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OSCE

MAGA

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Change and continuity in Kosovo:
The OSCE as monitor and mentor

The OSCE: A toolkit for troubled times
Interview with the Secretary General

The power of ideals:
Narrowing the gender gap



Handling crisis
in the Caucasus



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Message from the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Future Status Process for Kosovo (UNOSEK)



Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to brief the OSCE participating States on the political process for determining Kosovo's future status. Since then, intensive negotiations, including direct talks on technical issues, such as decentralization, Kosovo's cultural and religious heritage, community rights and the economy, have taken place in Vienna.

Although we have come a long way, we still have considerable work to do to bridge the gaps between the two parties as the year comes to a close and as the process, launched in November 2005, enters a critical phase.

On 20 September in New York, the Foreign Ministers of the Contact Group encouraged me to prepare a comprehensive proposal for a status settlement. Currently, UNOSEK has been working intensively on the preparation of the proposal, based on the discussions we have had so far with both parties and with our international interlocutors.

At this particular juncture in Kosovo's history, joint efforts to define the scope and scale of the international community's future engagement in the area have assumed added importance.

As I told participating States on 28 March, the OSCE will continue to play an important role in the post-status period. For one thing, a monitoring and institution-building role will be needed to assist municipal governments to fulfil their obligations. The Organization, as articles in this issue of the *OSCE Magazine* illustrate, is well-suited to carry out these tasks, since it has a unique and unrivalled ability to monitor conditions at the local level.

Our common objective is to ensure that the international community's future role in Kosovo is geared towards ensuring and assisting a democratic, stable, multi-ethnic and economically viable society. Let us all work closely together towards this goal.

Martti Ahtisaari
 Vienna
 October 2006

Photo: Zvečan/Zveçan, 24 August 2006: Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari in the eye of the media after his meeting with Kosovo-Serb mayors from northern Kosovo.

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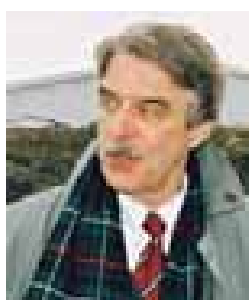
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Front cover: Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, the OSCE's Chairman-in-Office, briefs journalists in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 2 October 2006, after resolving an escalating crisis over four Russian military officers. Behind him is Georgia's Ambassador to the EU, Salome Samadashvili. AP photo/Shakh Aivazov
Back cover: A view of Tbilisi by Eric Gourlan

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