international election observation mission for the Belarus parliamentary elections.

1.2 Council of Europe (CoE)

In the framework of the Stability-Pact for South Eastern Europe, the ODIHR co-operated with the Council of Europe in the context of the established mechanisms of the working tables and task forces. The ODIHR was involved in the OSCE-Council of Europe Prison Reform Project in South-Eastern Europe, a joint initiative aimed at improving detention conditions and prison management in the countries of the region. Also, both the ODIHR and the Council of

Europe are involved in the development of a legislative website for users in South Eastern Europe.

In July 2000, a Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe joined the ODIHR Office in Montenegro, pursuant to an earlier suggestion of the Office, in order to advance institutional co-operation on the ground between the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

In Ukraine, the ODIHR, together with the CoE, co-ordinated a comprehensive review of the country's human rights legislation. Several joint workshops on specific legislation are planned for the future.

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, the ODIHR and the Council of Europe co-operated on prison service training projects. Joint meetings with experts from both organizations and both countries are planned for the future.

With regard to support for ombudsman institutions, the ODIHR and the Council of Europe co-ordinate their activities on an ongoing informal basis.

The initiatives undertaken by the ODIHR to support the work of the Russian Presidential Special Representative for Human Rights in Chechnya, Mr. Kalamonov, were closely co-ordinated with the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe consulted with the ODIHR while organizing the "International Seminar on Co-ordinated Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings in South-Eastern Europe: Towards a Regional Action Plan". The ODIHR Adviser on Trafficking Issues served as moderator for the seminar's working group on prevention activities. In the future, the ODIHR will seek to co-ordinate legislative review efforts with the Council of Europe in this field and to collaborate with it on legal reform assistance projects.

The ODIHR, in co-operation with the Council of Europe and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, prepared a commentary on Georgia's draft law on restoration of property and housing rights of refugees and internally displaced persons.

The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues consolidated its co-operation with the Council of Europe during 2000. The ODIHR and the Council of Europe, *inter alia*, jointly developed a comprehensive programme on Roma under the Stability Pact and presented it to various donors. The Council of Europe was represented at initial meetings of an informal contact group on Roma, the establishment of which was supported by the ODIHR Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues as part of its efforts to formalize co-operation between international organizations on Roma and Sinti issues by establishing a European contact group on Roma affairs.

As regards the monitoring of elections, the ODIHR issued preliminary statements jointly with the Council of Europe Secretariat and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on several elections, including the parliamentary and presidential elections in Croatia, and the presidential elections in the Russian Federation. The two organizations regularly exchanged information on election-related issues regarding specific countries such as Azerbaijan, Belarus, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Secretariat of the Council of Europe and the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly joined the discussions and consultations on possible international observation of the parliamentary elections in Belarus.

The ODIHR exchanged information on local elections, such as those in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania, with the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

The ODIHR intensified its co-operation and consultation with the Venice Commission on the review of electoral laws. The Venice Commission and the ODIHR consulted each other and exchanged comments on the review of the Belarusian Law on Parliamentary Elections, on the constitutional referendum in Ukraine and on the Azerbaijani Law on Parliamentary Elections. The Venice Commission was also associated with the round table organized in Albania on the elaboration of the new electoral code.

1.3 United Nations

1.3.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

Co-operation between the ODIHR and the Office of the UNHCHR was formalized with the signing of a co-operation agreement in 1998.

In the context of the ongoing co-operation between the ODIHR, the headquarters of the UNHCHR and the UNHCHR office in Bosnia and Herzegovina provided an expert who collaborated with ODIHR staff and the OSCE Presence in Albania to develop a new training component on policing the human rights of women.

The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues established contact with the UNHCHR in preparation for the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance, which will take place in South Africa in 2001.

In Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the ODIHR co-operated with the UNHCHR on support for ombudsman projects. The ODIHR and the UNHCHR also consulted closely in developing their legal reform initiatives in Tajikistan.

1.3.2 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Co-operation between the ODIHR and the UNHCR is based on a formal exchange of letters that took place in 1998.

In 2000, the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues closely co-operated with the UNHCR on activities related to Roma refugees from Kosovo and internally displaced persons. In September, two joint meetings on the legal status of Roma refugees from Kosovo were held in Skopje. In addition, the ODIHR organized working group meetings for Kosovo refugees in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in collaboration with the UNHCR.

The ODIHR also co-operated with the UNHCR in the preparation of an international consultation meeting on Roma refugees and asylum seekers on 23 October in Warsaw.

The UNHCR was involved with the ODIHR and the Council of Europe in preparing a commentary on Georgia's draft law on restoration of property and housing rights of refugees and internally displaced persons.

With the UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the ODIHR continued to co-sponsor the follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring Countries, held in Geneva in 1996.

The ODIHR and the UNHCR co-sponsored three workshops on international law standards for judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers in Uzbekistan.

In Armenia, as part of a human rights public awareness project, the ODIHR, with support from the UNHCR, produced a programme on the rights of refugees.

1.3.3 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The participation of representatives of UNICEF in the 2000 Human Dimension Seminar, and their involvement in the consultations on the draft of the OSCE Ministerial Council decision on children's rights, broke new ground in establishing working relations between the two organizations.

1.4 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The ODIHR carried out projects to combat trafficking in human beings in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), including a research project in Kyrgyzstan and a project providing technical assistance to the Ukrainian National Council for the Prevention of Trafficking. In the future, the ODIHR plans to increase its co-ordination and collaboration with the IOM in this sphere, especially in the Balkans, Central Asia, Russian Federation and Moldova. The ODIHR and the IOM also exchanged information on specific cases of trafficked individuals and joined efforts to facilitate the repatriation of trafficking victims.

The ODIHR carried out its human rights training programme for Kyrgyz border officials in co-operation with the IOM. ODIHR also supported the implementation of the IOM programme on the voluntary return of refused asylum seekers from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania.

Together with the IOM and the UNHCR, the ODIHR was one of the sponsoring agencies of the follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring Countries that took place in Geneva in 1996.

1.5 World Bank (WB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

In 2000, the ODIHR increased its exchange of information with the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The ODIHR agreed with the Minister of Justice of Kazakhstan to supplement the World Bank project for the development of a judicial training facility by providing training for the

judges who will teach at the facility and working on the development of the criminal justice curriculum.

1.6 Other joint efforts with international organizations

In a first co-operative endeavour with the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internal Displacement, the ODIHR jointly organized a Regional Workshop on Internal Displacement in the Southern Caucasus.

The ODIHR contributed to the Conference on Countering Drugs, Organized Crime and Terrorism in Central Asia, which was jointly organized by the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, by preparing a paper on the role of democratization in combating drugs, organized crime and terrorism.

In January, the United Nations and the ODIHR established a joint election observation mission in Tajikistan to monitor the first parliamentary elections after the end of the civil war in that country.

The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict appeared as a keynote speaker at the ODIHR's seminar on this issue. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture also serves on the ODIHR's Panel of Experts on Prevention of Torture.

2. High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

2.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

During the reporting period, the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) maintained a fruitful, positive and mutually supportive co-operation with the Council of Europe on issues under his mandate. This has included frequent consultations at expert level.

At the first meeting of the Working Table on Democratization and Human Rights of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the Task Force on Human Rights and National Minorities was created. The activities of the Task Force are being co-ordinated by a steering group of the HCNM and the Council of Europe. On 16 December 1999, the High Commissioner met with the Council of Europe's Political Director, Mr. Furrer, in Skopje, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in order to discuss Task Force projects. The Task Force has concentrated its efforts on drafting the report on the promotion of multi-ethnic societies and democratic citizenship in South-Eastern Europe, which was presented at the conference on inter-ethnic relations and minorities in South-Eastern Europe in Portorož, Slovenia, on 16 and 17 March 2000.

On 6 January, the HCNM met with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Schwimmer, and with the Council of Europe's Committee of Permanent Representatives in Strasbourg, and had discussions on a broad range of issues.

On 8 April, a representative of the Council of Europe participated in a meeting in Brussels with the HCNM and his experts in preparation for a feasibility study on higher education in the Albanian language in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Concerning Latvia, the HCNM has co-operated very closely with the lawyers of the Human Rights Department of the Council of Europe. Three joint missions were dispatched to Latvia to assist the Latvian authorities in drafting the language regulations for the implementation of the State Language Law adopted in December 1999. In April, June and August 2000, these missions discussed the draft regulations initially with two drafting commissions under the Ministry of Justice, and in August with Latvia's Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice. As a result, at the end of August, the Latvian Government adopted implementing regulations, which are essentially in conformity with both the Law and Latvia's international obligations.

2.2 United Nations

The HCNM, in co-operation with the ODIHR, continued to support the UNDP and the UNHCR in their efforts aimed at establishing ombudsman institutions in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

2.2.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Co-operation between the HCNM and the UNHCR is based on a formal arrangement established by means of an exchange of letters between Mr. Max van der Stoel and Ms. Sadako Ogata. Joint consultations at expert level were held twice, in December 1999 and in May 2000. During the reporting period, the two offices continued to exchange of information on the potential tensions and instabilities pertaining to the situation of refugees and internally-displaced-persons in the OSCE area.

2.2.2 United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Jointly with the UNDP and the International Organization for Migration, the HCNM is preparing the Third Donor's Conference on Formerly Deported People of Crimea, which will take place on 6 December 2000.

In November 1999 in Almaty, a representative of the HCNM participated as a special guest speaker in the fifth regional meeting of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, on the role of ombudsman and national institutions in conflict prevention in cases involving national minorities.

2.3 Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

The Office of the HCNM is actively involved in the follow-up to the CIS Conference on Migration. The HCNM Office is the leading institution concerned with the formerly deported people of Crimea and, within the framework of its mandate, with issues related to the Meshketians and Meshketian Turks. In this capacity, the HCNM is the focal point for the International Organization for Migration, the Council of Europe, the UNHCR and the UNDP, as well as for the relevant NGOs.

3. Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM)

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, works in close co-operation with other relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Office of the Representative receives and evaluates information from the NGO network dealing with media issues. In this regard, some of the main partners are Reporters sans frontières, the International Press Institute, the Association of Independent Electronic Media in Serbia (ANEM) , *the Glasnost Foundation*. In his work with international governmental organizations, the OSCE Representative focuses on issues related to his mandate and most often co-operates with the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

3.1 United Nations and Organization of American States (OAS)

The OSCE Representative established regular contacts with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Abid Hussain, and with the OAS Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, Santiago Canton, and on 26 November 1999, signed a Joint Declaration on International Mechanisms for Promoting Freedom of Expression. This was the first document of its kind to be issued by the three international institutions mandated to protect freedom of expression.

The issues outlined in the Joint Declaration dealt, among other things, with the critical state of affairs regarding the media in the Organizations' Member States. The signatories noted that "Certain States have continued to exert and allow impermissible pressure on the media in their respective countries". They also stressed that "the media should refrain from any advocacy of national, racial and religious hatred that constitutes incitement of violence or to any other similar action".

On 3 May 2000, Freimut Duve, Abid Hussain and Santiago Canton issued a joint statement on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day about the harassment and killing of journalists in conflict situations. They urged Governments to "fully respect and protect the right to freedom of expression and the right of access to information in particular, by guaranteeing the security and safety of journalists in conflict and post-conflict areas". They also expressed concern regarding the lack of common principles on access of journalists to areas of conflict or tension and requested the international community to take adequate steps to ensure minimum standards applicable to all.

On 3 May 2000, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media met with Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to discuss further co-operation between the UN and the OSCE in promoting freedom of expression.

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media provided the UN with relevant material on the media situation in some OSCE participating States.

3.2 Council of Europe (CoE)

The Representative works closely with the Council of Europe on a number of country-related and structural issues, including exchange of information and joint meetings. On 2 December 1999, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the Council of Europe and Irex/ProMedia held a public round table in Kiev on free media and libel legislation in Ukraine, in co-operation with the Government of Ukraine and with the office of the OSCE

Project Co-ordinator. The round table, at the Foreign Affairs Institute of Kiev University, was attended by over 100 participants, among them Government and Parliament officials, judges, lawyers and journalists. As a result of the round table, specific recommendations were issued to the Government of Ukraine on promoting free media and reducing libel cases.

3.3 European Commission (EC)

The OSCE Representative through the financial support of the European Commission published a report on international assistance to the media in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo. The report, written by leading media expert Mark Thompson, is a unique study of post-conflict development of the media in South-Eastern Europe. This report is currently provided as a technical manual to OSCE media officers in the field and to interested United Nations, Council of Europe and European Union personnel. Reports and findings of the Representative are regularly made available to the European Union countries.

3.4 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The OSCE Representative, because of the nature of his work, is in close contact with media NGOs. They provide his office with information regarding specific cases of harassment of the media by OSCE participating Governments. Among the Representative's closest collaborators are Reporters sans frontières, the International Press Institute, the Association of Independent Electronic Media in Serbia, the Glasnost Foundation and the Freedom Forum. In his annual yearbook, *Freedom and Responsibility*, the OSCE Representative provides a comprehensive overview of media NGOs.

Prior to elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the OSCE Representative worked closely with Serbian NGOs that informed him of numerous cases of pressure on the independent media. In 1999, he also took advantage of the support of the German NGO Cap Anamur to publish children's books for the schools and libraries of Kosovo. These were distributed throughout the province in early 2000.

4. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

During the 1991 Madrid Organizational Conference concerning the establishment of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA), it was decided that one of the main criteria for the work of the Assembly would be willingness to use the resources of other European parliamentary institutions, including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament. It was also stressed that close ties should be established between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other international parliamentary bodies.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has continually called for increased co-operation between the OSCE and other international organizations. In the declarations adopted by the OSCE PA over the past years, it has been recognized that the OSCE has a central role to play in promoting all aspects of European security among participating States, but at the same time it has been stressed that co-operation between regional institutions is essential in order to ensure mutually reinforcing actions. Therefore, OSCE parliamentarians have recommended that the

OSCE should make use of the organizational capabilities, experience and infrastructure of other regional organizations, such as the Western European Union (WEU), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

In 1999, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly recommended that “efforts be made to attain even closer co-operation and co-ordination with the UN, the EU, the CoE and the WEU, with a view to the efficient performance of the OSCE tasks in the field of early warning, conflict prevention, the settlement of crises and post-conflict rehabilitation”. In 2000, it was stressed that the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit could provide an important basis for developing inter-organizational relations in the OSCE area.

Since its creation in 1991, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has developed regular and formalized high-level interaction with the other OSCE institutions, as well as with the parliamentary bodies of other international organizations.

Declarations, resolutions, statements and recommendations from the Parliamentary Assembly’s annual sessions are forwarded to the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and to the Council of Ministers of the Organization. The Assembly is represented at every level of official OSCE meetings and maintains close working relations with the OSCE leadership as well as with other OSCE Institutions and all of the OSCE field Missions. The leadership of the OSCE and representatives of the other OSCE institutions are regularly invited to the Assembly’s meetings in order to brief members of the Parliamentary Assembly about their work. The Chairman-in-Office addresses the annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and takes questions from the floor, as do the other senior officials who appear at the session. Most recently, the OSCE parliamentarians were briefed by the leadership of the OSCE at the Standing Committee meeting in Vienna in January 2000 and at the annual session in Bucharest in July 2000.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has developed extensive co-operation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Assembly of the Western European Union, the North Atlantic Assembly, the Inter-parliamentary Union, the European Parliament and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States. These parliamentary institutions have official observer status at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and representatives of the OSCE PA are regularly invited to attend their main meetings.

At the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s annual session in July 2000 in Bucharest, representatives of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, the European Parliament, the Assembly of the Western European Union, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS, the Nordic Council and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation were present.

During election observation missions, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly also co-operates with parliamentary institutions, particularly the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, whose members often join OSCE PA observer missions.

In addition, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly co-operates with other OSCE institutions in its election observation programme. In 1997, the OSCE C-i-O and the President of the OSCE PA signed a co-operation agreement between the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen. This agreement was designed to enhance co-operation between the two institutions when observing elections.

Last year, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly established an ad hoc working group in order to strengthen the organization's election observation procedure and to design a common election observation strategy for the international community. This Working Group has met on several occasions and has initiated a follow-up procedure for some election observation missions. Representatives of the ODIHR, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly have participated in these discussions.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has created "parliamentary troikas" in order to increase the co-ordination and the strength of international parliamentary projects. In Albania, a parliamentary troika consisting of the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly has worked with the OSCE Mission in Tirana to help the Albanian Parliament in the development of democratic parliamentary practices as well as in the drafting of a new Constitution. In Belarus, a parliamentary troika consisting of the same three parliamentary institutions is endeavoured to promote dialogue and democratic development prior to the parliamentary elections.

In addition, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly organizes seminars and workshops in co-operation with other institutions, particularly OSCE institutions. A seminar on strengthening defence committees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized jointly by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and the OSCE PA, was held in Bled, Slovenia, on 27 and 28 January 2000. The OSCE Mission in Almaty, the ODIHR and the OSCE PA, in co-operation with the Kazakh Parliament and the Central Election Commission, organized a round table as a follow-up to the elections in Kazakhstan.

Recently, the OSCE PA attended the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in conjunction with the United Nations. The Conference was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 30 August to 1 September and was attended by speakers of parliament from over 140 countries.

In his first address to the OSCE Permanent Council on 31 August 2000, Adrian Severin, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, expressed his determination to develop not only the coherence and co-operation within the OSCE and among the OSCE institutions, but also co-operation with other pan-European and Euro-Atlantic organizations. President Severin said: "I believe that there is not objective competition but objective complementarity and partnership between us and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. We must develop, accordingly, a doctrine on how to use this complementarity in order to articulate better our actions and to improve our common efficiency. In this respect, there is a need for less rivalry and more co-operation. We should not leave room neither for egocentrism nor for exclusivism".

III. OSCE Missions

1. OSCE Presence in Albania

The Presence has now been established in Albania for almost three years, and has come to be one of the most senior and respected international organizations in the country. The Presence is perhaps unique among OSCE missions in that its wide mandate specifically requires it, among many other things, to provide a flexible co-ordinating framework within which other agencies can play their parts in their respective areas of competence. This wide mandate means

that the Presence is involved in a diverse range of activities (including, since the beginning of this year, input to the working tables of the Stability Pact). The Presence, therefore, finds itself working closely with a large number of international and national organizations.

The Presence works in close co-operation with: the Council of Europe (which is located in the same building as the OSCE Presence in Tirana), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Multinational Advisory Police Element of the Western European Union (WEU/MAPE), and the European Union/European Commission, including the latter's Customs Advisory Mission (CAM-A), and the European Community Monitor Mission (ECMM). In Addition, the Presence enjoys a close working relationship with the Albanian authorities, local embassies and bilateral assistance missions. This co-operation is manifested in regular co-ordination meetings, both within and outside of the Friends of Albania framework, at which problems and progress in the implementation of reforms and a wide range of bilateral and multilateral programmes and projects are reviewed.

The Presence has recently expanded the number of its field stations from seven to ten. Field stations assist the Presence with its programme of activities and also co-operate locally with international organizations.

The Friends of Albania Group (FoA) has been the main forum for co-operation among international organizations. The Head of the OSCE Presence is the chair of the local Friends of Albania Group. This Group brings together numerous bilateral and multilateral donors, including a number of UN agencies, the World Bank and other international financial institutions, and a number of major non-governmental organizations. The Group meets internationally alternately in Vienna and Brussels under the joint chairmanship of the OSCE and European Union Presidency. The OSCE Presence in Tirana provides the secretariat for local meetings. The FoA Group is engaged at both the local and the international levels in a regular exchange of information aimed at improving the co-ordination of international assistance efforts. It serves as a regular forum for discussion of political issues and reform strategies in the fields of democratization, good governance, economic development, security and public order.

The Presence in Tirana remains a “port of first call” for virtually all organizations entering Albania. The Presence's wide mandate means that it embodies expertise on a wide variety of specific issues, and the efforts of the field stations ensure that activities outside the capital are also taken into account. Accordingly, the Presence is able to give general briefings on the situation in the country, as and when required, and also to provide specific in-depth analyses on a variety of issues, including political matters and security.

1.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

The OSCE and the Council of Europe co-operate closely in many fields. Successful co-operation in the past has included joint organization of round tables for drafting the Constitution in 1998 and for drafting the Electoral Code in the spring of this year. During recent donor co-ordination meetings, the two offices agreed to develop stronger communications with regard both to other items of draft legislation and to institution-building projects. The two offices have recently focused their co-operation on the following areas.

- (a) Legal reform: The OSCE Presence and the CoE are continuing to support Albania in the electoral reform process through the Electoral Assistance Project. The two offices are co-

ordinating their assistance with respect to new draft legislation, such as the draft law on the High Council of Justice.

- (b) Ombudsman development: The CoE, the OSCE, the American Bar Association/Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA/CEELI) and the Danish Embassy are the main implementation partner organizations providing support to the Ombudsman Institution in Albania. The OSCE Presence participates in the monthly co-ordination meetings.
- (c) Prison visits: Since 1997, the CoE and the ODIHR have been holding regular meetings with government officials and have paid regular visits to prisons with a view to improving the prison service in Albania. The CoE programme emphasizes training of prison officials, whereas the ODIHR maintains a dialogue with the Director of Prisons and the Deputy Minister of Justice.

1.2 United Nations

The United Nations is represented in the Friends of Albania Group, and its agencies are closely co-operating with the OSCE Presence in agreed areas.

1.2.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

During the Kosovo refugee crisis in 1998-1999, very close ties were developed between the OSCE Presence and the UNHCR. The efforts of the UNHCR directed towards addressing the refugee crisis were supported by the Presence's field stations, which monitored the refugee situation and the implementation of the post-crisis quick impact projects. The Presence is supporting UNHCR's efforts to build an effective asylum and migration system for Albania. This issue closely relates to the Presence's anti-trafficking programme and its monitoring of prison conditions.

1.2.2 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Presence is working closely with the UNDP on a number of issues. The UNDP is currently chairing the Electoral Assistance Programme (EAP). A number of international organizations, including USAID, the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) and the Presence, have representatives on the Election Management Board of EAP.

The OSCE Presence co-operates with UNDP in monitoring the weapons collection programme.

1.2.3 United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

UNOPS has established a Programme of Activities in Support of the Albanian and Refugee Population (PASARP) to fund a large number of small and medium-sized projects in the prefectures of Vlorë, Durrës, and Shkodra. PASARP promotes the active role of regional and local authorities. All decisions relating to the projects and allocation of funding are taken in a decentralized manner by the prefecture working groups (PWG) set up under the Programme. The Presence is represented in the PWGs by its field stations in the provinces.

1.2.4 United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

The Presence has established a close information-sharing relationship with the UNMIK office in Tirana. The Presence's Field Station in Kukës regularly participates in the monthly meetings of the Joint Border Commission, which brings together Albanian police and customs officials with UNMIK CIVPOL (Civil Police) and KFOR (Kosovo Force) officers.

1.3 European Union

1.3.1 Council/Member States

The Presence co-operates with the EU Member States and the European Council through the Friends of Albania Group. The Head of the Presence regularly briefs the Committee on the Western Balkans (COWEB) in Brussels.

1.3.2 European Commission (EC)

The European Commission is a major partner of the OSCE Presence. It is a co-chair of the FoA Group at the international level, and therefore works closely with the OSCE Presence on all issues taken up by the Group, in particular on combating corruption and on good governance.

1.3.2.1 Customs Assistance Mission in Albania (CAM-A)

CAM-A is a programme of the Directorate-General for Taxation and the Customs Union (DG TAXUD) of the European Commission. The Presence works closely with CAM-A on issues related to customs reform. Both the Presence and CAM-A have advisers to the Central Commission for the Audit of Classification of Customs Personnel and have recently become observers to the Audit Commission on Asset Declarations of Customs Administration Staff.

1.3.3 European Community Monitor Mission (ECMM)

The Presence and the ECMM regularly exchange information and work together in the field. The ECMM provides regular assessment of the security, social and political environment.

1.4 World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are both members of the FoA Group. The Presence works with these international financial institutions on anti-corruption issues, as well as on reforming the civil service, police and customs. The Presence has most recently co-operated with the World Bank on the design implementation strategy for the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

1.5 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The Presence co-operates closely with the ICRC on prison conditions, return of refugees and trafficking in human beings.

1.6 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Presence maintains a close and a productive working relationship with the IOM, with the aim of developing strategies relating to trafficking in human beings.

1.7 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The NATO/Partnership for Peace (PfP) cell in Tirana is a member of the FoA Group and plays a lead role in the FoA Demilitarization Group, in which the issues of ammunition disposal, demining and small arms/light weapons collection and destruction are discussed. The PfP cell has the mandate to facilitate the co-ordination between international organizations and the Albanian Armed Forces. The Presence is currently co-operating with the PfP cell and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in assisting the Government of Albania to develop strategies for dealing with disaster situations. A simulated scenario, conducted in October 2000, involved two members of the Presence Headquarters as directing staff and support from the Elbasan field station.

1.8 Western European Union (WEU)

The OSCE Presence works closely with the WEU Multi-Advisory Police Element (MAPE). MAPE, jointly with the FoA Group organizes periodic high-level meetings on security and public order. MAPE also chairs the working group on police enforcement under the FoA anti-trafficking programme. The Presence and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina jointly developed training materials entitled, "Policing the Rights of Women: Domestic Violence, Prostitution, and Trafficking", which is to be used by MAPE in its training courses.

1.9 Co-operation of field offices

A very large number of diverse agencies are operating throughout Albania. The vast majority of these organizations are humanitarian NGOs, which, in the aftermath of the Kosovo crisis, have remained in Albania. Initial contacts were made with many of these organizations during the Kosovo refugee crisis. The OSCE field stations were instrumental in assisting in the work of the organizations by providing information, logistics, and liaison with local government authorities. Today, ten field stations of the Presence still keep in regular contact with virtually all the organizations in their respective areas of responsibility. The OSCE field stations are well known for their close ties with the community and the local authorities, and so are frequently called upon for assistance and local advice by newly arriving international organizations and non-governmental organizations. This role is an ongoing one, whose value was particularly tested and appreciated at the time of the refugee emergency in Albania in 1999. The field stations are happy to provide information about other organizations operating in their areas of

responsibility and to make introductions. They also provide security and political briefings and introduce the new organizations to the local government bureaucracy.

Given the remote location of OSCE field stations, there is a need for international organizations in these remote locations to keep in touch and to support each other as necessary. The OSCE field stations remain proactive in this regard and maintain regular informal contacts with all the organizations in their areas of responsibility. Some field stations chair bi-weekly or monthly NGO co-ordination meetings. These meetings are open to both national and international NGOs and serve as a forum to encourage dialogue and networking between the NGOs themselves. Meeting agendas vary with the location of the field station, but usually include an OSCE security and political update, an NGO update on new projects or the status of existing projects, information-sharing about new donor funding, discussion of common problems, an exchange of best practices, and a distribution of lists with updated NGO contact information. Meeting minutes are widely distributed. Such close links have proven invaluable to OSCE field stations, because they enable the OSCE personnel to respond rapidly to emergency situations.

Overall, the Presence's field stations maintain excellent relationships with the international agencies in their areas of responsibility. Maintaining close communication and contact usually presents a challenge, since the Albanian telecommunications are problematic and the roads are poor. Mandates vary greatly from one organization to the other and opportunities for synergy are often difficult to identify. It is often difficult to find the time to attend NGO co-ordination meetings. The Kosovo refugee crisis, however, proved the wisdom of building strong communication and co-ordination links, and the OSCE field stations are committed to maintaining such links.

1.10 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

1.10.1 Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The OSCE Presence has co-operated with OSCE institutions on a number of projects. In particular, ODIHR has given advice and has actively participated in the working groups on drafting of the new Electoral Code. ODIHR representatives have visited the Presence and are providing regular assistance to its NGO, human rights and gender staff in the implementation of their programmes.

The ODIHR Adviser on Prison Reform has paid a number of visits to the country, and has provided operational advice to the Director of the Prison Service and the Deputy Minister of Justice. He has assisted the Government of Albania in providing information to respond to inquiries made by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in particular, on conditions for prisoners sentenced to death. He has assisted in drafting the internal prison regulations, which guarantee the basic human rights of prisoners.

2. OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

In carrying out its tasks, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina co-operates with the following international organizations: Office of the High Representative (OHR); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Office of the United Nations

High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR); United Nations Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMiBH), and under it the International Police Task Force (IPTF) and the Judicial System Assessment Programme (JSAP); Council of Europe (CoE); Independent Media Commission (IMC); North Atlantic Treaty Organization/Special Force (NATO/SFOR); European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM); and the World Bank.

The OSCE Head of Mission and Deputy Head of Mission meet on a weekly basis with the “Principals” of OHR, SFOR, UNHCR, UNMiBH and IPTF for an exchange of information and policy co-ordination.

The Mission’s Chief Legal Counsel attends the meetings of the Inter-Agency Planning Group (also attended by OHR, UNMiBH, UNHCR, and SFOR representatives), which prepares documents for review by the Principals. In addition, all the international organizations, at the headquarters and field levels, work closely together on a daily basis through regular meetings and electronic correspondence.

2.1 Office of the High Representative (OHR)

The OHR is mandated to co-ordinate policies on civilian issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Mission works in close co-operation with its various departments.

The Mission’s Human Rights Department works mostly with the OHR’s Human Rights/Rule of Law Department and its Reconstruction and Return Task Force (RRTF), which focuses on reconstruction, fund-raising and the implementation of property legislation. On some issues, it also works with the OHR’s political, economics and legal departments. Since the OHR has no human rights field presence and does not accept individual cases, it relies heavily on the OSCE for information concerning the state of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The OSCE, the OHR, the UNHCR, the UNMiBH, the UNHCHR and the CoE jointly articulate human rights policy within the Human Rights Co-ordination Centre (HRCC), which is chaired by the OHR.

OSCE, UNHCR and UNMiBH have each seconded a staff member to the HRCC, which is located at the OHR. The HRCC is responsible for drafting regular reports on the human rights situation. It also drafts guidelines on various human rights issues for field officers of all the organizations and supports the Human Rights Steering Board (comprised of the principal human rights members of the UNMiBH, the UNHCR, the UNHCHR, the JSAP, the CoE and the OSCE).

The Civil Society Co-ordination Group was established as part of the HRCC. The Co-ordination Group’s members are the OHR, the OSCE, the CoE, the UNHCR, and the USAID. The Mission’s Democratization and Human Rights Departments represent the OSCE. The main objective of the group is to develop a co-ordinated concept for a long-term sustainable civil society in BiH in order to avoid duplication of efforts within the international community. In pursuing this aim, the Group is working on the adoption of State and entity laws on associations and foundations, which are still not in place in BiH.

The Group on Economic and Social Rights has a similar, but wider, membership. It provides the principal forum for sustainability issues relating to the return process and is chaired by the Mission’s Human Rights Department. It has become the principal catalyst for other inter-agency initiatives relating to sustainability issues. The Group has also been used as a means for advancing the human rights dimension regarding issues led by the OHR, as for example in the reform of the entity labour laws.

The OHR Human Rights Rule of Law Department includes an education team, with whom the OSCE Mission works closely in relation to human rights aspects of primary and secondary education. The Mission's Human Rights Department participates in the Education Working Group chaired by the OHR, with the World Bank, the CoE and the EU.

With reference to the role of the RRTF in facilitating the reconstruction of social infrastructure as a support for refugee return, the OSCE Mission's Democratization Department consults with the RRTF on the Municipal Infrastructure Finance and Implementation project (MIFI). The OSCE Mission's Democratization Officers co-chair local RRTF meetings.

The OSCE Mission's Media Affairs Department has, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission's Human Rights Department and the OHR's Media Development Department, prepared a draft freedom of information act for the State and both entities. The State-level law was passed by both Houses of the BiH Parliament in October 2000. A draft defamation act is currently being developed as well. These drafts are delivered by an advisory group, in which, amongst others, IMC and both national and international independent experts participate. In addition, in co-operation with the OHR, the OSCE will monitor the financial activities of selected media outlets during the pre- and post-election periods.

The OHR has endorsed funding of Radio FERN in the framework of the Stability Pact initiatives. The OSCE Mission, in co-operation with the OHR, is trying to include Radio FERN and the Open Broadcast Network in restructuring plans for major media outlets in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 2000.

The Department of Media Affairs is responsible for the Mission's Free Media Helpline, which acts as a facilitator of appropriate action against violations to media freedom. The Free Media Helpline co-ordinates with the IMC, the IPTF, OSCE's Human Rights Department and the OHR in responding to specific incidents of threats or intimidation to the media.

The OSCE Mission's Secretariat for the Provisional Election Commission is in regular contact with the OHR's Legal Department regarding election issues. Work on the draft election law, the Law on Presidential Succession, the Law on Political Party Financing and the Law on Conflict of Interest and Transparency has been co-ordinated with the OHR. The Mission's Implementation Unit works closely with the OHR's Political Department on municipal and cantonal problems, including on matters of assessment and sanctions against officials. It also consults with the OHR's Legal Department on matters relating to local self-government.

In view of the OSCE's experience in the formation of municipal governments, the OSCE Brcko Centre assisted the OHR in the implementation of the Brcko Arbitration Award by identifying and interviewing candidates for the Brcko district government. The Brcko district government was appointed on 8 March 2000, with an interim mandate that will be valid until elections are held for the District Assembly. The vacancies were advertised in the OSCE offices in BiH as well as abroad in order enable refugees and displaced persons to apply.

2.2 Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission's Human Rights Department has briefed the CoE rapporteurs several times on accession issues. The Mission also works with the CoE/Venice Commission when drafting legislation. The Mission has received advice from the CoE/Venice Commission on the Law on Judicial Service and the Republika Srpska Ombudsman Law. The Venice Commission is currently advising the Human Rights Department on the merger of the Constitutional Court and

the Human Rights Chamber and on the ultimate disposition of the Federation Human Rights Court.

The Mission's Democratization Department also works with the CoE on governance initiatives such as public administration training, on the promotion of women in politics, and on the development of civil society. The CoE provides general information for dissemination at OSCE's Democracy Centres and funds the Democratization Centre in Capljina.

2.3 United Nations

2.3.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

As the agency responsible for organizing returns and assessment visits, the UNHCR has the lead on return issues. Because of its mandate, however, the UNHCR focuses largely on housing and reconstruction. The Mission therefore works together with the UNHCR on matters relating to the sustainability of return, such as employment, education, administrative obstacles, registration, access to documents and access to utilities.

The Mission's Elections Department liaises with the UNHCR on refugee voter issues and on polling station locations. It is essential that the polling stations have no previous history of having been used for human rights violations, and the UNHCR ensures that no such sites are used.

The OSCE Mission has also put its Political Resource Centres at the disposal of the UNHCR for special events and press conferences.

The UNHCR and the OSCE Joint Operations Centre exchange information to identify potential trouble spots and provide background information on general security concerns. With return issues becoming more prominent, this close co-operation will continue. The UNHCR communications network was made available for use by OSCE supervisors during the April elections, and the same arrangement was also made for the November general elections.

2.3.2 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

The Mission's Democratization Department works with the UNHCHR on developing gender issue strategies, identifying regular participants, and designating responsibilities.

The UNHCHR has assumed the lead on matters involving trafficking in women and relies on the presence of the IPTF officers throughout the country to implement its policy on this matter. The OSCE has agreed that its human rights officers will pass cases of trafficking in women to the IPTF.

2.3.3 United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMiBH)

The OSCE Mission co-operates with the UNMiBH, the OHR, the UNHCR and the Commission on Real Property Claims (CRPC) in co-ordinating the Property Law Implementation Plan (PLIP). The PLIP is a joint effort by the international community members to eradicate obstacles to the implementation of the return laws. The PLIP is organized at both

the central and the field levels, with the OSCE Mission human rights officers often serving as PLIP focal points.

The OSCE Mission and the OHR have, in conjunction with the UNMiBH Judicial System Assessment Project (JSAP), drafted legislation for the reform of the legal system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which provides for the vetting of all judges and prosecutors. In the past, the OSCE Mission's Human Rights Department shared the monitoring of trials and fieldwork with the JSAP.

2.3.4 United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF)

The IPTF has the lead on police issues. The OSCE Mission's Human Rights Department may become involved when human rights concerns need to be addressed and when IPTF does not have human rights expertise in a given geographic location. The IPTF has recently agreed to attend all evictions. The IPTF has handed over to the OSCE and the UNHCR all its property cases related to local police officers, since its officers do not possess the necessary expertise to analyse property cases.

The OSCE Mission's Human Rights Department has developed expertise in the obligations of police during evictions. Human rights officers attend evictions in order to verify that the local police carry out their obligations (for example, that they arrest people obstructing evictions). The IPTF has recently asked the OSCE Mission to complete forms on police conduct at evictions, so that it can identify local police who refuse to ensure that evictions are carried out. It has been agreed that, for now, the OSCE Mission officers should continue to attend evictions with the IPTF officers.

The OSCE Mission's Joint Operations Centre (JOC) liaises with the IPTF by means of a daily exchange of operational and intelligence information. This working relationship is used to assist the IPTF in supervising the local police response to civil unrest and disturbance in connection with evictions and returns. The IPTF presence throughout BiH is used to provide a "safety net" for OSCE personnel in the field, in particular in time of trouble. The JOC receives a daily situation report from the IPTF with a synopsis of local police activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the past 24 hours.

During elections, the IPTF works with police at the local level to provide a written security plan for each of the 3,700 polling stations. It also liaises closely with the OSCE JOC to ensure adequate local police coverage of "hot spots" on election days.

The OSCE Mission's Democratization Department consults with the IPTF on initiatives to combat corruption as part of its Municipal Infrastructure Finance and Implementation Programme.

The Mission's Media Affairs Department has recently completed guidelines for police and journalists, which have been published and distributed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The IPTF will include these guidelines in its training of police. Information on threats against journalists and media outlets which require investigation by local police are referred to the IPTF by the OSCE Mission's Department of Media Affairs, after such information is registered through the Mission's Free Media Helpline.

2.4 European Union

2.4.1 European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM)

An ECMM liaison officer attends the OSCE daily staff meetings and works in the JOC for several hours each day. During the April 2000 municipal elections, the ECMM provided the OSCE with enhanced communications support and additional VHF repeaters. A number of ECMM observers participated in the municipal elections as polling station observers. This co-operation is expected to continue for the November 2000 general elections.

2.5 World Bank (WB)

The OSCE Mission has consulted the World Bank on the design of the Democratization Department's Municipal Infrastructure Finance and Implementation project. The World Bank, in turn, in co-ordination with the OSCE Mission and other international organizations, is providing training to banks and utilities in order to complement OSCE's training of municipal governments in developing sustainable and fundable infrastructure projects.

The OSCE Mission has also consulted with the World Bank on developing the terms of reference for municipal development as part of the World Bank's Local Development Fund. The Democratization Department and the World Bank have continued to co-operate on the use of compatible criteria for determining municipal creditworthiness in 2000.

The OSCE Mission has worked with the World Bank on sustainability of return. In chairing the Group on Economic and Social Rights, the Mission's Human Rights Department has provided views and advice on labour law reform and corruption. Also, the Human Rights Department has worked on a pilot project with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) (a World Bank member) to assess the employment standards of potential recipients of IFC credit.

2.6 Independent Media Commission (IMC)

In co-operation with the IMC, the OSCE Mission's Department of Media Affairs has been working on the establishment of a Press Council, which is expected to serve as a mechanism for self-regulation of the press. A Press Council statute has been drafted by the OSCE Mission, and it is expected that the Council will become operational in late 2000. In addition, the OSCE's Department of Media Affairs has, jointly with the IMC, developed a mechanism for channelling complaints regarding violations of the Broadcasting Code and other standards for professional journalism. The OSCE Mission's Department of Media Affairs will co-operate with the IMC in 2001 to develop local NGO-based media-monitoring capabilities. Currently, an election-period media-monitoring project is operating under the OSCE administration, and the daily media digests are shared not only with the IMC, but also with the bulk of the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2.7 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)/Stabilization Force (SFOR)

The OSCE Mission co-ordinates its regional stabilization activity plans, under Article II of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Agreement, with the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Articles II and IV. It also co-operates closely with SFOR, NATO Headquarters in Brussels, and the OHR to assist the entities in reducing and restructuring their forces and in developing a common defence and security policy. The OSCE Mission has worked with SFOR on the DARE program (computer data exchange), and, with SFOR, it co-chairs the Steering Board for the Restructuring of the Entity Armed Forces.

The OSCE Mission has collaborated with the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson, SFOR, the NATO Air Operational Co-ordination Centre (NAOCC), the Danish Air Force and the Czech Air Force in conducting aerial observation flights in BiH.

The Mission's JOC works closely with SFOR on security matters. Each organization has a liaison officer assigned full- or part-time to the other, for co-ordination and information exchange purposes. The OSCE's emergency action plan (with various alert status levels) is closely co-ordinated with SFOR's own plan.

For the April 2000 municipal elections, organized by the OSCE, SFOR provided protection to persons assigned special status (election supervisors, international observers and core election staff). SFOR personnel participated in training OSCE supervisors through situation awareness briefings and mines-awareness training. SFOR liaison teams were deployed to the JOC as well as to all OSCE regional centres and field offices in order to provide on-the-spot advice and to ensure a smooth link with SFOR formations in the field and at headquarters. This co-operation will also be in place for the November 2000 general elections.

3. OSCE Mission to Croatia

In fulfilling the terms of its mandate, the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Croatia co-operates primarily with the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Community Monitor Mission (ECMM), the Mission of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR).

The Mission co-operates routinely or on a case-by-case basis with a number of other international organizations represented in Croatia: with the International Committee on Missing Persons (ICMP) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on missing persons; with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Liaison Office, regarding Croatia's co-operation with the Hague Tribunal; with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), on return-related projects; with the IPTF in Bosnia and Herzegovina on policing issues; with SFOR regarding cross-border security; with the UN Liaison Office (UNLO), on political agreements concluded between the Government and the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) for the Danube Region; and with the UN Mine Action Assistance Programme (UNMAAP), with the Multinational Advisory Police Element (MAPE) of the Western European Union (WEU), and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) on de-mining and mine awareness.

In the context of contributing to the OSCE Regional Dimension of the Stability Pact, the Mission has strengthened its contacts with international partners in the field of law enforcement. This refers mainly to the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and Interpol.

Consultations have also been held with experts from the Council of Europe with a focus on trafficking in human beings.

As the Mission does not have the resources to finance many worthwhile democratization projects, in May 2000 it introduced its database of such projects to the Zagreb-based embassies and international agencies.

3.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission and the Council of Europe co-operate on issues relating to legislative reform and on implementation of treaty obligations. The two offices have closely collaborated regarding media freedom (on which the Council is the standard-setting body in Europe). The Mission continues to use as its terms of reference the obligations undertaken by Croatia upon its entry into the Council of Europe in 1996, including the obligation “to pursue reforms with a view to bringing all legislation and practice in line with Council of Europe principles and standards” (Parliamentary Assembly Opinion 195 (1996), para. 9 (xviii)).

The Mission has exchanged views and information with the relevant staff in the Council regarding Croatia’s progress in revising legislation to meet the “highest internationally recognized standards”, as stated in the Mission’s mandate. Mission staff also brief representatives of the committees of independent experts monitoring Croatia’s compliance with human rights treaty obligations (e.g., Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Committee for Regional and Minority Languages, etc.).

Mission experts periodically contribute to training and educational programmes run by the Council of Europe in co-operation with either the Government of Croatia or non-governmental organizations. The relationship between Croatian domestic law and the law and practice of the European Court of Human Rights is a primary theme of these programmes.

The Mission occasionally briefs officials of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe and representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers, particularly those monitoring Croatia’s compliance with its obligations to the organization.

The Mission and the Council of Europe have worked most closely on media-related legislation. The Mission has been well placed to monitor developments and keep the Council of Europe informed, while seeking its expert input in drafting laws. On 26 and 27 June, the Mission provided full assistance to an expert delegation of the Council of Europe which visited Croatia to discuss, with the Croatian authorities and media the Government’s draft law on Croatian radio and television. This was an example of fruitful co-operation between the two organizations, with the Mission providing on-the-spot information on the state of the public debate and the Council of Europe providing media expertise to the authorities.

The Head of the OSCE Mission to Croatia paid a visit to the Council of Europe on 13 and 14 April to address the Enlarged Rapporteur Group for Democratic Stability and to meet senior Council of Europe officials. The Deputy Head of Mission briefed the Rapporteurs about the situation in Croatia on the occasion of their fact-finding visit to Zagreb in April 2000.

The Mission’s Human Rights and Legal Adviser has represented both the OSCE and the Council of Europe in a UN/EU/OSCE/Council of Europe programme focusing on the development of human rights training for individuals monitoring human rights in field missions. This initiative, which should result in the publication of a human rights training manual and

continuing training for large field missions such as the Kosovo Mission, will continue throughout 2000.

3.2 United Nations

3.2.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The OSCE and the UNHCR Missions to Croatia have very distinct yet complementary mandates and co-operate intensively at the central and field levels on return-related issues. The OSCE Mission co-operates closely with the UNHCR also with regard to providing advice and assistance to the new Government on legislative reforms affecting the return of refugees and displaced persons. The Mission and the UNHCR hold joint press conferences.

The Mission co-operates with the UNHCR, the Office of the High Representative (OHR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina in an effort to provide public information on property repossession procedures, the provision of reconstruction assistance and the implementation of the Amnesty Law, as well as on other matters of importance to potential cross-border returnees between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The UNHCR, in line with its mandate, and according to the General Framework Agreement for Peace (Annex 7), is the lead agency for repatriating individuals displaced by the 1991-1995 conflict in former Yugoslavia. The OSCE Mission's mandate on returnees, authorizes it to assist in, and monitor implementation of, agreements and commitments entered into by the Croatian Government on the two-way return of refugees and displaced persons. As the mandates of the OSCE Mission and the UNHCR overlapped in crucial areas, the two organizations agreed in July 1998 to develop a regional body that would support and co-ordinate joint operations and policy activities. As a result of this initiative, the Return Facilitation Group (RFG) and the Area Return Facilitation Groups (ARFG) were established.

These structures have enabled the OSCE Mission and the UNHCR to maximize the utilization of resources and to avoid duplication of work to support the regional return process more efficiently and to mobilize a unified international position when dealing with the Croatian Government and regional partners. The OSCE Mission and the UNHCR have also developed a clear division of labour on the monitoring of the return process, thus ensuring that discussions and activities are firmly rooted in a clear understanding and mutual respect for the mandates of the two Missions.

The Return Facilitation Group (RFG), co-chaired by the UNHCR and the OSCE, was designed not only to co-ordinate activities within the international community, but also to serve as a parallel to the Office of the Return and Reconstruction Task Force (RRTF) structure in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to facilitate cross-border repatriation. On the domestic front, the RFG plays a role in co-ordinating international démarches on key issues, such as on discriminatory laws and practices. On regional issues, the RFG exchanges information with international counterparts in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The UNHCR and the OSCE jointly develop regional strategies with the aim of ensuring that reconstruction, humanitarian assistance, and the repossession of property do not serve as obstacles to return as was - and, indeed, still is - the case.

The ARFGs (in Knin, Sisak and Vukovar), which are co-chaired by the OSCE Mission and the UNHCR, are the field structures that develop operational strategies, activities, and provide assistance to encourage sustainable returns. The division of labour between the two

organizations, as well as implementing partners and non-governmental organizations, has been established on the basis of mandate, expertise and available resources. Joint monitoring by the OSCE and the UNHCR of the Government's activities, together with support for activities related to repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons, was conducted by the ARFGs. The ARFGs have proven to be a highly useful mechanism for joint endeavours of the OSCE and the UNHCR.

3.2.2 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

The Mission hosts regular joint meetings with the UNHCHR (and the ICRC), the purpose of which is to follow war-crimes-related arrests and pending trials in Croatia in the context of the return of refugees to Croatia. The Mission briefs the UNHCR in Zagreb and provides it with other information on human rights issues and standards.

3.3 European Union

3.3.1 European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM)

In the area of political affairs, the ECMM and the OSCE Mission regularly share reports and relevant information both in the field and at the headquarters level. The ECMM attends regular co-ordination meetings, organized by the OSCE Mission, in which a number of prominent international organizations, embassies and NGOs participate.

The OSCE Mission shares with the ECMM information on the performance of municipal housing commissions charged with implementing Government policies for restitution of property to refugees and displaced persons. The ECMM teams are invited to join OSCE field office teams when attending meetings of housing commissions.

The Mission also co-operates with the EU/EC's implementing agency, the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) on return and reconstruction issues.

3.4 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

3.4.1 Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

During the parliamentary and presidential election campaigns in 1999-2000, the Mission worked closely with the Election Observation Mission established in Croatia by ODIHR in November 1999. Together with ODIHR and the European Commission, the Mission supported a media-monitoring exercise implemented by the Düsseldorf-based European Institute for Media. The Mission also contributed around 60 of its staff to the international short-term monitoring effort in each of the two rounds of presidential elections, and also provided personnel to observe elections in neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina in April 2000.

3.4.2 High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

The Mission's human rights experts work with the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. Mission's experts brief the High Commissioner during his visits to Croatia. They also consult with the legal experts in the High Commissioner's office on legislative initiatives. Where appropriate, the Mission provides input or participates in human dimension meetings and other conferences and seminars conducted under the auspices of ODIHR.

3.4.3 Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM)

The Mission has occasional contacts with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

4. OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK)

Kosovo is administered by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), as provided for in the UN Security Council resolution 1244. UNMIK consists of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), reporting to the Secretary-General of the UN, and three pillars: the UN civil administration, the OSCE (institution-building) and the EU (reconstruction). Until July 2000, UNHCR constituted Pillar I, but the period of emergency assistance is deemed to have come to an end, and Pillar I no longer exists. In addition, a large number of international organizations and international NGOs are represented in Kosovo.

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) is an integral part of UNMIK and has specific relations both with the other parts of UNMIK and with other international actors in Kosovo. Through its Head of Mission, the OSCE also participates in the joint institutions created by UNMIK to administer the province and fulfil the mandate for preparation for self-governance under the Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS) Agreement of 15 December 1999. The OSCE has assumed responsibility for one Administrative Department in the JIAS, that of Democratic Governance and Civil Society.

In its work, the OSCE Mission has been able to build on the ample experience of previous missions in Kosovo. Co-operation with international organizations, which is at the core of OSCE activities and communication (at central and field levels), is generally close and professional.

4.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

The OSCE Mission and the Council of Europe closely co-operate in the fields of rule of law, democratization, human rights, media affairs and elections. The OSCE has also provided office space to the Council of Europe in the OSCE headquarters building in Priština. At the CoE's request, the offices were located in the annex area of headquarters for greater visibility. The sharing of premises has enhanced co-operation between the two organizations on several projects. Co-operation on the ground continues to be excellent.

- OMIK staff seconded by the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe had at various points in time, throughout the year, seconded nine experts to OMIK, with three of them still working with the Mission at the beginning of November 2000.

- CoE involvement in legislative matters: Venice Commission, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE)

The CoE, through its Venice Commission and the CLRAE network, and the OSCE have co-operated on legislative matters in Kosovo. The CoE was instrumental in providing norms on data protection with regard to registration, and provided valuable expert opinion on further draft legislation, such as the ombudsman regulation, the municipal law and the draft criminal code. The Municipal Law was also reviewed by the CLRAE. The draft broadcast code was also prepared with input and recommendations by the Council of Europe.

- Human rights training and awareness work

In the field of human rights training, the CoE offered materials and trainers for human rights capacity-building activities. It provided OSCE with a sample of all its materials and subsequently provided appropriate materials and literature for human rights education and awareness work. A consultant provided by the CoE devised a human rights awareness campaign for the year 2000. The Council of Europe Priština office co-operated closely with the Human Rights Training Section in the provision of training materials and in co-ordination of visits of experts for "train-the-trainers" sessions for human rights officers in the field. The CoE Office assisted with the human rights awareness campaign in the run-up to the Kosovo Human Rights Conference on 10 and 11 December 1999. In addition, the CoE provided a rapporteur for the conference.

- Activities relating to the rule of law

The CoE continued its close work with the Judicial Training Section to design and implement training programmes for judges and prosecutors. The CoE experts taught human rights and criminal law issues and participated in advance planning for future programmes. The CoE has offered to second an expert to serve as Director or Programme Co-ordinator of the Judicial Institute. The CoE also contributes to other Mission initiatives and is included in the discussions on support for the Law Faculty and the further development of the Kosovo Law Centre. The CoE is represented on the Board of Directors of the Centre.

- Elections-related activities

The OMIK Department of Election Operations (DEO) offered to the CoE access to security information in the province through the Joint Elections Operations Centre, a division within DEO.

Weekly meetings between Victor Ruffy (Head of the CoE in Kosovo) and Jeff Fischer (Director of OMIK Election Operations) were also established to ensure regular dialogue.

In the interests of transparency the CoE was invited to observe all Central Election Commission meetings and Political Party Consultative Forum meetings as all key events in the electoral calendar. These have included training of Municipal Election Commissions, International Supervisors, etc., by the DEO. The CoE representatives were present at the Polling Centres and Polling Stations on Election Day. They observed the Counting of Ballots in the Polling Stations and in the Central Counting Centre.

The CoE also observed the IOM-led Out of Kosovo operations in Albania, FYROM and Montenegro and the IOM headquarters in Vienna. OMIK participated in the training of the CoE observers in Skopje

4.2 United Nations

4.2.1 OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) as a part of United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and its participation in the Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS)

The Head of the OSCE Mission serves simultaneously as one of the deputies to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG), (DSRSG for Institution-Building). The Head of the OSCE Mission regularly attends meetings at which all the pillars are represented (daily Executive Committee) and represents the OSCE Pillar in the Interim Administrative Council and Kosovo Transitional Council (KTC). This presence serves to incorporate the OSCE's mandate into general UNMIK policy-making and provides the Mission with vital information for its field activities. The Pillar structure is not mirrored at the municipal level, where the OSCE regional centres and field offices nevertheless have a close and mutually complementary link with the UN Civil Administration.

As part of its obligations as an integral part of UNMIK, the OSCE reports, as Pillar III, to the Office of the SRSG on a daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly basis. In addition to regular reporting to the OSCE structures, it also contributes to the regular reports of the UN Secretary-General to the UN Security Council.

4.2.2 United Nations Civil Administration

The Joint Registration Task Force (JRTF), combining the resources of the OSCE and the UN Civil Administration, was an unprecedented example of operational co-operation between the OSCE and the UN, from which many useful lessons will be drawn. The JRTF was dissolved at the beginning of September, following the successful completion of the first phase of civil and voter registration and the confirmation, additions and challenges (CAC) period.

4.2.3 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (Pillar I of UNMIK)

– Phasing out of UNHCR as Head of Pillar I; the 'protection of minorities' mandate will be transferred to OSCE

Co-operation between the OSCE and UNHCR has been particularly close. The groundwork for this co-operation was laid during the refugee crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania in 1999. The overlapping of the mandates of the OSCE (human rights protection and promotion) and the UNHCR (protection of minorities) has led to a convergence of goals and methods. Since the UNHCR left the pillar structure in July 2000, the OSCE has taken the protection of minorities fully under its human rights mandate. The OSCE now also co-chairs the Task Force on Minorities together with the UNHCR and will assume sole chairmanship following the municipal elections. The UNHCR nevertheless remains in the theatre and continues to be one of the principal partners of the OSCE Mission. The close co-

operation between the OSCE and the UNHCR on minorities and human rights was reflected in the publication of five joint reports on minorities.

– Return policy and human rights

The OSCE has supported the UNHCR in its policy on the return of displaced persons and refugees, in particular to areas where they constitute an ethnic minority.

4.2.4 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

OSCE participates twice a month in meetings of the Commission on Prisoners and Detainees chaired by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR). Until the elections in the FRY, the OSCE could not contact Serb officials directly about persons detained in Serbia, the OSCE verbally and through joint reporting supported the Office of the UNHCHR and the ICRC on issues pertaining to detention in Serbia (see the section on the ICRC below).

4.2.5 United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) Police

Co-operation with the UNMIK Police is generally excellent in terms of access to information, and is facilitated by the presence of an UNMIK Police liaison officer in UNMIK headquarters. The police monitoring training for human rights officers focuses very much on working with the police to meet standards that protect both civilians and the police.

4.3 European Union (Pillar IV of UNMIK)

4.3.1 European Commission (EC)

The EU has assumed responsibility for four administrative departments of the JIAS. The EU is also represented in the Interim Administration Council, as Head of Pillar IV. This leads to permanent interaction between the OSCE and the EU Pillar.

The European Union is also active outside the UNMIK pillar structure: the European Reconstruction Agency has taken over from the EU Task Force for Kosovo (TAFKO) and is now the main donor for reconstruction projects in Kosovo. In this area, co-operation with the OSCE has been mutually agreed, and the Mission is currently trying to obtain funding for institution-building projects, particularly as part of its media development activities.

4.3.2 European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM)

The European Community Monitoring Mission and the OSCE regularly exchange information on the political situation in Kosovo.

4.4 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The Mission's Human Rights Department closely co-operates with the ICRC Priština Office on matters relating to missing persons, persons imprisoned in Serbia, suspected detention in Kosovo and the exhumation and identification of human remains in Kosovo. The ICRC, as the lead agency on missing persons, chairs missing persons co-ordination meetings in which OSCE participates. During these twice-monthly co-ordination meetings, all the relevant organizations update each other on their work in relation to missing persons and try to identify and tackle gaps in the process. The OSCE works with the ICRC in endeavouring to create a broader public understanding of the problem of missing persons. For example, the OSCE Human Rights Conference, in which the ICRC participated, included a segment on missing persons and detainees.

It was agreed that, under the auspices of UNMIK, a local commission should assist in the exhumation and identification process. The OSCE participated in a small group (ICRC, OSCE, UNMIK, and the International Commission on Missing Persons), which drafted terms of reference for the new Victim Recovery and Identification Commission (VRIC), which is part of UNMIK.

4.5 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)/Kosovo Stabilization Force (KFOR)

The KFOR Commander (COMKFOR) participates in the meetings of the inter-pillar Executive Committee, the IAC and the KTC as an observer. The OSCE, through its Head of Mission, thereby interacts with KFOR on a regular basis.

Joint Planning Committee – The OSCE participates in the inter-pillar Joint Planning Committee, in which KFOR also plays an active role. The Joint Planning Committee serves to co-ordinate pillar activities.

Liaison officers – KFOR has established a liaison office within the OSCE Mission. Two officers provide regular information on KFOR and OSCE activities in both directions.

Elections Operations – The OSCE Mission established co-operation with KFOR on special security requirements for the municipal elections held in late October 2000. This technical/operational co-operation took place at the expert level and functioned smoothly. The OSCE had particularly good co-operation with KFOR in the Joint Elections Operation Cell (JEOC).

Human rights – The OSCE interacts with KFOR regularly in the weekly Minorities Task Force meetings, now co-chaired by the OSCE and the UNHCR. In these meetings, OSCE human rights officers are briefed on security matters, while in turn briefing KFOR on human rights issues and problems of minority communities.

Field level – The OSCE regional centres and field offices regularly interact with KFOR at brigade and battalion level by exchanging information and recommendations.

4.6 International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

The ICTY carried out a significant number of exhumations in 2000. The Mission worked with the ICTY and UNMIK to develop the Victim Recovery and Identification Commission (VRIC), which is tasked with determining the fate of missing persons. OMIK's role also focuses on building the capacity of local institutions to deal with this task in 2000 and beyond.

4.7 Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe

In 2000, OMIK officers participated in a number of conferences and workshops relating to the development of a regional dimension in the international community's activities in South-Eastern Europe. The Mission expressed particular interest in activities relating to media development, police education and development, gender issues and organized crime.

4.8 European Broadcasting Union (EBU)

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU, based in Geneva) has been subcontracted to assist in establishing a public broadcasting institution in Kosovo. The EBU has, since September 1999, provided satellite access to Radio-Television Kosovo (RTK). OMIK signed an agreement with the EBU on 30 June 2000, extending the services of the EBU to manage, operate and develop RTK until the end of 2000.

4.9 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

4.9.1 Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The Mission has established a close working relationship with ODIHR through its human rights and election activities. The publication of the human rights report, "As seen, as told in December 1999", can be seen as a model for co-operation between an OSCE field mission and an OSCE institution. Co-operation with the ODIHR with regard to work with the Roma minority in Kosovo has been particularly good.

4.9.2 Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

In August 2000, OMIK hosted the Kosovo Democracy Team, made up of members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

5. OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

The Mission's mandate has remained unaltered since its inception in 1992 as one of the first two CSCE field missions; it is currently carried out by eight international staff (the maximum under the mandate), supported by six locally recruited employees. The Mission's primary function remains the monitoring of events in the region, which may lead to a spillover into the host country and undermine its stability.

In the Mission's work, emphasis is placed upon economic development in the host country. Economic stability is viewed as key to the country's overall stability. Thus, there have been moves to further develop existing relations between the Mission and donor organizations in order to identify opportunities for small-business projects, which are to serve as a foundation for a regional co-operative development, with particular emphasis on the areas bordering lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Dojran.

Notwithstanding the focus on economic development as a means of underpinning stability, the need for fundamental reform in the country's legal and administrative structures is paramount for creating an environment conducive to sustainable economic growth. The Mission is acting as both a catalyst and a co-ordinating focal point for projects relating to the development of a new police academy with a strongly regional bias. It is involved in projects relating to the reform of the media and the judicial system, and it also serves as a focal point on trafficking in human beings, for resident governmental and non-governmental organizations.

As part of its mandate, the Mission has established close working relationships and meets at least once a week with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Council of Europe (CoE), European Commission (EC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and local representatives of UNMIK and NATO (KFOR).

5.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission and the Council of Europe are working together to improve the situation of the Roma minority in the country and to establish better cross-border relations with neighbouring countries. The Mission staff regularly briefs CoE officials.

5.2 United Nations

5.2.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Mission hosts weekly meetings with the UNHCR at which all matters of mutual interest are discussed. It also participates in the information meetings hosted by the UNHCR. Trilateral co-operation has developed between the Mission, the UNHCR and the CoE on matters relating to the status of the Roma minority. The two organizations also co-operate in the development and implementation of training programmes for journalists, the aim of which is the creation of free and responsible media. The UNHCR has helped organize fact-finding visits to OSCE headquarters, permitting the local media to observe and understand the functioning of an international organization.

5.2.2 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP attends the Mission's weekly information update meeting. The OSCE Mission and the UNDP consult one another on project needs in remote areas of the country.

5.2.3 United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

The Mission holds regular meetings with a representative of UNMIK, at which matters of mutual concern and interest are discussed. It provides UNMIK with its activity reports and receives UNMIK's overview of trends. Ad hoc meetings are arranged between the two, as needed.

5.3 European Union

5.3.1 European Commission (EC)

The Mission has a daily exchange of information with representatives of the Commission. A mutually beneficial relationship based on complementary competencies exists between the two organizations. The OSCE Mission's minorities and media staff member has been working with the EC on a joint-venture project on media democratization and on the identification of possible workshop-based seminars. The seminars are still in the planning phase.

5.3.2 European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM)

There is a regular weekly exchange of information with members of the ECMM on matters of mutual interest – in particular on the border situation and political issues. Ad hoc meetings take place as events dictate. The ECMM has provided several teams for monitoring this year's municipal elections.

5.4 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)/Kosovo Force (KFOR)

The Mission hosts weekly meetings with the NATO liaison officer. A close relationship exists between the Mission and the KFOR support elements in the country. Directly and through their rear headquarters, the KFOR contingents have provided support for Mission initiatives such as the annual "Blossom Run" and have offered emergency logistic support for election monitoring.

5.5 International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)/ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Both the ICRC and the IFRC pay regular visits to the Mission. During a weekly meeting with the ICRC/IFRC matters of mutual interest are discussed and views on certain issues frankly exchanged. The OSCE Mission and the ICRC/IFRC have assessed the effects of projects in the sensitive border areas, refugee accommodation and the refugees' legal status, as well as the aid supply situation. The joint approach and tackling of these problems has been effective in producing positive results.

5.6 World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The Mission is a regular contributor in World Bank meetings. An excellent relationship between the Mission's economics member and both the World Bank and the IMF results in a clearer perception of environmental issues for the Mission and in a broader informed opinion for the two organizations.

5.7 Co-operation with other organizations

Economic development is another important factor in maintaining stability in the country and in supporting its efforts to join the European integration processes. In this perspective, the Mission has strengthened its relations with the donor organizations. Emphasis has been placed on the identification of small-business projects which are to lay the foundations for regional co-operative development (Prespa Lake, Ohrid, etc.). In this context, the Mission closely co-operates with the EU Commission and national development and funding organizations (the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA), the National Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Promotion of the host country, Enterprise Support Agency (ESA) and others).

The Mission also works directly on many small projects with national embassies (e.g., those of Norway, Austria, Romania, Canada, the United States, Switzerland (Pro Helvetia), Sweden and the United Kingdom). A good working relationship is maintained with other embassies in the country and regular exchanges occur bilaterally with, for example, the French Embassy.

The Mission provides regular briefings and co-operates closely with non-governmental organizations, such as CARITAS, the Open Society Institute (OSI), the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute (COLPI), the SOROS Foundation, Interkerkelijk Vreedensverband and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), in addition to working very closely with the ministries of the host country.

5.8 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

5.8.1 Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Legal reform is an important ongoing process in the host country. The Mission is in a position to facilitate co-operation between government departments and international organizations. It has been working in co-operation with colleagues in ODIHR on initiatives to tackle problems such as domestic violence and to develop programmes to combat trafficking in human beings and to enhance the status and rights of women, in addition to fostering co-operative relations between national women's groups and the international community.

ODIHR is also involved in the production of a Roma film, the formation of a youth NGO and the organization of a Roma youth conference and a regional Roma conference.

The Mission is also working with ODIHR, OSI and COLPI (SOROS Foundation) on projects related to the training and development of police under the overall umbrella of a new Police Academy.

6. OSCE Mission to Estonia

6.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission to Estonia maintains contact with Council of Europe personnel on matters pertaining to language certification, language education, language requirements, citizenship and residency information provision and processes.

6.2 United Nations

6.2.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Mission shares information and discusses various issues with the UNHCR Representation both locally and regionally. In particular, it shares information and statistics with the UNHCR on citizenship and residency. The Mission also occasionally refers some individuals to the UNHCR offices for support.

6.2.2 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP is one of the most important international organizations with which the OSCE Mission co-operates. The UNDP office in Tallinn is the central office for several programmes, including the European Commission's PHARE Estonian Language Training Programme, which began operations in September 1998, with an agreement signed by representatives of the Government of Estonia, the UNDP and the Delegation of the European Commission. The aim of the Programme is to teach Estonian as a second language and to provide support to adult language training and language training in the educational system. The Programme also tries to raise public awareness about the integration process. The OSCE Mission is a member of the Steering Committee for this Programme and takes part in monthly meetings to discuss its progress.

The UNDP is also the central office for the Nordic/British Council/ UNDP project which began in August 1998 with an agreement between the Estonian Government, the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The British Council joined the Programme in 2000. The aim of the project is to promote the integration of non-Estonian residents into an open, democratic, cohesive and multi-cultural Estonian society. The objective of Estonia's integration policy is to ensure rapid modernization of society with a view to accession to the European Union, while preserving both stability and a commitment to the protection and continued development of Estonian culture. It is also the goal of this project to remove the barriers that hinder many non-Estonians from fully participating in Estonian society. The Mission regularly confers with the UNDP staff implementing this programme.

6.2.3 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The Mission has contacts and, in some cases, has had joint programmes with UNESCO. In 1998 and 1999, the Mission jointly organized and/or took part in UNESCO-sponsored education seminars in Estonia.

6.3 European Union

6.3.1 European Commission (EC)

On matters of mutual interest, the Mission is in direct and regular contact with the local representation of the European Commission and shares information with it.

As mentioned above, the Mission is a member of the Steering Committee of the EU/Phare Language Programme which funds language training in Estonia. This means that it constantly co-operates with the EU/Phare representatives and with all the other representatives on the Steering Committee, which include the Delegation of the European Commission, the Ministry of Education, the Office of the Minister for Ethnic Affairs, and the President's Round Table on Minorities.

6.4 Nordic Council of Ministers

The Mission has contacts and, in some cases, has had joint programmes with the Nordic Council of Ministers. The joint programmes have included NGO development seminars and training sessions.

6.5 Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

The Mission co-operates with the Council of Baltic Sea States Commissioner on Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities. The Mission has referred persons who complained of human rights violations to the CBSS Commissioner's Office.

The Office of the Commissioner sometimes requests information from the OSCE Mission on developments in Estonia.

The Mission co-operates with the CBSS's Baltic education initiative, Eurofaculty, by providing one Mission member to the University of Tartu's Eurofaculty as an adjunct lecturer on human rights.

6.6 Co-operation with other organizations and institutions

The OSCE Mission also closely co-operates with the following institutions

- Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung (FNS):

The FNS is one of the four German political foundations which operate world-wide. The FNS has a close political affiliation with Germany's Free Liberal Party. In Estonia, the FNS

supports self-determination, participation, decentralization and integration of all citizens into society and politics, while paying particular attention to minorities. The FNS has, therefore, participated in the OSCE-sponsored round tables and seminars.

– Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS):

Like the FNS, the KAS is one of the major German political foundations. It is closely affiliated with the Christian Democratic Union. In Estonia, it has been involved in matters relating to political and economic modernization.

– Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre (ENUT) in Tallinn:

ENUT is the only centre for women's studies in Estonia. It is very active and, among others, is involved with specific problems of women belonging to minority groups in Estonia. In this area, ENUT has become a partner of the OSCE Mission.

7. OSCE Mission to Latvia

The Mission has periodically provided briefings to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Baltic Sea States and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In general, the Mission has enjoyed support from international organizations and the Latvian authorities.

7.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission provides information to the Council of Europe on the latest developments relevant to the work of the Council, for example, on the State Language Law, the implementation of the 1998 Law on Education and the State Integration Programme. A visit of two Mission members to the Council of Europe, in February 2000, further strengthened mutual understanding and co-operation.

7.2 United Nations

7.2.1 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP is an important partner of the OSCE Mission. The two offices have a common interest in human rights and development of democratic institutions. The Mission and the UNDP office have co-operated in the promotion of the State Integration Programme and have been involved in assisting the National Human Rights Office in its work. In addition, the Mission has given its wholehearted support to the National Programme for Latvian Language Training initiated by the UNDP and has assisted the UNDP in seeking additional funding for language courses under the Programme.

7.3 European Union

7.3.1 European Commission (EC)

The Mission regularly briefs the EC Delegation on matters of common concern. Co-operation between these two institutions has been of two types. On the one hand, the two offices have a common interest in Latvia's legal infrastructure, and therefore engage jointly in monitoring and the provision of advice on specific legal texts. On the other hand, the Mission occasionally provides background information for the further development of different EU/PHARE Programmes.

7.4 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

In co-operation with the IOM, a project for the repatriation of Russians from Latvia was brought to the attention of the international donor community.

7.5 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

7.5.1 Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The Mission's Human Dimension Officer maintains contacts with various sections of ODIHR. The Mission has at the request of ODIHR produced reports on specific issues. With the support of ODIHR, it is implementing two projects: a textbook on human rights in the Latvian language and publication of a brochure entitled "Ten Questions on Integration".

7.5.2 High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

Given the importance of issues relating to national minorities (e.g., citizenship, education, language and integration), the work of the office of the High Commissioner is essential to the Mission in Latvia.

The Mission works in close co-operation with the office of the HCNM in assisting the Government of Latvia with the drafting and/or amendment of legal texts.

The Mission provides input for legal analyses that the office of the HCNM drafts. In addition, it has worked with the office of the HCNM in preparing seminars on minority issues and on integration issues.

8. Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus

8.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

In February 2000, the Political Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe invited delegations from the sitting Parliament and from the 13th Supreme Council,

together with the Head of the Advisory and Monitoring Group (AMG) and the Chairman of the Belarus *ad hoc* Working Group of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to attend hearings on Belarus.

The Venice Commission provided an assessment of the draft and the final versions of the Belarusian Electoral Code, which entered into force in March 2000.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe made available experts for six regional conferences organized by the OSCE AMG on local government, rule of law and regional economic development. These regional conferences were held between November 1999 and March 2000.

Early in March 2000, the Chairman and the Rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, together with Members of the European Parliament and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE (Parliamentary Troika), undertook a fact-finding visit to Minsk.

Another fact-finding mission took place from 31 July to 4 August 2000 in connection with the parliamentary elections in Belarus which were held on 15 October 2000. Members of this fact-finding Mission were the Chairman of the Political Affairs Committee, Terry Davis, and its Rapporteur, Wolfgang Behrendt, and the Rapporteur of the Human Rights and Legal Affairs Committee, Cyril Svoboda.

8.2 United Nations

8.2.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The AMG and the UNHCR co-operated effectively in a jointly defined and organized programme for the integration of young Afghans into Belarusian society. Most of the Afghans were very young when they came to the Soviet Union, during the Afghanistan war. They were educated and given vocational training in the Soviet Union and its successor States. Some of the students were stranded in Belarus and lacked support in their efforts to become part of the Belarusian social fabric. The task of integrating them has been successfully accomplished through co-operation by the OSCE and the UNHCR with national organizations in Minsk. The Afghan students have received international refugee status and residence permits. This has enabled them to take up a vocation and support themselves. The Belarusian Red Cross and the Government Office of Migration supported the joint effort of the OSCE and the UNHCR in this respect.

8.3 European Union

8.3.1 European Commission (EC)

On the basis of a convention between the European Commission and the ODIHR, the Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus has been able to undertake implementation of seven projects related to the strengthening of democratic institutions. For the first year of the programme, the European Union committed EUR 350,000 and the ODIHR EUR 150,000.

Implementation of the programme commenced on 1 March 2000. The Programme includes the following projects:

- Establishment of a centre for European and transatlantic studies at the Independent European Humanities University in Minsk;
- Establishment of electronic data links with international institutions of higher education and research, at the European Humanities University;
- Arrangement of a lecture series on civil society and pluralistic democracy;
- Improvement of the sanitary and health conditions in prisons;
- Support for and training of “public defenders” and support for persons facing criminal or administrative prosecution for acts having political implications;
- Logistical support for non-governmental organizations and support for media-oriented activities in connection with the parliamentary elections;
- Conferences on conflict and dispute resolution.

8.3.2 European Parliament (EP)

The Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Parliament established a Parliamentary Troika for Belarus. The parliamentarians of the three institutions are closely following developments in Belarus. The Parliamentary Troika for Belarus supports the efforts of the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus aimed at developing democratic institutions and monitoring the country’s compliance with its European commitments. A high ranking Parliamentary Troika delegation visited Belarus for the first time in March 2000 and was received by President Lukashenko.

In May 2000, delegations from the European Parliament and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly visited Minsk for the second time in order to provide support for the dialogue between the opposing political forces.

8.4 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The AMG and ICRC’s Kiev Office reached an understanding on providing doctors for prison visits. The purpose of these visits is to inspect prisons to discover sanitary and health deficiencies, with a view to laying the groundwork for remedial measures. Twelve prisons were visited during the period from 26 August to 8 September 2000, by a delegation comprised of representatives of the ICRC, experts from the Belarusian Prison Administration, and the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group. These visits laid the foundation for the decision on the upgrading/renovation programme, which is to be implemented in the next 12 months.

8.5 Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

The Human Rights Commission of the IPU visited Belarus on a fact-finding mission in February 2000. The aim of the mission was to find out what legal actions were being undertaken by the authorities in Belarus, following the constitutional controversy, which has been looming

over the country since November 1996. The AMG supported the efforts of the fact-finding mission before, during and after the visit. At its 166th session, in Amman, Jordan, on 6 May 2000, the IPU adopted a resolution on the cases of Victor Gonchar, Andrei Klimov, Vladimir Koudinov and Valery Shchukin. The Interparliamentary Union will continue dealing with Belarusian cases.

8.6 Co-operation with the OSCE institutions

8.6.1 Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The Advisory and Monitoring Group closely co-operated with ODIHR, notably in connection with the parliamentary elections in Belarus (15 October 2000). The AMG and the ODIHR held three “technical conferences” of European institutions (Council of Europe, European Union, OSCE) and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), which took place in Vienna (April, June and August 2000) under OSCE chairmanship.

These conferences greatly helped to harmonize the positions of these institutions with regard to the participation of international election observers in the parliamentary elections in Belarus on 15 October 2000. Several ODIHR-AMG conferences took place on the subject during the summer of 2000. In August 2000, during a visit to Minsk, ODIHR experts reviewed the conditions for the elections in meetings with Belarusian government officials, the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) and the opposition.

Reference has to be made to the substantive co-operation with ODIHR in the preparation and implementation of projects in Belarus under the covenant concluded in 2000 between ODIHR and the Commission of the European Union.

8.6.2 Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM)

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media is continuing to follow closely the unsatisfactory situation regarding the independent press, and the State monopoly over the electronic media. He has intervened in a number of cases and is continuing to support the endeavours of the AMG to bring about an understanding between the Government and the opposition on access to the media. The Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media was also instrumental in providing the AMG with examples of legislative documentation from other countries.

9. OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya (Russian Federation)

The level of interaction between the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya (AG) and other international organizations has increased remarkably in recent months because of growing international concern over the situation in the war-torn republic. A special source of concern remains the enormous number of displaced persons in Chechnya, neighbouring Ingushetia and other adjacent regions. The Assistance Group, with its locally employed Chechen personnel in Nazran, and its involvement in providing humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Znamenskoye, Chechen Nadterechny district, is continuing to serve as a source of information, analyses and assessments of the situation in the republic. The OSCE Assistance Group expects that co-operation with international organizations will intensify significantly

following the AG's redeployment, cessation of hostilities in Chechnya and the resumption of work by international organizations.

9.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

The AG held consultations with all the high-level Council of Europe delegations that visited Moscow. In January 2000, the AG held consultations with Lord Russell-Johnston, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE (PACE) and with Lord Judd, Chairman of the Political Affairs Committee of PACE. In March 2000, there was another meeting with Lord Judd. Views were also exchanged with Mr. Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, during his visit in June 2000.

9.2 United Nations

9.2.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The AG participates in regular meetings organized by the UNHCR and the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on topics concerning humanitarian aid for IDPs in the Northern Caucasus. In addition, the Head of the AG, the head of UNHCR-Russia and the head of ICRC-Russia have agreed to hold regular meetings in order to co-ordinate actions in certain areas of common interest. On 27 July 2000, the UN Regional Representative to the Russian Federation, John McCallin, agreed to co-operate with the AG in implementing the AGs humanitarian psycho-medical rehabilitation program for 100 children of Chechen IDPs and their mothers and in providing UNHCR tents to camps for internally displaced persons in Znamenskoye.

9.2.2 United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)

The AG held two meetings with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, briefing her on the human rights situation in Chechnya.

9.2.3 Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

The AG participates in regular meetings organized by the UNHCR and the OCHA on topics concerning humanitarian aid for IDPs in the Northern Caucasus. In addition, the OCHA and the AG co-ordinate their facilitating efforts for NGOs.

9.3 European Union

9.3.1 European Commission (EC)

The AG holds regular meetings with the European Commission, in which it briefs the Commission on the political situation in Chechnya. In February 2000, the AG also briefed Paul

Nielson, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, on the humanitarian situation in Chechnya.

9.4 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

In March 2000, the AG proposed to continue its indirect co-operation with the ICRC through the Chechen Red Cross and Red Crescent Society in the context of a food assistance programme for Chechen IDPs. However, the Chechen Red Cross and Red Crescent Society was advised by the ICRC to stop acting as an implementing partner for the OSCE AG for the time being. Regular meetings take place between the Head of the AG and the head of the Moscow-based ICRC delegation in order to co-ordinate action in certain areas of common interest.

9.5 World Food Programme (WFP)

Since 1 August 2000, the WFP has been providing humanitarian aid to over 300,000 people in Chechnya and about 75,000 Chechen IDPs in Ingushetia. The AG had been requested to assist the WFP with information about the situation in Chechnya, especially in respect of the situation of displaced persons in tent cities in Znamenskoye, Nadterechny district in Chechnya. The AG also agreed to share with the WFP information about its activities in Chechnya.

9.6 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The AG participates in bi-weekly meetings called by the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Moscow and occasionally in Nazran (Ingushetia) and in Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia), with the following international NGOs:

Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development (CPCD), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Hilfswerk Austria, International Medical Corps (IMC), Islamic Relief (IR), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Médecins du Monde (MDM), Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium (MSF), People in Need (Czech Republic), Polish Humanitarian Action (PHO) and others, including the Russian human rights group “Memorial” and Humanitarian Human Rights Watch.

10. Personal Representative of the Chairperson-In-Office on the Conflict Dealt With by the Minsk Conference

The Personal Representative is mandated to “co-operate as appropriate with representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations operating in the area of conflict”. In compliance with this task, close contacts have been maintained with international organizations and institutions active in the region since the deployment of the Personal Representative and his team in September 1995.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are the Personal Representative’s two main partners. Co-operation with these organizations includes regular exchange of information on the humanitarian situation; confidence-building measures; detainees and missing persons; damage assessment and other aspects of the situation in or near the occupied territories. The political sensitivity of the

peace process on which the Personal Representative's work is focused places constraints on the exchange of information. The specific nature of the Office's mandate concerning Nagorno-Karabakh itself also limits co-operation with international organizations which are not operating in that territory.

The co-chairs of the Minsk Group organized a meeting in Geneva in May 2000 which enhanced the exchange of information on the activities of each of the organizations. An assessment team is to visit the region to evaluate the damage and reconstruction requirements in the war-affected areas. Practically all the international organizations active in the region were represented at the meeting, and the Personal Representative also presented his assessment of the situation in the region.

10.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

In March 2000, the Personal Representative met with officials at the highest level of the Council of Europe, namely Lord Russell-Johnston, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE (PACE) and Mr. Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, to discuss developments relating to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

10.2 United Nations

The Personal Representative maintains contacts with the UN Resident Representatives in Baku and Yerevan and with the UNDP representatives in the region.

10.2.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Personal Representative and his team are in frequent contact with the UNHCR offices in Baku, Yerevan and Tbilisi. This close relationship has allowed the OSCE to keep abreast of reconstruction and rehabilitation work carried out by the UNHCR in Armenia and Azerbaijan. In turn, the Personal Representative has informed the competent UNHCR offices about relevant developments in the Minsk Process. In this regard, the input that the Personal Representative is able to provide on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding occupied territories is of particular importance, since the UN agencies have no access to these areas.

10.3 European Union

10.3.1 European Commission (EC)

The Personal Representative and members of his team occasionally meet, with the regional representative of the European Commission, in order to gather information on economic assistance in the region relevant to the settlement of the conflict.

In April 2000, the Personal Representative held meetings in the External Relations Directorate-General of the European Commission in Brussels, as well as in the Office of the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU General Affairs

Council. The purpose of these meetings was to exchange information on the latest developments relating to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

10.3.2 European Parliament (EP)

At the invitation of the European Parliament, the Personal Representative visited Brussels in April 2000. During this visit, he addressed the Caucasus caucus of the European Parliament on the latest developments in the region.

10.4 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The Personal Representative meets regularly with ICRC representatives in Baku, Yerevan and Stepanakert/Khankendi, with the aim of ensuring a co-ordinated approach to easing the humanitarian consequences of the conflict. The dialogue between the OSCE and the ICRC focuses chiefly on the still-unresolved issue of detainees and prisoners of war. The Personal Representative is able to obtain up-to-date figures from the ICRC on the numbers of detainees visited in each location and reports on this to the Chairperson-in-Office.

The Personal Representative provides valuable political support to the ICRC in the region by using high-level access to all the parties and emphasising OSCE support for a complete solution to the problem of detainees and prisoners of war on the basis of the Geneva Conventions (i.e. immediate and unconditional “all for all” exchange), and by urging all the parties to fully co-operate with the ICRC representatives in the region.

Co-operation with the ICRC yielded positive results in terms of releases of prisoners of war by all the parties to the conflict.

10.5 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The Office of the Personal Representative also maintains contacts with the IOM.

10.6 World Bank (WB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The Personal Representative and members of his team occasionally meet with regional representatives of the World Bank and the EBRD with the aim of gathering information on economic assistance to the region. In the case of the World Bank, particular attention is being paid to its sponsorship of a demining project in Azerbaijan, which may be of relevance to possible future OSCE peacekeeping operation in the region.

10.7 Co-operation with other organizations

The Personal Representative and members of his team maintain contacts with a number of NGOs active in the humanitarian field (e.g. Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly, Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières, HALO Trust). The Personal Representative emphasizes that such contacts are only of a fact-finding nature and do not affect the confidentiality of diplomatic activities carried out in fulfilment of his mandate.

10.8 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

10.8.1 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

The previous President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Helle Degn, paid a visit to the Personal Representative's Office in Tbilisi last April. During her visit she was briefed about the activities of the Office and developments in the Minsk Process.

10.9 Suggestions for future activities

Maintaining and strengthening the contacts outlined above is a vital part of the Personal Representative's contribution to the OSCE's efforts to secure a lasting resolution of the conflict. Consequently, it is important to ensure close co-ordination and compatibility of all international activities in the region. This applies in particular to co-ordination of the deployment of potential OSCE peacekeepers with the resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees and demining activities undertaken by other agencies. It has been suggested that a joint committee of international organizations be set up at the appropriate time to manage this co-ordination task.

11. OSCE Office in Yerevan

The OSCE Office in Yerevan opened in late February 2000. Since its opening, it has been a priority of the Office to establish contacts with international organizations (both resident and non-resident in Armenia), with a view to determining areas of co-operation and mutual support. Substantive work is already underway.

11.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

The Republic of Armenia has applied for membership in the Council of Europe. This process is now entering its final stage. The Head of the OSCE Office paid a working visit to the Council of Europe in March 2000. During this visit, discussions focussed on the ways in which the Office in Yerevan could assist Armenia in its preparations for entry into the CoE and subsequent implementation of commitments it had undertaken. This initiative was welcomed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Members of the Legal Affairs Department of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe are now working with the Office on a wide range of areas, including: anti-corruption legislation and its implementation, media issues and ombudsman and police issues. An area of future co-operation is that of local decentralization. On this matter, the OSCE Office has established an international co-ordination group in Yerevan.

Although the level of co-operation is good in the areas where work is in hand, the range of the CoE's activities in Armenia is so wide that the OSCE Office is occasionally not informed about events of interest to it. It is hoped that the increasing joint knowledge of both sides' interests may reduce this problem.

11.2 United Nations

11.2.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The OSCE and the UNHCR offices have established a close working relationship relating to refugee matters. The two offices have already identified the following specific spheres of co-operation and co-ordination:

- The OSCE Office is to provide advice for the preparation of a new survey of refugees in Armenia, to be conducted by the UNHCR and the Government Department for Migration and Refugees;
- The two offices will assist the Department for Migration and Refugees in the preparation and implementation of specific programmes for the rehabilitation and integration of refugees;
- The two offices will support the activities of the NGOs working on refugee matters by means of capacity-building and information-sharing, etc.;
- The OSCE Office will participate in activities relating to migration (e.g. in the follow-up to the 1996 CIS Conference on Forced Displacement and Irregular Migration, in which ODIHR is an organizer and an active participant), statelessness, citizenship, naturalization of refugees, etc.

To date, co-operation between the two offices has been close and effective.

11.2.2 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP representation and the OSCE Office have discussed ways in which the activities of the two can be of assistance in encouraging the effectiveness of good governance programmes. The access of the Office to the highest political levels is considered to be of particular importance in fulfilling this task. To date, the two offices have jointly looked at questions relating to the promotion of co-ordination between ministries and institutions that are recipients of foreign technical and financial assistance and at matters relating to anti-corruption measures.

In co-operation with the UNDP and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, the Office has entered into discussions on amending Armenia's electoral legislation. On the Armenian side, the counterparts are the Parliament's Standing Committee on State and Legal Affairs and the Central Electoral Commission. On this matter, the OSCE Office is following up on an on-going activity of ODIHR, which has been providing advice on electoral legislation for several years.

The OSCE Office has also taken the lead in moving forward an ODIHR project on registration of permanent citizens. This project is relevant to the activities of both UNDP and UNHCR.

11.2.3 World Food Programme (WFP)

The WFP has been active in Armenia for several years. The OSCE Office in Yerevan has discussed with the WFP its “Work for Food” project. The OSCE Office and the office of the WFP have agreed to hold regular meetings in order to identify areas in which the OSCE presence might usefully complement WFP activities.

11.2.4 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The OSCE Office is jointly funding a project with IOM in the field of combating trafficking in human beings. This project will also involve UNICEF in Armenia.

11.3 European Union

11.3.1 European Commission (EC)

The EC only operates a one-man office in Yerevan, which is supervised from Tbilisi. The OSCE Office has held discussions with the EC Representative and members of various TACIS projects in Yerevan on how the Office’s Economic and Environmental Officer could work with the Commission, particularly in developing proposals for regional economic and environmental activities.

During his visit to Brussels in May 2000, the Head of the OSCE Office had discussions with Commission experts and the recently established Policy Unit of the European Council. The OSCE Office had on previous occasions provided materials and briefing to the latter.

The EC representation in Yerevan is now working with the Office on combating corruption and on the ombudsman institution.

11.4 World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF)

In co-operation with international financial institutions, the OSCE Office is trying to improve the co-ordination of international assistance to Armenia. However, as in many other countries, there is a reluctance of donor bodies to freely share information about their bilateral programmes with others.

Shortly after the establishment of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, the World Bank representative proposed that the Bank and the OSCE Office could work together on measures to combat corruption. An international working group, under OSCE chairmanship, was subsequently formed. It includes both the World Bank and the IMF. Both the President and the Prime Minister have welcomed the formation of this group. As a result, the Government has agreed to establish a joint task force with international agencies in order to develop a strategy to combat corruption.

Representatives of the World Bank visiting Yerevan in June held consultations with the Office in connection with the preparation of a feasibility study on post-conflict rehabilitation in Armenia and the region. The Office could be an important partner in this activity given its capabilities for on-the-spot political analysis and promotion of basic principles of post conflict

rehabilitation, including, *inter alia*, the need to prioritize programmes and activities, while at the same time lowering the expectation of an imminent “peace dividend” in the form of financial aid which is prevalent in the region.

The OSCE Office is discussing with the IMF other possible areas of co-operation. These could include the promotion, on a political level, of the need for Government-defined structural benchmarks, which would become performance criteria for implementation of reform. These could include the formulation of a medium-term Government poverty-reduction programme and, most importantly, the inclusion of civil society in the initiation and monitoring of the implementation of such programmes.

The IMF representatives expressed their appreciation for the assistance that the OSCE Office extended to the Government in preparation for a more effective participation of the Armenian delegation in the annual OSCE Economic Forum in Prague.

Office representatives participate in monthly meetings of the international donor community.

11.5 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The OSCE Human Rights and Democratization Officers have established effective links with the ICRC representatives in Armenia and are at the initial stage of agreeing on areas in which the OSCE could assist the ICRC.

12. OSCE Office in Baku

The OSCE Office in Baku did not become operational until well into the second half of 2000 and, at the time of preparation of the present report, remains in a formative stage of its deployment. The promotion of co-operation with international organizations is one of the core functions of the Office’s mandate and will be actively pursued in the development of its work programme.

This applies in particular to the **Council of Europe**. The range of commitments undertaken by Azerbaijan in connection with its application for membership in the Council constitutes a principal point of reference for the development of a programme of activities in the areas concerned. Initial contacts with the Secretariat of the Council have been established to that effect. In connection with the preparations for the parliamentary elections in November 2000, contacts have been established as appropriate with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council.

Co-operation will be pursued with the **United Nations** and with specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system. In particular, the UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF and WFP are represented in Azerbaijan. The aim will be to promote a more concerted approach to OSCE initiatives and programmes of the UN presence in Azerbaijan, as institutional capabilities and resources permit. It is planned to seek the guidance of the OSCE, its Institutions, and the UN Headquarters on the scope for this co-ordination. Efforts will be made to match the concerns of the OSCE in the political, economic and human dimensions of security and co-operation with the institutional capabilities of the United Nations and its specialized bodies.

On particular issues in the human dimension, the Office will seek co-operation with the local representation of the **International Organization for Migration**, and with the offices of

the **International Committee of the Red Cross** and the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**.

The **World Bank**, the **IMF** and the **EBRD** are locally represented in Azerbaijan. The proximity of their presence in Baku will facilitate communication on emerging issues of common interest.

13. OSCE Mission to Georgia

The OSCE Mission to Georgia extensively co-operates and maintains close contact with other international organizations in the area.

In South Ossetia, the Mission is the focal point for security matters. The Mission works closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in maintaining contact with the command of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces (JPKF), with which evacuation exercises are conducted regularly.

Contacts with other organizations are less frequent, but hardly a day passes without at least one of the international organizations paying a visit to the Missions' headquarters in Tbilisi. The exchange of information and ideas creates a positive synergy conducive to joint projects, especially in the human dimension area.

13.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

The Mission continues to work closely with the Council of Europe (CoE). This co-operation intensified following Georgia's entry into the CoE in 1999. Obligations undertaken by Georgia upon its entry into the CoE provide a good basis for assessing work in the judiciary system and on minorities, particularly relating to the Meskhetian issue.

13.2 United Nations

The OSCE Mission is supporting the efforts of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in his efforts to negotiate a settlement to the Georgian – Abkhaz conflict. The OSCE participates in the UN-led "Geneva process" to bring about a peace settlement.

Pursuant to recommendations of the Istanbul Summit, the Mission has engaged in arranging an OSCE/UN fact-finding mission to the Gali district to assess, *inter alia*, the situation of returnees to the area. This work is being conducted in close co-operation with the United Nations and its Special Representative in Tbilisi.

The Mission regularly exchanges information on security issues with other international organizations, such as the UNHCR and the UNOMIG.

13.2.1 United Nations Human Rights Office in Sukhumi, Georgia (HROAG)

The Mission has seconded one international staff member as human rights officer to the HROAG. The officer's work is regulated by a memorandum of understanding signed on 29 April 1997, which stipulates that a person seconded by the OSCE shall work under the

authority of the United Nations. It is therefore a UN office, headed by a UN official, subject to UN rules and regulations with which personnel seconded by the OSCE comply. There appears to be, however, a general impression, even among high-level Georgian officials, that the Sukhumi office is an OSCE human rights office. Since the activities of the office are criticized regularly, the Mission has repeatedly tried to clarify its role in the UN human rights office.

13.2.2 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR has had a presence in Georgia since 1993. Its activities are aimed at creating conditions conducive to the return of refugees from North Ossetia to Georgia and the return of internally displaced persons to their areas of origin in South Ossetia. The Mission closely co-operates with the UNHCR on this issue, both within the framework of the Joint Control Commission on the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict Settlement (JCC), and on a bilateral basis.

The OSCE conducts military and social monitoring in the area of conflict, while the UNHCR oversees rehabilitation and community projects, conducts repatriation, monitors protection of the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons and provides legal counsel. The offices of the two organizations in Tbilisi co-ordinate their activities on a regular basis. The presence of the Mission's Tskhinvali field office and the UNHCR Mobile Team in the area of conflict and their day-to-day dialogue with the Georgian and Ossetian local authorities has been important in promoting local acceptance of the returning families.

In late 1999 and at the beginning of 2000, the Mission and the UNHCR undertook several joint fact-finding missions for the purpose of assessing the situation of Chechen refugees living in the Akhmeta region.

In sum, the Mission has established a useful working relationship with the UNHCR Office.

13.3 OSCE/ODIHR, UNHCR and CoE

In 1999, a concerted effort of the OSCE/ODIHR, UNHCR and CoE succeeded in bringing to the attention of the international community a key aspect of settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict: the vexing problem of restoration of urban housing and property rights of refugees and internally displaced persons returning to Georgia proper. This co-operation has increased the leverage to push for a resolution of the restitution issue.

The OSCE Mission and UNHCR-Tbilisi also participate in a working group, established by the Georgian authorities in 1999 with the aim of preparing relevant draft legislation. The working group has failed to keep meeting schedules and there is considerable inertia. This could create the impression that the OSCE and the UNHCR are colluding in delaying tactics. Consequently, the Mission and UNHCR-Tbilisi have urged the Georgian authorities to speed up the group's work.

13.4 European Union

13.4.1 European Commission (EC)

The Mission continues to actively co-operate with the EC in the implementation of an EC rehabilitation programme in the areas affected by the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

In July, the Georgian and Ossetian sides, the EC Delegation to Georgia and the Mission signed a so-called EU platform on economic rehabilitation projects to be implemented in the zone of conflict. Total project costs will be EUR 1.5 million. The project will be implemented under the auspices of the OSCE Mission to Georgia.

At the Mission's suggestion, the Joint Control Commission on the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict Settlement (JCC) in 1999 decided to include the EC in the JCC as an observer on economic matters. It is expected that this will help concentrate efforts aimed at economic rehabilitation, in which the EC is a major international donor.

13.5 Co-operation with other organizations

Since 1999, the Mission has been a focal point for security-related issues in the area of the South Ossetian conflict. In this endeavour, the Mission works closely with the three major organizations present in South Ossetia: the UNHCR mobile team, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Hilfswerk Austria, as well as with other NGOs. The NGOs are mainly involved in rehabilitation work in the area of conflict.

In 1999, the Mission upgraded its own presence in Abkhazia by launching a number of projects in the human rights and media fields. In 2000, the Mission continued this approach and has established sustainable relationships with key local NGOs, especially in the Sukhumi area.

The Mission maintains regular contact with the NGOs based in Tbilisi regarding the human rights situation.

13.6 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

13.6.1 Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The Mission assigned two Mission members to the ODIHR Technical Assistance Team and to the ODIHR Election Observation Mission, respectively.

During the presidential elections in April 2000, the Mission also temporarily seconded two Mission members as long-time observers to the ODIHR Election Observation Mission.

The Mission's human rights office is currently defining its role in the field of gender issues. A project focusing on NGO leadership training is being developed in close co-operation with the ODIHR and NGOs already active in this area. The Mission is also developing a project for the next year, which will focus on capacity-building for women in rural areas.

Both these projects imply extensive co-operation with other international organizations, such as the UNDP, as well as with local NGOs.

14. OSCE Mission to Moldova

A number of international organizations and institutions are active in Moldova. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank both have resident missions in Chisinau to monitor and implement ongoing financial assistance programmes. The resident office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) doubles as the overall representative of the United Nations in Moldova and supervises a wide range of assistance programmes. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) also have a resident representative and a resident programme officer, respectively. The European Commission's (EC) Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) Programme maintains a Co-ordination Unit in Chisinau. The Council of Europe's (CoE) Venice Commission has been formally involved in current efforts to revise the Moldovan Constitution.

14.1 Council of Europe (CoE)

The Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through law (Venice Commission) has been invited by the Government of Moldova to participate in a joint presidential-parliamentary commission on constitutional reform. The future of this co-operation is unclear following the adoption of sweeping constitutional amendments by the Moldovan Parliament in July 2000. These constitutional changes transformed the Moldovan system from a presidential one to a parliamentary one. The OSCE Mission maintained regular working contacts and exchanged information with representatives of the Venice Commission engaged in this endeavour, as well as with representatives of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

The CoE closely follows events in Moldova with the aim of assessing whether Moldova has fulfilled the conditions for admission to the CoE. The OSCE Mission maintains regular contact with the CoE representatives engaged in this effort and in particular with officials from the Directorate of Political Affairs. The OSCE Mission has benefited from international experts which the CoE has provided for events organized by the OSCE Mission in its role as mediator in the Trans-Dniestrian conflict. The Italian Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe made a high-level visit to Moldova in late July 2000, during which the Mission helped to establish contacts and arrange meetings in the Trans-Dniestrian region.

14.2 United Nations

14.2.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR representative in Moldova is working to arrange for repatriation of internally displaced persons and to prevent involuntary population flows. The OSCE Mission has co-operated with the UNHCR Office by sponsoring cultural events, such as large public benefit concerts, aimed at broadening public awareness and understanding of refugee and human rights issues. The OSCE Mission and the UNHCR also closely co-operate on protection and

expansion of the linguistic and educational rights of the Romanian-speaking population in Trans-Dniestria (about 40 percent of the total population of the left bank of the Dniestr River). The OSCE Mission and the UNHCR have asked the Trans-Dniestrian authorities for permission to open an experimental school in Rybnita, which would include students from the State (Russian) and private (Romanian) school systems. The two missions have also asked international financial institutions to support this project.

14.2.2 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Mission has worked closely with the UNDP representative in identifying and obtaining international support for a number of projects involving contacts and activities in Trans-Dniestria or Gagauzia. For example, the Mission has co-sponsored with the UNDP, or has sought financial support for, some projects involving contacts between media representatives or non-governmental organizations on the left and right banks of the Dniestr River. Most notable among these is the so-called “civic education project,” which will promote working contacts and capacity-building between NGOs in Trans-Dniestria and the rest of Moldova, and which will make use of the OSCE Mission office in Tiraspol as a base of operations on the left bank.

The OSCE Mission has successfully brought to the attention of the UNDP the importance of material assistance to the newly elected leadership of the Gagauz Autonomous Region. The UNDP has begun discussion of one project to promote development of tourist facilities and tourism and will reportedly be considering others aimed at the agro-industrial sector, which is the mainstay of the region’s economy. Such assistance will be important in supporting efforts of the Gagauz leadership to conclude a regional autonomy agreement between Gagauzia and Chisinau.

14.3 European Union

14.3.1 European Commission (EC)

The OSCE Mission and the EU jointly negotiated with the parties to the conflict and have launched a joint project to repair, restore and open the Gura-Biculi Bridge, on the main highway between Brest and Odessa. The TACIS Office in Chisinau is currently in charge of the operational implementation of the project, which is scheduled for completion by the autumn of 2000.

14.4 World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The Mission takes part in regular monthly donor meetings, at which the IMF and the World Bank representatives are present. The purpose of these meetings is to exchange information and co-ordinate activities. The Mission’s contribution to these meetings takes the form of information about developments in Trans-Dniestria. The Mission also facilitates contacts between international financial institutions and local authorities on the left bank, when desirable and appropriate.

14.5 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

14.5.1 Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The Mission co-operated with ODIHR in a number of fields in 2000. Under ODIHR Action Plan 2000, "Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings", the Mission was involved in collecting information on actions undertaken by the Moldovan authorities and non-governmental institutions in response to trafficking in human beings. The OSCE Mission also held talks during the summer with State institutions, international organizations and NGOs for the purpose of obtaining their support for the establishment of a national co-ordination council for the prevention of trafficking in human beings. The ODIHR asked the Mission to explore the possibility of organizing an information workshop or a round table, which would bring together various governmental and non-governmental actors in order to discuss the problem of trafficking and ways of co-operating in this field.

In January 2000, the ODIHR supported a seminar of Moldovan, Gagauz and Trans-Dniestrian journalists. The meeting was organized by a group of Moldovan journalists, with the approval of local Tiraspol officials, and was to take place on 20 and 21 April in Tiraspol. The topic of the seminar was to be co-operation in the field of information-sharing between the two sides in the conflict. Unfortunately, however, less than an hour after the beginning of the seminar, Trans-Dniestrian security authorities dispersed the journalists.

In February 2000, the ODIHR supported the translation into Russian of the Moldovan draft code of criminal procedure (required by the intra-parliamentary rules).

The ODIHR's Election Section was timely in providing an analysis of Trans-Dniestrian election legislation, prior to the Trans-Dniestrian local elections, held on 26 March and 9 April 2000.

On 27 March 2000, the Mission's Human Dimension Office participated in the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Human Rights and Inhuman Treatment and Punishment, in Vienna, organized by the Austrian Chairmanship and the ODIHR. Informal co-ordination was discussed with ODIHR representatives and other participants, especially in relation to establishing a mechanism for visits to Moldovan prisons, pre-trial detention institutions and police stations.

In April 2000, at the request of ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI), the Mission contacted the State Department on National Relations and Functioning of Languages of the Republic of Moldova in order to obtain information on planned activities for the International Roma Day on 8 April. As a result, the Mission prompted the first celebration ever of the International Roma Day in Moldova.

14.5.2 High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

The Office of the High Commissioner for National Minorities also increased its involvement and activities in Moldova during 2000. Following an exchange of correspondence between senior Moldovan officials and the Office of the High Commissioner for National Minorities in late 1999, relating to the use and promotion of the State and minority languages, a representative of the Office of the HCNM visited Moldova in early 2000. The Moldovan Government subsequently invited the HCNM to visit, which he did in May 2000. In conjunction

with this visit, the Office of the HCNM sponsored a seminar in Chisinau on minority and language issues, attended by representatives from all the main national and ethnic groups and from both sides of the Dniestr River. High Commissioner van der Stoel attended the seminar and spent an extra day meeting with a wide range of Moldovan officials concerned with national minority and language issues. The High Commissioner made a follow-up visit in early September 2000.

14.5.3 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

Following the Istanbul Summit, in 2000, the Mission intensified its co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. As a result, the Parliamentary Assembly has formed a special team for Moldova. The aim of this team is to promote dialogue between parliamentarians from Chisinau and Tiraspol and to support efforts of the OSCE aimed at achieving a comprehensive political solution to the conflict in Moldova. The head of this Team, Mr. Kimmo Kiljunen of Finland, visited Chisinau and Tiraspol in January 2000. The purpose of his visit was to determine the attitudes of the local parliamentarians towards enhanced co-operation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Having established that representatives of both the right and the left bank of the Dniestr River supported such an initiative, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Team for Moldova visited Moldova in March and June 2000. These visits and meetings led to discussion and adoption of a special resolution on Moldova at the annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in Bucharest, in July 2000.

15. OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

15.1 International organizations and institutions active in Ukraine

The following table provides an oversight of international organizations and institutions active in Ukraine. It contains the names of all the organizations and institutions that are accredited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine or that are relevant to the mandate of the OSCE in Ukraine.

Organization/ Institution	Permanent representation	Accredited with the MFA	Field of activity
Commission of the European Union (EC/EU)	+	+	Political, economic, technical assistance
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	+	+	Financial assistance
World Bank	+	+	Financial assistance
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	+	+	Financial assistance
United Nations (UN) / United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	+ (1)	+	Technical assistance
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	+	+	Refugees
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	+	+	Migration
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	+	+	Defence
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	+	+	International humanitarian law
Council of Europe (CoE)	-	-	Human rights Rule of law

(1) Performs a dual function: as a United Nations Resident Co-ordinator and as a UNDP Resident Representative.

15.2 Co-operation with international organizations and institutions

An OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine was established for the purpose of carrying out tasks relating to the co-operation of the OSCE and its Institutions with the Ukrainian authorities. This co-operation is based on the planning, implementation and monitoring of specific projects.

Currently, four projects (out of a total of nine) are being implemented in co-operation with other international organizations. One project is being implemented with a United Nations agency, two with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and one in co-ordination with the Council of Europe (CoE).

15.2.1 Organization of a Crimea Donors Conference

The OSCE Mission in Ukraine is working with the following partners on this project:

- Ukraine: State Department on National Minorities and Migration;
- OSCE: High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM);
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);

- International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The objective of the Donors Conference, to take place in December 2000 in Kiev, is to raise funds for formerly deported people, who were repatriated, and their descendants in Crimea. The conference is being jointly prepared by the above-mentioned partners.

15.2.2 Support for the National Council against Trafficking

The partners in the project are:

- Ukraine: Authorized Human Rights Representative of the *Verkhovna Rada*;
- OSCE: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;
- International Organization for Migration.

The objective of the project is to provide technical assistance to the National Council Against Trafficking in Human Beings, under the Authorized Human Rights Representative of the *Verkhovna Rada*. The project aims to develop awareness and a greater level of commitment among relevant government agencies and officials at the regional level. In pursuing this goal networking visits for members of the Council are organized as part of the project. Up to now three such visits have been organized: from 29 November to 4 December 1999 to Turkey; from 13 to 17 December 1999 to Belgium and from 29 May to 2 June 2000 to Italy. Seminars on this topic are also to be organized in the regions. The first of these seminars took place on 29 March 2000 in Kharkiv.

15.2.3 Reform of the Border Service

The Partners working with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine on this project are:

- Ukraine: State Committee of the border service of Ukraine;
- OSCE: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights;
- International Organization for Migration.

The objective of the project is to reform the border service. The project seeks to promote reform by developing greater levels of institutional co-operation between the border services of Ukraine and Poland. As a first step, two visits by Ukrainian border guard officials are foreseen for September 2000.

15.2.4 Comprehensive Review of Human Rights legislation

This project is being implemented in co-ordination with the Council of Europe. The partners working with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine are:

- Ukraine: Ministry of Justice, Presidential Administration, *Verkhovna Rada*;
- OSCE: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

The objective of the project is to comprehensively review Ukraine's legislation on human rights and to assist the country in bringing the current legislation into line with European standards. In order to avoid duplication, the project is being implemented in permanent contact with the Council of Europe.

From 25 to 26 November 1999, an International Conference of the Secretaries of Constitutional Courts – the first ever such conference – was jointly organized with the Council of Europe and the German Legal Foundation in the context of the project on assistance to the constitutional court.

From 23 to 24 October 2000, the OSCE/ODHIR, the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine held a joint seminar in Kyiv on "Protection of personal data in the state registers in Ukraine". The seminar discussed European standards on the protection of personal data and the problems related to the planned creation of a new registry of physical persons in Ukraine.

15.2.5 Evaluation

In principle, it would be in the interest of the OSCE if as many projects as possible falling within the Project Co-ordinator's mandate would be carried out jointly with other international organizations and institutions. The reason for this is that the OSCE's financial, personnel and institutional resources in the field are limited. Other international organizations have more focused technical "excellence" and are better versed in solving particular problems. The comparative advantage of the OSCE, on the other hand, lies in its political authority. As a result, joining the OSCE's forces with those of specialized international organizations and institutions would be mutually beneficial and would produce added value.

In practice, however, it is very difficult to design joint projects or to combine projects, for the following reasons:

- (a) Assisting a country in the transformation process is a very broad undertaking, even if the scope is limited to the "human dimension" (which is the area where the OSCE has a critical mass of resources and expertise). When it comes to concrete action, there is far less overlapping between the activities of different international actors than might be assumed at first glance.
- (b) The objectives and targets of international organizations and institutions may differ greatly. One of the fundamental differences lies in the focus of activities. As a result of the OSCE mandate, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator co-operates with State bodies and assists them in reforms. Other actors, such as the EU, place emphasis on projects with NGOs which aim to strengthen civil society.
- (c) Project design, implementation and financing differ greatly between different international organizations and institutions. As a result, it is difficult, for example, to combine ODIHR and EU projects.

In the case of OSCE projects, a project is designed by the ODIHR in close co-operation with the Project Co-ordinator and the Ukrainian partners. The project is then implemented by the three, with funds raised by the ODIHR from OSCE participating States in the form of voluntary contributions for the particular project.

In the case of the EU, the European Commission designs a project, and the necessary funds are earmarked in the EU budget. A contractor is then designated in a tender procedure and is charged with implementation of the project in accordance with the terms of the contract.

Under this arrangement, it would be theoretically possible for the ODIHR (or a consortium with the participation of the ODIHR) to bid under a tender procedure and then, if contracted, to implement the project with the help of the Project Co-ordinator. For obvious reasons, however, such an arrangement would hardly be acceptable.

Arrangements similar to those of the EU, i.e. implementation of projects by contractors, can be found in other cases.

For the reasons mentioned above, co-operation with other international organizations is limited to a regular exchange of information and co-ordination of activities.

15.3 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

The mandate of the OSCE in Ukraine is unique because the implementation of projects of the OSCE Institutions is central to it. Most of the projects are sponsored by the ODIHR (six); the other projects are sponsored by the High Commissioner on National Minorities (one) and the Representative on Freedom of the Media (one). One project is being carried out without the participation of the OSCE institutions. Hence, the Project Co-ordinator co-operates with the OSCE Institutions on a daily basis.

16. OSCE Mission to Tajikistan

The OSCE Mission to Tajikistan consists of headquarters in Dushanbe and five field offices. The field offices are located in the towns of Dusti, Garm, Khujand, Kurghon-Teppa and Shahrituz. Since its establishment, the Mission has sought to strengthen its co-operation with international organizations in Tajikistan. Focus is placed on co-operation with the United Nations (UN) Mission and UN agencies and on co-operation with bilateral development agencies, such as the Swiss Agency for Development Co-operation.

During the reporting period the OSCE Mission closely co-operated with the UN Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT), which has been its main partner in the implementation of the General Agreement on Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan (General Agreement). Co-operation continued with the UN Tajikistan Office of Peace-Building (UNTOP), which replaced UNMOT in May 2000. In the field of human rights, the Mission developed close co-operation with other UN agencies.

16.1 United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT, until May 2000) and United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-Building (UNTOP, since May 2000)

During the reporting period, the OSCE Mission developed close co-operation with UNMOT, both in the implementation of the General Agreement and in other areas covered by the Mission's mandate. Co-operation with UNMOT focused on areas directly related to the mandate of the OSCE Mission: human dimension, rule of law, preparation for and monitoring

of elections, observation and information exchange on the implementation of the General Agreement.

The OSCE Mission and UNMOT were the driving forces in the implementation of the tasks of the Contact Group of Guarantor States and Organizations. Joint efforts by the two Missions helped overcome critical moments in negotiations between the Government of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition (UTO).

UNMOT assumed a leading role in the implementation of the Military Protocol and other key provisions of the General Agreement, such as the Amnesty Law and the Act of Mutual Forgiveness. The OSCE Mission supported UNMOT initiatives and efforts. In its turn, the OSCE Mission took the lead in the implementation of other key provisions of the General Agreement related to the lifting of a ban on political parties and the resumption of dialogue between different political forces on issues of human rights, democratization and the rule of law. The OSCE Mission benefited in these efforts from UNMOT support. Co-ordinated démarches to the Tajik parties in the peace process were a regular practice.

The mandates of the two Missions were complementary, as they covered different parts of the General Agreement. UNMOT monitored the implementation of the military agreement, while the OSCE Mission conducted activities related to democratization, human rights and elections.

In accordance with a UN Security Council decision on 12 May 2000, a follow-up mission to UNMOT, the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-Building (UNTOP), was established. In terms of staffing and material equipment, UNTOP is substantially smaller than UNMOT was. Moreover, it is smaller than the OSCE Mission and has no field offices. In light of this, the OSCE Mission has assumed a larger role in activities on the ground.

16.2 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Approximately 5,000 refugees who were repatriated to Tajikistan in 1999, and an equal number of refugees expected to return in 2000, have received material assistance from UNHCR aimed at facilitating their reintegration into Tajik society. The OSCE Mission has co-ordinated with UNHCR activities related to the return of refugees and has provided returnees with legal advice and assistance to facilitate the reintegration process. The OSCE Mission implemented, with UNHCR funding, a series of projects focusing on legal advice and support for refugees. These activities were implemented through the OSCE field offices in Shahrituz, Dusti and Kurghon-Teppa, in the south of Tajikistan.

Although the work of the OSCE and the UNHCR overlaps in some fields, duplication of efforts has been avoided through co-operation. Generally, the OSCE provides legal support to refugees and internally displaced persons, while the UNHCR concentrates its work on material assistance and funding.

16.3 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The OSCE Mission and the UNDP have conducted a series of common activities related to civic education, gender issues, independence of the judiciary and protection of human rights. For instance, in 1999, the OSCE Mission, in co-operation with UNDP, organized an International Round Table on Further Development of Human Rights in Tajikistan: the Role and Activities of an Ombudsman Institution (22 – 23 June) and an International Conference on

Strengthening the Independence of the Judiciary – an Important Contribution to Promoting the Rule of Law in Tajikistan (7 – 8 October). Follow-up conferences on both subjects are to be organized later in 2000, subject to the availability of funds.

This year, the OSCE Mission implemented a large-scale programme for the support of civil society, financed by the UNDP. The programme covered the following areas: legal training for local political representatives, information campaign in print and electronic media on civil and political rights, seminars on gender issues and civic education for youth.

The Joint UNDP/OSCE Civic Education Programme supports the creation of a culture of civil society, with the aim of strengthening the peace process and social reconciliation. In this context, the OSCE Mission organized, *inter alia*, a series of training seminars, political party forums and gender education activities.

16.4 United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

The process of moving from the implementation of the General Agreement to post-conflict rehabilitation in Tajikistan is marked by an expansion of the activities of UNOPS and other UN development agencies. In light of this, the OSCE Mission, together with UNOPS, is preparing a number of projects in the fields of rule of law, civic education and gender issues, to be implemented for the benefit of former combatants, their families and their local communities. A joint project on training for former combatants to be integrated into civil life is under discussion.

The OSCE Mission's five field offices and the programme offices of UNOPS in Garm, Khujand, Kulyab and Shahrituz are currently exploring areas for possible joint activities.

Given the diverse structure and the different mandates of the OSCE Mission and the UNOPS Office, co-operation between the two has been moderate. The UNOPS office runs an employment programme and an integration programme for former combatants, and has invited the OSCE Mission to contribute to this programme by holding seminars on political, civil and economic rights.

16.5 United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODCCP)

The Mission is working with the ODCCP on articulating a common approach to the problems of drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism.

16.6 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The OSCE Mission interacted with the IOM through its participation in the co-ordination meetings on trafficking in human beings, particularly women and children. The OSCE Mission and the IOM are in the initial stages of discussing possible joint programmes which would deal with this issue.

16.7 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

During the reporting period, the OSCE Mission in Tajikistan interacted with a number of NGOs. These, included the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the Counterpart Consortium, the Open Society Institute and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation.

16.7.1 International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

The OSCE Mission and IFES carried out joint activities related to the elections. Prior to the elections, the two organizations conducted training for Tajik citizens who served as domestic election observers. Also, round tables were organized for representatives of all the political parties in Dushanbe and the regions.

16.7.2 Counterpart Consortium

This year, seminars based on the module “Training of trainers-interactive methodology for gender issues”, developed by the Counterpart Consortium, were conducted in Dusti and Shahrituz (11-13 August 2000), Garm (15-17 August 2000) and Khujand (26-28 June 2000).

16.7.3 Open Society Institute (OSI)

The Open Society Institute has supported activities of the OSCE Mission related to the democratization of the media. Examples of projects undertaken in co-operation with the OSI are the organization of the Conference on the Electoral Process and Media in Tajikistan (from 1 to 3 February 2000, Dushanbe) and the establishment of a new independent women’s magazine (preparations just completed). The OSI has supported these activities both as a co-organizer and as a donor.

16.7.4 Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SADC)

In 1999, the Mission co-operated with the SADC in organizing an International Round Table on Further Development of Human Rights in Tajikistan: the Role and Activities of an Ombudsman Institution (22 and 23 June, Dushanbe) and, for Tajik judges, a Conference Strengthening of the Independence of the Judiciary – an Important Contribution to Promoting the Rule of Law (7 and 8 October 1999, Dushanbe). The SADC sponsored the conferences. The Mission and the SADC have also co-operated on the project of rehabilitating the *Navidi Dusti* newspaper in Kumsangir and the *Bishkenty* newspaper in the Bishkent district.

17. OSCE Liaison Office in Central Asia (CALO)

Interaction and co-operation with international organizations are among the most important aspects of the implementation of the CALO’s mandate. Since the beginning of its activities in 1995, the CALO has been maintaining close co-operation with other international actors involved in Uzbekistan, with a view to streamlining and improving the efficiency of the international organizations present in the field.

Mutually reinforcing co-operation among international organizations, apart from being necessary and useful in strengthening the overall security and political conditions in the host country, has taken shape of specific programmes and projects, in particular with regard to the human dimension and economic and environmental issues.

Every three weeks, the OSCE CALO organizes a Human Rights Co-ordination Group meeting with embassies of OSCE participating States and international organizations dealing with human rights issues, such as UNDP, ICRC, EC/TACIS, UNHCR and the Human Rights Watch. During these meetings, the Head of CALO provides information on OSCE high-level visits, relevant activities of OSCE Institutions, CALO events relating to human rights, and, when appropriate, Permanent Council discussions. Following this, the Human Dimension/Legal Expert presents human rights issues which are of current concern. A discussion on the issues regularly ensues, with embassy and international organization staff providing their own information and policy suggestions. These meetings have been useful in establishing a consensus among the international organizations on approaches to domestic human rights challenges.

17.1 United Nations

The OSCE CALO participates in quarterly co-ordination meetings organized by the UN Resident Representative, as well as in the working group meetings relevant to the CALO's mandate. These meetings focus on issues such as democratization, environment, development of small and medium-sized business and gender.

17.1.1 United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UN ODCCP)

In close co-operation with the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UN ODCCP), the CALO was involved in conducting the two preparatory meetings and the International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: An Integrated Approach to Counter Drugs, Organized Crime and Terrorism, held from 19 to 20 October 2000 in Tashkent, under the auspices of UN ODCCP and the Chairmanship of the OSCE.

The International Conference paved the way for further enhancing co-operation and co-ordination of efforts between the relevant international organizations and the countries concerned, in an effort to face challenges to stability and security in Central Asia and the wider area.

Co-operation between the CALO and UN ODCCP will continue based on joint programmes and mutually reinforcing co-ordination of efforts.

17.2 World Bank (WB)

In close co-operation with other OSCE offices in the region and the World Bank, the CALO has been playing an effective role in organizing a work programme for the OSCE fact finding mission, led by the United Kingdom, on water-related issues in Central Asia. The CALO contribution to this includes facilitation of meetings and networking with national and international experts on water issues.

17.3 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The OSCE/CALO, together with other diplomatic representations, has applied to the authorities of Uzbekistan for information on prisons and prisoners and for access to prisons for OSCE and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

17.4 Co-operation with other organisations

In the implementation of ODIHR projects, the CALO attempts to co-operate as closely as possible with other international organizations working in Uzbekistan. It considers the exchange of information on projects particularly important, to avoid duplication and overlapping. When the CALO plans a project, either as a Mission initiative, or through an OSCE Institution, it informs other organizations and verifies that they are not engaged in similar efforts. Once a project has been completed, the CALO shares its reports on implementation with interested international organizations. During the project itself, especially if it is a training course or conference, the CALO frequently invites members of other organizations to participate as observers. The CALO most often co-operates in this matter with the UNDP, EC/TACIS, the Open Society Institute (OSI)/Soros Foundation, USAID and its contractors such as the American Bar Association (ABA)/Central and East European Law Initiative (CEELI), the Counterpart Consortium, the Eurasia Foundation, etc.

In some cases, the CALO works directly with other international organizations and shares the cost of the implementation of projects. In 2000, the CALO, together with the Open Society Institute, arranged a strategy meeting for women leaders in Samarkand. Each of the organizations covered half the costs. Two additional meetings of this kind are planned for the coming year. In the context of an ODIHR project to train prosecutors, lawyers and judges, the CALO is also working closely with the American Bar Association (ABA)/ Central and East European Law Initiative (CEELI).

In addition to co-operating with the above mentioned international financial institutions, the CALO also maintains contacts and co-operates with a number of other international organizations involved in economic development and environmental concerns, such as USAID, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), and the Open Society Institute (OSI)/Soros Foundation. The CALO exchanges information with these organizations about business and environmental issues. The CALO has provided these partners with concise information on the on-going grass-roots level training workshops in business development and environmental disciplines in different parts of Uzbekistan.

18. OSCE Centre in Almaty

The OSCE Centre in Almaty works in close co-operation with all the locally-based international organizations in the human, economic and environmental dimensions. The Centre has initiated a number of meetings with representatives of the international community. In particular, it holds regular consultations on co-operation with the representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the European Union (EU). These consultations are useful for exchange of information on the activities and projects of each organization and also from the point of view of mutually reinforcing co-operation.

18.1 United Nations

18.1.1 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Capacity- and institution-building in the fields of refugees, migration and human rights constitute an important part of UNHCR activities in Kazakhstan. In that context, UNHCR is engaged in the provision of technical assistance and advice aimed at: (1) bringing the national legislation of Kazakhstan into conformity with international standards, and (2) training governmental and non-governmental officials and structures, and thus promoting the creation and development of proper asylum procedures and practices. The UNHCR in Kazakhstan is actively engaged in the provision of protection and/or assistance for some 18,000 refugees. A third field in which the UNHCR has recently become engaged is an attempt to reduce statelessness among some 170,000 ethnic Kazakh “returnees”.

The Centre regularly exchanges information with the UNHCR on relevant activities and developments. It goes without saying that the Centre attends relevant UNHCR seminars and vice versa (for example, in March 2000, the OSCE Centre organized a seminar on freedom of movement, in which refugee issues were discussed. The UNHCR played a prominent part in the seminar).

18.1.2 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP activities in Kazakhstan are guided by the 1994 country co-operation framework, which sets out the following priorities: (a) governance and economic management; (b) social development and poverty alleviation; (c) environmental management and sustainable development. Capacity building and the advancement of women have served as the cross-cutting elements of the UNDP’s programme activities. During the 1999 consultations between the Government and the UNDP, the first country co-operation framework (CCF) was reviewed, in order to prepare the next phase of the CCF (2000 – 2004).

There has been close co-operation with the UNDP with regard to the creation of a national human rights institution, culminating in the organization of a joint seminar (September 1999) and a joint workshop (November 1999). The UNDP and the OSCE Centre in Almaty jointly reviewed the draft law on the ombudsman institution. Recently, corruption was identified as another field in which the Centre could co-operate with the UNDP.

18.1.3 International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNAIDS regularly provide materials for distribution at OSCE seminars and vice versa. The materials provided by these organizations have covered a wide array of issues, including ones relating to gender, prisons and juvenile justice.

The Centre regularly exchanges information on juvenile justice issues with UNICEF. Work relating to the drafting of a law on the rights of the child was closely co-ordinated.

An ILO expert will speak at an OSCE conference in November 2000 on how to incorporate ILO standards into national legislation.

The OSCE-sponsored review of compliance of Kazakhstan legislation with the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women has been repeatedly used by UNIFEM in their seminars on gender issues.

18.2 European Union

18.2.1 European Commission (EC)

The European Union provides assistance to Kazakhstan through its TACIS Programme, on the basis of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement, which covers a wide range of fields and incorporates internationally agreed norms on human rights and democracy. The 1998-1999 Action Programme for Kazakhstan includes a number of activities to be undertaken in three key sectors of the economy: structural and institutional reform, agriculture/agro-industry and development infrastructure.

In 1999, the European Commission co-funded the following projects in Kazakhstan, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed between ODIHR and the government of Kazakhstan:

- Assistance to civil society (bringing together governmental and non-governmental structures for discussion of topics such as freedom of religion and reform of the penitentiary system);
- Review of conformity of domestic legislation with ratified international instruments (e.g. the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment);
- Support for the creation of a national human rights institution;
- Assistance in the implementation of a fair and transparent election appeals procedure;
- Training for local workshops on women in politics.
- In the context of the memorandum of understanding framework, the following activities have been undertaken:
 - Regional seminars on penitentiary reform and human rights in the context of international norms and standards (July, November 1999);
 - Preparation of a report on the compliance of Kazakhstan's legislation with the UN Convention against Torture (August until November 1999);
 - A working group meeting and a seminar on technical assistance for establishing an ombudsman office in the Republic of Kazakhstan (September, November 1999);
 - A round table on State, society and religion (December 1999).

18.3 World Bank (WB)

The World Bank is a major source of official external development assistance to Kazakhstan (in 1999, USD 315.5 million were committed and USD 206 million were disbursed). Co-operation is based on the Bank's Country Assistance Strategy. In 1999, five projects dealing with issues related to infrastructure were approved. These projects will not be completed by the end of 2000.

One of the projects which commenced in 1999 (and is foreseen to end in 2003) is dealing with legal reform. Some elements of this project (notably the establishment of a training centre for judges) afford an opportunity for co-operation between the World Bank and the OSCE Centre/ODIHR. The project concerned is currently being implemented.

18.4 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM is assisting Kazakhstan with the formulation of a migration policy with regard to internal migration and cross-border movements.

The Centre regularly exchanges information with the IOM office on relevant activities and developments and attends seminars. Activities in the field of trafficking in human beings are permanently co-ordinated (e.g., a conference on the subject is planned for November 2000, at which the Centre, together with the ODIHR, will provide assistance).

18.5 Co-operation with other organizations

In November 1999, the Centre, together with USAID, organized a regional seminar on trans-boundary water resources in Almaty.

In co-operation with the Soros Foundation in Almaty, the Centre is organizing a series of local seminars on the implementation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Moreover, the Soros Foundation in Almaty assisted three Kazakhstan NGO representatives to take part in the OSCE Eighth Economic Forum, which was held in Prague from 11 to 14 April 2000, by providing financial assistance.

18.6 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

18.6.1 Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Co-operation with the ODIHR is focused on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding that was signed between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the OSCE/ODIHR in December 1998. In addition to the projects mentioned in the memorandum of understanding, the ODIHR was also involved in the project on voter education through the electronic media.

– The memorandum of understanding (MoU) projects were complemented by the so-called grass-roots projects, a mechanism established by the ODIHR to encourage the

development and implementation of national and local initiatives to promote human rights and democracy. Funds for these grass-roots projects do not usually exceed USD 5,000.

In 2000, the following projects were implemented under the MoU by the Centre in conjunction with the ODIHR (with different sources of funding):

- Prison service training;
- Assistance for the establishment of a national human rights institution;
- Civil society assistance project;
- Legislative reform assistance;
- Women's rights awareness;
- Regional Central Asia: legal alert and assistance programme;
- Other projects (implemented with grass-roots funds and other ODIHR funds);
- Free legal aid;
- Round table on corruption;
- Pilot project on local self-government;
- Trafficking in human beings: raising awareness.

18.6.2 High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

The Centre has provided logistics and information support for projects implemented by the HCNM (seminar on language policy and minorities in October 1999, seminar on the Lund recommendations and minorities without a kin State in April 2000, and seminar on religious issues in October 2000).

The High Commissioner and the OSCE Centre in Almaty also consult on possible issues of concern and activities.

18.6.3 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

The Centre, the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly, together with the Central Election Commission, are jointly organizing, round tables on election legislation and procedures, starting in September 2000.

19. OSCE Centre in Ashgabad

The Centre in Ashgabad has established close co-operation with international organizations. Most of the international organizations which undertake assistance programmes in Turkmenistan have experienced a decrease, or at least no increase, in their funding for 2000. Their representatives are eager to co-ordinate projects in order to reduce or eliminate duplication of efforts. The possibility for joint projects with some UN agencies is limited by the fact that

their offices in Ashgabad are staffed only by local personnel. The same consideration has sharply limited contacts with the World Bank representation in Turkmenistan.

The Centre maintains contact with the international staff of UNDP, UNHCR and UNICEF, TACIS, EBRD, USAID and some USAID contractors, in particular the American Bar Association's CEELI project. Information and project ideas are exchanged in regular meetings of international donor organizations and also in informal settings.

The OSCE is perceived by both the Turkmen authorities and other international organizations as primarily a political entity, expected to raise difficult issues such as the situation of political prisoners and problems related with the democratization process. Most of the international organizations greatly appreciate the role the OSCE is playing in this field, while they themselves tend to concentrate on assistance activities. For this reason, they are more welcomed by the Turkmen authorities than is the OSCE, although representatives of the Turkmen leadership clearly understand the nature of the difference between the OSCE and other international organizations.

There are a number of possibilities for co-operation with other international organizations active in Turkmenistan. Reducing the danger of duplication of effort through constant consultations and information-sharing can result in significant savings and increased efficiency for all concerned.

19.1 United Nations

The United Nations is the organization with the most extensive programme in Turkmenistan. The United Nations presence in Turkmenistan is headed by the UN Development Programme's Resident Representative.

19.1.1 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP has ongoing programmes aimed at improving secondary education, especially teacher training and the preparation of textbooks. It is also supporting the work of the State Agency for Foreign Investments and of the Treasury through the development of information technology in these institutions. The UNDP office is also involved in developing municipal services and improving the postal system.

The Women in Development Programme is funding the establishment of a women's centre in Ashgabad. This centre will provide retraining facilities as well as legal and health counselling.

In addition to these projects, the UNDP is supporting two major environmental projects. These are the National Environmental Programme and the Support to the Agenda 21 Process in Turkmenistan.

The multi-dimensional National Environmental Programme is aimed at consolidating the foundations for long-term environmental protection and management by creating a more effective institutional framework on the basis of review and improvement of existing environmental provisions. Its main target areas are environmental legislation, environmental impact assessment, environmental information and curricula, management of protected areas and species and capacity-building at the Ministry of the Environment.

The aim of the Support to the Agenda 21 Process in Turkmenistan project is to include environmental concerns in national development programmes and strategies. This is to be done through the establishment of a National Commission for Implementation of UN Environmental Conventions, support of local community development and public participation in decision-making processes, as well as through the strengthening of the capacity of NGOs to implement environmental and sustainable development projects.

19.1.2 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Ashgabad office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has achieved considerable success in its work with government agencies involved in providing assistance to refugees, both at the national level and in the regions. Turkmen government agencies have been very helpful in the repatriation of refugees from Tajikistan. This process has, however, been suspended since May 1999, as Uzbekistan has not permitted further transit of refugees from Turkmenistan across its territory.

The UNHCR office in Ashgabad hopes to resume the repatriation process in the autumn of 2000. The organization's representatives in Turkmenistan have persuaded the Government and parliament to set up a working group on implementation of the international agreements the country has signed on the treatment of refugees. The working group made its recommendations to the UNHCR, whose legal experts are currently analysing them. A number of high-level delegations from Turkmenistan have taken part in UNHCR events abroad, including regional seminars. In the context of the UNHCR campaign on accession to the Conventions on Statelessness, Turkmenistan was represented at the October 1999 Council of Europe Conference on Nationalities. The Ashgabad office of UNHCR also supports the NGOs that provide assistance to refugees. As some of these NGOs are unable to register with the local authorities, the UNHCR office has taken a lead in promoting new legislation on non-governmental organizations. The Centre in Ashgabad has actively joined UNHCR and USAID in these efforts.

In 1999, the Centre in Ashgabad co-sponsored with UNHCR a one-week course for Turkmen government officials on international human rights law. The course was very well received by the participants, many of whom requested that an advanced course on the same topic be offered later. In response to this request, two similar courses, taught by the same instructor at the beginning and advanced levels, are planned for January 2001 with joint OSCE, UNHCR and British funding.

The Centre regularly participates in seminars and round tables organized by the UNHCR on topics of concern to the Centre's mandate. In addition, Centre staff are in constant informal contact with the UNHCR international staff to share information, ideas and proposals for future co-operation.

19.1.3 United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UN ODCCP)

The ODCCP office in Turkmenistan is headed by a local staff member who runs a small educational programme for school students on the dangers of drug use. The regional office of ODCCP, located in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, organized a preparatory meeting in late September, in Ashgabad, for the ODCCP-OSCE regional conference which took place on 19/20 October in Tashkent. The Centre assisted in the preparation of the conference. On the margins of the preparatory meeting the regional ODCCP director made a detailed presentation on the work of ODCCP in Central Asia in order to train the political officers from the OSCE field presences in the region.

19.1.4 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The UN Children's Fund conducts programmes which promote awareness of children's health. Some of their programmes also promote small-scale business development for parents. In March 2000, the UNICEF office in Ashgabad signed an agreement with the Turkmen Government for a five-year programme which provides for the implementation of health projects for women and children. UNICEF also participates in UNAIDS educational programmes.

UNICEF is conducting a series of round tables on the effects of the current drought in Turkmenistan; the Centre will participate in these information-sharing sessions. In addition, these are opportunities for OSCE to co-operate with UNICEF in projects focusing on women's role in society.

19.1.5 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

A regional workshop on the Aarhus Convention was held in Ashgabad in May 2000. The event was cosponsored by the UN Environment Programme, UN/ECE, and the Governments of Austria, Norway and Denmark. The Centre provided logistical assistance in organizing the workshop, which helped to introduce the subject to the Turkmen authorities. The Convention focused on the role of civil society in resolving environmental issues, and the workshop helped to promote government tolerance and understanding for the activities of civil society. The result of the Centre's efforts can be seen in the fact that popular participation in environmental decision-making has increased, and both governmental and non-governmental organizations throughout the region have made commitments to continue this process.

19.2 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration is assisting the Turkmen Government and Parliament in drafting legislation dealing with migration, border-crossing procedures and tourism. If a memorandum of understanding is signed between ODIHR and the Turkmen Government, closer co-operation with the IOM can be expected in view of the fact that one of the projects in the memorandum of understanding deals with the training of border officials.

In 1999, the IOM office in Ashgabad sponsored a seminar on trafficking in human beings. Although the Turkmen officials have stated that trafficking in human beings is not considered to be a problem in Turkmenistan, the seminar was well attended by personnel from various ministries.

19.3 European Union

The European Union's TACIS programme has helped Turkmenistan to write a new tax code and is providing training in international banking practices. One of the major TACIS programmes is the establishment of farmers' associations in rural areas; this programme has proven so successful that TACIS officials envisage expanding it to other economic sectors in small towns and villages. A TACIS programme promoting the development of small and medium-sized businesses has been terminated by the Government of Turkmenistan, which intends to turn the office that conducted the programme into a State agency. Currently TACIS is

focusing on private-sector projects. International consultants on the TACIS staff in Turkmenistan regularly consult with the Centre on a wide range of subjects.

19.4 European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The EBRD recently made financing of projects in Turkmenistan conditional on prior actions of the Government that demonstrate progress in political and economic reform. In concrete terms, the signing of a memorandum of understanding with ODIHR is seen by the Bank as a significant benchmark against which the commitment to political reforms, tariff reform, commercialization and private-sector participation will be measured. The EBRD is the only international organization, which has attached such strict political strings to its economic assistance.

The Centre holds regular consultations both with officials from the EBRD in Turkmenistan and with officials from the EBRD headquarters in London.

19.5 Co-operation with other organizations

In addition to the international organizations mentioned above, the Centre consults regularly with USAID and plans to develop a joint project for law students with the American Bar Association's CEELI office in Ashgabad. The Soros Foundation and the Eurasia Fund concentrate primarily on providing educational opportunities abroad for students from Turkmenistan. USAID is more active in seeking to promote democratization.

20. OSCE Centre in Bishkek

Since its opening in January 1999, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek has concentrated on establishing good working relations with partner international organizations, with a view to concerting efforts and resources. In this way, it is hoped that duplication of activities will be avoided. Since its establishment in April 2000, the OSCE field office in Osh has sought to apply a similar operational mode.

In the context of the mandate of the Centre in Bishkek and the memorandum of understanding signed with the host Government, the Centre maintains close contacts, on a priority basis, with the UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA, UNDCP, the Swiss Co-ordination Office, USAID, IFES and NDI.

The field office in Osh has been active in establishing working relations with international organizations in the field, and during the reporting period has co-operated with the UNDP, UNHCR, ICRC, Internews and NDI.

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek maintains relations with all the international organizations in Bishkek and in the field. In matters covered by its mandate, the Centre in Bishkek has established close working relations with a number of international organizations. The Centre in Bishkek regularly interacts with a number of international organizations by exchanging relevant information, and by holding consultations on issues of mutual interest. The OSCE Centre in Bishkek also participates in monthly donors' co-ordination meetings hosted by the UNDP.

20.1 United Nations

20.1.1 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Centre in Bishkek continues to closely monitor the situation in South Kyrgyzstan and participates regularly in special co-ordination and information-sharing meetings on the newly created Batken province. These meetings are organized by the UNDP.

During the visit to Kyrgyzstan in March 2000 of an OSCE delegation led by the United Kingdom, possible co-operation in the fields of environment, water and energy was discussed with the UNDP, the World Bank and the EU.

On 9 March 2000, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, with assistance by the Gender in Development Unit of UNDP, organized the Second Donors' Gender Co-ordination Meeting. Thirty-four international organizations and NGOs reviewed the UNDP report on the status of women and the OSCE/IOM project on trafficking in women, and they discussed further steps to raise the awareness by international organizations of gender issues. The aim of these quarterly meetings is to share information, identify areas of co-operation and determine mutual priorities. These meetings facilitate co-ordination between the participating organizations.

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek maintains a co-ordinating role, with the UNDP, in implementing the project, Assistance for the Establishment of the Ombudsman Office in Kyrgyzstan. The OSCE/ODIHR is implementing the project in co-operation with the UNDP's Subregional Office in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The OSCE field office in Osh has been invited by the UNDP to participate in the Early Warning Network in the Batken Region, a component of UNDP's project, Preventive Development in the South. The Preventive Development Forums are held quarterly, and are chaired by the Governor of the Batken Region.

20.1.2 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the UNCHR jointly organized the Regional Summer School on International Law and Human Rights in August 2000. Law students from all five Central Asian countries participated and were trained by international experts in order to deepen and improve their knowledge of human rights. This practical co-operation is the result of an on-going relationship between the two organizations.

The OSCE/ODIHR and the UNHCR, assisted by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, continued to implement a project for the registration of permanent residents.

20.2 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The IOM and the OSCE are working closely in areas of common concern. On 10 February, the IOM hosted a co-ordination meeting at which the IOM, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and government representatives discussed future activities and areas of co-operation. At this meeting, the OSCE Action Plan 2000 for Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings was introduced, as was the Human Rights Training for Border Guards Programme.

The OSCE Centre in Bishkek, the IOM and the OSCE/ODIHR launched a joint project on trafficking in women in late 1999. During the initial phase of this on-going project, primary information about trafficking in women to and from Kyrgyzstan was collected.

In May 2000, the OSCE, in co-operation with the IOM and with support of the UNHCR and other United Nations agencies and international organizations, jointly organized a conference on the topic of international migration policy for Central Asia, the Caucasus and neighbouring States. A representative of the Chairperson-in-Office participated in the conference, along with representatives of the Centre in Bishkek.

20.3 Co-operation with other organizations

Preparations for the parliamentary elections, which took place in February and March 2000, started a year before. In preparation for the parliamentary elections, the Centre in Bishkek worked closely with non-governmental organizations such as the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Joint functions devoted to the training of political leaders, campaign managers and elections commissions were organized in order to improve the efficiency of the electoral system and enhance implementation of electoral legislation. The Centre also participated in the preparation of manuals for voters and election commission members, as well as the development of election spots to be broadcast on television. The election spots were jointly financed by USAID, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the German Embassy and the Centre in Bishkek.

The Centre in Bishkek organized, jointly with IFES and Internews, a seminar for judges, journalists and members of the Central Election Committee on mass media and the court-experience from past elections. This seminar is considered to have been a very successful example of a thematic approach to co-operation among international organizations.

The First National NGO Conference took place from 10 to 11 July, and was sponsored by OSCE/ODIHR, the US Embassy, the Counterpart Consortium and Soros-Kyrgyzstan. Representatives of over 170 local organizations took part in the seminar and discussed issues relating to the work of the NGOs, the relation between the State and NGOs, and their role during elections. The Centre in Bishkek presented the OSCE/ODIHR election recommendations to the participants in the seminar. OSCE's election recommendations were included in the seminar recommendations and distributed among the participating organizations.

The Centre in Bishkek co-operated with the Soros Foundation and the Open Society Institute in supporting the public foundation, Assistance to Legal Infrastructure and Legal Education Development, and the Kyrgyz Commission on Education Reform under the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in the design and printing of a 32-lesson textbook, entitled *We and the Law*. The textbook deals with constitutional, legal and other human rights matters in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Centre has continued talks on possible funding of selected small-scale projects in the environmental and economic fields with USAID, the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD), the Government of Finland, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) and the Swiss Co-ordination Office. These discussions were initiated in mid-1999, and have been held on an *ad-hoc* basis. A more structured exchange of views has taken place with the representatives of the Governments of Finland and Switzerland.

20.4 Co-operation with OSCE Institutions

20.4.1 Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The Centre in Bishkek was the implementing partner for several OSCE/ODIHR projects in Kyrgyzstan, in addition to those carried out in partnership with other international organizations. During the run-up to the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan, the Centre in Bishkek conducted ten one-day seminars on the election code and voters' rights in Chui and Talas provinces. As a result, approximately 500 rural citizens were educated on voting procedures, as well as on women's role in politics.

The OSCE/ODIHR continued assisting the Kyrgyz Government in reviewing domestic laws and bringing them into conformity with international standards, in particular in regard to the obligations assumed by the Kyrgyz government in the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Tortures and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which have been ratified by Kyrgyzstan. In 2000, experts on both Conventions visited Kyrgyzstan to evaluate compliance of the domestic legislation with international standards, mechanisms for implementation of laws and governmental policy in these fields. In May 2000, the expert on the Convention against Torture chaired a round table conference on ways to ensure compliance of the Kyrgyz legislation with the Convention. As a result of their work, final reports were elaborated and distributed to the participants in the meetings and the conference.

The Centre contributed to the project by establishing contacts with local authorities, civil society and academics, as well as by arranging logistical support.

20.4.2 High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

The field office in Osh acts as the implementing agency for the project on monitoring of interethnic relations in Southern Kyrgyzstan of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and co-ordinated a network of 12 monitors and three co-ordinators in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces, who compile monthly reports on various situations, which may take on ethnic dimensions. The reports are then compiled by the co-ordinators and distributed by the Centre in Bishkek and the field office in Osh in Russian and English to 35 recipients in the Government, international organizations and civic leaders. During the second phase of the project, the field office will organize a training seminar and work with the monitors and co-ordinators who remain in the network.

20.4.3 Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFM)

The Centre in Bishkek co-operated with the Representative on Freedom of the Media on media issues in Kyrgyzstan. The Centre in Bishkek liaised with the Representative's office regarding several interventions on behalf of the independent media in Kyrgyzstan. Additionally, the Representative's office agreed to support two media projects in Kyrgyzstan, to be financed from its Central Asia Media Fund.

Annex I

Operational Document – the Platform for Co-operative Security

I. The Platform

1. The goal of the Platform for Co-operative Security is to strengthen the mutually reinforcing nature of the relationship between those organizations and institutions concerned with the promotion of comprehensive security within the OSCE area.

2. The OSCE will work co-operatively with those organizations and institutions whose members individually and collectively, in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to each organization or institution, now and in the future:

- Adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the OSCE principles and commitments as set out in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Helsinki Document 1992, the Budapest Document 1994, the OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security and the Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century;
- Subscribe to the principles of transparency and predictability in their actions in the spirit of the Vienna Document 1999 of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures;
- Implement fully the arms control obligations, including disarmament and CSBMs, to which they have committed themselves;
- Proceed on the basis that those organizations and institutions of which they are members will adhere to transparency about their evolution;
- Ensure that their membership in those organizations and institutions is based on openness and free will;
- Actively support the OSCE's concept of common, comprehensive and indivisible security and a common security space free of dividing lines;
- Play a full and appropriate part in the development of the relationships between mutually reinforcing security-related institutions in the OSCE area;
- Are ready in principle to deploy the institutional resources of international organizations and institutions of which they are members in support of the OSCE's work, subject to the necessary policy decisions as cases arise. In this regard, participating States note the particular relevance of co-operation in the areas of conflict prevention and crisis management.

3. Together these principles and commitments form the Platform for Co-operative Security.

II. Modalities for Co-operation

1. Within the relevant organizations and institutions of which they are members, participating States will work to ensure the organizations' and institutions' adherence to the Platform for Co-operative Security. Adherence, on the basis of decisions taken by each member State within relevant organizations and institutions, will take place in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to each organization or institution. Contacts and co-operation of the OSCE with other organizations and institutions will be transparent to participating States and will take place in a manner consistent with the modalities appropriate to the OSCE and those organizations and institutions.

2. At the 1997 Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen, a decision was taken on the Common Concept for the Development of Co-operation between Mutually Reinforcing Institutions. We acknowledge the extensive network of contacts elaborated since then, in particular the growing co-operation with organizations and institutions active both in the politico-military field and in the human and economic dimensions of security, and the strengthening of co-operation between the OSCE and the various United Nations bodies and agencies, recalling the OSCE's role as a regional arrangement under the Charter of the United Nations. We are determined to develop this further.

3. The growing importance of subregional groupings in the work of the OSCE is another important area, and we support the growth in co-operation with these groups based on this Platform.

4. Development of co-operation can be further enhanced through extensive use of the following instruments and mechanisms:

- Regular contacts, including meetings; a continuous framework for dialogue; increased transparency and practical co-operation, including the identification of liaison officers or points of contact; cross-representation at appropriate meetings; and other contacts intended to increase understanding of each organization's conflict prevention tools.

5. In addition, the OSCE may engage in special meetings with other organizations, institutions and structures operating in the OSCE area. These meetings may be held at a political and/or executive level (to co-ordinate policies or determine areas of co-operation) and at a working level (to address the modalities of co-operation).

6. The development of the OSCE field operations in recent years has represented a major transformation of the Organization. In view of the adoption of the Platform for Co-operative Security, existing co-operation between the OSCE and other relevant international bodies, organizations and institutions in field operations should be developed and built upon in accordance with their individual mandates. Modalities for this form of co-operation could include: regular information exchanges and meetings, joint needs assessment missions, secondment of experts by other organizations to the OSCE, appointment of liaison officers, development of common projects and field operations, and joint training efforts.

7. Co-operation in responding to specific crises:

- The OSCE, through its Chairman-in-Office and supported by the Secretary General, and the relevant organizations and institutions are encouraged to keep each other informed of what actions they are undertaking or plan to undertake to deal with a particular situation;

- To this end, participating States encourage the Chairman-in-Office, supported by the Secretary General, to work with other organizations and institutions to foster co-ordinated approaches that avoid duplication and ensure efficient use of available resources. As appropriate, the OSCE can offer to serve as a flexible framework for co-operation of the various mutually reinforcing efforts. The Chairman-in-Office will consult with participating States on the process and will act in accordance with the results of these consultations.

8. The Secretary General shall prepare an annual report for the Permanent Council on interaction between organizations and institutions in the OSCE area.

Annex II

Abbreviations

ABA	American Bar Association
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMG	Advisory and Monitoring Group
ANEM	Association of Independent Electronic Media in Serbia
ARFG	Area Return Facilitation Groups
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CAM-A	Customs Assistance Mission in Albania
CBSS	Council of Baltic Sea States
CCF	Country Co-operation Framework
CEELI	Central and East European Law Initiative
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CLRAE	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe
CoE	Council of Europe
COLPI	Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute
COMKFOR	Kosovo Force Commander
COWEB	Committee on the Western Balkans
CPRSI	Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues
CRCP	Commission on Real Property Claims
DEO	Department of Election Operations
DSRSG	Deputy to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General
DSRSG	Deputy Representative of the Secretary General
EAP	Electoral Assistance Programme
EAPC	Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EBU	European Broadcasting Union
EC	European Commission
ECHO	European Communities Humanitarian Office
ECMM	European Community Monitoring Mission
ENUT	Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre
ESA	Enterprise Support Agency
EU	European Union
FINNIDA	Finnish International Development Aid
FNS	Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung
FoA	Friends of Albania
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HCNM	High Commissioner on National Minorities
HRCC	Human Rights Co-ordination Centre
HRD	Human Rights Department
HROAG	United Nations Human Rights Office in Georgia
IAC	Interim Administrative Council
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICMP	International Commission on Missing Persons
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMC	Independent Media Commission
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPTF	International Police Task Force
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
JCC	Joint Control Commission on the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict Settlement
JEOC	Joint Elections Operation Cell
JIAS	Joint Interim Administrative Structure
JICA	Japanese International Co-operation Agency
JOC	Joint Operations Centre
JPKF	Joint Peacekeeping Forces
JSAP	Judicial Service Assessment Program
JSAP	Judicial System Assessment Programme
KAS	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
KFOR	Kosovo Force
KTC	Kosovo Transitional Council
KVM	Kosovo Verification Mission
MAPE	Multinational Advisory Police Element
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MIFI	Municipal Infrastructure Finance and Implementation
NAOCC	NATO Air Operational Co-ordination Centre
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NCM	Nordic Council of Ministers
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OCHA	Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODCCP	United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OHR	Office of the High Representative
OMIK	OSCE Mission in Kosovo
OSI/SF	Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
PfP	Partnership for Peace
PLIP	Property Law Implementation Plan
RFG	Return Facilitation Group
RRTF	Return and Reconstruction Task Force
RTK	Radio-Television Kosovo
SECI	Southeast European Co-operative Initiative
SFOR	Stabilization Force
SIDA	Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency
SRSF	Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General
SRSF	Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General

TACIS	Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States
TAFKO	Task Force for Kosovo
TICA	Turkish International Co-operation Agency
UN	United Nations
UN/ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDCCP	United Nations Drug Control and Crime Prevention Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNLO	United Nations Liaison Office
UNMAAP	United Nations Mine Action Assistance Programme
UNMiBH	United Nations Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
UNMOT	United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNTAES	United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium
UNTOP	United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-Building
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VRIC	Victim Recovery and Identification Commission
WEU	Western European Union
WFP	World Food Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme