

Partnerships for Security and Co-operation

Interaction with Organizations and Institutions in the OSCE Area

In 2006, interaction with other organizations remained a vital aspect of the OSCE's work in the promotion of security and stability in the OSCE area. Under the leadership of the Belgian Chairmanship, the Organization worked consistently to strengthen ties and deepen co-operation with the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), Council of Europe (CoE), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and other organizations and institutions based on relevant Ministerial and Permanent Council decisions by participating States.

The Permanent Council, responding to UN calls to enhance co-operation with regional organizations, adopted the *Declaration on Co-operation with the United Nations* on 16 March. In it, participating States declared the readiness of the OSCE to continue playing its role as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, and to take proactive steps to pursue closer co-operation with the UN.

The OSCE made a significant contribution to the UN *Alliance of Civilizations* initiative. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the OSCE Secretary General presented the report in June.

Dialogue and co-operation with the EU was intensified during the year. With the CoE, co-operation shifted from mere exchange of information and cross-representation at events to planning and implementation of joint activities.

The OSCE took active part in the annual *High-Level Tripartite meeting* with the UN and the CoE, hosted by the UN Office at Geneva in July. The agenda focused on peace-building from a European regional perspective and was preceded by an expert-level meeting on inter-community relations in post-conflict environments.

International, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives were regularly invited to OSCE events such as the *Ministerial Council meeting*, the *Annual Security Review Conference*, the *Economic Forum*, the *Human Dimension Implementation Meeting* and other relevant meetings, while the OSCE took part, upon invitation, in many of the events organized by partner organizations.

The three OSCE institutions, 19 field operations and the Secretariat worked closely with their international partners both at the headquarters level and in the field. The Section for External Co-operation was the focal point for institutional contacts with other organizations and Partner States.

The Conflict Prevention Centre participated in the Steering Group on future institutional arrangements in Kosovo, together



OSCE Chairman-in-Office Karel De Gucht (right) and the Organization's Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut (left) are welcomed to the UN by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, New York on 26 June.

UN Photo

with representatives from the UN, EU and NATO. Throughout the year, it took part in bilateral meetings to clarify possible post-status involvement. It also pursued work on further enhancing interstate co-operation in war crimes proceedings in line with the *Palic Process* and on facilitating, together with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), an expert-level meeting in Novi Sad, Serbia, with EU experts attending as observers. In addition, the Centre worked closely with the European Commission and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on refugee returns within the framework of the *Sarajevo Declaration Process*.

In the field of border security and management, the Conflict Prevention Centre continued its close co-operation with the EU, NATO and the *Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe*. They assisted countries in the region in implementing the *Way Forward Document* of the *Ohrid Border Management and Security Process*. Furthermore, in order to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and best practices in modern border management, the Centre organized two conferences in 2006: the first in Dubrovnik in July and the second in Vienna in October, the latter attended by experts from 26 international organizations.

In April, the Conflict Prevention Centre convened a meeting chaired by the OSCE Secretary General in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on security and stability in Central Asia. The meeting attracted more than 40 high-level participants from a broad range of international organizations. Another major event with international organizations took place in connection with the *Caucasus Regional Heads of Mission Meeting* in Tbilisi, Georgia, in September. It brought together representatives from the UN Department

for Peacekeeping Operations, UN Development Programme (UNDP), the EU, CoE, NATO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Action against Terrorism Unit organized, with support from Denmark, a roundtable of counter-terrorism practitioners, bringing together representatives from six international and 13 regional and sub-regional organizations.

In 2006, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities assumed the Chairmanship of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), and while co-operation was maintained with the UNDP, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and NATO, two new partners joined the initiative: the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe.

The Senior Gender Adviser participated in several co-ordination meetings with European organizations and specialized agencies of the UN, including the annual meeting of the Organizational and Institutional Gender Information Network.

In the context of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, which is comprised of leading organizations working against trafficking in human beings, the OSCE Anti-Trafficking Mechanism organized a number of significant events, such as the High-Level Conference in March on *Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children: Prevention – Protection – Prosecution*. It was held in co-operation with the Austrian EU Presidency and became the culminating event of a project financed by the European Commission *AGIS Programme 2005*.

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) maintained close contacts with other organizations such as the UN, CoE and EU. The ODIHR regularly shared information with the UN Electoral Assistance Division with respect to election monitoring and the two were among a number of organizations that supported the development of the *Declaration of Principles for International Elections Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers*.

The Representative on Freedom of the Media continued his co-operation with a wide range of international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the CoE and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). He also maintained close contacts with European institutions and the ICTY on media-related issues. The Office participated in the first UN *Internet Governance Forum* in October and a series of other national and international meetings. A joint statement signed by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Organization of American States Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression condemned violence against journalists and urged increased self-regulation.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities provided advice to Martti Ahtisaari, UN Secretary-General Special Envoy for the future status process for Kosovo, in the ongoing international

effort in support of a framework protecting the rights of all communities living in Kosovo.

The Parliamentary Assembly maintained contacts with counterparts in other international inter-parliamentary organizations, in particular the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the European Parliament as well as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In several instances, Parliamentary Troikas consisting of the three parliamentary bodies of the OSCE, CoE and EU were established to co-ordinate efforts in specific projects, such as promoting and strengthening democratic institutions. Such a Troika has been working to promote dialogue and democratic development in Belarus. In 2007, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will chair a Troika organized to support the *Stability Pact*. The OSCE election observation missions, conducted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the ODIHR, were often joined by representatives of the Parliamentary Assemblies of NATO, PACE and the European Parliament.

The Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference maintained contacts with organizations such as the EU, CoE, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the ICRC and various international NGOs, regarding problems related to internally displaced persons and refugees, prisoners of war, missing persons and detainees as well as mine clearance.

United Nations

In January, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed the UN Security Council on the priorities of the Belgian Chairmanship.

On 20 September, the Greek presidency of the UN Security Council convened a meeting of the Security Council at the ministerial level on *Co-operation between the United Nations and Regional Organizations in Maintaining International Peace and Security*. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General attended the meeting. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed participants, highlighting the OSCE's contribution as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

In February, the OSCE participated in the first meeting of the Standing Committee of the UN *High-Level Meeting Process with Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations*, whose main task was to make the necessary preparations for the UN Secretary General's High-Level meetings. The OSCE was represented at the *7th High-Level Meeting* on 22 September in New York, which focused on challenges and opportunities in co-operation, as well as at the second meeting of the Standing Committee which preceded it.

The Belgian Chairmanship represented the OSCE at the inaugural meeting of the UN Peacebuilding Commission on 23 June in New York, while the Secretary General addressed the 3rd meeting of the *Alliance of Civilizations* High-Level Group in Senegal in May.

In the context of the Chairmanship's priority on transport, the OSCE maintained close relations with the UN Economic Commission for

Europe through projects aimed at awareness raising and joint capacity building in the field of transport and through the promotion of international conventions and standards.

The OSCE also co-operated closely with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the promotion of the *Almaty Programme of Action* to facilitate access to the sea for landlocked countries.

The UN hosted the annual *OSCE-UN Staff-Level Meeting* in New York on 8 and 9 May. The OSCE participants held meetings with their counterparts from a number of UN bodies and institutions. Various thematic and regional issues of mutual interest were discussed.

The Conflict Prevention Centre contributed to the UN *Review Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW*, which took place in New York from 26 June to 7 July, and organized an OSCE Side Event during the meeting. It further developed a memorandum of understanding with UNDP for technical co-operation in the implementation of SALW and conventional ammunition projects, which was signed on 2 June.

The Conflict Prevention Centre also contributed to a roundtable series on security sector reform organized by the Slovak delegation to the UN, held in New York.

In October, an OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission was conducted in the fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The Mission benefited from the assistance of experts from the UN-affiliated Global Fire Monitoring Centre, who were identified by the Joint Environment Unit of the UNEP and the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as well as experts from the UNEP itself, the CoE, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission.

The Senior Police Adviser met in October with the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations Police Adviser, the Director of the Police Division and the UN Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. The Strategic Police Matters Unit continued to work on the promotion and implementation of the UN *Convention on Transnational Organized Crime* and hosted a joint workshop with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime on 2 and 3 March. The Unit and UNODC also worked together on a Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit.

In the fight against terrorism, the OSCE deepened ties with the UN, in particular with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, the Al Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee and its Monitoring Team, as well as with the UNODC. Importantly, the Action against Terrorism Unit collaborated closely with the UNODC, the UN Counter Terrorism Committee and the Executive Directorate on the ratification of the universal anti-terrorism instruments and the drafting of anti-terrorism legislation.

The Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit contributed to a number of UNODC conferences and events, such as the UNODC-OSCE Workshop on the information-gathering mechanism to support the work of the March and October *Conferences of the State Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized*

Crime. In February, the Unit contributed to the expert meeting on *Indicators of Trafficking* in Geneva organized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights. The Unit also contributed to an International Labour Organization (ILO) trafficking workshop in Moscow in March, for the elaboration of a *National Action Plan*.

The Senior Adviser on Gender Issues attended several co-ordination meetings at the UN Office in Bratislava with the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UNDP and the UN Population Fund, and participated in the regional Programme Appraisal Committee to select projects on combating violence against women to be funded by the UNIFEM. She also represented the OSCE Secretariat in several conferences addressing the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Contacts with the Senior Gender Adviser of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations were intensified and the OSCE Senior Gender Adviser participated in the revision of gender-related materials together with counterparts from UN Peacekeeping Missions and gender focal points from the military and navy of several member States.

In connection with the *14th Economic Forum* on transport in the OSCE area, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities strengthened its co-operation with UN partners such as the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and in particular with the Office of the UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Close co-operation between the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the UNODC on the *Global Programme against Money Laundering* and the *Global Programme against Corruption* continued. They held a workshop for prosecutors from Central and Eastern Europe in Vienna in September, and another in Montenegro, with the help of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities also supported the UNODC *Global Programme against Corruption* by holding two expert group meetings aimed at reviewing the draft *Technical Guide to Promote the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption*, due for publication in 2007.

On 24 and 25 October, a joint UNODC-OSCE workshop on combating the threat of illicit drugs in the OSCE area took place in Vienna. The event brought together experts from capitals and other international organizations and assessed the threat of illicit drugs, discussed the impact of trafficking of Afghan heroin and underlined the need for States to work together closely and to implement international legal instruments.

The ODIHR co-organized a technical workshop with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights and international co-operation in counter-terrorism in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, in November. In addition, the ODIHR established a focal point for national human rights institutions and human rights defenders, in order to formulate a programme of joint activities with the UN High Commissioner.

The ODIHR contributed to the development of the UNODC Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit, and the Office co-sponsored

seminars in Moscow on international standards on ethics and accountability for prosecutors and judges. The ODIHR also contributed to the activities of the UN Economic Commission for Europe at a roundtable on Gender Equality and Growth Prospects for the region of the UN *Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia* in Baku in June.

The ODIHR and the UNIFEM for the CIS held a regional roundtable in Almaty in September on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

The High Commissioner on National Minorities maintained contacts with the UN Secretariats in New York and Geneva, as well as with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UNDP. The UN Secretariat expressed interest in drawing on the experience of the OSCE High Commissioner to develop structures serving the purpose of conflict prevention, notably in forming practical conflict prevention tools. The High Commissioner exchanged information with the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues and the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and continued co-operation with the UN Working Group on Minorities.

In February, under the leadership of the Special Representative on Gender Issues of the Parliamentary Assembly, a group of women parliamentarians from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly participated in the 50th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and organized a Side Event on *Women and Security Politics*.

European Union

The Finnish Presidency of the EU, addressing the OSCE Ministerial Council in December, underlined that the EU consistently regarded the OSCE as an indispensable actor in the European security landscape and expressed the EU's commitment to the values, norms and principles of the OSCE in all three security dimensions.

In February, the Austrian Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed the Permanent Council in the context of the Austrian EU presidency, pointing out the immediate task of strengthening the confidence of all participating States in the OSCE as an international organization with a central interest in the individual human being. She called for a Joint Declaration on Co-operation between the EU and the OSCE.

The Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General took part in both the May and November OSCE-EU Ministerial Troikas, one during each EU Presidency. Two meetings of the EU Political and Security Committee and the OSCE Ambassadorial Troika were held in February and October. A number of regional and thematic issues of mutual interest, as well as OSCE-EU co-operation, were addressed during the two sets of meetings.

The Secretary General addressed the EU Political and Security Committee in March and in November, calling for the EU's active involvement in the OSCE as a unique instrument for dialogue and co-operation. In addition, throughout the year, the Secretary General held a series of bilateral meetings, both with the

European Commission and the EU Council Secretariat, including EU High Officials dealing with Central Asia, South Caucasus, Moldova and the Balkans.

A number of high EU officials briefed the OSCE Permanent Council on activities of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, the Balkans and EU enlargement. An informal meeting of the EU Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management was hosted in Vienna in March. In June, the EU hosted the annual *OSCE-EU Staff-Level Meeting*.

From 5 through 7 July, the OSCE and the European Commission conducted a joint high-level assessment visit to Novobohdanivka in Ukraine to develop a project for the destruction of small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition.

The Conflict Prevention Centre participated in a workshop on development co-operation in Central Asia hosted in Berlin in December by the upcoming German EU Presidency. It also maintained regular working-level contacts with the office of the EU Special Representative for Central Asia.

The Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit contributed to the European Commission's *Expert Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings*, held in June and organized by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and the EU. In January and February, it held meetings with the European Commission and contributed to an urban security seminar with the European Parliament, as well as a training seminar for EU delegations worldwide organized by EuropeAid.

The Action against Terrorism Unit maintained a dialogue with the EU Council and the European Commission on topics of common interest, such as information exchange and co-ordination. This dialogue may produce an enhanced framework for EU-Action against Terrorism Unit counter-terrorism co-operation in future.

The ODIHR's *Legislative Assistance Programme* for Central Asia involved co-operation with and funding by the EU. In October, the ODIHR, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance organized a working-level meeting on issues pertaining to the lack of data on hate crimes. The same agencies participated in an ODIHR-organized *Tolerance Implementation Meeting* in November in Vienna. In addition, the ODIHR completed the *Roma, use your ballot wisely!* project financed by the European Commission.

During the year, the High Commissioner on National Minorities maintained close links with the European Commission, in particular with the Commissioner and the Directorate-General for Enlargement.

Council of Europe

The OSCE and the CoE made progress on the four priority areas identified in the 2005 *Declaration on Co-operation*: the fight against terrorism, the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the fight against trafficking in human beings and the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination of national minorities. They discussed these issues at the third and fourth

meetings of the OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group in March and September, at which the OSCE focal points and their CoE counterparts presented joint reports. As a result, the first major joint event of the two organizations in the field of counter-terrorism, an expert workshop, was held in Vienna on 19 and 20 October.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the OSCE Secretary General and a representative of the Parliamentary Assembly attended the *15th OSCE-CoE High-Level Meeting*. Co-operation between the two Organizations on a number of regional and thematic issues was discussed.

At the invitation of the OSCE Belgian Chairmanship, the *16th OSCE-CoE High-Level Meeting* took place on 21 September in New York in a '2+2' format. Participants emphasized the importance of OSCE-CoE co-operation and its further strengthening, and expressed their strong political will to improve synergies through joint planning of activities. They also addressed the question of co-operation on election observation.

The two Secretaries General continued their close working relationship in 2006 and held a number of bilateral meetings on the margins of various OSCE and CoE events. In May, the OSCE Secretary General addressed the annual Session of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE in Strasbourg.

The *9th Annual '3+3' Meeting* at the level of senior officials was held in Vienna in June, focusing on a number of thematic issues of mutual interest, including the four priority areas.

The first OSCE-CoE meeting on the implementation of the *Co-operation Agreement on Local Government Assistance in South-East Europe*, signed by the two Secretaries General in 2005, was held in Strasbourg in March.

The ODIHR and the Venice Commission established a formal framework to review election-related legislation. Furthermore, the ODIHR maintained close working relations with several of the CoE's directorates-general on counter-terrorism, human rights, gender equality and legal affairs.

The ODIHR and the CoE established an informal framework for the exchange of information and the co-ordination of activities related to gender equality and women's participation in democratic processes. The ODIHR took part as an observer in the 36th meeting of the CoE Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men in November.

Concerning Roma communities, the OSCE and the CoE co-organized a roundtable in Thessaloniki, Greece, in November.

The ODIHR and the CoE co-operated on the Country Profiles on Counter-Terrorism Capacity drawn up under the aegis of the CoE and the ODIHR's Legislationline database.

The CoE and the OSCE participated in a number of co-operative events and aimed to support each other's standards and commitments in the field of trafficking in human beings, with a particular focus on the rights of victims. The Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit participated in two CoE seminars in September and December, while the CoE contributed to the Alliance's *High-Level*

Conference on Child Trafficking and Law Enforcement in March, as well as to the OSCE's *Conference on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation* in November, both in Vienna.

Various meetings took place between the OSCE/ODIHR and the CoE's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, with the participation of the EU's Observatory of Racist and Xenophobic Phenomena and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The OSCE also contributed to the CoE's White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue.

The OSCE High Commissioner continued his co-operation with the Committee of Experts on Issues relating to the Protection of National Minorities of the CoE, the Advisory Committee on the *Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities* and the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights. The CoE Secretariat and the High Commissioner plan a joint publication in 2007 on minority rights standards. The High Commissioner maintained co-operation with the Venice Commission on issues such as non-citizens and minority rights, dual vote for persons belonging to minorities and assessment of minority-related legislation in some OSCE participating States.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

In October, ahead of the OSCE *Ministerial Council* and the Riga NATO *Transformation Summit* in November, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office addressed the North Atlantic Council at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, while NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, U.S. Marine Corps General James L. Jones, briefed the Permanent Council on aspects related to NATO's mission in Afghanistan on 14 September.

At regular OSCE-NATO staff meetings in January, April and October, representatives exchanged views on issues such as democratic governance of the security sector/defence reform, ongoing co-operation within the ENVSEC and regional issues and Mediterranean dialogue.

The Senior Adviser on Gender Issues presented the work of the OSCE on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in a seminar organized by NATO and the Dutch military in April.

International Organization for Migration

The IOM remained an important partner for the OSCE both in the field and at the institutional level.

The IOM, the ILO and the OSCE co-organized and co-financed a workshop on the *Labour Migration Handbook* for the CIS Countries in Moscow in December.

The ODIHR and the IOM office in Moscow finalized a project on the provision of information and expert support to the state programme on regularization of migrants, and in March organized a workshop on the future implementation of the programme for the Russian Migration Agency and representatives of other relevant government agencies.

International Committee of the Red Cross

Contacts between the OSCE and the ICRC continued at the level of headquarters with the visit of the Diplomatic Adviser of the Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit to the OSCE Secretariat in January, where he met with representatives of various departments.

Other international, regional and sub-regional organizations and initiatives

In April, the Chairman-in-Office attended the *Heads of State Summit of the Vilnius Conference*. In May, the Secretary General represented the OSCE at the *9th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the South East European Cooperation Process* in Thessaloniki, Greece, and at the *GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) Summit of Heads of State* in Kyiv, Ukraine, at which the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development-GUAM was established. In June, the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary General participated in the *Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership*, convened in Bucharest, Romania. In October, the Secretary General addressed the *10th Anniversary Conference* of the Southeast Europe Co-operation Initiative, and in November the Chairmanship attended the *Annual Summit of Heads of Government of the Central European Initiative* in Tirana, Albania.

The Secretary General held bilateral meetings with the Executive Secretary of the CIS in September and December and with the Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in December. Representatives of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Action against Terrorism Unit and Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit visited the CIS and CSTO headquarters in Minsk and Moscow, respectively.

CIS, GUAM, the CSTO, the Black Sea Economic Co-operation and the *Stability Pact* took up invitations to the OSCE *Ministerial Council* in Brussels in December.

Through bilateral contacts and the sharing of best practices, the Action against Terrorism Unit co-operated with the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre, the CSTO, the Group of Eight, the International Atomic Energy Association and the International Maritime Organization.

With regard to energy security, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities established contacts with a number of organizations such as the Energy Charter Secretariat and the International Energy Agency. The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities also co-operated closely with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on issues such as combating corruption and promoting investment. In December, the OSCE was admitted as an observer to the seven-member Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, at the OECD's fifth plenary meeting in Moscow.

The Gender Section exchanged information and experience with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank regarding gender issues, through the Organizational and Institutional

Gender Information Network, comprised of international organizations, specialized agencies as well as European, African and Asian regional organizations such as development banks and the CoE.

The Strategic Police Matters Unit maintained regular contact with counterparts of the *Stability Pact* initiative to fight organized crime, and attended policy level meetings. The Unit also participated in a meeting on the fight against illicit drugs, organized in the framework of the Russian Federation presidency of the Group of Eight, and maintained contact with the South East Europe Co-operation Initiative in Bucharest.

The Strategic Police Matters Unit addressed the possibility of co-operation on child pornography issues at a meeting with the Director of International Law Enforcement Affairs of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children.

The ODIHR and the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces collaborated on the development of a handbook on human rights of armed forces personnel.

International financial institutions

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities continued to work with organizations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on issues such as money laundering, financing of terrorism, migration, business development, small- and medium-sized enterprises, good governance and human capacity building.

Non-governmental organizations

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office attached particular importance to co-operation with NGOs. As well as hosting a meeting with NGOs in January, the Chairman-in-Office included meetings with representatives of civil society organizations during his official visits to participating States.

The OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations increasingly co-operated with NGOs throughout the year. A number of NGOs contributed to OSCE activities, and in some cases were directly involved as project partners.

In April, the International Peace Academy in co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat and with the support of the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, organized a seminar on *Building Partnerships for Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding between the UN and regional organizations*.

Co-operation in the field

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

A major project, the *Sarajevo Ministerial Declaration on Refugee Returns*, was carried out with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the European Commission and four OSCE Missions: Croatia,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro. The Conflict Prevention Centre supported the EU-funded *Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS)* regional project on integrated border management strategies.

The **Presence in Albania** facilitated joint cross-border co-operation with the UN Interim Administrative Mission in Kosovo, the NATO Kosovo Force and the Kosovo Police Service. It was a major implementing partner for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' project on pre-screening asylum-seekers and migrants. It co-operated with the European Commission on electoral reform and building the capacity of civil society and NGOs.

The **Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina** monitored eight war crimes cases transferred by ICTY to the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina for trial. Thanks to a grant from the US Agency for International Development, the Mission began a *Legislative Strengthening Programme* with the State Parliament.

The **Mission to Croatia** increased co-operation with the UNDP through the opening of field offices in identical locations, and worked together with the UNDP on a winter aid project for refugees. It worked with the European Commission to advocate a legal framework for civil society development.

The **Mission to Montenegro** co-operated with the UNODC's money-laundering programme in assisting the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities to organize a national workshop on combating money laundering and suppressing the financing of terrorism.

The **Mission to Serbia** collaborated with the ICTY on implementing organized crime legislation and completed the *Reporting on the Environment* programme with the support of UNESCO. The European Agency for Reconstruction funded the implementation of the OSCE *Action Plan for Roma Integration* and, together with the EU Customs and Fiscal Assistance Office, assisted the Mission with its border management programme. The Mission launched a joint initiative with the International Financial Corporation on introducing corporate governance to Serbian companies.

The **Mission to Kosovo** signed an agreement with the UN Department of Civil Administration on the anticipated transition from the UN-led international presence in Kosovo to a strong OSCE field presence. The Mission worked with the CoE on the protection of national minorities and human rights.

The **Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje** implemented a training course to improve the management skills of the personnel in ombudsman offices with financial support from the Swedish International Development Agency.

EASTERN EUROPE

The **Office in Minsk** co-sponsored an IOM-hosted international conference on anti-trafficking.

The **Mission to Moldova** worked with the UNODC and UNICEF on anti-trafficking, with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the EU on issues pertaining to Transnistria and with the CoE

on local democracy, elections and human rights. It held regular contact with the ICRC regarding detention conditions in Transnistria and Moldova.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine** co-operated on an *ad hoc* basis with the NATO Liaison Office in Ukraine to assist in the resettlement of discharged military personnel. With the ILO, it implemented programmes against child abuse. It worked with the European Commission to establish an electronic voter list prior to the March parliamentary elections.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

In the South Caucasus, the Office in Baku, the Mission to Georgia and NATO co-operated and co-funded the South Caucasus *River Monitoring Project* for the Kura-Araks water basin.

The **Office in Baku** co-operated with the UNDP and UNIFEM on gender equality. It met regularly with EU representatives and continued to work closely with the CoE on freedom of assembly legislation.

The **Mission to Georgia**, together with the UNDP and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, continued to implement an infrastructure rehabilitation programme in the zone of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict funded by a €2.5 million European Commission grant. The European Commission also pledged a multi-million Euro contribution to an OSCE *Economic Rehabilitation Programme* launched in this area in 2006.

The **Office in Yerevan** worked with the UNDP, the largest UN representation in Armenia. Representatives of the European Commission Delegation to Armenia actively participated in the International Working Group on Elections in Armenia, chaired by the Office. The International Working Group on Anti-trafficking was co-chaired by the UNDP, the IOM and the Office.

The **Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference** provided assistance to the OSCE-led Environmental Assessment Mission, which was conducted with the help of the Global Fire Monitoring Centre, the UNEP, the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the CoE, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission.

CENTRAL ASIA

The Conflict Prevention Centre co-operated with UNODC on border security and management in Central Asia, with the aim of having an operational impact on the flow of Afghan-sourced narcotics. It also worked in close co-ordination with the EU *Border Management and Drug Action Programme*.

The **Centre in Almaty** and NATO jointly supported environmental activities. The IOM and the Centre regularly exchanged information. The Centre co-operated with the World Bank and financed activities on water management with the Asian Development Bank.

The **Centre in Ashgabad** undertook joint programmes with the EU's *TACIS Programme*.

The **Centre in Bishkek** held a training course for future OSCE field operations' workers with a trainer from the UNDP Tajikistan Mine Action Centre. It co-operated with the Venice Commission in the area of constitutional reform.

The **Centre in Dushanbe** co-operated with the UNDP, the UN Tajikistan Office of Peace-Building, the UNEP and NATO. It continued to fund the OSCE-IOM Information Resource Centre for

Labour Migrants in Dushanbe. It also worked closely with the ICRC to form the Penitentiary Reform Working Group.

The **Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan** collaborated with several EU projects, including a handbook for the legislative chamber and a parliamentary resource centre. It developed a gender equality project in co-operation with the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and the Swiss Embassy.

Interaction with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and with Organizations and Institutions outside the OSCE Area

The Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation are: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

The Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group in 2006 was held by Spain.

The Asian Partners for Co-operation are: Afghanistan, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

The Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group in 2006 was held by Slovenia.

Relations with the Partners for Co-operation

REPORT OF THE OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP

The Belgian Chairmanship worked steadily to increase the level of involvement of the Partners for Co-operation in the mainstream of OSCE activities, promoting mutual dialogue and the Partners' active participation in relevant OSCE bodies and forums. This was achieved by inviting the Partners for Co-operation to participate in most meetings of the Permanent Council. Upon invitation of the rotating Chairpersons of the Forum for Security Co-operation, they also participated in the Forum's meetings. In addition, the Partners were invited to all major OSCE regular and *ad hoc* conferences and seminars. The Chairman of the Permanent Council, for his part, participated in all meetings of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups in order to inform the Partners for Co-operation of relevant developments in the OSCE. Representatives of the Chairmanship took an active part in the *2006 OSCE-Thailand Conference on Challenges to Global Security: From Poverty to Pandemics* and in the annual *OSCE Mediterranean Seminar*.

In order to give further impetus and more concrete substance to the OSCE's dialogue with the Partners for Co-operation, the Belgian Chairmanship, with the support of the Slovenian and Spanish Chairmanships of the respective Contact Groups, took

resolute steps to promote the establishment of a Partnership Fund. While consensus on this issue could not be reached in 2006, the debate highlighted the importance that both Mediterranean and Asian Partners attach to establishing a tool to further their co-operation with the OSCE.

The Chairmanship paid special attention to issues of tolerance and non-discrimination. It convened two informal meetings in the wake of the controversy regarding the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in the media: on promoting mutual respect and freedom of expression in the OSCE and on values related to free media. The valuable contributions made by the Partners for Co-operation to both meetings were duly taken into account in the preparation of two food-for-thought papers by the Chairmanship in February and March.

A number of events in 2006 concerned Afghanistan, an Asian Partner for Co-operation that shares borders with three Central Asian participating States. On 30 and 31 March, the Chairman-in-Office visited Kabul, where he met with President Hamid Karzai. His visit followed an address by Habibullah Qaderi, Afghan Minister of Counter Narcotics, to the OSCE Permanent Council on 14 March. On 14 September, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, General James L. Jones, was invited to brief the Permanent Council on aspects related to NATO's mission in Afghanistan.

Upon invitation of the Japanese organizers, the Belgian Chairmanship sent a representative to deliver a statement on behalf of the Organization to the seminar *Community Building in the Multi-ethnic Societies of the Western Balkans*, which took place on 22 March in Tokyo.

On the eve of the Brussels Ministerial Council, Pierre Chevalier, Special Envoy for the 2006 OSCE Belgian Chairmanship, chaired the traditional meetings between the OSCE Ministerial Troika, the Secretary General and the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Heads of Delegations of the Partners for Co-operation. Both meetings concentrated on a

review of the work conducted in the course of the year and on prospects for increased co-operation in the future, resulting in important suggestions for further strengthening the dialogue between the Partners and the OSCE.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

In 2006, the OSCE participating States and the Asian Partners for Co-operation jointly exerted considerable efforts to give new impetus to their relations. As Chair of the Asian Contact Group, Slovenia focused on issues of common concern, while ensuring that the discussion was well targeted.

Work of the Asian Contact Group. Under the Slovenian Chairmanship, the Contact Group held five meetings during the year, concentrating on issues of common concern in the three dimensions. The Group's discussions focused on questions of human security, economic and environmental matters, anti-terrorism and border security and management.

OSCE-Thailand Conference. The key event of the year was the 2006 OSCE-Thailand Conference on Challenges to Global Security: From Poverty to Pandemics. The conference was the second such gathering in Bangkok, a testimony to Thailand's active role as an Asian Partner. In its dual capacity as Chair of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation and of the Human Security Network, Slovenia was prepared to bring human security themes into the discussion with the Asian Partners.

The conference highlighted that poverty and pandemics are two classic cases of comprehensive security threats, involving all three OSCE security dimensions and requiring a systematic and multi-disciplinary approach. Participants in the conference also noted that, although the OSCE is neither a development nor a health organization, it could contribute significantly to reducing the security risks posed by poverty and pandemics based on its own distinctive approach.

Dimitrij Rupel, Foreign Minister of Slovenia, noted in his opening address that the threat of pandemics is real and tangible and that the solution lies in systematic and concerted action. He further highlighted economic development and co-operation as the main elements for solving the problem of poverty. While globalized markets offer opportunities to the business sector, it is the role of the countries and regional and international organizations to limit and remove obstacles to these endeavours.

Side Event with the Asian Partners at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. For the first time, the Asian Partners initiated a Side Event on human security on the margins of the annual Warsaw Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in October. The event aimed to deepen knowledge about human security within the OSCE. Suggestions were made by participants for the formulation and implementation of appropriate projects for the promotion of human security by the OSCE participating and Partner States.

The OSCE confidence- and security-building measures regime. To illustrate the concrete working of the OSCE's regime

of confidence- and security-building measures under the *Vienna Document 1999*, Slovenia organized a visit by the Asian Partners to the First Brigade of the Slovenian Army and to the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of Slovenia in October. A simulation of an inspection under the *Vienna Document 1999* was conducted by participants. On the same occasion, the Asian Partners also visited the headquarters of the International Trust Fund for Demining, where they received an in-depth briefing of activities under the aegis of the Fund. The visit allowed the Asian Partners to further deepen their understanding of the OSCE commitments in the politico-military dimension.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION

General outlook. A year that began focused on migration, following the success of the 2005 Mediterranean Seminar in Rabat, became a year that spotlighted instead the importance of tolerance and integration, following the controversy regarding the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in the media. Under the leadership of the Spanish Chairmanship, the Group also considered ways to bring order and structure to its work, envisaging a road map to enhance continuity and coherence. At the same time, due attention was paid to politico-military and economic and environmental matters.

The Spanish Chairmanship of the Contact Group made a systematic effort to keep the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation regularly informed on the various activities of the Organization, including by providing increased access to relevant OSCE documents where possible. Furthermore, attempts to involve the Mediterranean Partners in the work of the OSCE were increased.

Work of the Mediterranean Contact Group. In 2006, the Mediterranean Contact Group met nine times, as in previous years, covering all three dimensions of security. Preparatory meetings of the Contact Points preceded these meetings. Guest speakers at the Contact Group meetings included: the President Emeritus of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly; the Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs; the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, who made a presentation on the outcome of the Prague *Economic Forum*; the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media; the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, who made a presentation on the *Budapest Process* and the OSCE *Border Security and Management Concept*; the Director of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development; the Special Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office for Tolerance and non Discrimination (twice, in view of the Mediterranean Partners' interest in these issues); a representative of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation; the Forum's Co-ordinators for small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition; and a Council of Europe expert on inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue. The last meeting also included a report by the Chairman on the work of the Contact Group and a presentation by the incoming Finnish Chairman for 2007.

Seminar on multilateral diplomacy. From 6 to 8 March, Spain, in co-operation with the United States Institute of Peace and the

Secretariat, organized a Seminar on Advanced Negotiating Skills and multilateral diplomacy at the Madrid Diplomatic School. The seminar focused on multilateral negotiations in the context of the OSCE, increasing participants' awareness of the work of the Organization and its specific role in promoting European security, with particular focus on conflict prevention and early warning.

Side event at the Economic Forum. On the margins of the Prague *Economic Forum*, Spain organized a side event with the Mediterranean Partners on 23 May, with keynote addresses by an expert from the Spanish Ministry of Transportation and the head of the European Commission's delegation to the OSCE. The event focused on the role of transport in regional integration and trans-Mediterranean co-operation. Regrettably, not all the Mediterranean Partners were represented. With the exception of one delegation, there was also little interest shown in participating in a seminar on the verification of agreements in the politico-military field that the Spanish Ministry of Defence would have organized in Madrid and Toledo on 21 and 22 November.

OSCE Mediterranean Seminar. The main event in 2006 was the annual *Mediterranean Seminar* on 6 and 7 November, hosted for a fourth time by Egypt in Sharm el Sheik. This year's seminar, *The OSCE Mediterranean Partnership: from Recommendation to Implementation*, focused on three main topics: the economic and human dimensions of migration; the role of the OSCE and the Mediterranean Partners in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination; and ways and means to improve the Mediterranean dialogue.

Discussion in the first session emphasized the necessity to combat illegal migration, while acknowledging that legal migration is of substantial benefit to both countries of origin and of destination. A proposal was made to translate the OSCE-International Organization for Migration-International Labour Organization *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination* into Arabic, for which Spain has committed the funds. A further proposal was made to elaborate a code of conduct on migration.

In the second session, participants agreed that much could be accomplished within the OSCE framework through education, the media, legal assistance and the extension of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' *Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme*. Furthermore, many noted the necessity of involving civil society to implement and disseminate the OSCE's human dimension commitments. In this respect, it is regrettable that a proposal by the host country to hold a side event with Mediterranean NGOs could not be realized due to logistical and financial problems.

As to the future of the Mediterranean dialogue, many agreed that the initial phase of increasing Mediterranean Partners' awareness of the OSCE was nearing completion and that it was time to move from recommendations to implementation. In this respect, several proposals were made for a more concrete dialogue with the Mediterranean Partners in the future.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretariat continued in 2006 to provide support and advice to the Troika with regard to strengthening relations with both the

Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation. This included co-organizing the *OSCE-Thailand Conference* in April and the *Mediterranean Seminar* in November.

The Secretary General made a number of visits to Partner States for consultations on further strengthening relations with the OSCE.

In January, he travelled to Tokyo upon the Government of Japan's invitation, where he consulted with high-level officials from the Foreign Ministry and from the Defence Agency. He briefed officials on the OSCE's range of activities and latest developments and exchanged ideas on how to strengthen co-operation between Japan and the OSCE. The Secretary General also held a public lecture on the OSCE, aimed at increasing awareness of the Organization in the Japanese academic world and the media.

The Egyptian Government invited the Secretary General to visit Cairo in March, where he met with Foreign Minister Ahmed Ali Abu El Gheit and other Ministry officials. The visit focused on the issue of tolerance and non-discrimination, following the controversy regarding the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed in the media, as well as on strengthening relations between Egypt and the OSCE. On this occasion, the Secretary General also met with representatives of the Egyptian Commission for Human Rights and the Council for Foreign Relations.

In April, on the margins of the *OSCE-Thailand Conference*, the Secretary General met with Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon, to discuss ways to follow up on the conference and future co-operation between Thailand and the OSCE. On that occasion, Minister Suphamongkhon reiterated his country's commitment to maintaining an active relationship with the Organization, in particular to promoting strengthened relations with the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Upon invitation by Mongolia's Foreign Affairs Minister Naymaa Enkhbold, the Secretary General visited Ulaanbaatar in October. This was the first visit by an OSCE Secretary General to Mongolia, and it took place in the year in which the country celebrated the 800th anniversary of its statehood. The Secretary General held meetings with the President of Mongolia, the Speaker of the Parliament, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs. They expressed Mongolia's strong interest in and commitment to further building upon its partnership and co-operation with the OSCE. Mongolian leaders reiterated their country's interest in hosting a future annual OSCE conference in Asia.

The Secretary General also received visits from a number of officials from Mongolia and the Republic of Korea, including the Minister of Justice of Mongolia and high-level representatives of the Unification Ministry and of the Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea. These meetings provided the opportunity to further increase awareness of the OSCE's activities, while at the same time reflecting on possible future joint initiatives. Furthermore, the Secretary General received substantive input from some Partner States for the elaboration of the OSCE's contribution to the United Nation's *Alliance of Civilizations* initiative, as mandated by the Ljubljana Ministerial Council.

Special attention was also paid at the expert level to relations with the Partners for Co-operation. On 24 October, the Secretariat and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime co-organized a Joint Expert Workshop on combating the threat of illicit drugs, which focused on, among other issues, the trafficking of drugs originating in Afghanistan.

Partners for Co-operation were also involved in some activities organized by OSCE field operations. On 14 July, a Tajik-Afghan meeting on ecological co-operation took place, initiated by the Environment and Security Initiative partners – the OSCE, the UN Development Programme and the UN Environment Programme – and the Tajik State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry. A programme of joint actions on environmental protection by Afghanistan and Tajikistan was designed during the meeting. Abduvohit Karimov, Chairman of the Tajik State Committee for Environmental Protection and Forestry and Mustapha Zaher, Director General of the Afghan National Agency for Environmental Protection, discussed environmental problems threatening the ecological security of both States and elaborated actions to counter these threats and ensure stability by co-operative sustainable management of natural resources and co-operation on environmental issues. On 2 October, Mongolian police experts participated in an international symposium on best practices and lessons learned from community policing, organized by the Strategic Police Matters Unit, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Centre in Bishkek.

Interaction with Organizations Outside of the OSCE Area

Dialogue with organizations outside of the OSCE region in 2006 was marked by a number of high-level visits and cross-representation at events.

Following the Brussels Ministerial Council, Pierre Chevalier, Special Envoy of the Belgian Chairmanship, visited the Secretariat of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, to discuss possible ways of strengthening relations with the OSCE. Discussions with him focused on the recent activities of both organizations in Central Asia and their initiatives to counter terrorism.

On the margins of his visit to Egypt in March, the Secretary General met Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States. The two sides noted the need to strengthen mutual relations. The meeting with Secretary General Moussa was followed by a discussion at the working level, in which potential areas for increased co-operation were identified.

On 25 March, the Secretary General visited the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, upon the invitation of Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu. During the visit, the two sides stressed the need to increase co-operation in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination and fighting Islamophobia. Referring to the ten-year *Programme of Action* adopted by the last Islamic Conference Summit in Makkah, the Conference's Secretary General expressed strong interest in the OSCE's experience in election observation, conflict prevention and resolution and good governance.

In June, the Secretary General attended the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Baku, Azerbaijan, and submitted a written contribution. He also held a bilateral meeting with Secretary General Ihsanoglu.

A number of OSCE experts participated, upon invitation, in relevant events organized in the course of the year by regional organizations outside of the OSCE area.

In the course of the year, representatives of organizations from outside the OSCE area were regularly invited to participate in key OSCE events, such as the *Ministerial Council*, the *OSCE-Thailand Conference*, the *OSCE Mediterranean Seminar* and other relevant events, in particular in the area of combating terrorism. A number of organizations outside the OSCE region, such as the African Union, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference participated in a seminar on *Building partnerships for crisis prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding between the United Nations and regional organizations*, which was organized by the International Peace Academy in co-operation with the OSCE in Vienna on 4 and 5 April.