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Georgia and the Geneva discussions:
“Negotiations are the only way ahead”

The OSCE Border Management Staff College:
A flagship project takes off

Special focus: Gender and comprehensive security





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The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe works for stability, prosperity and democracy in 56 States through political dialogue about shared values and through practical work that makes a lasting difference.

OSCE Chairmanship 2009: Greece

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Message from the Chairperson-in-Office

In December, during the Ministerial Council in Helsinki, we had a free-flowing and spirited discussion on "The Future of Security in Europe". It did not matter that we left with more questions than answers. The exchange was so candid and constructive that I knew we had to come together again outside our traditional, formalized structures and build on the experience.



OSCE/ANTONIOS DOYKAS

It was then that I announced to my colleagues that the upcoming 2009 Greek Chairmanship would be ready and willing to organize a gathering "with no strings attached regarding time frames and rules of procedure".

Midway into our Chairmanship, on 27 and 28 June, we are making it happen, with the island of Corfu pulling out all the stops to serve as a casual and laid-back setting for what many hope will be the launch of a "Corfu Process" — a reinvigorated, open-ended and inclusive dialogue on how best to tackle some of the most challenging security issues of our time.

The mid-year event represents a defining moment in our Chairmanship's vision of serving as a political, geographic and cultural bridge — linking the various efforts of our many participating States to promote shared values and implement common commitments in the realm of co-operative and comprehensive security.

This issue of the *OSCE Magazine* provides a snapshot of some of the complex areas in which the Greek Chairmanship has been engaged in a spirit of openness, compromise and good will over the past half a year. Whether the stories are about restoring dialogue in the Caucasus through diplomacy at the highest levels, or launching a training centre to strengthen the management of borders and foster cross-border co-operation in Central Asia, the OSCE is clearly at the heart of multilateral efforts to promote stability and security.

I am particularly pleased that the issue has a special focus on gender. Each of the personal stories is a reminder of what the Helsinki Process is all about: protecting and promoting the "inherent dignity of the individual" and blurring the line between "soft" and "hard" security.

By the time this issue of the *OSCE Magazine* reaches its readers, our stock-taking in Corfu will be over. I have no doubt that the OSCE will once again have shown itself to be an ideal forum for high-level debate on pan-European security.

I look forward to the second and final phase of our Chairmanship and to steering the way from Corfu to the Athens Ministerial Council meeting in December. Despite the inevitable stumbling blocks, the road ahead is full of interesting and creative possibilities for restoring faith and confidence among all the members of our OSCE family.

Dora Bakoyannis
 Foreign Minister of Greece
 Athens, 22 June 2009

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Sremska Kamenica, Serbia, 5 December 2008. Maja Kovačev, 23, takes a picture of herself and Damijan Grebović, 25, at the graduation ceremony of the Basic Police Training Centre near Novi Sad in the northern Serbian province of Vojvodina. They were in the first class to complete a programme based on the new police reforms being introduced by the Ministry of the Interior with the support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia. Ms. Kovačev and Mr. Grebović have since served their probationary period with a district police force, and passed their final exams. They recently became fully fledged police officers. The Basic Police Training Centre is proud of its efforts to encourage women and members of minorities to train to be police officers. It has set itself the goal of recruiting 30 per cent women for each class. Maja Kovačev was one of 32 women among 128 students.

