

JULY 2006

OSCE

Republic of Montenegro is welcomed
as OSCE's 56th participating State

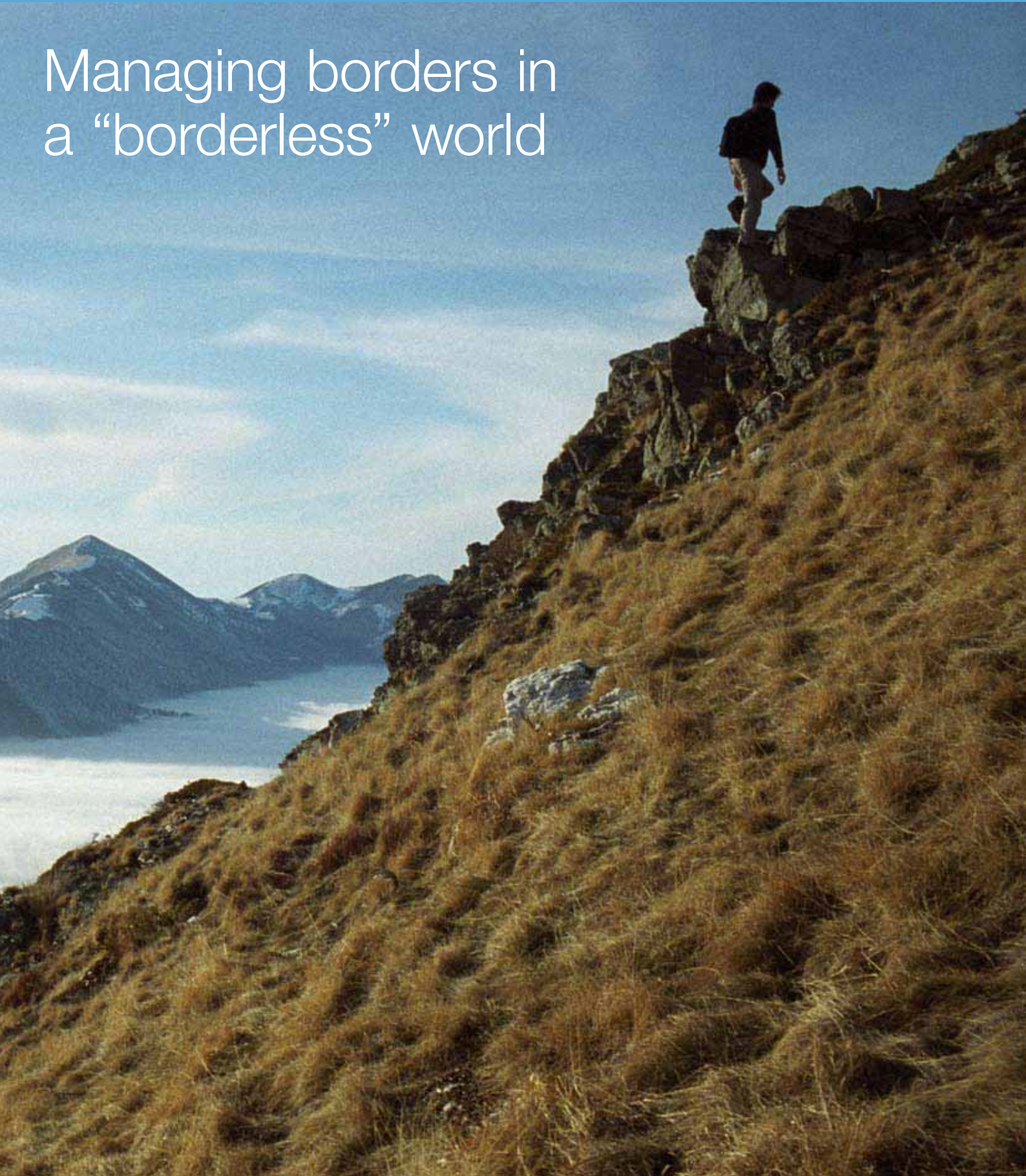
MAGA

The OSCE and the EU:
Complementing each other's strengths

ZINE

Decentralizing decision-making:
More than just a buzz phrase in Skopje

Managing borders in a "borderless" world





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views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the OSCE and its participating States.

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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is a pan-European security body whose 56 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

OSCE Chairmanship 2006: Belgium

OSCE Structures and Institutions

- Permanent Council, *Vienna*
- Forum for Security Co-operation, *Vienna*
- Secretariat, *Vienna*
- OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, *Vienna*
- Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, *Warsaw*
- High Commissioner on National Minorities, *The Hague*
- OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, *Copenhagen*

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- OSCE Mission to Georgia
- OSCE Office in Yerevan
- The Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference

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- OSCE Centre in Ashgabad
- OSCE Centre in Bishkek
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- OSCE Mission to Moldova
- OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

South-eastern Europe

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- OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- OSCE Mission to Croatia
- OSCE Mission in Kosovo
- OSCE Mission to Montenegro
- OSCE Mission to Serbia
- OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

Message from the Director of the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre



OSCE/MIKHAIL LEVSTAFEV

Managing borders and keeping them safe and secure from today's new threats have become a priority concern in the OSCE area, and understandably so. Whether the fight is against terrorism, transnational organized crime, illegal migration or illicit trafficking, it means tackling a whole range of complex issues related to borders.

Many of these boundaries were created at the end of the Cold War, which had led to the emergence of a number of fledgling States. It is crucial that these new frontiers serve as gateways for co-operation rather than as obstacles to good-neighbourly relations.

The articles in this issue of the *OSCE Magazine* describe how the Organization is now in a sufficiently strong position to promote closer co-operation between participating States in border-related issues.

Our work in south-eastern Europe, aimed at promoting joint cross-border activities as an integral part of modern border management systems, offers some useful lessons. One that stands out is the importance of creating regional and international partnerships to support the reform of border management agencies at the national level.

The participating States signaled their collective political will to work more closely together on border matters when they adopted the OSCE's first Border Security and Management Concept at the Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana in December 2005.

Since then, States have been developing ways and means of implementing the Concept through the most effective use of OSCE structures and institutions, best existing practices and lessons that have been learned.

With the Concept serving as a framework for co-operation, we are now one step closer to realizing the OSCE's commitment to promote open and secure borders in a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area without dividing lines.

Lamberto Zannier
 Vienna
 July 2006

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Cover: The popular Brezovica resort in the Shar Mountain serves as the border of Kosovo with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
Photo: OSCE/Lubomir Kotek

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