Solana: OSCE links with EU will deepen after enlargement

The European Union’s High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, outlined his views on the shape of future cooperation between the OSCE and the EU to the OSCE Permanent Council on 33 September. He also reviewed OSCE and EU activities in the Western Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia and explained why the two organizations’ “co-operation, complementarity and consultation” was necessary in a wider Europe.

Calling the European Union and the OSCE “natural-born partners”, Javier Solana told the 55 OSCE

As the OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMiK) prepares to organize municipal elections on 26 October, national staff are starting to take on new responsibilities. When the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) held the first municipal poll in Kosovo in 2000, it was organized by OSCE’s international staff. But as the situation in Kosovo has become more stable, the Mission has put the focus on sustainability – to move towards the day when the province will become self-reliant.
Mr. Basha described a recent meeting he and Mr. Flood held with local institutions in Kosovo. "We speak to each other in our language, so I'm able to understand more about the problems faced by people in the field who carry out essential tasks such as accrediting local observers, preparing polling centres and counting votes," he said.

He provides them with impartial information about election campaign regulations, rules for election observers and other regulations. "It is important for our work to be transparent and to be above party politics and ethnic conflict," Mr. Basha said.

The EU High Representative also emphasized the important role played by the international community in conflict prevention and crisis management. "In our cooperation with the OSCE, I believe pragmatism should be our starting point. Let's build on what we have already achieved by cooperating with one another and by enlarging our information so everyone can contribute to this process," he said.

The full text of Mr. Solana's speech is available on the OSCE website at: http://www.osce.org/press_rel/documents/2002-503-ec_solana-speech.pdf

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Restoring stability

OSCE contributes to peaceful democratic change in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Beck Dohu

The deployment of almost 900 observations from 41 different nations on polling day – 25 September – helped maintain continuity and transparency so that with the exception of a handful of isolated incidents, voting took place peacefully. Observers, including 260 staff of embassies and other international bodies based in Kosovo, fanned out over the entire country, which was divided into nine electoral districts. From before the polls opened – 7:00 a.m. – the observers were examining the entire election process. Throughout the day and into the night, the OSCE Mission submitted reports to the Office of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) with whom, together with the delegations of the Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Parliament, made up the International Election Observation Mission. The OSCE Chairwoman in Kosovo, Ambassador Doris Pack, and Head of the OSCE PA Mission, Christian Friis Bach, were present at the opening ceremony in Pristina.

The OSCE Mission was able to report positive developments during the election. In a first statement, the Chairwoman noted: “It has been a long and arduous path to get here. It is crucial that we deliver an election that is meaningful for all. The citizens of this country have clearly demonstrated their commitment to peace and their confidence in democracy and reconciliation.”

The election was held just over a year after the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement brokered by the international community between the representatives of the Macedonian Government and the ethnic Albanian political parties. This ended a seven-year conflict that claimed many lives and brought the country to the brink of civil war. As a result, some commentators had raised doubts about whether an election could be held so soon without a recurrence of violence incidents disrupting the campaign.

Massive effort

The massive polling day effort by the OSCE was part of a two-year-long election process that began in July. It included over 40 days of dialogue on the electoral code and a mini-campaign prior to the primary election campaign. Led by Adrian Foke Missiroli (Italy, Presidency of the European Parliament), the team included legal staff and experts of the running of elections, as well as information technology, telecommunications and logistics specialists.

The observations from the ODIHR team joined on polling day by a team from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) who, together with the delegations of the Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Parliament, made up the International Election Observation Mission. The OSCE Chairwoman in Kosovo, Ambassador Doris Pack, and Head of the OSCE PA Mission, Christian Friis Bach, were present at the opening ceremony in Pristina.

Acknowledging that the campaign led sometime bitterness and tension, Ambassador Pack emphasised “the gravity of the moment” and added “this election will be significant for the ongoing process of reconciliation, for last year’s crisis.”

Restoring stability

Proclaiming the elections to have been largely in line with international standards, the heads of the three parliamentary observation groups congratulated the Macedonian authorities, the political parties and citizens on a well-prepared and well-conducted election.

“Citizens of this country have achieved a successful electoral process which could represent a major step towards restoring stability, meaningful democracy and a real reconciliation with the country’s past,” Ambassador Pack stated.

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The goal of the OSCE’s election preparations, which began in the fall of 2000, was to attract many and diverse political entities and regional and international observers who would come together to declare that the elections were under way, to state in clear terms all the changes that will immediately follow in order to avoid misunderstandings,” Ambassador Foke Misiroli said “I look forward to the political parties’ activism and to a strong turnout of voters.”

One of the largest OSCE election observation missions ever deployed

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In a first meeting of its kind, leaders beginning of our fight against terrorism”, OSCE Secretary General Jan Kubis told the unique gathering on 6 September in Vienna. Such has been achieved since 11 September 2001 – a black day for humanity – but it is only the beginning of our fight against terrorism, the Secretary General proposed that public websites of regional and subregional groupings and the OSCE public website dedicated to current OSCE projects on preventing and countering terrorism. The Secretary General also encouraged closer interaction between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and parliamentary bodies of regional and subregional organizations and initiatives, building on the indispensable role of parliaments in shaping public opinion and promoting public awareness; and the Secretariat; channels, such as the Permanent Council, the OSCE Police Conference and its regional subgroups, and OSCE support and contribution to the UN-led international efforts against terrorism, and which underlines OSCE principles and objectives in promoting and combating terrorism.

The OSCE Secretary General also welcomed the Organization’s initiative to promote better interaction between the various organizations in the OSCE area to avoid duplication and to maximise efforts. This was in keeping with the Organization’s vision of a “regional arrangement” under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. The meeting was also seen as a significant first step towards the creation of a Charter for Preventing and Combating Terrorism, with a view to adopting the document at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Porto in December. The Charter would be “a political document reaffirming the OSCE seen as valuable resource in focusing counter-terrorism agenda of security areas in Europe that were adopted by the 11th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in July. While the media as a whole offered a positive review of the election, which at times created a tense atmosphere, had marred part of the election campaign. These incidents included the killing of three police officers, harassment, and attacks on party offices and media representatives. The Chairman of the OSCE’s Parliamentary Assembly and other OSCE diplomats continued their “hearty salutes of thanks” that were aimed at undermining the country’s stability and the implementation of the Framework Agreement.

The statement added that election day itself was characterized by a high turnout of voters, few and isolated incidents of violence, and in general an orderly process, except for a high incidence of group voting. The elections ended in a victory for the main opposition alliance led by the social democrat SDSM, under Branko Crvenkovski, who served as prime minister from 1997 until 1999. The victory was generally conceded by the outgoing prime minister, Ljubco Georgievski, in a late-night television broadcast. While the media as a whole offered a positive review of the election, which at times created a tense atmosphere, had marred part of the election campaign. These incidents included the killing of three police officers, harassment, and attacks on party offices and media representatives. The Chairman of the OSCE’s Parliamentary Assembly and other OSCE diplomats continued their “hearty salutes of thanks” that were aimed at undermining the country’s stability and the implementation of the Framework Agreement.

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Building a mosaic of partnerships in anti-terrorism

A new OSCE public online project database featuring a comprehensive collection of anti-terrorism projects now online.

According to Ambassador Curtis A. Ward, Advisor on Technical Assistance, Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations, “we’re learning that the combat proper against terrorism is only a part of the international community’s reaction” and that “the global political agenda is further reshaped in many ways, and this includes the role of the OSCE and other organizations. The cooperation we’re building capacity in such areas as training for police, customs, and forensics to name just a few.”

The OSCE Secretariat, as the representative organization of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), has for some time been working with the European Union, NATO, and the OSCE in developing a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to border management. The OSCE’s efforts in this area are intended to enhance the effectiveness of the OSCE’s Western European sub-regional organizations.

OSCE’s role overlaps with other organizations and it could be replaced either by them or simply by the trend towards bilateral action? In my opinion, the OSCE cannot really contribute to these efforts. However, it can contribute in a no less important area: it can assist in the form of organizations and initiatives participating in the OSCE counter-terrorism meeting on 6 September. Here is what some of them said.

About 50 high-level representatives of 25 government and non-governmental organizations and initiatives participated in the OSCE counter-terrorism meeting on 6 September. Here is what some of them said.

Brigitte Bednarz, Deputy Head of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, said: “The OSCE is adapting itself to the new realities and improving its effectiveness to regain or strengthen political support.”

“Nurturing the democratic process: a “long-term objective needs long-term involvement”

“The opportunities which the OSCE offers to participating States affected by conflict, insecurity, difficulties of transition, lack of properly functioning democratic institutions, and so on, to gradually overcome these problems and to become reliable and effective partners of the rest of the OSCE community in the long-term fight against these new scourges.”

“Do you believe, as some commentators have suggested, that the OSCE is going through a crisis? No, there are no other multilateral organization or institution that would face the challenges of the 21st century – terrorism, illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, drug smuggling and other forms of organised crime. They cannot be ignored. Their effects are multi-faceted and must be addressed through different tools and at different institutional levels. But we cannot afford to ignore these problems.”

If there is a feeling of crisis, it is the result of the OSCE adapting too slowly. Many feel that the Organization has not responded rapidly and effectively enough to these new challenges. There is no denying that the last few years saw weakened political support among a number of participating States.

The OSCE’s role overlaps with other organizations and it could be replaced either by them or simply by the trend towards bilateral action?

“I hope that globalization is an immensely powerful, irreversible process. Again and again, it shows that security is indeed a matter of borders. The borders of the OSCE, as well as the borders of the United Nations, the EU or the OSCE’s cooperative initiatives.”

There is a huge and growing number of problems that require multilateral action. Nothing can be a substitute for effective multilateral organizations - be they the United Nations or regional arrangements. The OSCE has a very important role to play among multilateral organisations because of its inclusive membership, its internationally recognised political support and its comprehensive approach.

How can the OSCE better adapt to the new realities and improve its effectiveness to regain or strengthen political support among its participating States? Do you believe, as some commentators have suggested, that the OSCE is going through a crisis? No, there are no other multilateral organization or institution that would face the challenges of the 21st century – terrorism, illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, drug smuggling and other forms of organised crime. They cannot be ignored. Their effects are multi-faceted and must be addressed through different tools and at different institutional levels. But we cannot afford to ignore these problems.”

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Building a mosaic of partnerships in anti-terrorism

Marvin Krentcil was appointed Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre in September; he came to the OSCE at a point in the year which is significant for the OSCE. His election to the post of Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre comes at a time when the Organization is undergoing a process of self-assessment and reform. Krentcil, who is a lawyer by profession, has been involved in the promotion of human rights and democracy in the OSCE region for over 20 years. He has served as an advocate for the victims of human rights violations and has worked to promote the rule of law in post-conflict societies. Krentcil’s appointment is a significant step forward in the OSCE’s efforts to improve its effectiveness to regain or strengthen political support among its participating States.

Brigitte Bednarz, Deputy Head of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, said: “We are looking forward to working with Mr. Krentcil, who is a highly respected international lawyer with considerable experience in conflict prevention and resolution. His appointment is a significant step forward in the OSCE’s efforts to improve its effectiveness to regain or strengthen political support among its participating States.”

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The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), part of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, was set up in 1991 to provide early warning and conflict prevention services to the OSCE’s mission and field activities.

The CPC was established by the Paris Conference of Heads of Mission of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in response to the structural reform of the CSCE. The CPC was designed to be an independent office within the Secretariat to function as a centralised information centre and emergency management cell of the OSCE.

The CPC has a dual mandate: to initiate early warning and preparedness mechanisms and to provide timely and concrete responses to emerging threats.

The Conflict Prevention Centre

The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) is a key component of the OSCE’s efforts to promote peace and stability in areas affected by conflicts and crises. The CPC plays a central role in the early warning and conflict prevention efforts of the OSCE, providing timely information and advice to the OSCE’s missions and field activities.

The CPC mission is to prevent conflicts from occurring and to provide early warning of potential crises. The CPC works closely with the OSCE’s missions and field activities to identify emerging threats and to develop strategies to prevent conflicts.

The CPC has a dual mandate: to initiate early warning and preparedness mechanisms and to provide timely and concrete responses to emerging threats.

The CPC has a staff of over 100, including experts in conflict prevention, early warning, and crisis management. The CPC’s activities include: monitoring developments in the OSCE region, analyzing trends, and identifying potential conflict situations; assisting the OSCE’s missions and field activities in their efforts to prevent conflicts; and providing advice and support to the OSCE’s leadership on conflict prevention and crisis management.

The CPC’s work is guided by the principles of non-intervention, complementarity, and respect for the sovereignty of states. The CPC works closely with other international organizations and governments to ensure a coordinated approach to conflict prevention.

The Conflict Prevention Centre’s impact is evident in its work to prevent conflicts from occurring and to provide early warning of potential crises. The CPC has played a key role in preventing conflicts in the Balkans, the Middle East, and other regions affected by conflicts and crises.

The Conflict Prevention Centre is led by a Director, who reports to the OSCE’s Secretary General. The Director is supported by a team of experts and analysts, who work closely with the OSCE’s missions and field activities to identify emerging threats and to develop strategies to prevent conflicts.

The Conflict Prevention Centre’s success is due to the dedicated efforts of its staff and to the strong support it receives from the OSCE’s leadership and from other international organizations and governments.

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**Rethinking prisons**

**ODIHR leads the way to changes in concept and practices**

**By Jens-Hagen Eschenbächer**

Being a convict in many countries in transition to democratic systems amounts to a double punishment and will not result in rehabilitation, often they are also exposed to extremely poor and sometimes life-threatening conditions.

Not only a decade after the fall of the Berlin Wall do countries still look grim: cells and conditions are overcrowded, standards of hygiene are appalling, and there is a high incidence of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Consequently, consolations are merely symbolic, and prisoners may not be able to receive any kind of support from society. Consequently, humanitarian objectives have often led to the unfulfilling of their release. At times, tensions between inmates and inadequately trained prison staff often erupt into open rebellion.

Recognizing the urgent need for reform, several participants emphasized that any reform should be accompanied by a novel approach to concepts and practices. ODIHR has been carrying out large-scale training programmes for prison personnel in many OSCE countries. A recent training workshop in Slovenia for the staff of pre-trial detention facilities in Kazakhstan explained how to bring about better conditions in these centres by means such as improving the relationship between detainees and personnel.

Several countries in transition to democratic systems amount to a double punishment: not only are convicts deprived of their liberty, often they are also exposed to extremely poor, sometimes even life-threatening, conditions. While the meeting in Vienna generally acknowledged the need for reform, several participants emphasized that any reform should be accompanied by a novel approach to implementation itself. The ultimate goal, they agreed, should be to strictly limit the use of prison sentences to the most serious crimes and to shift public safety. Increasing the use of alternative sentences will never make prisons superfluous, but it can solve the current prison overcrowding problems in a cost-effective way.

**ODIHR**

**Conflict Prevention Centre**

**Lamberto Zannier is new Director of Conflict Prevention Centre**

Lamberto Zannier is a 48-year-old Italian career diplomat specializing in political-military and security affairs, he has been appointed to succeed Marton Krasznai as Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) of the OSCE (The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe).

"I consider my new job to be a challenge, but also a task that is extremely rewarding," he said. The Italian diplomat, who has been seconded to the OSCE since 1997, also emphasized that "I see a key role for the CPC in the current need for new perspectives and approaches in the field of conflict prevention and resolution, more generally, in promoting cooperative security."

Prior to his OSCE assignment, Mr. Zannier was Deputy Chief of Mission of his country’s embassy in The Netherlands and Italy’s Permanent Representative to the OSCE. Before his appointment he was the chairperson of the OSCE’s Police Executive for Central Europe (SOCPOL) and Deputy Chief of Mission of Italy to the OSCE from 1997 to 2000, when he was charged with police-military issues. He claimed the Negotiation on the Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe from the start of 1996 and the negotiating of the Agreement (also known as the Modified CFE Treaty) by OSCE Heads of State and Government at the Istanbul Summit in November 1999.

"I have learnt to respect the excellent cooperation that I had with Representatives during my earlier visits in Vienna about a different capacity – particularly in the run-up to the Istanbul Summit," Mr. Zannier reminded.

Between 1991 and 1997, Mr. Zannier was an official at the NATO Headquarters in Rome. He is the author of various articles on arms control, non-proliferation, peacekeeping and co-operation between security instruments, including NATO and the OSCE. He holds a doctorate in law, specializing in international law, from the University of Trieste.

Mr. Zannier's earlier Foreign Ministry assignments took him to Rome, Vienna and Abu Dhabi. He is the author of various articles on arms control, non-proliferation, peacekeeping and and co-operation between security instruments, including NATO and the OSCE. He holds a doctorate in law, specializing in international law, from the University of Trieste.
Humanizing Kazakhstan’s prisons

Fairness and justice are at the core of changes in the country’s penal system

Piotr Posmakov

K azakhstan is unique in that its territory once consisted of a country of criminals. It has been a crime hub since the 18th century, when the penitentiary system was still under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Remand prisons and overcrowding were permitted. Prison cell windows were widened and steel shutters were removed to let in natural light and fresh air. Wooden floors were laid. The quality of food was improved and the space for fresh air was increased. The number of convicts per cell was reduced.

The first positive changes were introduced when the penitentiary system was still under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Remand prisons and overcrowding were reduced. Living conditions of prisoners were far as possible brought in line with international standards. A number of undesired circumstances and circumstances were alleviated. For example, regulations on correspondence were made more lenient. Prisoners were allowed to get married. Scanty medical, sanitation and hygiene conditions were permitted. Prison cells consisting of two cells side by side were removed, and bottomless toilets were removed to let in natural light and fresh air. Wooden floors were laid. The quality of food was improved and the space for fresh air was increased. The number of convicts per cell was reduced.

Despite these changes, penitentiary facilities were overcrowded and totally inadequate. Almost inevitably, correctional facilities take on the role of crime deterrence agencies, making difficult to avoid breaches of the law. If the penitentiary system cannot provide a proper direction for the rehabilitation of the released, then it is unfair to society. In Kazakhstan, it is easier to ensure compliance with human rights during criminal proceedings. As part of our effort to move towards a more humane system, we have introduced 21 instructions expanding the list of food items and goods that convicts can purchase. In addition, the Ministry of Justice has drafted a new law for the transfer of remand prisons. It is clear that in several areas, work has been done that, in my opinion, places Kazakhstan at the forefront of reform in the region.

But we also know that we cannot rest on our laurels. In order to achieve our goals in the fight against lawlessness,

Changing of the guard in Tirana

Albania says goodbye to Ambassador Ahrens, welcomes Ambassador Lipponen

The outgoing Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania, Dr. Martin Kusserow, will be succeeded by Ambassador Pável Šmídek from Czechia. Kusserow was appointed as Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and Metohija in 2016 and has been serving in Albania since 2019, leading the OSCE Mission's efforts to support the country's transition to European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

OSCE/PA Press Office

K usserow will remain in Albania in a new capacity as Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and Metohija. He is expected to take up his new position in early September. Šmídek, a career diplomat, was previously Head of Mission at the OSCE Mission in Serbia and Montenegro from 2007 to 2010, where he led the OSCE's efforts to support the country's transition to European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

In his farewell address, outgoing Head of the OSCE Mission in Albania, Dr. Martin Kusserow, said:

"For the past three years, I have been privileged to serve alongside many dedicated and committed partners in Albania. I would like to extend my gratitude to all my colleagues and friends in the Albanian and international community for their support and cooperation. The work we have done together has been truly remarkable. I am confident that the next Head of the OSCE Mission will continue building on the strong foundations we have laid."
The OSCE sees itself as the only regional security organization in Europe where no one is excluded. This gives legitimacy and ownership. We sometimes hear that soon almost half the members of OSCE will also be members of the European Union and NATO. It is the inclusive times it is not such a bad thing to repeat the seemingly obvious.

The OSCE is an organization of institutions. I particularly wish to encourage EU and NATO colleagues to foster this co-operation. My feeling is that 2003 will be a better year in this regard. We undoubtedly need further enlargement. In the last 15 years, we were the only operational civilian crisis management body in Europe. I am not just thinking of our 19 missions. Now there are 13 and the remaining missions will write a book on his close involvement with conflict mediation in the former Yugoslavia.

Change of guard
Ambassador Osmo Lipponen has been designated by the OSCE Chairman-in-Ordinary, Portuguese Foreign Minister Antonio Martins de Sá, to take up the position of High Representative of the OSCE. This means that Lipponen will become the new Head of the OSCE Mission in Albania. He will also be responsible for the OSCE Mission in Montenegro.

The OSCE's assets:
Apart from emerging national and international crises, we must also be aware of the constant existing challenges of military and political security. This is generally accepted that human rights violations and economic deprivation lays an effect on security. But the OSCE must continue to be the regional organization in Europe where the broader set of tasks for those who are dealing with the new challenges - from international terrorism, to trafficking in human beings, to the need of the "old" states like election monitoring and minority rights.

The OSCE is an effective forum for many years. We have been the only operational civilian crisis management body in Europe. It is not just thinking of our 19 missions. Now there are 13 and the remaining missions will become operational only gradually and I can see no reason why this should preclude the OSCE from continuing its work.

The OSCE's masters is gruesome. We, of course, have not accepted that in most ministries the UN, EU and NATO have an upper hand. Nevertheless, following important meetings of other organizations the atmosphere is a window of opportunity next year to re-launch the OSCE as an effective complement. Let us use that opportunity!

Making the most of the OSCE
Some colleagues would like to insert the little word "too" here. And I grant you that there is scope to increase the number of OSCE observers. This is evident especially in the field of human rights. Nevertheless, Albania had to start something: "The European Union and NATO have an upper hand. However, following important meetings of other organizations the atmosphere is a window of opportunity next year to re-launch the OSCE as an effective complement. Let us use that opportunity!"

Safeguard OSCE's assets, Swedish ambassador urges
Looking back on Air five years as Head of the Permanent Delegation of Sweden, Ambassador Osmo Lipponen urges participating States to make their capital's asset: the OSCE.

Matters of politics may be obvious to this distinction. It is not in such a bad thing to repeat the seemingly obvious.

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FROM THE FIELD

Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Kosovo (Yugoslavia), the former Yugoslav

Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

missions or other field activities

currently has

OSCE

legal provisions

gramme of the OSCE Mission to Geor-gia and the Joint Peace Keeping Forces (JPKF) aimed at reducing the number ofarms in ... community groups andvillages that turn in arms. As of Septem-ber, 1,320 units of arms and ammunition

The repairs were part of a pro-

repair work on a 30-kilometre irri-

Ossetian conflict zone is restored inexchange for handover of weapons

completes successfully

The OSCE Mission to Georgia has

combating the trafficking in human beings met for the first time on 26 August, hosted by the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The OSCE Mission and its Office in Policija have welcomed the recent co-

on the scope of their activities, find a common approach in resolving difficult issues and make known their needs for logistical and expert support.

Negotiations process restarts on

Consensus on the Transdniestrian-settlement

Negotiations on a Transdniestrian

settlement restarted in Chisinau, theMoldovan capital, on 22 August. The

meeting, held in the offices of the OSCE Mission to Moldova, was the first of the

recalled “Chisinau round” of negoti-

The closed-door meeting took place at the invitation of the mediators of the conflict: the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the OSCE. It was intended to build on the goodwill generated at a seminar in Kyiv, Ukraine, in early July when the mediator presented a “mem-

paper” draft agreement to the representa-

tive of the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria, calling for the federaliz-

of Moldova.

“Melange project” in Georgia con-

The OSCE Mission to Georgia has

concluded its “melange project”, which transformed 400 tons of highly danger-

ous liquid missile fuel stored at the for-

mer Soviet airfield in Meria, Western Georgia, into fertilizer for the region’ sacid soil.

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In Brief

**OSCE Chairman-in-Office urges Belarus to comply with OSCE action**

The President of the OSCE C3O, Ambassador Francisco Seixas da Costa of Portugal, assumed his new position as Chair of the OSCE Permanent Council on 1 September. He succeeds Ambassador Joao de Lima Pimentel as head of the delegation of Portugal to the OSCE and as Chair of the Permanent Council.

Ambassador Seixas da Costa, who has written widely on European affairs, said: “If we are to prevail over terrorism then we must do it in a way that respects both human dignity and the rights of men and women.”

**Chairman-in-Office urges Russia, Georgia to prevent escalation in tension**

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office urged Russia and Georgia to prevent the escalation of tensions. The OSCE C3O, Portuguese Foreign Minister Antonio Martins da Cruz, expressed concern about the situation in South Ossetia, which could lead to a further increase in tensions in the region.

**OSCE Chairmanship expresses condolences on deaths of Russian servicemen in Chechnya**

The OSCE C3O, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, expressed condolences to the Russian Foreign Ministry on the deaths of Russian servicemen in Chechnya. He called on the parties to take all necessary measures to prevent further conflicts.

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The OSCE observer mission monitoring the elections in the Georgian-Russian border area found that a George-Belarusian border incident provoked a crowd in the city of Minsk, prompting the OSCE mission to issue a statement calling for restraint and the respect of the rights of all citizens. The OSCE mission also expressed concern over reports of electoral fraud in the south of Russia, where President Lukashenko has been in power since the OSCE mission monitored the election.

The ODIHR, the OSCE's election monitoring body, said that the amendments had mostly been rushed through the parliament without a broad consultation with political parties, resulting in what it called a “muddled environment.”

The OSCE, in its post-election report, noted that the repeat elections were generally conducted in accordance with OSCE commitments relating to democratic elections. However, the observers also pointed to some shortcomings, especially in the accuracy and transparency of voter registers. Further amendments to the election legislation were seen as necessary.

The ODIHR will issue recommendations on the draft election code, reflecting international standards. Following the elections, it will be discussed at a series of roundtables. Prior to this, the ODIHR will distribute its comments to the election authorities, it will be discussed at a series of roundtables. Prior to this, the ODIHR will distribute its comments to the election authorities, it was noted.

The press release of the Combined Joint Commission for Co-operation in the region (CJCC) has been circulated to all OSCE member states, as well as to the international community. The OSCE mission in the region has been actively engaged in monitoring the elections and the situation on the ground.

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to ensure a fully informed debate. The ODIHR believes that the draft election code’s timely release will contribute to the inclusiveness, openness and transparency of the process.

New election reports on the OSCE/ODIHR website

The following reports are available on www.osce.org/odihr/documents/reports/election_reports/:

- Final report on the parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic held on 14 and 15 June; comments on the Law on Political Parties in Armenia;
- Final report on the elections to the State Assembly in Lithuania on 28 June; comments on the Law on Political Parties in Armenia;
- Final report on the elections in Moldova on 20 September; comments on the Law on Political Parties in Armenia;
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DEMOCRATIZATION

Foreigners’ registration in Russia, Belarus and Central Asia reviewed

Together with the Regional Centre for Migration and Refugee Issues, a Central Asian non-governmental organization (NGO), the ODIHR organized a roundtable in Chelyabinsk, Kazakhstan, on 11 and 12 July to review registration procedures for foreigners in the Russian Federation, Belarus and the countries of Central Asia. Currently, foreign visitors to these countries are obliged to register with the police within 7 days after their arrival. Failure to do so is considered a criminal offense. The NGO, which is the only organization in the region that monitors foreigners’ registration, was invited to participate in the roundtable. The NGO’s representatives emphasized the need to improve the efficiency of registration procedures and to promote the issue of legal immigration and respect for human rights on the other side.

The participants, most of whom were officials from the relevant ministries, agreed to convene an expert meeting aimed at developing model registration systems and a strategy for harmonizing registration requirements in the region. To raise awareness of existing registration systems, the Regional Centre for Migration and Refugees will produce leaflets and distribute them in border checkpoints and other key locations.

Prison reform in Armenia is subject of roundtable

The ODIHR continued its support to the reform of Armenia’s prison system in August through expert advice on the new draft correction to the reform of social and psychological rehabilitation services in prisons and pre-trial facilities. The experts emphasized the need to promote the broader and more comprehensive co-operation of the OSCE/ODIHR with the Ministry of Justice and other appropriate legislative bodies.

In a recent round of the Mediterranean and Western Europe projects, a working group from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe reviewed legislation on prisoners’ rights in Armenia. The ODIHR has also been requested by the OSCE/ODIHR to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice in the arrest cases.

Armenia strengthens education in women’s rights

A Gender School for 30 gender teachers from Armenian universities and high schools was organized by the ODIHR and the Ministry of Women’s Affairs of Armenia from 13 to 22 July. The event was part of ODIHR’s efforts to strengthen the implementation of the country’s education system. The aim is to strengthen the capacity of the national authorities to teach gender and women’s studies in the national education system. The participants were divided into five groups, each consisting of 20 participants, and each group was assigned a mentor from the Ministry of Women’s Affairs. The participants were the focus of the Gender School, which included the development of a curriculum for university courses on gender and women’s studies, and the participants were the focus of the Gender School, which included the development of a curriculum for university courses on gender and women’s studies, and the participants were the focus of the Gender School, which included the development of a curriculum for university courses on gender and women’s studies, and the participants were the focus of the Gender School, which included the development of a curriculum for university courses on gender and women’s studies, and the participants were the focus of the Gender School, which included the development of a curriculum for university courses on gender and women’s studies.
Update
High Commissioner on National Minorities

OSCE comments on Croatia's minority law

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Rolf Elde, continu-
ed his involvement in the country in support of a new draft constitutional law on the rights of national minorities in Croatia. Before the draft law was submit-
ted to Parliament for the first reading at the end of May, Ambassador Elde sent a letter to Foreign Minister Tomislav Pudar with his comments. The draft law has been under revision since May 2000 when the Croatian parlia-
ment amended the constitutional law on the rights of national minorities. The OSCE High Commissioner commented on the text of the bill, expressing his concern with the new law that has not been discussed in Parliament.

Kiljunen (Finland) has been appointed by the Chairman-in-Office to lead the OSCE observers on election day and to deliver the preliminary post-election statement. The OSCE P A delegation is expected to include more than 40 parlia-

newsletters

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OSCE

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Parliamentarians assess election preparations in Shkup

Four Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) visited Shkup, the capital of Kosovo, from 26 to 28 August together with colleagues from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to assess preparations for the parliamentary elec-
tion on 15 September. The OSCE PA delegation was led by the PA Vice-President, Rita Ehrhardt (Germany, CSU, DE), and included OSCE PA Rapporteurs on Bosnia and Herzegovina (Latvia) and Kjell Ingolf Roppenhielm (Norway). The delegation met with the Speaker of the Kosovo Assembly and its Secretary General. They also visited the OSCE Spillvet Monitor Mission in Kosovo (from 12 September 2001), which has been monitoring the situation in the region to ensure that the elections are free and fair.

The training focused on civic education and the role of educators in the local election process. The workshop concluded with a plan to train the Kosovo Assembly to the electoral process, which represented an installment in a long-term programme aimed at increasing Kosovo participation in south- ern Europe's regional and political life.
Secretary General addresses GUAM Group summit in Yalta

Secretary General Jan Kubis was a guest of the summit meeting of GUAM (grouping Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) in Yalta, Ukraine, on 19 and 20 July, along with representatives of the United Nations, European Union, European Commission, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation, Greece, Poland, Romania, Russia, Turkey and the United States. He addressed the summit, which was preceded by a GUAM ministerial meeting. In their statements, the Heads of State and Foreign Ministers mentioned OSCE, the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

Partners in Prevention event held in Helsingborg

At the invitation of Sweden’s Foreign Minister, Anna Lindh, the Secretary General attended the Regional EU Conference on Conflict Prevention – “Partners in Prevention” in Helsingborg, Sweden, on 26 August. The Secretary General attended the Alpbach Political Symposium on 25 and 26 August. His statement focused on “The New Foreign Policy”.

Update

SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE SECRETARIAT

Recent events

9 to 19 September, Warsaw. OSCE human dimension implementation meeting. Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and OSCE Chairmanship.


From 4 to 6 October, Madrid. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Standing Committee meeting and OSCE parliamentary conference on the Mediterranean: Ensuring peace, democracy and prosperity in the region.


70,000 Albanians live in the southern part of the city, 15,000 Serbs – and Bosniacs, Roma, Turks and Ashkali – live in the northern part.

Since the end of the conflict in the region three years ago, the situation in Mitrovica has hardly changed. How does the road ahead look for young people in such a setting? What do they expect themselves with? What is their vision of the future, and how do they define it? Helping the 14-to-21 age group search for answers to these questions is what drives the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to continue bringing the mobile culture container to the doorsteps of societies that are recovering from conflict.

“We are not here to bring people together who don’t want to come together”, says Freimut Duve, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. “There is a reason why we are here though. We want to help young people find their own way and preserve their brains, regardless of religious or ethnic affiliation.”

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On the panel devoted to “Common Commitment”, the Secretary General underlined the need for key international actors to have more open information-sharing and to intensify the efforts to ensure stability and security in the region and an Agreement on the Establishment of a GUUAM Free Trade Area.

Morning discussion groups, creative workshops on the Internet, film-making, photography and newspaper publishing, and evening programmes featuring debates, movies, and dances: these make up the contents of the mobile culture container. One of the most-visited highlights is a radio station to be set up by the residents with the help of KFOR experts.

Tuesday, 10 September. Ten days after it opens its doors, the container has already attracted more than a thousand participants from north and south. The expectations in the city are high. But even now, it is already seen as a beacon of hope for the future.

“We are not here to bring people together who don’t want to come together”, says Freimut Duve, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. “There is a reason why we are here though. We want to help young people find their own way and preserve their brains, regardless of religious or ethnic affiliation.”

Achim Koch is Director of the mobile. culture.container project which is administered by the Defence of our Future foundation.

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New Heads of Delegation
The Secretary General welcomed four new Heads of Delegation over the summer.

Ambassador Vladimir Matek, Head of Delegation of Croatia, took up his assignment on 3 September.

Ambassador Mette Kongshem assumed the post of Head of Delegation of Norway on 2 September.

Ambassador Dieter Boden has been Germany’s Head of Delegation since 16 August.

Secretary General Jan Kubis meets with Ambassador Krister Bringeus, Sweden’s Head of Delegation since 13 September.
Polling day, said Craig Jenness, Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, was “a victory for the democratic process in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and for the overwhelming majority of the citizens of the country who want peace, stability and a good future for their families.” The voting and partying (above) went on way past polling hours.