



## NEWSLETTER

### Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



OSCE/Center in Tashkent

*International terrorism has struck OSCE States before: in 1999, a bomb killed 16 people in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent*

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# Participating States urge OSCE: make counter-terrorism plan “top priority”

December's Ministerial Council to focus on multinational co-operation against terrorism

*Following the devastating attacks on New York and Washington of 11 September which shook the United States and the international community, the OSCE has launched a series of moves to show what role it can play to assist efforts to combat global terrorism.*

In a statement issued this month, the OSCE Permanent Council has committed itself to elaborating a counter-terrorist action plan at the forthcoming Ministerial Council meeting, due to take place in Bucharest on 3 and 4 December. The statement, adopted on 11

October, supports the United States' and other States' rights to individual and collective self-defence following armed attack, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter (as reaffirmed in UN Security Council resolutions 1368 and 1373).

Among other things, the statement acknowledges, welcomes, and supports the emergence of the world counter-terror coalition, reflecting the common will of humanity to combat the evil of terrorism.

It also reaffirms the obligations to prevent and suppress terrorism and to hold States that support terrorists accountable for their actions, as well as supporting the

efforts to address the humanitarian needs of refugees and displaced persons. The full text of the Permanent Council statement is available on the OSCE website at [www.osce.org/docs/english/pce2001.htm](http://www.osce.org/docs/english/pce2001.htm).

In the immediate aftermath of the atrocities, messages of condolence for the victims and strong condemnation of the perpetrators were issued by the Chairman-in-Office (CiO), the Permanent Council (PC) and the Secretary General of the OSCE.

Several OSCE institutions have also voiced concern about the danger of human rights violations, in retaliation against other innocent civilian victims.

As well as taking steps to improve the security of its own personnel, the OSCE has announced several initiatives and the CiO, Romania's Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, has called for the Bucharest Ministerial Council meeting in December to be refocused on countering terrorism. He also welcomed a proposal to hold a special conference in Central Asia on strengthening comprehensive efforts to counter terrorism.

In Vienna, a working group has been set up under the chairmanship of Denmark, supported by a task force within the Secretariat, to generate ideas and recommendations that could assist the participating States and the Chairmanship in working out an OSCE approach.

In Central Asia itself, the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan has taken up an initiative of the Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, to set up an information hotline to assist the hundreds of journalists who have been moving into the area to cover events unfolding there (see story on page 3).

The initial reaction from the OSCE to the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon buildings came from the CiO, who denounced them as "barbaric".

"No motives could justify such actions", he said. "I express my condolences to the families of the victims of these unprecedented attacks."

### **Sense of urgency**

A few days later, in a message to the opening of the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on 17 September in Warsaw, Foreign Minister Geoana declared that the OSCE would make the fight against terrorism a top priority. The OSCE, he said, would do more to cut off what he called the "venomous tentacles of terrorism".

"This issue has been on and off our agenda for some time. We haven't paid enough attention to the concerns of our friends in the Caucasus and Central Asia. It's time to change that [...] with a new sense of urgency."

The problem is not new to several OSCE countries. In Uzbekistan, people still recall the terrorist bombing in their own capital, Tashkent, in 1999, which resulted in 16 deaths. Radical Islamic



*OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, addressing the issue of terrorism at the Permanent Council in Vienna*

groups were blamed for that attack. Other incursions by Islamic extremist groups have been launched from bases in Afghanistan.

In his own statement, the Secretary General, Jan Kubis, said: "These criminal acts of terrorism violate the basic principles of humanity and democracy which differentiate civilization from the barbarism of wanton cruelty."

When the PC met on 13 September, the participating States also voiced sorrow, outrage, horror and revulsion at "the barbaric acts of terrorism which have caused enormous loss of human life, destruction and damage" in America. In a unanimous decision, in which they expressed their deepest and sincerest condolences to the families of the victims and their solidarity with the people and Government of the United States, the delegations declared Friday, 14 September, a day of grief and mourning at the OSCE. The flags of the 55 participating States in Vienna were flown at half-mast.

The PC decision stressed the determination of the participating States, "acting together with the entire international community, to unite and put an end to terrorism, a scourge of our times which threatens peace and security throughout the world".

However, a week later the Permanent Council was moved to express concern

about the occurrence of anti-Muslim incidents and violence in several OSCE countries, and warned, during a special session on 21 September, that justifiable loathing for terrorists must not be generalized against entire religious or ethnic groups with which suspected terrorists might claim to have the same faith or origin.

Addressing this special meeting, the CiO outlined plans for the OSCE to respond to the increasing terrorist threat.

He singled out three areas where the OSCE could contribute:

- Political solidarity and commitment to joint action;
- Addressing the root causes: making use of all necessary partnerships and co-operation; and
- Bridging subregional and regional initiatives.

The strongest show of political solidarity against terrorism would be a Declaration at the Bucharest Ministerial due to be held on 3 and 4 December.

On OSCE regional activities to combat terrorism, the CiO strongly advocated a comprehensive initiative to set common priorities and draw up an action plan.

### **Human rights violations**

Other reactions last month from the OSCE included warnings from the heads of its two human dimension institutions against using the fight against terrorism as an excuse to violate basic human rights.

Speaking on 19 September, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann, expressed his concern about the wave of anti-Muslim incidents that had followed the terror attacks in the USA.

“While we all understand and share the outrage that followed the terror attacks all over the world, we deplore any act of vengeance directed against certain religious or ethnic groups”, he said.

Addressing the ODIHR’s Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, Mr. Stoudmann condemned the terror attacks and expressed hope that those responsible would be swiftly brought to justice.

Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, pointed out that many governments were already actively developing new approaches to their security, looking at novel ways to prevent any such attacks against the civilian populations.

“At this difficult time, especially when the main perpetrators of the crime are still at large, it is important to underline the need to continue adhering firmly to the values of our organizations”, he stressed.

During talks with senior officials from the Council of Europe on 27 September in Strasbourg, Mr. Duve said the warning did not just affect the newly established democracies where the fragility of human rights was still evident, but also the old democracies where certain security concerns might prevail over civil liberties.

The President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA), Adrian Severin, also welcomed the support shown by the international community in condemning the terrorist attacks in the United States.

In a letter to the Head of the United States Delegation to the OSCE PA, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Mr. Severin expressed his deepest condolences for the tragic loss of innocent lives, on behalf of the Assembly.

#### **Politico-military aspects**

Efforts to combat international terrorism were also the subject of a dedicated meeting of the OSCE’s Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on 10 October. The FSC, which deals with politico-military aspects of security, has already negotiated a number of agreements which are directly relevant to anti-

terrorist efforts, especially the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Under the terms of the Code of Conduct, participating States of the OSCE have agreed to take the necessary measures to prevent and combat terrorism, and to co-operate with each other in combating the threat of terrorist activities, particularly through the implementation of international commitments. OSCE countries also exchange information every year on the steps they have taken to implement this agreement.

Meanwhile, the relatively new Small Arms Document contains a number of aspects which could help in the fight against terrorism, including improved co-operation in anti-trafficking activities, heightened stockpile security, and the inclusion of disarmament measures in post-conflict rehabilitation. The FSC seems likely to focus its anti-terrorism efforts on improving the implementation of these two documents, and on assisting participating States with the ratification and implementation of the UN and other international conventions on terrorism.

## **OSCE providing assistance to foreign journalists in Central Asia**

The OSCE Mission to Tajikistan has opened an information hotline as a service to the hundreds of journalists who are converging on Central Asia to cover the events in the region. In the aftermath of the attacks on New York and Washington that prompted governments to prepare to combat terror, the number of journalists from all over the world working in the Central Asian countries, as well as in Afghanistan, has swollen.

In Tajikistan more than 800 foreign journalists received accreditation during the first month after the attacks on the USA. To provide assistance to these journalists, Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, together with the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, decided to initiate an OSCE Information Hotline in Dushanbe.

The line is run by the OSCE Mission,



*Igor Sattorov, Head of the Tajik Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Section, briefs a newly arrived group of foreign journalists in Dushanbe, Tajikistan*

with the task co-ordinated by Ambassador Marc Gilbert, the Mission’s Head. During the first week following the opening of the hotline on 28 September more than 60 calls were answered on a wide range of issues, and several groups of journalists paid visits to the Mission.

Both the Mission headquarters in Dushanbe and its three southern field offices in Kurghon-Teppa, Shahrituz and Dusti have been instrumental in providing practical assistance, conveying information on OSCE activities and explaining the views of the OSCE regarding the regional situation to the journalists. The hotline also provides information on whom to contact in emergency situations.

This OSCE initiative has been well received in the fast-growing community of international journalists in Dushanbe, as well as by the Tajik authorities involved. The OSCE Mission to Tajikistan will continue to operate the information hotline for journalists as long as there is a need for it. The telephone number of the OSCE information hotline in Dushanbe is: +997 372 24 37 48.

# OSCE quadruples size and expands scope of its Monitoring Mission to Skopje

Permanent Council endorses increase until end of 2001

The OSCE's Permanent Council agreed at the end of September to send a further 159 international officers to the Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje. These staff members are an addition to the 51 already deployed in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This extra number will include a further 72 confidence-building monitors, plus 60 police advisers, 17 police trainers and 10 more international support staff.

The agreement, reached unanimously by the Organization's 55 participating States, marks the fourth time that the Permanent Council has increased the strength of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje this year.

Commenting on this latest OSCE move, Ambassador Liviu Bota, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council, said: "This decision will contribute considerably to the international efforts under way to ensure that peace and stability continues to be maintained, after the successful NATO-led mission to gather weapons from the armed groups.



*OSCE police advisors and monitors start deployment in Tearce in the northern part of the country, 22 October, in tandem with the return of Macedonian police officers to that area*

It also reflects the OSCE's commitment to foster democratic development in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia."

The OSCE monitors have been mandated to contribute to the maintenance of stability and security in the country, as well as to the building of confidence among the population. Their tasks will include reporting regularly on: the secu-

rity situation in the northern border areas of the country; illicit arms trafficking; the humanitarian situation, including the return of refugees and internally displaced persons and trafficking in human beings; the situation in sensitive areas; and any incidents and recurrence of hostilities.

The role of the police advisers will be to assist in ensuring a phased and co-ordinated redeployment by the national police force. The police trainers will assist in the implementation of the Police Academy project in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The mandate of the additional staff members is limited to 31 December 2001. The costs of the strengthening of the OSCE Mission are being covered by a supplementary budget of slightly over four million euros.

Selection of the new members has been going ahead as planned with gradual deployment taking place during the month of October, and it is expected that the Mission will be fully staffed by early November.

## Quiet Diplomacy in Action

*The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities*

Ed: Walter Kemp ■ Foreword by Michael Ignatieff

This comprehensive account of the work of the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoep, has been written by his Senior Adviser. It takes the reader behind the scenes to explain how the "silent diplomat" fulfilled his conflict prevention mandate for over eight years in more than 15 countries. Major linked documents are annexed.

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# Central Mail Server to exchange military information transferred to Vienna

By Gerhard Schaumberger

The migration process of the Central Mail Server of the OSCE Communications Network from The Hague to Vienna was successfully completed this September. The server, used to exchange military information, was formerly situated in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will now be administered by the OSCE Secretariat.

Following a decision taken by the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on 20 June 2001, a new Network Management Team, consisting of two professionals, was established in the Conflict Prevention Center (CPC).

“The major change in this arrangement is that the Secretariat, as the informational focal point of the OSCE, will now provide remote network administration and control”, according to Mark Werth, Senior Communications Network Officer at the CPC, commenting on the move of the network server.

The operation of the server has been contracted to the Vienna-based company TRW, through its partner MCI Worldcom, which professionally runs high-capacity servers from a secure environ-

ment. The contractor must ensure that the network is accessible and operational around the clock, seven days a week. Data is protected by means of safe transmission protocols, and physical security maintained through extensive precautionary measures at the server location.

Experts from OSCE delegations visited the contractor facility in order to ensure that the system adheres to the high standards required for the exchange of restricted military information.

When asked to specify further what data is actually exchanged among OSCE States, Mr. Werth explained: “Notifications required by the Vienna Document of 1999, the Open Skies Treaty, and the CFE Treaty (see article in box) are, figuratively speaking, the bread and butter of openness and transparency in arms control implementation. The Network underscores and implements Confidence- and Security-Building Measures by providing a fast, reliable and efficient means of communication to exchange such important information.”

The Network, which evolved over the last decade as a result of the Vienna Document 1990, today fully complements

the use of traditional diplomatic channels. Specialists from OSCE delegations constitute the “OSCE Communications Group”, which meets up to four times a year in Vienna. The group has established focal points in each participating State for the mutual exchange of information and to facilitate joint project management teams.

Looking to the future, when the Open Skies Treaty enters into force, information exchanged via the Network will probably increase even further. The goal is to increase the number of connected users, which currently stands at 38 of 55 participating States.

Given this new challenge, the Communications Group, in accordance with guidance from the FSC, has also been tasked to continue efforts toward Network modernization, in keeping with the technological progress made in electronic data exchange capabilities over the past decade.

*Gerhard Schaumberger is an Intern in the Secretariat's Public Information Section.*

## Basket I of the Helsinki Final Act

### A brief history of the OSCE's politico-military dimension

#### **1975, Helsinki Final Act: the creation of Confidence-Building Measures**

Politico-military aspects of security have been part of the OSCE agenda from the very beginning of the Organization as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). In the landmark 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the then 35 participating States agreed to develop so-called Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs), which would “contribute to reducing the dangers of armed conflict and of misunderstanding or miscalculation of military activities which could give rise to

apprehension, particularly in a situation where States [...] lack clear and timely information”. The idea was to secure predictability through increased openness and transparency. At that time, the measures were only voluntary and largely symbolic. They included prior notification of major military manoeuvres and a voluntary exchange of observers. Chapter I of the document laid out the ten fundamental principles that guide relations between States (the “Decalogue”), which provided a solid basis for further negotiations on politico-military aspects.

### 1984–1986, Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe

The first step to improve the “first generation” of CBMs was the second Follow-up Meeting in Madrid (1980–1983), which called for a Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs). The Conference resulted in the Stockholm Document, adopted on 19 September 1986, which strengthened the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act. For example, it provided for lower thresholds and a longer-time frame for prior notification of certain military activities, invitation of observers, and an exchange of annual calendars of planned military activities. Most importantly, for the first time ever in the history of modern arms control, it provided for compulsory inspections as a means of verification.

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*The development of the politico-military dimension: OSCE (then CSCE) mission members in Georgia with Russian soldiers and an Ossetian officer in 1993*

### 1990, Vienna Follow-up Meeting and Paris Summit: the CFE Treaty

Other documents of key importance for military security in Europe were adopted by – and are valid for – only some of the OSCE participating States. This is the case of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). In an effort to enhance military stability and security in Europe, the CSCE Follow-up Meeting in Vienna (1986–1989) endorsed a mandate for negotiations on the level of conventional armed forces in Europe. The negotiations were carried out within the framework of the CSCE among 23 participating States – and resulted in the legally binding agreement known as the CFE Treaty, signed in Paris on 19 November 1990. However, it soon became obvious that the Treaty, which was very much a product of the Cold War system of alliances, needed to be revised in the light of the transformation of the geo-political landscape in Europe. Over three years of negotiations, the CFE Treaty was revised to reflect these changes, and its signature at the Istanbul Summit on 19 November 1999 opened up the Treaty for accession by non-NATO or former Warsaw Pact countries. The new Treaty discards the division of Europe into two blocs, by giving each State individual ceilings for armaments on a national and territorial basis, instead of allocating ceilings on the basis of group levels. It has yet to enter force.

### 1992, Helsinki Summit: the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Open Skies Treaty

With the establishment of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) at the 1992 CSCE summit meeting in Helsinki, the negotiations on CSBMs took place on a more regular basis. Today, the FSC meets every week to discuss current security issues and review the implementation of existing commitments. The Open Skies Treaty establishes a regime of unarmed obser-

vation flights over the territories of States Parties. In a special declaration adopted at the Helsinki meeting of the Council of Ministers on 24 March 1992, the participating States welcomed the signing of the Treaty and acknowledged its importance for the enhancement of security and confidence in Europe. As with the CFE Treaty, not all OSCE participating States are signatories of the Open Skies Treaty. With the recent ratification of the Treaty by the Russian Federation and Belarus, the Treaty is expected to enter into force in the next few months.

### 1994, Budapest Summit: the Code of Conduct

Throughout the 1990s, the Forum for Security Co-operation agreed on many documents and decisions on arms control, disarmament and confidence-building. One of the most important is the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which deals with democratic control of the military and security forces, international humanitarian law and principles governing the use of force, including in civil conflicts. Crucially, the Code deals with intra- as well as inter-State security issues. The Forum also agreed on a series of other documents that deal with conventional arms transfers, non-proliferation, and localized crisis situations, as well as questionnaires on landmines and chemical weapons.

### 1996, Lisbon Summit: Framework for Arms Control and Development of the Agenda of the Forum for Security Co-operation

By 1996, many of the tasks mandated by the Programme for Immediate Action (annexed to Chapter V of the Helsinki Document 1992) had been completed, and a new Framework for Arms Control was agreed at the Lisbon Summit. The framework was designed to create a web of interlocking and mutually reinforcing arms control obligations and commitments, and to guide future arms control agreements between the participating States.

### **1996, Dayton/Paris Peace Accords (Article II, IV and V of Annex 1-B)**

In that same year, a more regionally focused document was adopted, which is referred to as the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It contains three instruments to be negotiated under OSCE auspices, two of which were concluded already in 1996. Article II provided the framework for the negotiations of an agreement on an arms control and verification regime in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The second, Article IV, gives the framework for negotiating a subregional arms control agreement between Yugoslavia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. After three years of negotiations, on 18 July 2001, 20 negotiating States reached consensus on the last and final article, Article V, providing for security and stability “in and around the former Yugoslavia”.

### **1999, Istanbul Summit:**

#### **Small arms and light weapons document (signed in Vienna)**

At the Istanbul Summit in November 1999, a decision was taken to launch a broad discussion among OSCE participating States on small arms and light weapons (SALW). Combating the uncontrolled spread of small arms, increasing transparency regarding transfers and fighting illicit trafficking were identified as areas for discussion. On 24 November 2000, the FSC agreed in Vienna on the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, a landmark agreement that aims to combat the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of these weapons. The document provides for a number of information exchanges, the first of which took place on 30 June this year, and outlines a role for OSCE missions and field operations in conducting SALW-related measures, including weapons collection programmes.

*All these key documents are available on the OSCE website at [www.osce.org/docs](http://www.osce.org/docs).*

## **Trying to ensure all voices are heard: preparing Kosovo’s general election**

*By David Kahrmann*

*On 17 November, Kosovo citizens will be called to the polls on the second occasion in just over a year. This time they will cast their votes for a General Assembly. In the run-up to election day, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo has been conducting a dynamic outreach campaign to encourage minority groups to participate in these elections.*

In early September, the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Daan Everts, went to Gracanica, a village just a few minutes’ drive away from the province’s capital Pristina, to meet a group of visiting Serb journalists. As he was explaining the registration and election process for Kosovo’s non-Albanian communities, just down the hall Serb and Roma citizens were patiently queuing to register for the forthcoming general elections on 17 November.

Persuading Gracanica citizens to queue to register for Kosovo elections was no easy task. As is the case for most of Kosovo Serbs that do not live in the north of the province, the people of Gracanica live under the protection of the NATO-led Kosovo force (KFOR) in an enclave. And, while residents enjoy relative safety there, they live under the knowledge that a few kilometres away in Pristina it is generally not safe for them to walk around unescorted, solely because of their ethnicity.

As is typical in a post-conflict situation, wounds are healing slowly, but the situation is improving slightly and inter-ethnic dialogue is beginning. Serb participation in the political life of Kosovo would help to improve not only the dialogue but also the living conditions of Kosovo Serbs. With that end in view, the OSCE Mission has made every effort to encourage the participation of Serbs in this year’s elections. Mr. Everts has repeatedly called upon Serbs to “come out, recognize your longer-term interests, register, vote, determine your future and co-determine the future of Kosovo”.

For last year’s municipal elections in the province, registration centers were set up Kosovo-wide, and most adult Kosovo Albanians eventually registered and then cast their votes on election day. In Serb areas, however, only a handful of Serb citizens registered. Most chose to boycott the process. This meant they could not participate in the elections.

This year, once again, registration

centers were opened in Serb areas and mobile registration teams went to conduct registration and voter services for isolated communities. For voters residing outside Kosovo, voter registration was also made available for Serb internally displaced people (IDPs) in Montenegro and Serbia proper, with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as the implementing partner of the OSCE. Through this co-operation, IDPs will also be able to vote in person in the areas where they are now living, should they decide to participate in the election.

### **Encouraging Serb registration**

An important task for this year’s election was again to train staff and to set up the registration service centers, but the real challenge was to make sure that this time the centers would not remain empty in the Serb-majority areas. This meant that members of non-Albanian communities had to be encouraged to participate

in the election process by registering and then, hopefully, make their voices heard by participating in the elections for the Kosovo Assembly.

It was clear that there would be no choice for Serbs on whether to participate in the election if they did not register. The central message to them was “Register now and leave your options open.”

Another issue that needed to be emphasized was that participating in the registration process did not alter the status of Kosovo’s Serbs as citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. For weeks, rumours had been rife that people would be stripped of their Yugoslav documents, and that those living as IDPs in Serbia proper or Montenegro would be forced to return to Kosovo.

A large-scale information campaign for Kosovo Serbs, conducted by the OSCE Mission, concentrated on presenting all the facts about voter registration and how to register. At the same time, the campaign was also aimed at dispelling rumours that could discourage many people from going to the registration centers.

As Serb leaders, within Kosovo, in Serbia proper and in Montenegro, began to endorse the registration process, the OSCE made every effort to ensure that Kosovo Serbs received these messages. The statements of politicians and religious leaders were used in information products such as posters, newspaper advertisements, radio spots and pamphlets. Outreach teams discussed these messages in meetings with the local population.

The effect of these statements was profound. What initially had been a slow trickle of registrants increased dramatically, to the point that queues in front of registration centers suddenly became commonplace throughout Kosovo, not only in Albanian-majority areas. Every day, 3,500 people were registering, and by the deadline of 22 September approx-



OSCE/Mission in Kosovo

*A voter participating in the test election staged in Tudgevce/Tugjec in September by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, to prepare for the elections of 17 November*

imately 70,000 Serbs and members of other minorities within Kosovo and more than 100,000 IDPs had registered.

#### **Preparing the majority population**

For the majority population, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo concentrated on two aspects to prepare the province’s voters for a smooth electoral process. While last year’s municipal elections were widely heralded as smooth, the OSCE has endeavoured to improve the process and ensure that all eligible voters know where and how to vote.

Of course, in co-ordination with the United Nations, considerable energy was also spent on ensuring that people understand what they are voting for and the nature of the body that will be established. Kosovo Albanian political parties, coalitions and other political entities participating in the elections have been making references to independence, something that United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 gives them no ability to deliver upon. Instead,

the OSCE has been encouraging the population to think in more concrete terms and to decide which political entities have the best plans to improve their communities.

#### **Looking ahead**

At present, it is not certain whether Kosovo Serbs will participate in the elections or choose to again to boycott the process. However, there will be a Kosovo Assembly, no matter what they decide. If the province’s Serb citizens choose not to participate they will still be allocated ten seats in the Assembly.

If they do participate, however, they can obtain more than twice that number. Serbs certainly risk further isolation through non-participation. The OSCE message for these elections is the same for all communities: “Be heard – vote!”

*David Kahrman is a Public Information Officer in the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.*

Visit the OSCE website: [www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org)



# New language scheme launched in Latvia

OSCE Mission assists project aimed at helping up to 550,000 stateless citizens

By Neil Brennan

Only three days after its launch on 19 September by the Prime Minister of Latvia, Andris Berzins, the 2,000 places in the free language training programme for non-citizen residents of Latvia were already filled. The scheme, initiated by the OSCE Mission to Latvia, enables potential citizens to train for the language part of naturalization at no charge.

The Prime Minister stated in launching the programme: "Although the teaching of the Latvian language will have a positive influence on the naturalization process, this project is not an end in itself." But, he remarked, the ultimate goal of social integration in the country would be supported in large measure by this project.

The entire project, the first large-scale one of its kind in the country, is being implemented by the Latvian Naturalization Board with the administrative support of the United Nations Development Programme. It is financed by the Governments of the United States, Sweden and Norway to a tune of over \$200,000. The Mission and the Board are hopeful that more funding can be found in the future to expand the scope of the project.

Citizenship and language issues have been at the core of the work of the OSCE Mission to Latvia since it began operation in 1993. In recent times, though, the focus of the Mission has gone from providing advice on legislation to working on projects in support of social integration in Latvia. As the Prime Minister said at the launch: "An integrated society is the aim of Latvia, where people have equal rights to fulfil themselves. Too often this is not possible simply because of a lack of language knowledge."

## Stateless citizens

The project stems from the fact that over 550,000 residents of Latvia do not have citizenship of any State. Although

over 45,000 persons have received citizenship through naturalization since the restoration of independence, the application rates are now in decline. In the year 2000, the highest number of naturalizations (14,900) was registered. But this was a direct result of the abolition in 1998 of the "windows" system, which only

should be a priority in the efforts to stimulate naturalization.

With funding from the United States Government, a pilot project was run which allowed 800 persons to receive language training. When they began the courses, the majority had limited or no knowledge of the Latvian language.



From left to right: Eizenija Aldermane, Head of the Latvian Naturalization Board; the Latvian Prime Minister, Andris Berzins; Peter Semneby, Head of the OSCE Mission; Jan Sand Sorensen, UN Resident Co-ordinator, at the launching event for the Fast-Track Language Training Programme

gradually provided different age groups with the possibility of naturalizing.

To counter this downward trend, the Mission and the Board joined efforts in devising projects to motivate non-citizens to apply for citizenship. These efforts were based on polls, which identified the main reasons why non-citizens have not yet applied for citizenship. All polls showed the same major inhibitors: insufficient knowledge of the Latvian language, of the benefits of citizenship and of the process itself, or incapacity to pay for language training, and the high application fees. It was clear to the Mission and the Board that language training

Nevertheless, 85 per cent of participants were successful in obtaining certificates for citizenship. Spurred on by this success, a large-scale effort was pursued.

At the launch event, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Latvia, Peter Semneby, noted that the free language training project was not an isolated effort. He reminded the large crowd gathered that this project was one of several recent steps forward in the area of naturalization. Addressing an audience that included the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, Ingrida Labucka, language teachers, Latvian officials, members of the international community and the

media, Mr. Semneby recalled the positive regulatory amendments adopted in June of this year. These measures reduced the basic fee for naturalization and recognized school language exams as language certificates for naturalization.

“These help in creating a positive climate toward naturalization”, he said. “But it is also important to inform non-citizens about the free language training project as

well as the benefits of citizenship so that they can make an informed choice.”

In this regard, he referred to a second project that will see a large-scale public awareness campaign to promote naturalization throughout Latvian society. Three professional media firms will organize a creatively designed campaign involving direct mailing to the homes of all non-citizens, in addition to television

and radio advertisements on Latvian airwaves. Over \$270,000 have been provided for this effort by the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, Germany, Norway, and the United States non-governmental organization, Freedom House.

*Neil Brennan is Press Officer for the OSCE Mission to Latvia.*

## Debating media freedom in Belarus

A new publication *Freedom of the Media in Belarus* fuels discussion

A joint initiative of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, and the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group (AMG) in Belarus for the holding of a workshop for Belarusian journalists from both governmental and non-governmental media, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), has now provided a follow-up – a booklet on Freedom of the Media in Belarus. The new publication is a collection of presentations made by the workshop participants during their frank exchange of views in Vienna, at the end of May.

As the Representative notes in his introduction to the booklet: “During this one-day public workshop, which brought together approximately a dozen Belarusian journalists from both the State and non-State sectors, there were moments when I thought I was listening to representatives of, if not two different countries, then of two radically different perceptions.”

### Key role of free media

The importance of free and independent media for the establishment of a democratic civil society in Belarus was stressed throughout the workshop. “Freedom of the media – not a luxury but the daily bread of freedom”, said Ambassador Hans-Georg Wiecek, the Head of the AMG, in his introductory note. The vital role of media freedom in the pre-electoral period was particularly emphasized.



*The latest publication of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media focuses on Belarus*

“Only the independent media can guarantee the provision of information necessary to make political decisions; protect citizens from the government’s diktat and reveal facts of infringements on the public interests and legitimate rights; encourage a debate and help envision perspectives for moving forward; and contribute to the consolidation of the society,” said Zhanna Litvina, president of the biggest Belarusian media NGO – the Belarusian Association of Journalists.

Journalists from both governmental and non-governmental media pointed out the need for debate on the fast developing media market in Belarus. “Free discussion of the emerging problems, I am sure, will help to find ways for their speedy solution,” said Mikhail Lebedik, first deputy editor-in-chief of the State-run national daily, *Sovetskaya Belorussiya*.

### Bilingual publication

The success and common appreciation of the workshop by all the participants and OSCE delegations convinced the Representative and the AMG in Belarus that they should publish the workshop materials in both English and Russian.

The publishers express their sincere thanks to the United Kingdom delegation to the OSCE and the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the OSCE for their generous financial contributions, which were used in both preparing the workshop and publishing the booklet.

The appearance of the publication in Belarus has resulted in a broad positive feedback and will hopefully offer guidance and serve as a further incentive for the debate on media freedom in the country. Both OSCE bodies will continue their joint efforts to promote the dialogue between Belarusian State-run and non-State media and NGOs, on freedom of the media in that country.



## News from the field

*The OSCE currently has Missions or other field activities in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo (Yugoslavia), Latvia, Skopje (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia. The following brief reports reflect some of the recent work which these field operations have undertaken.*

### **Yerevan Office supports political opinion survey among students**

With the support of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, a survey among university students was published in September in Armenia. The survey, which appeared in the form of a book, presents a picture of the students' judgements, attitudes and assessment of political developments in the country. A total of 275 students were interviewed, drawn from five State and seven private universities. The project was financially supported by the United Kingdom Government. "The findings in this survey reflect youth attitudes towards significant ethno-political aspects of the country and the region", said Roy Reeve, Head of the OSCE Office. He also noted that the publication would be very useful for the international community.

### **OSCE hails acquittal in Armenian religion trial**

The OSCE Office in Yerevan welcomed the verdict of "not guilty" reached in the case brought against Levon Markaryan in the lower court in Armavir. He was accused under Article 244 of the Criminal Code of Armenia of organizing an unregistered religious group (Jehovah's Witnesses), which involved minors. Although welcoming the verdict, the OSCE Office continues to regret that the prosecution was launched in the first place. In addition, the Office notes that the prosecution still has the right to appeal the verdict.

### **Office in Armenia launches publication on corruption**

A new book launched by the OSCE Office in Yerevan discusses the issue of corruption as a complex social phenomenon. The author of the publication is Stepan Tsaghikian, head of the expert group of the Standing Committee on Defence, National Security and Internal

Affairs on the elaboration of anti-corruption legislation in Armenia. The research gives a picture of social, economic and political conditions that favour corruption in Armenia, and also analyses its criminal and legal aspects. Special attention is devoted to the role of civil society and opportunities provided by international co-operation through various agreements on combating corruption. The book also proposes an Armenian national programme for the combating of corruption, as well as a model draft law on corruption prevention for public review.

### **Chairperson of Radio-Television Kosovo elected**

At its first meeting on 26 September, the Board of Directors of Radio-Television Kosovo (RTK), the province's independent public service broadcaster, elected Adem Demaci as its chairperson. Since 1999, the OSCE Mission in Kosovo has supported the development of RTK in its efforts to professionalize its staff, to safeguard its editorial independence from all political influences, and to increase Kosovar participation in its management and journalistic activities. The Chairperson and his two elected deputies will serve a two-year term. The international board members are Jean-Bernard Muench, Secretary-General of the European Broadcasting Union, and Ismije Beshiri, Political Adviser to the OSCE Head of Mission. RTK's board will determine and advise on the public broadcaster's budget and policy.

### **Donor manual for Kosovo NGOs published**

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) and the Kosovar Civil Society Foundation have launched two publications intended as resources for the growing non-governmental organization (NGO) community in Kosovo. The

first is a donor manual to assist local NGOs in designing projects related to donors. It contains a glossary of donor terms, guidelines for project planning, and profiles of potential donors supporting local NGOs in Kosovo. The other publication is the result of the First Forum of Kosovar NGOs held last year. It identifies common priorities and key challenges facing the local NGO sector. Both books are produced in the English, Albanian, Serbian and Turkish languages.

### **More than 4,000 police officers trained in Kosovo**

The 16th class of police cadets from the OSCE-run Kosovo Police Service School (KPSS) graduated in mid-September. This brings the total number of trainee police officers to 4,105. Class 16 consists of 259 cadets, of whom 26 represent ethnic minority groups in Kosovo. The total number marks the fulfilment of the original mandate, which has since been increased to reach a total of 5,700 officers by the end of 2002.

### **OSCE helps solve environmental problems in Albania**

In September, the OSCE Presence in Albania has begun a series of round-table meetings throughout the country to discuss the country's water system. Albania is continuing to move away from a highly centralized national government inherited from Communist rule, and the decentralization of the water systems is one of the first projects undertaken by the OSCE to assist with this task. The responsibility for providing drinkable water and managing waste water systems is due to be transferred to local governments on 1 January 2002. But owing to the complexity of the issues associated with this important process, a large number of questions needed to be answered before the actual transfer could take

place. At the request of the Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Decentralization, Bashkim Fino, the OSCE and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) agreed to assist in organizing these meetings to discuss the transfer. In the course of these meetings, the two organizations spoke to the mayors, regional council chairpersons, the prefects and regional councils, elected members of Parliament in the respective constituencies, the managers of the water

OSCE Mission in Kosovo



*The OSCE Mission in Kosovo has supported Radio-Television Kosovo in its development into an independent public service broadcaster*

enterprises in the city centers of the region, and other relevant officials. In an effort to reach out to local communities across Albania, more such regional round tables will be held over the next several months on a variety of issues concerning decentralization, including the transfer of state property to local governments, urban planning and local taxes.

### **Women to join in multi-ethnic police training in FRY**

In September, the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia started a campaign to encourage women to join in the training programme for the multi-ethnic police in southern Serbia. The police project is being jointly implemented by the OSCE and the Serbian Ministry of the Interior. Stefano Sanino, the Head of the OSCE Mission, said that: "... the OSCE wholeheartedly encourages female candidates to apply. Not only because one of the OSCE's aims is gender balance when personnel are recruited, but also because the engagement of women as police officers will, in itself, be another evident sign of the participation of all communities in the process of restoring trust and confidence in southern Serbia."

### **OSCE BiH Mission launches youth campaign**

Young people in Bosnia and Herze-

govina are being invited to participate actively in the OSCE's countrywide youth initiative, which started at the beginning of September and will last for three months. The aim is to encourage active involvement in Bosnia and Herzegovina's civil, economic and political life, and to make young people aware that the future of the country depends on their personal commitment and vision. Three young citizens, Marijana Mikic, Samir Omerefendic and Vlatka Simanic, are spearheading the campaign. The Head of the Mission, Robert Beecroft, strongly supports the goals and activities of the young people: "It's time for the young people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to change the nature of the debate – by seizing the opportunity to play an active role in politics, economics and the building of a civil society."

### **Mission to Kazakhstan emphasizes legal standards**

At the end of the trial of the former Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Akezhan Kazhegeldin, the OSCE Center in Almaty has emphasized the importance of observing international judicial standards. Mr. Kazhegeldin is at the moment the leader of the opposition party. Kazakhstan's Supreme Court verdict – although he was sentenced in absentia to ten years imprisonment – confirmed the impression of the Center and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human

Rights (ODIHR) that the ruling had a political background and fell short of meeting OSCE commitments on due process and fair trial.

### **Center in Ashgabad holds events on Aarhus Convention and OSCE's role**

In early September the OSCE Center in Ashgabad held two events in the Caspian port city of Turkmenbashi. The first, on 5 and 6 September, was the fourth in a series of round tables on the implementation of the

Aarhus Convention in Turkmenistan. The series is being held in the major cities throughout the country. As with previous round tables, the participants included government officials, NGO members and business representatives. Following a day of lectures by a Ukrainian NGO activist on the Aarhus Convention and on the related legislation of Turkmenistan, there was an exchange of views on ways to implement the convention in the Turkmen context, and the discussion was summed up in a set of proposals. The next round tables are planned for the cities of Turkmenabat and Mary.

The second event in Turkmenbashi, on 7 September, was a seminar on the OSCE conducted with the assistance of the Head of the Democratization Section of the ODIHR, who gave presentations on the history of the CSCE/OSCE and its main institutions and mechanisms. Particular stress was placed on the political character of the commitments accepted by participating States. The Center staff gave presentations on the political/military, human and economic/environmental dimensions of the OSCE, the OSCE in Central Asia and the work of the government and educational officials, law enforcement officers, local journalists and NGO members. This was the second in a series of seminars – the first was held in Ashgabad in April – intended to explain the role of the OSCE.



## IN BRIEF



The **OSCE Chairman-in-Office (CiO), Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana**, welcomed on 3 September the decision by Tajik President Rakhmonov and the

Parliament of Tajikistan to grant a general amnesty for the benefit of more than 19,000 detainees. He noted with appreciation the humanitarian character of the General Amnesty Law, underlined by the release from prison of the most vulnerable citizens: women, the under-aged and elderly people, invalids and persons infected with tuberculosis. He encouraged the Tajik Government and the responsible authorities to make every effort to assist the reintegration of these persons into society. At the same time, the OSCE Chairmanship strongly encouraged Tajikistan to continue to pursue all efforts to promote the democratic and post-conflict rehabilitation processes in the country.

On 10 September, the **Romanian Prime Minister, Adrian Nastase**, officially opened an OSCE Conference on “Equal Opportunities for Roma and Sinti – Translating Words into Facts”. Some 300 delegates from all 55 OSCE participating States were invited to share their experiences and try to develop common, long-term solutions. Speaking at the opening, the CiO said: “This conference will put Roma issues at the forefront of European politics and will raise awareness about the need to create structures and instruments to combat racism and discrimination.” Numerous non-governmental and Roma experts were also invited to attend the conference, which lasted until 13 September. On 12 September, a round table on the “Efforts of the EU Candidate Countries for the Improvement of the Roma Situation”, co-funded by the EU’s PHARE programme, took place alongside the conference.

Having learned with consternation about the barbaric acts of terrorism perpetrated on 11 September against the United States, the **Chairman-in-Office, Mircea Geoana**, immediately condemned

the attacks in the strongest terms. He stated that no motives could justify such actions, and expressed his condolences to the families of the victims of these unprecedented attacks. He also called upon the international community to unite and to put an end to terrorism, a scourge of our times which endangers peace and security throughout the world. The **OSCE Secretary General, Jan Kubis**, also expressed his deepest outrage at the attacks. “These criminal acts of terrorism violate the basic principles of humanity and basics of democracy which differentiate civilization from the barbarism of wanton cruelty”, his statement read. “It is my strong hope that those responsible and their assistants will be brought to justice by the most expedient means, and that the world community will unite in a determined action against all forms of terrorism, its sources and perpetrators. To the families, friends of the victims, as well as to the American people, I wish to convey my deepest sympathy and sincere condolences”, Mr. Kubis said.

The **OSCE Permanent Council** decided to declare the day of Friday, 14 September, a day of grief and mourning. The flags of the OSCE participating States in Vienna were flown at half-mast. In the decision, they expressed their sorrow, outrage, horror and revulsion at “the barbaric acts of terrorism which have caused enormous loss of human life, destruction and damage in New York City and Washington, D.C.” The OSCE States offered their deepest and sincerest condolences to the families of the victims and their solidarity with the people and Government of the United States. “This tragedy affects all of us. These were acts not against the United States alone but against all of humanity”, the decision read. It stressed the determination of the participating States, “acting together with the entire international community, to unite and put an end to terrorism”. The participating States called for those sponsoring, organizing, harbouring and supporting in any way the execution of these criminal acts to be brought to justice. The Permanent Council observed a minute of silence after taking the decision.

On a visit to Skopje on 14 September, the **CiO, Mircea Geoana**, said that the role and profile of the OSCE in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would increase considerably. Mr. Geoana met with Boris Trajkovski, the country’s President, Stojan Andov, President of the Parliament, and Ljubco Georgievski, Prime Minister, as well as with leaders of political parties. The discussions focused on political progress in the implementation of President Trajkovski’s peace plan and the period after the finalization of NATO’s Operation Essential Harvest. The important role of the OSCE in areas such as monitoring the return of the displaced population, police-related activities, media and public administration – as mentioned in Annex C of the Framework Agreement signed on 13 August – was reiterated.

**Ambassador Bruno Joubert** was appointed new Head of the French Delegation to the OSCE. A graduate of the Institut d’Etudes Politiques and the Ecole Nationale d’Administration in Paris, Mr. Joubert has worked in different positions in the French Embassy in Washington, as well as as Adviser at the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union. From 1995 to 1997, Mr. Joubert was Director of the Cabinet of the French Minister for European Affairs. Prior to his appointment to the OSCE, he held the position of Director at the French Ministry of Defence.

**Ambassador Heinrich Reimann** has taken up his duties as new Head of the Swiss Delegation. Mr. Reimann, who was born in 1944 in Winterthur, studied International Law at the University of Zurich. In 1980, he was appointed Counsellor of the Swiss Embassy to France in Paris. Six years later, he took up his duties as Swiss Ambassador to Iran in Teheran. From 1989 he headed the Embassy in Algeria, accredited also for Mauritania. Two years later, he was appointed Commissioner of the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, with the title of Ambassador. In 1997, the Federal Council of Switzerland appointed him Ambassador of Switzerland to the Netherlands.

## PRESS PROFILE



*Excerpts from international media coverage of the OSCE and its activities over recent weeks.*

### COUNTER-TERRORISM

#### **Reuters, 14 September**

‘In Vienna, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a 55-nation security and human rights body, said in a statement the attacks were directed not just against the United States but against all of humanity. “We are determined, acting together with the entire international community, to unite and put an end to terrorism, a scourge of our times which threatens peace and security throughout the world”, the OSCE said.’

#### **Agence France Press, 17 September**

‘Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, the current chairman of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, called Monday for the pan-European security and rights body to focus on terrorism. “I want terrorism to become a top priority for the OSCE,” ... Geoana said in a statement delivered on his behalf to the opening of an OSCE conference on human rights. Co-operation and coordination are the best weapons against terrorism, and with missions in its 55 members across Europe and central Asia the OSCE is well-placed to help members pool their resources, said the minister. With its focus on human rights and democratic development, the OSCE can help “remove injustices which are open to exploitation by extremists”. ‘

#### **Reuters, 21 September**

‘Hundreds of thousands of war refugees in camps across Europe and Central Asia are vulnerable to recruitment by terrorists, the chairman of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe said on Friday. Romanian

Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana urged the 55-nation security and human rights group to pay more attention to the plight of those displaced by post-communist conflicts in the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia.’

### BELARUS

#### **Reuters, 3 September**

‘The United States and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe have said they fear that the election will not be free and fair. The OSCE said a parliamentary election last year was rigged.’

#### **Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 5 September**

‘According to Wieck (head of the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus), there will be a total of around 10,000 independent election monitors from non-governmental organizations, a network that had been built up through financial means coming from the OSCE. Election monitoring is, in Wieck’s words, “the most important instrument for democratic development”. This had only been recognized by the OSCE this year... “Now everyone wants to be part of the monitoring process. It has become incredibly popular”.’

#### **Interfax, 8 September**

‘The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe on Saturday accused the Belarus leadership of a campaign against the OSCE and its Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus in connection with a planned Belarusian election on Sunday... OSCE Chairman Mircea Geoana said the Group limited its activities to its mandate and to decisions by the OSCE Summit in Istanbul in 1999. Geoana said the group was not involved in any intelligence (activities) and supported democratic institutions and democratic procedures.’

#### **Reuters, 10 September**

‘...The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe slammed authorities in the former Soviet republic for irregularities and intimidation in Sunday’s poll. “It was not democratic. I

would not use the words “free and fair”, Hrair Balian, head of the OSCE monitoring mission, said.’

#### **The Guardian, 10 September**

‘The regime has accused Washington and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe of running an espionage operation and conspiring to topple Mr. Lukashenko. Yesterday, after casting his vote, the President announced that Hans-Georg Wieck, the OSCE Ambassador in Minsk, was a spy who would be expelled from the country if he did not leave freely.’

#### **Reuters, 13 September**

‘Analysts said the landslide victory, which opposition parties said was won by vote-rigging and intimidation, called into question the West’s policy of isolating Belarus. Officials from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe rights group said after the election that the approach needed rethinking and that efforts should be focused on encouraging a grassroots civil rights and opposition movement.’

#### **Reuters, 17 September**

‘The White House said it supported the findings of election monitors from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, who said the voting was marred by a host of factors, including a climate of fear, a campaign of intimidation against opposition leaders, and biased state-controlled media.’

#### **Neue Zürcher Zeitung, 19 September**

‘(According to Wieck,) it is also thanks to the efforts of the OSCE that the former Soviet republic today has a competent opposition that is organized in a coalition and is fighting with democratic means. Wieck is especially proud that his Group, together with the opposition, managed to recruit more than 15,000, predominantly young, election monitors in the course of the election campaign.’

### CHECHNYA

#### **Interfax, September 12**

‘Director of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Gerard Stoudmann, has met with Russian special presidential human rights Commissioner for Chechnya, Vladimir Kalamanov, to discuss the situation in that North Caucasian republic... The OSCE official expressed his particular concern over the lack of control over the armed forces and special services in the Chechen territory.'

**Interfax, 29 September**

'The head of the pro-Russian Chechen administration had a meeting on Saturday with the head of an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe mission to Chechnya... During the meeting, which was held in Moscow, the OSCE mission head, Alexandru Cornea, gave Chechen leader Akhmad Kadyrov detailed information on the mission's activities.'

**FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

**Agence France Press, 30 August**

'Macedonian Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva warned Thursday of a "security vacuum" after the end of NATO's operation to disarm rebels ends, urging continued international support for Skopje. She notably urged the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to boost its monitoring mission in the conflict-scarred country, to help maintain stability after NATO troops pull out.'

**Reuters, September 1**

'Harald Schenker, spokesman for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe observer mission to Macedonia, said the OSCE was working with Macedonian officials to lift the blockades, to encourage Parliament to resume debate.'

**Financial Times, 4 September**

'Under the peace deal the international community, including NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the European Union, has pledged to deploy monitors. Their main role will be to observe the return of the Macedonian security forces to

guerilla-held areas... OSCE officials said that the monitors' security was a prime consideration.'

**Reuters, 4 September**

'The Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe urged Macedonian leaders on Tuesday not to allow electioneering to hamper the implementation of a NATO-backed peace plan. Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, the OSCE's current chairman, played down fears that a foreign protection force would be needed for an international monitoring team due to be deployed to fill a vacuum left by 4,500 departing NATO troops.'

**Financial Times, 10 September**

'The monitors should operate mainly under the control of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. With its broad membership, including Russia, it is more likely to win acceptance from ethnic Macedonians than other more western-oriented bodies.'

**Reuters, 24 September**

'Independent experts have said that a far larger NATO follow-on force would be required to enable about 120 monitors from the European Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe to escort refugees back to their homes and prevent a de facto partitioning of the country along ethnic lines.'

**Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 26 September**

'NATO believes it needs around 1,000 men for the protection of the European Union and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe observers, who are dispatched to monitor the implementation of the Ohrid peace treaty.'

**Reuters, 27 September**

'A senior NATO officer spoke with horror of the alliance being transformed into "the OSCE with an integrated military command" – a reference to the largely toothless, 54-nation (sic!) Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.'

**The Guardian, 27 September**

'The security vacuum on the Kosovo-Macedonia border, which increased the likelihood of instability spilling over the border, was in fact highlighted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe mission in Skopje as far back as autumn 1999.'

**Agence France Press, 1 October**

'The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe will begin deploying 159 extra staff in Macedonia "within days" to monitor a peace accord and help train local police, a spokesman said Monday. The OSCE's Permanent Council agreed on Saturday to boost its current force of 51 more than four fold, to 210 international staff, as the next stage of restoring peace to the fragile Balkan country gets under way... "This decision will contribute considerably to the international efforts under way to ensure that peace and stability continues to be maintained..." said Liviu Bota, Chairman of the OSCE Permanent Council... "It also reflects the OSCE's commitment to foster democratic development in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia."'

**GEORGIA**

**Reuters, 19 September**

'Lt. Gen. Valery Chkeidze has invited the OSCE to inspect the Pankissi Gorge to see that there are no armed [Chechen] fighters or their camps in it.'

**KOSOVO**

**Agence France Press, 21 September**

'Kosovo's Serbs are poised to form a coalition in preparation for forthcoming elections to the country's legislative assembly here, a spokeswoman for the OSCE told AFP on Saturday. Political representatives of the Serb population in the UN-administered province supplied the OSCE Saturday with the necessary paperwork for the coalition to be registered, she said.'

**Reuters, 24 September**

'The head of the Kosovo mission of

the OSCE, charged with overseeing the November 17 election, hailed the registration process as a success. "All communities in Kosovo have responded in full," said Dutchman Daan Everts. "The whole registration process has been free from fraud and violence."

**Agence France Press, 24 September**

'The OSCE said on Monday that nearly 200,000 new voters had registered for the elections. Everts said that Serbs and Turks, who had boycotted the municipal elections last October, had this time registered to vote.'

**KYRGYZSTAN**

**Agence France Press, 19 September**

'Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev

said Wednesday he had not ruled out the possibility of allowing the United States to use its territory to stage attacks against Afghanistan... Akayev was attending a meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna.'

**POLAND**

**Agence France Press, 12 September**

'More than 500 government officials and experts from non-governmental organizations begin a 10-day meeting in Poland Monday to review human rights in Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe said Wednesday. "Violations of human rights persist throughout the OSCE area, and in some countries we lately

have even seen a clear deterioration in the human rights situation," Romanian Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mircea Geoana, said in a statement.'

**TAJIKISTAN**

**The Guardian, 21 September**

'The Americans also spoke of a role for the UN in the new "interim administration" for Afghanistan and for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in central Asia, without mentioning NATO. Washington is routinely sceptical of the UN and OSCE, but the key role was seen as an attempt to build as broad a coalition as possible behind the imminent campaign.'

# UPDATE from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

*The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is located at Aleje Ujazdowskie 19, PL-00 557 Warsaw, Poland, tel.: (+48-22) 520 06 00, fax: (+48-22) 520 06 05, e-mail: office@odihhr.osce.waw.pl*

**Annual OSCE human rights conference held in Warsaw**

Over 400 government representatives and human rights experts from non-governmental and international organizations met in Warsaw between 17 and 27 September for the sixth OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The participants reviewed the progress made by OSCE countries in implementing their human dimension commitments in 16 working sessions covering key human rights and democracy issues.

Under the impression of the recent terrorist attacks in the United States, the threat of terrorism and the link between security and respect for human rights was addressed by many speakers at the opening as well as during working session discussions.

In a message to the opening of the annual OSCE human rights conference, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Romanian Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana,



*Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann, speaking to the press at the sixth OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, 17 to 27 September*

announced that the OSCE would make the fight against terrorism a top priority and do more to cut off what he called the "venomous tentacles of terrorism".

"This issue has been on and off our agenda for some time. We haven't paid enough attention to the concerns of our friends in the Caucasus and Central Asia", the statement read. "It's time to change that [...] with a new sense of urgency."

"There is a worrying trend of backtracking on human rights in some OSCE countries, often justified as reaction to security threats", said Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann, the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). "But last week's terror attacks should motivate us to redouble our efforts to build democratic societies in which human rights are fully respected. We are convinced that the OSCE countries and all other civilized nations share the same basic values,



notwithstanding cultural and religious differences – that’s the bottom line.”

In reaction to reports about anti-Muslim violence in several countries following the terrorist attacks, the ODIHR Director asked the Permanent Council on behalf of the participants in the meeting to adopt a declaration condemning these incidents. The Permanent Council welcomed this initiative and expressed its concern about anti-Muslim incidents and violence during a special session on terrorism on 21 September.

A whole range of recommendations on how the OSCE States can improve the implementation of their human dimension commitments emerged from the working sessions. All recommendations are included in the final report of the meeting, which is available on the ODIHR website at [www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr).

A number of side events organized by the ODIHR, government delegations and NGOs highlighted particularly topical human rights issues, specific country situations, and existing human rights and democratization programmes. Among this year’s side events were meetings on unsolved disappearances and murders in Belarus and Ukraine, internal displacement in the OSCE area, trafficking in human beings, the UNICEF Young Voices Poll, and policing in multicultural communities.

For the first time, the meeting, including all working sessions, was broadcast live via the Internet so that it could be followed directly from all over the world. At the meeting, the ODIHR launched a number of new publications, including the updated report “OSCE Human Dimension Commitments: A Reference Guide” (see below) on the death penalty in the OSCE region, as well as a “Reference Guide for Anti-Trafficking Legislative Review”.

### **New publication: OSCE Human Dimension Commitments**

The ODIHR launched a major new publication in September, a thematic and chronological compilation of OSCE human dimension commitments. The publication, titled ‘OSCE Human Dimension Commitments: A Reference Guide’, contains not only an update of a

chronological compilation first published in 1995, but also, for the first time ever, a thematic part listing all relevant human dimension commitments topic by topic. The book represents a much-needed, user-friendly and practical tool for governments, OSCE personnel and the general public for easily accessing OSCE commitments on specific topics, as well as chronologically.

The Reference Guide can be ordered free of charge from the ODIHR (please see the website at [www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr) for details on book orders). It is also available in electronic form on the same website.



### **Limited observation of Presidential election in Belarus**

The ODIHR observed the parliamentary election in Belarus on 9 September. Regrettably, due to a delayed invitation by the authorities of Belarus, the ODIHR had to limit its observation to the last three weeks of the electoral process only. The delay was in contravention of OSCE commitments, formulated inter alia in the 1999 Istanbul Summit Declaration and the 1990 Copenhagen Document.

The post-election statement issued on 10 September by the International Limited Election Observation Mission (ODIHR and the Parliamentary Troika composed of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament) concluded that the 2001 presidential election process in Belarus failed to meet the OSCE commitments for democratic elections formulated in the 1990 Copenhagen Document and the Council of Europe standards. There were fundamental flaws in the electoral process, some of which are specific to the political situation in Belarus, including:

- A political regime that is not accustomed to and does everything in its power to block the opposition;
- Executive structures with extensive powers, including rule by presidential decree, that are not balanced with commensurate legislative controls, and that

allow the arbitrary changing of the electoral environment;

- A legislative framework that still fails to ensure the independence of election administration bodies, the integrity of the voting results tabulation process and free and fair campaign conditions, and imposes excessive restrictions for campaigning and observers;
- Legal provisions for early voting that do not guarantee the proper control and counting of early votes;
- An election administration system that is overly dependent on the executive branch of government from the national to the local community levels, and is partial;
- A campaign environment seriously to the disadvantage of the opposition candidates;
- A campaign of intimidation directed against opposition activists, domestic observation organizations and opposition and independent media, and a smear campaign against international observers; and
- Highly biased State-controlled media and censorship of the independent print media.

During the last year and on the occasion of the 2001 presidential election, some positive features were noted in Belarus, in particular as regards the democratic awareness of the people. These changes may constitute hope for further improvement. These positive elements are the following:

- An emerging civil society mobilized and deployed many thousands of domestic observers, including those favorable to the government; it was however profoundly regrettable that a few thousand of these observers had their accreditation revoked;
- The democratic forces of the opposition were able to overcome their differences and jointly contest the election, being an expression of greater and maturing political and democratic awareness;
- With three candidates competing in the presidential election, voters in Belarus were offered a genuine political choice, although the restrictive campaign regulations and practices made it extremely difficult for the voters to be

- fully informed about the alternatives;
- With the help of international experts, improvements have been made in some areas of the legislative framework for elections;
  - The administrative preparations were conducted well from an organizational point of view; the legal terms for the formation of electoral commissions and the registration of candidates were respected within the existing legal framework; and
  - Voting on 9 September was in accordance with the legal provisions and orderly.

The international observers regretted that the policy of the Belarus authorities as regards basic democratic structures and respect for fundamental human rights and values had greatly contributed to the current degree of isolation of the country and its people. They called on the international community to reassess at the highest political level its policy towards Belarus bearing in mind both the existing democratic deficits as well as the positive trends indicating a more pluralistic political environment. The institutions involved in the observation confirmed their willingness to continue assisting in the promotion of a constructive dialogue across the political spectrum of the civil society, and between the authorities and the international community with a view to facilitating the process of democratic transition and integration in European structures.

The ODIHR Limited Observation Mission, headed by Hrair Balian, was established in Minsk on 17 August with 27 experts and long-term observers deployed in the capital and seven regional centers. On election day, 293 short-term observers were deployed, including 57 from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 12 from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and 10 from the European Parliament, representing the political spectrum. Thanks to generous voluntary contributions from participating States, the ODIHR was able to recruit core team members and observers from participating States in transition to take part in both long- and short-term phases of the observation.

### Needs assessment mission to Georgia

In view of the local elections in Georgia scheduled for 4 November, the ODIHR sent a needs assessment mission to Tbilisi between 18 and 21 September. On the basis of the needs assessment mission's findings and conclusions, the ODIHR decided to deploy in the first days of October a small advance team of experts to be followed by additional experts in order to monitor the conduct of these elections. The ODIHR will not request from the participating States the secondment of short- or long-term observers.

### Election observation reports

The OSCE/ODIHR released final reports on the following elections:

- Parliamentary elections in Bulgaria (17 June 2001)
- Presidential election in Belarus (9 September 2001)

The reports are available on the ODIHR website at [www.osce.org/odihr](http://www.osce.org/odihr).

## DEMOCRATIZATION



### Side event on trafficking in human beings

On the margins of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the ODIHR organized a side meeting focusing on anti-trafficking legislative review and reform efforts. At the meeting, an ODIHR expert presented a 'Reference Guide to Anti-Trafficking Legislative Review', which had been commissioned from the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights in Vienna. While the reference guide was developed as a project under the framework of the Stability Pact Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, it has relevant examples of good practice and recommendations that should be considered by all OSCE participating States.

The second presentation, given by a representative from the NGO Anti-Slavery International, focused specifically on the proposal for an EU Council Framework Decision on Combating

Trafficking in Human Beings, highlighting the need to introduce clauses ensuring the protection of victims and witnesses. This topic will be explored in more detail during the upcoming conference 'Europe Against Trafficking in Persons', which is being organized by the ODIHR in co-operation with the German Foreign Ministry.

### Regional seminar for anti-trafficking focal points in the Balkans

In response to the Vienna Ministerial Council meeting's Decision on combating trafficking in human beings and other more recent OSCE documents such as the Anti-Trafficking Guidelines, the ODIHR, in co-operation with the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, organized a seminar for anti-trafficking focal points from OSCE field missions in the Balkans. The main objective was to raise awareness and evaluate the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments, as well as to exchange examples of good practice and materials from ongoing projects in the field.

The first day of the training focused on how the OSCE can transform words into action, including assessing the actual implications of breaching the revised code of conduct. Participants recommended that seconding States acknowledge their responsibility to educate those they send into the field and to investigate, and, if necessary, prosecute allegations raised against their secondees. Other recommendations were related to improving co-operation between OSCE bodies and field missions. The Secretariat of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking also discussed future proposals for closer collaboration with OSCE field missions, including monitoring of projects and joint political approaches to host governments.

On the second day of the seminar, participants presented their anti-trafficking projects and analyzed their co-operation with other international organizations, NGOs and host governments. Strategies were exchanged for improving communication and avoiding duplication of efforts. Attention was given to national pilot projects that may serve as

models for initiatives in other OSCE countries. The ODIHR will summarize and distribute the recommendations made at the seminar.

### **Women's rights awareness project organized in Kazakhstan**

A group of 24 trainers and gender equality activists took part in a training organized by the ODIHR and the OSCE Center in Almaty. The training focused on developing women's leadership skill as a means of promoting women's rights.

The participants were trained in democratic leadership of NGOs and mobilizing power by building constituencies, sharing responsibilities, cooperating with others and exchanging information. The training also focused on strategic planning based on strengths/weaknesses analysis and opinion surveys, and how to design short- and long-term plans. In addition, the participants learned practical skills such as giving press conferences and TV interviews.

Based on this training, and with support from the ODIHR and the OSCE Center in Almaty, the participants will identify actual or potential women leaders in the regions of Kazakhstan. They will then themselves conduct series of women's leadership training sessions all over Kazakhstan.

### **Training in women's human rights monitoring held in Uzbekistan**

During the first week of September, the ODIHR and the OSCE Center in Tashkent organized training for NGO and government representatives on monitoring of women's human rights. The training took place in Chatkal, close to Tashkent, and was carried out by experts of the Polish Helsinki Foundation.

Twenty-five participants attended, mostly women, two of them representatives of the Government. The aim of the training was to impart methodological skills to the participants, and thereby to enable them to develop and implement their own monitoring projects. The next phase of the project is planned for November, when the experts will return to Tashkent in order to give technical advice on the designed monitoring projects.

### **Law Clinic to be opened in Osh, Kyrgyzstan**

The ODIHR signed an agreement with Osh State University, the Human Rights and Democracy Center, the American Bar Association, the Central and East European Law Initiative and the OSCE Center in Bishkek for the opening of a Criminal Law Clinic at Osh State University. Osh State University is supplying the space for the Clinic and the Human Rights and Democracy Center is the local implementing partner. The Clinic will employ local lawyers to supervise students and provide free representation to the local population. The supervisors will also conduct classes on the practical aspects of client representation along with substantive criminal law topics. The classes will be conducted using interactive teaching techniques. The clinic will also work with the Ministry of Education in order to have the Clinic integrated into the regular curriculum. The Clinic is open to students of all the Universities in Osh and begins operation in October 2001.

### **Round table on reform of Ukrainian population registration system**

A round table on the reform of Ukraine's registration system was organized by the ODIHR and the Administration of the Ukrainian President on 27 and 28 September in Odessa. The meeting was facilitated by the Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and the administration of the Odessa region.

The round table covered major issues related to the reform of the registration system in Ukraine, such as international standards on freedom of movement and choice of place of residence, main deficiencies of the existing propiska system, overview of the latest legislative developments, and practical experience of the local Visa and Registration Offices of the Ministry of Interior, which currently are responsible for registration. A special focus was put on the analyses of a number of draft laws on registration that are currently under discussion in Parliament. Participants were also given first-hand information on the Moldovan experience in reforming its population regis-

tration system. Moldova has been a front-runner in reforming the old Soviet propiska system.

The seminar has drawn up a concrete framework for future co-operation, including regular meetings of informal working groups, training activities for government officials and ODIHR legal assistance. All these activities are under discussion within the ODIHR and the presidential administration.

Participants in the meeting included representatives from the presidential administration, Parliament, the Constitutional Court, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the State Committee on Border Protection, the Directorate on Ethnic Groups and Migration of the Odessa region, and a local NGO – the Migration Problems Research Center, one of the ODIHR's partners in this project.

### **First joint EC-OSCE democratization projects completed in Belarus**

The first three projects under the joint European Commission-OSCE democratization programme for Belarus have been completed successfully. Four other projects are still being implemented by the ODIHR and the Advisory and Monitoring Group in Minsk.

The three completed projects, which resulted in the strengthening of different sectors of Belarusian civil society, include a training programme for political parties, linking the European Humanities University to international research and a project on prison/pre-trial detention and tuberculosis management.

The training project aimed at preparing political parties for the recent electoral processes in the country – the parliamentary elections in 2000 and the September 2001 presidential election. The project included workshops for opposition and government parties on how to prepare and conduct election campaigns.

The project with the European Humanities University enabled the only non-State university in Belarus to join a number of online facilities and libraries worldwide in order to provide its students with 24-hour access to publications and journals. This facility is also

open free of charge for students from other universities. It will contribute to broadening the knowledge of young people on a number of political, social and cultural issues which are not covered by hard-copy publications available in Belarus.

The project on prison/pre-trial detention and tuberculosis management was extremely successful in achieving multiple goals. Despite initial caution, it was very positively received by the Belarus Punishment Committee authorities, which offered access to detention centers for the Advisory and Monitoring Group project personnel, the Red Cross and international penitentiary reform experts who are working together with Belarusian experts on the revision of prison management guidelines on the treatment of prisoners, the medical aspects of human rights observance and proposals for legislative improvements to the penal code. A visit to the penitentiary system of Poland, assisted by Polish penitentiary reform experts, presented a working model of a successfully implemented prison reform and helped to establish direct contacts between the two institutions. The project concluded with a large conference in Minsk with participants from all over the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region in Minsk on penitentiary medicine as a part of the rights of prisoners and preventive work in prisons.

### **ODIHR sponsors conference on alternatives to imprisonment**

The ODIHR, along with Penal Reform International, Open Society Foundation-Romania and the Department for International Development sponsored an international conference on alternatives to imprisonment on 10 and 11 September in Bucharest, Romania. The conference brought together representatives of governments and NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus to discuss the different approaches to alternatives to imprisonment.

The conference highlighted regional models for alternatives, including probation in the Czech Republic and Romania, community service in Latvia and mediation in Poland. Working groups discussed ways to bring about legislative and policy reform, build public and interest group support and promote the implementation of alternatives with NGO, religious and community organizations. The ODIHR also integrates approaches to alternatives to imprisonment into its existing prison reform projects.



### **ODIHR contributes to OSCE conference on Roma and Sinti in Bucharest**

The ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues provided substantial

input and technical assistance to a conference on "Equal Opportunities for Roma and Sinti: Translating Words into Facts", organized by the Romanian OSCE Chairmanship in Bucharest from 10 to 13 September. One of the main objectives of the conference was to launch a political process for developing an OSCE Action Plan for Roma and Sinti, as recommended by the 1999 OSCE Summit of Heads of State/Government in Istanbul.

### **ODIHR helps train community health workers in Romania**

On the margins of the Bucharest Roma Conference, the ODIHR Contact Point concluded a partnership agreement with the Romanian Ministry of Health and Family and the Romani Center for Social Intervention and Studies (CRISS), an NGO, on future co-operation in the training of community health workers.

The Ministry of Health and the Family has started to employ community workers, or mediators, within the local and regional administration as well as in hospitals in order to facilitate access of Roma to public health services. The ODIHR will assist the Ministry and CRISS in training newly appointed health workers. Based on the experience gained in Romania, the ODIHR will promote this initiative in other OSCE countries as well.

## **NEWS**

## **from the High Commissioner on National Minorities**

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### **HCNM on Roma issues: "It is important to implement good intentions"**

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Rolf Ekeus, addressed a conference on Roma issues in Bucharest on 10 September. "More needs to be done to turn good intentions into concrete action when it comes to Roma issues", he said. This needed to occur on a number of levels: on the inter-

national level, on the regional level, in the OSCE community, on the State level, on the local level, and among Roma themselves. "From an OSCE perspective, we share a common public interest in ensuring that all persons and communities in our region of the world enjoy a minimum of respect for their human rights, including equal opportunities", he stressed.

The High Commissioner called for a

strengthening of the OSCE Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, which is located within the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. "If we all accept that Roma issues require attention (particularly in the OSCE), then we should not hesitate to strengthen what is now a proven resource... One professional post in our Organization is woefully inadequate", he said.



In Bucharest, the High Commissioner also held a meeting with Bela Marko, the Chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR). The High Commissioner was interested to learn more about relations between the UDMR and the Romanian Government, the UDMR's reaction to the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries, and issues concerning minority language use.

### **High Commissioner supports inter-ethnic initiatives in Moldova**

From Bucharest, Mr. Ekeus flew to Chisinau. There he met the country's new Foreign Minister Nicolae Dudau. The following day, 12 September, he was received by President Vladimir Voronin. Both meetings focused on the latest developments in the country, particularly in Transdnistria. In these and subsequent meetings with senior government ministers and officials, the High Commissioner was also informed about the Government's efforts to improve inter-ethnic integration.

The High Commissioner's office, in co-operation with the Moldovan Government and a local NGO, is undertaking a major project to improve the teaching of the State language to children from minority communities. The High Commissioner also stated his willingness to assist the Moldovan Government in harmonizing minority-related legislation with international standards.

Mr. Ekeus expressed his concern about the situation of schools in Trans-

dnistria which try to teach children Moldovan in the Latin script. These schools are currently unrecognized by the authorities in Tiraspol, and are overcrowded and in desperate need of renovation. Parents and teachers who want their children to learn Moldovan in the Latin script (Romanian) sometimes face harassment. The High Commissioner has promised to stay in close contact with the Moldovan Government, the OSCE Mission to Moldova and UNHCR on this issue.

### **Ekeus stresses importance of addressing root causes of terrorism**

Mr. Ekeus used the occasion of his visit to the annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Review Meeting to outline some of his views on preventing violent conflict. Speaking to the meeting on 17 September, the High Commissioner noted that terrorism was a manifestation of a denial of and contempt for the worth of the human being. "Thus, it goes against the fundamental ideas of what constitutes the OSCE, and the human dimension of our Organization. The prime contribution of the OSCE to the task of uprooting terrorism is not to give root to terrorism."

Mr. Ekeus noted that although his mandate restricts him from looking at national minority issues involving organized acts of terrorism, "the task of fighting terrorism can not be separated from the task of preventing deadly conflicts". He pointed out that "friction between national and ethnic groups,

between majority and minority, leads to security tension and becomes a breeding ground for conflict that feeds terrorism".

In his speech, Mr. Ekeus noted the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict. He outlined his views on how this could be done. The full text of his speech can be accessed on the HCNM section of the OSCE website:

[www.osce.org/hcnm](http://www.osce.org/hcnm)

### **High Commissioner visits Latvia and Estonia**

The High Commissioner visited Estonia on 18 and 19 September where he met President Lennart Meri, Prime Minister Mart Laar, Foreign Minister Hendrik Toomas Ilves, the Minister of Population Affairs, Katrin Saks, the Legal Chancellor, Allar Joks, and a number of NGO representatives. His meetings focused on the general inter-ethnic situation in the country, particularly the integration process. He also visited the north-eastern part of the country, in and around the city of Narva, which has a substantial Russian-speaking population.

Mr. Ekeus then went on to Latvia on 20 and 21 September. He met with a number of interlocutors including President Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Prime Minister Andris Berzins, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Indulis Berzins, and the Minister of Justice, Ingrida Labucka. He also held meetings with a number of members of the Saeima (Parliament) and with NGO representatives. The naturalization and integration processes were the main topics of discussion.

## **REPORT** from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

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### **Parliamentarians monitor presidential elections in Belarus**

"These presidential elections fell short of meeting international standards for democratic elections", said Vice-President Kimmo Kiljunen, MP (Finland), who acted as Special Representa-

tive of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and presented the Preliminary Statement of the International Limited Election Observation Mission on the presidential elections held in Belarus on 9 September. The statement at the same time acknowledges the emergence

of a pluralistic civil society and stresses that the isolation of Belarus is not in the best interest of the Belarusian people. Mr. Kiljunen led more than 200 international observers, including more than 50 OSCE parliamentarians, who were deployed across Belarus on election day

and delivered the preliminary post-election statement at a press conference on 10 September, in conjunction with the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament, which together with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly form a "Parliamentary Troika". The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) provided logistical and technical support for the Mission.

### **OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President visits headquarters of International Rehabilitation Council for Torture in Copenhagen**

On 6 September, in connection with his visit to the International Secretariat in Copenhagen, OSCE PA President Severin paid a visit to the headquarters of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture (IRCT). Accompanied by two staff members of the OSCE

### **Secretaries General Oliver and Kubis meet in Vienna**

On the invitation of OSCE Secretary General, Jan Kubis, OSCE PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver and Deputy Secretary General Pentti Vaananen met in Vienna with Mr. Kubis and other senior OSCE officials on Tuesday, 2 October, to discuss improving communication and co-ordination between the two international Secretariats. Mr. Oliver also met the Chairman of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Liviu Bota of Romania, who attended a working lunch hosted by Secretary General Kubis. During subsequent meetings in Mr. Kubis's office, discussions were held about co-operation with the new ad hoc committee on transparency and accountability, about better information exchange and about the need for a greater presence in Vienna of officials of the OSCE PA Secretariat. Recent misunderstandings were clarified and all present agreed that future close co-operation will be the result of the visit.

### **Chairman of Second Committee Jacques Floch takes up post in French Government**

Following his appointment to serve in the French Government as Secrétaire d'Etat à la Défense chargé des Anciens Combattants, the Chairman of the Second Committee, Jacques Floch, is leaving the French Parliament and the French delegation to the OSCE PA. On behalf of the Assembly, President Severin congratulated Mr. Floch on his appointment and praised him for his active leadership in the Second Committee, including his highly appreciated initiatives in organizing the Monaco and Nantes conferences on subregional co-operation.

### **Stability Pact troika meeting in Brussels**

On 17 and 18 September, in the framework of the troika for parliamentary co-operation in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, parliamentarians from 30 countries invited by the European Parliament and the Stability Pact met in Brussels to debate major topics related to the parliamentary con-



*Kimmo Kiljunen, MP (Finland), acted as special representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office during the Presidential Elections in Belarus*

The European Parliament delegation was led by Mr. Jan Wiersma, MEP, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was led by Stef Goris, MP (Belgium).

The Election Observation Mission undertook its monitoring mission on the basis of international standards for the conduct of democratic elections as formulated by the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The Election Observation Mission confirmed the importance of the four criteria formulated by the Parliamentary Troika as the benchmarks for democratic elections and the main conditions for the ongoing democratization process in Belarus: transparency in the election process; access of opponents to the State-run mass media; non-discrimination against political opponents, and meaningful functions of the parliamentary body.

PA's International Secretariat, Mr. Severin was briefed by the Secretary General of the IRCT, Jens Modvig, on the activities, objectives and future plans of the Council. The briefing was followed by a debate, which included other senior members of the Council. The IRCT is an international, independent health professional organization, which promotes and supports the rehabilitation of torture victims and works for the prevention of torture worldwide.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, at its Paris Annual Session, adopted a resolution on the prevention of torture that was welcomed by the IRCT. During the meeting in Copenhagen possible ways of furthering co-operation between the IRCT and the Parliamentary Assembly were discussed, including possible visits by ad hoc committees of the Assembly to local centers of the IRCT.

tribution to stability in south-eastern Europe, its economic reconstruction and development and the fight against organized crime. The parliamentary troika, currently under the chairmanship of the European Parliament (EP), is formed by the EP and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE and the Council of Europe. The Delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly – made up of PA President Adrian Severin, Vice-President Ahmet Tan, the Vice-Chair of the First General Committee, Yiorgos Lillikas, and Anne-Marie Lizin, a member of the Belgian delegation – actively contributed to the conference. President Severin addressed the opening session and chaired the two first sessions of the conference. Mr. Severin addressed in his speech the need to further enhance the involvement of parliamentarians in the processes of the Stability Pact; he welcomed the progress made by the parliamentary troika and called for the establishment of ad hoc parliamentary groups for the Stability Pact within each of the parliaments in the region. Mr.

Severin also referred to the challenges faced by the Stability Pact and advocated an international conference that would define, in specific terms, the basis for security and stability in the region. In his address, OSCE PA Vice-President Ahmet Tan stressed the need for international co-operation in the fight against organized crime while emphasizing the important contribution that parliamentarians can make in addressing this issue in order to devise more synergy and co-ordinated strategies to combat these phenomena.

#### **PA participates in ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation meeting**

Pentti Vaananen, Paul LeGendre and Tina Schon took turns representing the PA International Secretariat in the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting held in Warsaw from 17 to 27 September. Representatives of the OSCE participating States and institutions, the Secretariat in Vienna and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting. The topics discussed

included: democratic institutions; rule of law; tolerance and non-discrimination; the human dimension work of the OSCE; and fundamental freedoms and human rights. During the meetings, the members of the PA Secretariat informed the Implementation Meeting about the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. During the discussion of equal opportunities for men and women, Ms. Schon informed the participants about the new initiatives taken by the OSCE PA in creating a gender unit in its Secretariat. She also mentioned the proposals, put forward during the meeting of women parliamentarians in Paris, to ensure greater gender balance within the OSCE by introducing a quota for nominations in order to ensure that one third of all nominees and newly seconded personnel were women. Mr. LeGendre informed the meeting about the OSCE PA resolutions on “Prevention of Torture, Abuse, Extortion or Other Unlawful Acts” and “Abolition of the Death Penalty” adopted in Paris in July.

## **NEWS** from the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

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#### **Mobile.culture.container in Cacak**

On 2 September, the travelling project known as the ‘mobile.culture.container’ opened in Cacak in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). After visiting Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Osijek in Croatia, this was the first trip by the mobile community center library to the FRY. The opening was chaired by Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. The mobile.culture.container: In Defence of Our Future, initiated by the Representative earlier this year (see OSCE Newsletter, May 2001, page 6), will travel through south-eastern Europe for the next two years. It will be stopping for several weeks in different cities and

towns, providing an opportunity for older schoolchildren to discuss issues like reconciliation, to produce their own newspaper, to stage plays, etc. Next stop: Gorazde.

#### **RFOM discusses tolerance in Skopje**

On 12 and 13 September, Freimut Duve visited Skopje in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where he met journalists at a round-table discussion on the topics of media freedom and journalistic responsibility. Among the issues debated were the tasks, the chances and the challenges to free journalism in a difficult conflict situation, which has forced the international community to maintain a presence in order to avoid war.

#### **Duve participates in Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

Freimut Duve took part in a special session on freedom of expression at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting held in Warsaw from 17 to 27 September. An overview of the Office’s activities during the past year was presented to the participants. Bilateral meetings involving the Office and its staff were also held on the mobile.culture.container project, as well as on Belarus and Ukraine: Unsolved Cases.

#### **One year on since journalist’s disappearance**

One year ago, Georgiy Gongadze, a well-known Ukrainian reporter and edi-

tor, who often wrote very critical articles regarding some of the policies of the Government, went missing in Kyiv. His case has raised worldwide attention and prompted several OSCE participating States to ask for an independent investigation into his disappearance and suspected murder (his body was discovered several weeks later and could only be positively identified by forensics experts). On 20 September, Freimut Duve raised the Gongadze case again in the OSCE Permanent Council, stressing the need for an independent investigation with the participation of international experts.

### **RFOM visits the Council of Europe**

On 27 and 28 September, the OSCE Representative visited the Council of Europe (CoE) where he had several extensive conversations with senior officials, including the Secretary General, Walter Schwimmer, and with Lord Russell-Johnston, President of the CoE Parliamentary Assembly. He also addressed the enlarged Bureau of the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe. "At this difficult time, after the 11 September attacks, especially when the main perpetrators of the crime are still at large, it is important to underline the need to



*Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media*

continue adhering firmly to the values of our organizations", stressed Mr. Duve during his meeting with Lord Russell-Johnston. This not only concerned the newly established democracies, where the fragility of human rights was still evident, but also the old democracies where certain security concerns might prevail over civil liberties. In the view of the

Representative, such rights as freedom of expression, protection of privacy and the rights of minorities might be at risk. "All global initiatives against acts of terror should not justify in any way the undermining of an individual's basic human rights – the pillars on which the whole concept of our two organizations is based", noted Mr. Duve.

## **REPORT** from the OSCE Secretary General and the Secretariat

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### **Terrorist attacks in the United States**

Immediately after the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September, the Secretary General, Jan Kubis, instructed all heads of field activities to heighten security measures. On 12 September, this information was also circulated to all heads of delegations.

All heads of missions have been asked to update their missions' security plans. The Security Co-ordinator and the Mission Programme Section are constantly monitoring developments in the field to ensure that all staff are constantly

accounted for. The Secretariat is particularly focusing on the situation in and around Central Asia.

To support the Working Group on Terrorism, established by the Chairmanship and headed by Ambassador Kirsten Malung Biering, the Head of the Danish Delegation to the OSCE, a Task Force on Terrorism has been created in the Secretariat, headed by Johanna Pollmann-Zaal, the Director of the Office of the Secretary General. At the request of the Secretary General, the multidimensional group will generate ideas and recom-

mendations which could assist the participating States and the Chairmanship in working out an OSCE approach on the issue. The Task Force also intends to contact its partners from UNODCCP to learn about their activities as well as to request consultation, advice and further co-operation.

### **Meeting held with Deputy Prime Minister of FRY**

On 12 September, the Secretary General had a meeting with the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister, Nebojsa Covic.



Mr. Covic mentioned the excellent co-operation between the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government, and expressed gratitude for all the support given by the Mission and its Head, Ambassador Stefano Sannino. He mentioned the multi-ethnic police training in Serbia as an especially successful project, and expressed the wish for further, increased co-operation with the Mission on various issues.

Mr. Covic also mentioned the close co-operation that has been going on for some weeks between him and Ambassador Daan Everts, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, on issues pertaining to the registration and election procedures in Kosovo. This co-operation has already resulted in considerable progress in the registration of Kosovo Serbs for the forthcoming elections. Mr. Covic stressed that further outstanding issues will have to be tackled if Kosovo Serbs are to participate in the 17 November elections.

### **SG pays visit to Skopje**

On 13 and 14 September, the Secretary General and the Director of the Conflict Prevention Center, Ambassador Marton Krasznai, visited Skopje, where they joined the Romanian Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Mircea Geoana. The OSCE representatives attended several meetings and consultations with representatives of the host country and the international community. They also had consultations with the Head and staff of the OSCE Spillover Monitoring Mission in Skopje, the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) and representatives of the United States International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Programme (ICITAP) on police training. A particular point of discussion was the implementation of the Permanent Council decision on the enhancement of the OSCE's Skopje Mission, as well as planning for possible future OSCE activities,

especially with regard to police-related matters, in support of the Framework Agreement of 13 August.

### **Kubis meets Secretary of the Security Council of Kazakhstan**

On 18 September, Mr. Kubis met the Secretary of the Security Council of Kazakhstan, Altinbek Sarsenbajev. He was accompanied by the Head of the Kazakh Delegation to the OSCE, Ambassador Sagynbek Tursynov. Mr. Sarsenbajev gave a briefing on the current situation in the region and on the views of Kazakhstan. He referred, inter alia, to a state-



*Ambassador Bruno Joubert, new Head of the French Delegation to the OSCE, paid a courtesy call to the Secretary General, Jan Kubis*

ment of President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan on the subject of terrorism.

### **Meeting with the President of the Kyrgyz Republic**

At a separate meeting on 19 September, the Secretary General was received by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Askar Akaev, before the President delivered a statement to the OSCE Permanent Council. Their discussions focused on the current security situation in Kyrgyzstan and in the region, as well as on the Kyrgyz initiative for holding a conference on "Security and Stability in Central Asia; Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism".

### **SG calls on EU and NATO**

The Belgian European Union Presidency Chairman of the Politico-Security

Committee (PSC), Ambassador Alexis Bruhns, invited the Secretary General to attend a luncheon with the Ambassadors of the PSC in Brussels on 28 September.

The agenda included discussions on the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the role and activities of the OSCE and the EU there, on general OSCE-EU co-operation, and on the fight against terrorism and the approaches of both Organizations to this issue.

Before the luncheon, the Secretary General had a meeting with Brian Crowe, Director General for External Relations from the Secretariat of the EU Council, focusing on similar topics.

Following his meetings at the EU, the Secretary General briefly visited NATO headquarters for a meeting with the new Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Dr. Guenther Altenburg. He used the opportunity for consultations on the text for the exchange of letters between the OSCE and NATO, currently under preparation, on the contribution of NATO to the security of international monitors in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

### **OSCE takes part in Third Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme Task Force**

For the first time, the OSCE was represented in a meeting of the Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme Task Force, which took place on 6 and 7 September in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Programme is the basis for environmental policy in south-eastern Europe, and the main environmental component of Working Table II of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

The Task Force's priority objectives of particular interest for the activities of the OSCE Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) are institutional strengthening, policy development and environmental civil society building.

The OCEEA, in co-operation with the Yugoslav Delegation to the OSCE, presented to donors a project for the support of environmental legislation and institutional structuring in Serbia, which is being led by the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The OCEEA succeeded in assuring a contribution that will cover up to 50 per cent of the total cost of the project, which amounts to 470,000 euros.



*The Secretary General, Jan Kubis, receiving the new Head of the Swiss Delegation, Ambassador Heinrich Reimann*

### **OSCE holds training seminar for economic and environmental officers**

With the support of the Romanian Chairmanship, the OCEEA organized a training seminar for 13 economic and environmental officers, representing 12 OSCE field activities. The meeting provided an occasion to evaluate the work done in the economic and environmental dimension since the first training seminar held in Vienna in October 2000.

After analysing the ongoing debate on the strengthening of economic and environmental activities, and discussing the priorities of the follow-up to the Ninth Economic Forum, the seminar focused on the theme of the Tenth Economic Forum, which will be dedicated to the sustainable use and protection of

water, and on the required inputs from the field. The discussions brought to the surface issues of regional concern among the group, which underscored the need for greater communication and co-operation among OSCE field activities in the economic dimension. The training seminar presented the work of several partners and international organizations active in the OSCE region, such as: the Regional Environmental Center in Budapest; the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River; the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the European Commission; the

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); the recently created Romanian Ministry for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises; and the business community, represented by the Tofan Group (Romanian industry). The seminar resulted in new opportunities and recommendations for strengthening the activities of the OCEEA.

One of the sessions was also dedicated to the management of projects within the OSCE.

### **UNDP meeting on “Fighting Corruption: Practical Examples”**

The OCEEA Senior Economic Adviser, Marc Baltes, participated on 6 and 7 September in a UNDP meeting on the fight against corruption. He presented a paper on the significance of membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) for good governance and transparency, and underlined the need to work with both non-governmental organizations and representative bodies. Relying on the analytical work of the World Bank, Mr. Baltes insisted on the importance of convincing politicians to fight high-level political corruption, as well as administrative corruption and the capture of the State by private interests.



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# Survey on OSCE Newsletter

In a continuous effort to improve the quality of our public information output, we would kindly ask you to take a little time to answer a few questions on the OSCE Newsletter. Your feedback will be considered in a review of the publication to be carried out soon. Any additional comments or suggestions are welcome, but please answer as many of the basic questions as possible. You can either fax this sheet to the number: +42 02 24 22 38 83, or you can mail it to:

**OSCE Prague Office • Rytířská 31 • CZ-110 00 Prague 1 • Czech Republic**

You can also complete this survey electronically using the OSCE website, [www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org) and following these links: General Information>Publications>Newsletter>Survey.

## Q1: Generally, for your specific interests, you find the Newsletter:

- very informative
- quite informative
- not very informative

## Q2: On a scale of 1 to 10, how attractive or useful do you find the current layout:

{smart/attractive/useful = 10; dull/unattractive/confusing = 1}

## Q3: You think the Newsletter should appear:

- weekly
- fortnightly
- monthly
- less frequently (e.g. bi-monthly or quarterly)

## Q4: You normally read the Newsletter:

- on the website
- as a conventional (“hard copy”) publication

## Q5: You tend to focus on:

- human interest stories
- photographs
- brief news items
- in-depth news features
- reports from the OSCE Missions / Institutions

**Q6: Are you satisfied to receive the Newsletter in English?**

- Yes
- No

**Q7: If you answered No to Q6, please say why:**

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**Q8: You would like to see more coverage in the following areas (multiple selection possible):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights issues               | <input type="checkbox"/> Policing activities                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National minorities               | <input type="checkbox"/> Democratization                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trafficking in human beings       | <input type="checkbox"/> Election organization and observation        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender related issues             | <input type="checkbox"/> Politico-military dimension activities       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rule of law                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media development                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Field activities (Missions)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of media                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Chairman-in-Office activities                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic and environmental issues |   |

**Q9: You would describe yourself as working in the following area(s):**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media  | <input type="checkbox"/> OSCE Delegation                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Research organization/institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government of participating or non-participating State | <input type="checkbox"/> University                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International organization                             | <input type="checkbox"/> OSCE depository library           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial company                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OSCE field staff                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual subscriber             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OSCE secretariat/institution staff                     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please indicate)                                |  |

**Q10: Is there anything you would add concerning the Newsletter?**

(e.g. comments or suggestions for improvements or other information about the OSCE you would like?)

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**Many thanks for your patience and your collaboration.**  
**Press and Public Information Section and OSCE Prague Office**