

Issue Number 1/2008



Finnish Chairmanship:
Tackling “new era of risks and opportunities”

Madrid Ministerial Council:
Underscoring the value of dialogue

Armenia and Montenegro rid
themselves of remnants of the past

Restoration and renewal

Wallnerstrasse no. 6
comes alive



The *OSCE Magazine*, which is also available online, is published in English and Russian by the Press and Public Information Section of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The

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.

Editor: Patricia N. Sutter

Designer: Nona Reuter

Printed by Manz Crossmedia

Please send comments and contributions to:

pat.sutter@osce.org *or* osce-magazine-at@osce.org

Press and Public Information Section

OSCE Secretariat

Wallnerstrasse 6

A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Tel.: (+43-1) 514 36-6278

Fax: (+43-1) 514 36-6105

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 2008: Finland

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*

Field Operations

South Caucasus

OSCE Office in Baku

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

Central Asia

OSCE Centre in Ashgabad

OSCE Centre in Astana

OSCE Centre in Bishkek

OSCE Centre in Dushanbe

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Eastern Europe

OSCE Office in Minsk

OSCE Mission to Moldova

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

South-eastern Europe

OSCE Presence in Albania

OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

OSCE Mission in Kosovo

OSCE Mission to Montenegro

OSCE Mission to Serbia

OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje

OSCE Office in Zagreb

Message from the Chairman of the Permanent Council

The year 2008 is bound to put the OSCE to the test: Our agenda is packed with a host of challenges that hold enormous implications for the goal of comprehensive security across the OSCE area.



OSCE/SUSANNA LOOF

I am pleased to note that the participating States have given broad support to the priority themes presented by the Finnish Chairmanship at the Permanent Council on 10 January and at a well-attended retreat a week later.

The work of the economic, security and human dimension committees is well under way, including follow-up action stemming from decisions at the meeting of the Ministerial Council in Madrid. The first segment of the Economic and Environmental Forum has just ended on an excellent note, having focused on the security, environmental and economic aspects of maritime and inland waterways co-operation.

The idea of a "quintet of chairmanships" is gaining ground. I am confident it will make an important contribution to planning in such areas as the fight against trafficking in human beings and to the shaping of our role in bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan.

The protracted conflicts in the OSCE area are of utmost concern to this Chairmanship. Foreign Minister Ilkka Kanerva has wasted no time in embarking on a series of official visits to key capitals to ensure continuity in the various negotiations. The lead story in the *OSCE Magazine* describes some of these early efforts.

A major issue that will preoccupy us in 2008 is the fate of a now disputed cornerstone of security in our region: the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. And, lest we forget, our broad range of commitments in the human dimension, including election observation, will also need our close attention.

In tackling all these issues, we should seize upon all available windows of opportunity for open and frank dialogue — thankfully, these are never in short supply in the OSCE.

As the Chairman of the Permanent Council in 2008, I very much hope that participating States will carry out this year's ambitious "to-do list" constructively and in the true spirit of Helsinki. The Chairmanship cannot do it alone. If we are truly sincere about strengthening the Organization and securing stability in the OSCE area, every single participating State will have to remain fully engaged and pursue its business in a flexible and consensus-building manner.

I look forward to our joint efforts and to sharing some of the encouraging results with a wider audience through outreach vehicles such as the *OSCE Magazine*. The articles in this issue on the *mélange-disposal* project in Armenia and on Montenegro's demilitarization programme provide ideal examples of how our work in the field is really making a difference.

Ambassador Antti Turunen
Vienna, March 2008

In this issue



2008 CHAIRMANSHIP

- 4 Finnish Chairmanship steels itself for “new era of risks and opportunities”
Martin Nesirky

MADRID MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

- 6 Intense consultations underscore value of dialogue
Dov Lynch
- 9 The OSCE news beat: Connecting the dots on the international agenda
Yutaka Ishiguro

ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

- 11 Armenia transforms mélange from ferocious rocket fuel to friendly fertilizer
Mikhail Evstafiev
- 14 Montenegro heralds new era of demilitarization
Patricia N. Sutter

DEMOCRATIZATION IN KOSOVO

- 18 Inheriting a rich legacy of electoral expertise from the OSCE
Drew Hyslop

RESTORATION AND RENEWAL



- 22 Wallnerstrasse no. 6 comes alive
Philip Hatton

26 APPOINTMENTS



www.osce.org

Front cover: A view of the contemporary wing of Wallnerstrasse no. 6, a few days after the OSCE Secretariat's move in December 2007. Photo: OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev
 Back cover: Open house reception for staff on 21 November 2007. © Ablinger, Vedral & Partner ZTGmbH



Fast-paced, low-fuss Finnish Chairmanship tackles “new era of risks and opportunities”

Belgrade, 5 February: The Diplomatic Club was the setting for a press briefing by Chairman-in-Office Ilkka Kanerva and Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremić before a meeting with Serbian President Boris Tadić and Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica. In Kosovo, the following day, Minister Kanerva held talks with Prime Minister Hashim Thaci and other officials. OSCE/Milan Obradović

By Martin Nesirky

When Finland took over the OSCE Chairmanship for 2008 and steered itself to lead the Organization through a year of tough challenges and exciting new opportunities, it vowed that its watchwords would be “continuity”, “coherence” and “co-operation”.

Now it has been swift to sprinkle some other refreshing elements into that alliterative mix.

To start with, it has demonstrated its determination, in a low-fuss manner, to lead

from the front by promptly tackling certain protracted conflicts in the OSCE region and by welcoming discussion on how to increase the Organization’s efficiency through evolutionary reform rather than through revolution.

Other moves have also shown that the Finns are not averse to risk. Its Chairmanship-launching concert in Vienna’s august *Konzerthaus*, for example, featured the edgy Iiro Rantala jazz trio, who were enthusiastically received by members of the Secretariat and representatives of participating States.

“We are not living in an OSCE vacuum but in a world that is entering a new era of risks and opportunities,” the Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Ilkka Kanerva, told the Permanent Council on 10 January. “I believe that this Organization *can* and *will* continue to shape the development of security across wider Europe.”

His speech and news conference allowed him to sketch out Finland’s priorities for the year (see left) and to identify the areas in which the Chairmanship sees those risks and opportunities.

The Minister said that the continuing deadlock in the negotiations concerning the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe posed serious risks to common security in the OSCE area.

Finland’s priorities in 2008

- 】 Conflict prevention and crisis management
- 】 Action to check the illicit spread of small arms and light weapons
- 】 Developing plans to improve border management and security, including the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan
- 】 Enhancing maritime and inland waterways co-operation
- 】 Promoting human rights (2008 is the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- 】 Combating trafficking in human beings, with a focus on identifying child victims and protecting children
- 】 Fighting intolerance, including discrimination against Roma and Sinti
- 】 Intensifying efforts to integrate gender issues into the mainstream of the OSCE’s activities



MYKOLA LAZARENKO/PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT

Kyiv, 16 January:
Chairman-in-Office Ilkka Kanerva with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko

“We should seek at all costs to avoid an erosion of the Treaty regime,” he said.

Kosovo — home to the OSCE’s largest field operation — would feature prominently in the Organization’s agenda this year, Minister Kanerva said, making it clear that he favoured the OSCE remaining active there.

He appealed to all participating States to co-operate closely with the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in what looks set to be a busy election year.

“Election observation by the OSCE has become a divisive issue among participating States, but it need not remain so,” he said. “In my view, election monitoring should be seen as a helpful tool to a host country, not as a confrontational labelling machine.”

The Chairman-in-Office, a veteran politician who entered parliament in 1975, the year the Helsinki Final Act was signed, said that the security challenges now being faced made political dialogue — the OSCE’s hallmark — all the more important. While it was natural for this dialogue to be heated, it should always remain respectful.

Within a few days of his Vienna visit, which included meetings with NGOs and heads of OSCE field operations and institutions, he took his message with him on the road.

In Kyiv on 15 and 16 January, the Chairman-in-Office met Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, Foreign Minister Volodymyr Ogrzyzko and other officials and said the OSCE was keen to continue working on practical projects in Ukraine that would



OSCE/MIKHAIL LEVSTAFIEV

Heikki Talvitie, Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, was the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus from July 2003 to February 2006. From 1995 to 1996, he served as Co-Chairman of the Minsk Group, which spearheads the OSCE’s efforts to find a solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

He has been Finland’s Ambassador in Belgrade (1984-1988), in Moscow (1988-1992), where he was also accredited to Mongolia, and in Stockholm (1996-2002). Earlier diplomatic postings took him to Moscow, The Hague and New York, where he was a member of the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations.

From 1993 to 1996, Ambassador Talvitie served as Under-Secretary of State. From 1982 to 1984, he was his country’s representative on the UN Human Rights Commission.

Teija Helena Tiilikainen, State Secretary in the Finnish Foreign Ministry since 2007, is a political scientist who has held various positions in the academic and research community. She is currently on leave of absence as Director of the Network for European Studies of the University of Helsinki. She has lectured and undertaken extensive research on European security matters, notably at the National Defence College.

Ms. Tiilikainen is a columnist for leading regional newspapers and has served as Editor-in-Chief of *Politiikka*, Finland’s main political science journal. From 1997 to 2001 she served as Chairperson, and later General Secretary, of the Forum for European Security.

She has also served as a mentor and representative of the Finnish Government at the European Convention (2002-2003).



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Chisinau, 17 January: With Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin



Tiraspol, 17 January: With Transdniestrian leader Igor Smirnov

support the country. He also took time out to meet staff at the offices of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator and at the Finnish embassy next door.

Minister Kanerva and his small delegation then took a scheduled flight to Odessa to visit the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), which provides the two countries with technical and other advice as they seek to improve the management of their common border. The OSCE, with its field operations in Ukraine and Moldova and long experience in the region, co-operates closely with the EU Mission. Finland's particular interest in border security made this an important stopover.

Early that evening, the Finnish Minister took a fast-paced stroll to see Odessa's Potemkin Stairs and renovated Opera House before travelling by road to the Ukraine-Moldova border at Palanka and on to Chisinau, the Moldovan capital, for dinner with OSCE staff and members of NGOs.

In meetings the next day with Moldovan President Vladimir Voronin in Chisinau

and the leadership of Moldova's breakaway Transdniestrian region in Tiraspol, Minister Kanerva called for the resumption of settlement talks. He welcomed recent signs that both sides were open to good-faith dialogue, and told reporters he was ready to return to the region if that would help the process.

As announced in his speech in Vienna, Minister Kanerva visited Belgrade and Pristina on 5 and 6 February.

In the meantime, the Chairman-in-Office — who has put conflict prevention and crisis management at the core of Finland's Chairmanship — plans to take to the road again to visit the South Caucasus for talks on other protracted conflicts.

Back at home, Finland is keen to capitalize on the decision at the Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid that gave forthcoming Chairmanships to Greece (2009), Kazakhstan (2010) and Lithuania (2011). Minister Kanerva plans to invite the Foreign Ministers of these three participating States and Spain, last year's Chair, for "quintet" talks to help identify common priorities for longer-term planning.

"We need to build on the strengths of the OSCE and to ensure that its work in all the various fields of activity is well planned," he said.

Minister Kanerva said a pessimist would say old ghosts were returning to haunt Europe, while an optimist would point to the growing interaction between States and societies.

"I myself remain an optimist," he said, "but this will not be enough. We will need an injection of optimism and positive spirit in order to utilize the OSCE in the best possible way."

Martin Nesirky is OSCE Spokesperson and Head of the Press and Public Information Section.

Belgrade, 5 February:
With Serbian President
Boris Tadić



Madrid Ministerial

Intense consultations underscore value of dialogue

By Dov Lynch

The fifteenth meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council opened at Madrid's *Palacio Municipal de Congresos* on 29 November 2007 against a challenging backdrop. The full agenda featured possible decisions about future Chairmanships, ambitious ideas for taking the Organization's work into new areas, and discussions among participating States about the implementation of existing commitments — most prominently, those related to election observation and the future of the OSCE's activities in Kosovo.

"I have been guided by the desire to restore the Organization's value as a forum for dialogue in which measures to promote security and co-operation are discussed and agreed upon," said Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos in his final statement as Chairman-in-Office.

This spirit cleared the way for agreement on a number of significant issues. Notably, a decision was made that provides an unprecedented calendar of future OSCE chairmanships: Greece will assume the Chair in 2009, followed by Kazakhstan in 2010 and Lithuania in 2011. For the first time in the history of the Organization, participating States have a clear view of their leadership for the next four years.

This widens the scope for multi-year planning and augurs well for greater co-ordination and continuity, as the new Finnish Chairmanship has already realized. Clearly, this is a rare moment to be seized.

Furthermore, the decision to confer a chairmanship on Kazakhstan — the first Central Asian State and the first former Soviet republic to be given this responsibility — opens up enormous opportunities for raising the Organization's profile in a region whose contribution to security and stability in the OSCE area is steadily growing in importance.

The two-day meeting also spotlighted the subject of interaction between the participating States and the Asian and Mediterranean

Partners for Co-operation. By way of a Declaration, the Ministers called for a deepening of relations and welcomed a decision of the Permanent Council to establish a Partnership Fund.

In a related development, participating States agreed to step up the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan, one of the Organization's 11 partner States, by intensifying action to help secure and manage its borders with Central Asian countries, to train police, and to support the fight against drug trafficking. In response, the Secretary General has already created a task force in the Secretariat to take this decision forward in 2008.

In the politico-military dimension, the Foreign Ministers agreed on measures to strengthen the OSCE's role in the struggle against terrorism, such as encouraging public-private partnerships to counter terrorism and protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks. They also issued a statement in support of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Madrid, 29 November 2007: Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero (right) and the outgoing OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister Miguel Ángel Moratinos, at the start of the fifteenth meeting of the Ministerial Council. Photo: OSCE/ Mikhail Evstafiev





OSCE/FELIX CORCHADO



OSCE/MIKHAIL EVSTAFIEV



OSCE/MIKHAIL EVSTAFIEV

The OSCE Chairmanships for 2009, 2010 and 2011 were represented in Madrid by Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis, Kazakh Foreign Minister Marat Tazhin and Lithuanian Foreign Minister Petras Vaitiekūnas. Congratulating them, the Spanish Chairmanship said the willingness of the three countries to be flexible made the arrangement possible.

A comprehensive decision on the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation called for a strengthening of implementation efforts in such areas as confidence- and security-building measures, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition.

In the dimension covering economic and environmental aspects of security, participating States agreed to a Declaration that was unequivocal in its affirmation of the link between security and the environment. Another decision was reached making water management the topic for follow-up to the fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum held in January and May 2007.

In the human dimension, Madrid produced decisions aimed at fostering tolerance and non-discrimination, combating sexual exploitation of children over the Internet, and combating trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation.

The Madrid meeting featured one interesting innovation: The Chairman-in-Office hosted a Ministerial working lunch, which by all accounts provided a relaxed setting for active and open debate between the Foreign Ministers. The OSCE's role in Kosovo dominated the lively exchange of opinions, in which Ministers from south-eastern Europe and beyond made sure their voices were heard. Many delegations expressed the hope that the event would be the start of a new OSCE tradition.

Not surprisingly, the meeting did not resolve every single outstanding issue — for instance, Ministers did not approve a draft convention on the OSCE's international legal personality, legal capacity, and privileges and immunities. However, this in

no way detracted from the richness of the dialogue.

On the margins of the meeting — in line with the Spanish Chairmanship's view that it should not shy away from relevant political issues, no matter how controversial — intense consultations took place on the future of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

The Chairmanship team relentlessly pursued consensus on a Ministerial Declaration — the last time one was issued was in 2002 — and came close to the mark. In the end, however, full agreement was not reached on a final text.

All in all, however, the Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid was a successful one: It provided answers to key questions about the future and set new directions for the Organization's work. The Spanish Chairmanship demonstrated the unique role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue among its 56 participating States within a framework of shared values.

In this light, the parting words of Chairman-in-Office Miguel Ángel Moratinos merit consideration: "I am more convinced than ever that we need to convene a summit of Heads of State or Government, so that they will have to commit themselves to moving things forward, to imparting a decisive and firm thrust to our work, and to adapting the OSCE to the twenty-first century."

Given the wealth of challenges faced by the Organization and the fact that summits are normal events for other international organizations, perhaps the time has come to consider holding such a high-level gathering.

Dov Lynch is Senior Adviser in the Office of the Secretary General.

The OSCE news beat

Connecting the dots on the international agenda



By Yutaka Ishiguro

The high-level event in Madrid last November was the third annual meeting of OSCE Foreign Ministers that I have had the opportunity to cover for my paper, Japan's most widely read daily. Compared to the earlier ones I had been to — in Sofia in 2004 and in Ljubljana in 2005 — I thought Madrid was more exciting, at least from a journalistic point of view.

First of all, the timing of the Ministerial Council meeting was crucial: It was taking place just a few days before the Russian Federation's parliamentary election on 2 December, which had been much discussed in the media. On 16 November, the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) had announced that it regretted its inability to send an observation mission to Moscow because of what it described as delays and restrictions. Russian authorities had rejected that claim.

At the same time, everyone was holding their breath, given that Russia had earlier threatened to suspend its implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, frequently referred to as the "cornerstone of European security". Although

not an OSCE document, the 15-year-old CFE Treaty was negotiated in parallel with confidence-building talks at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe — the OSCE's forerunner.

The press corps did not expect a major breakthrough on any of these issues at the Madrid meeting. We did, however, expect a heated debate among Foreign Ministers — a record number of whom were present — from which we could glean at least some hints of what to expect in the coming months.

Many participating States spoke forcefully about the importance of the role of ODIHR in maintaining democracy and of the role of the CFE Treaty in maintaining peace and stability in Europe.

For his part, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emphasized Moscow's openness to the dialogue "in the quest for a mutually acceptable solution".

We now know that Russia would

About 200 journalists converged in Madrid to cover the annual gathering of OSCE Foreign Ministers. Photo: OSCE/Felix Corchado





Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his staff on their way to brief the press.

U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns in Madrid (to be succeeded by William J. Burns in March)

go on to hold parliamentary polls on 2 December without ODIHR observers and suspend its participation in the CFE Treaty on 12 December, just two weeks after the Ministerial Council meeting.

For those of us who cover the OSCE regularly, it became clear in Madrid that the difficult themes being tackled by the Organization were closely interlinked with one another. We tried to discern — justifiably or not — how a participating State that had made a concession in one area might be wanting to use that as a bargaining chip to boost its position in another area.

Although the intense discussions on the sidelines of the meeting did not result in any compromises on the CFE Treaty, we heard unconfirmed rumours that Russia and other key countries were engaged in behind-the-scenes negotiations in which some of the major themes were reportedly at stake. However, as anyone who follows the world of politics and diplomacy knows, contentious issues are never solved in one forum.

Still, many of us in the press cannot help but speculate that a “grand bargain” is not such a far-fetched prospect. This would involve settlement of all outstanding issues between the United States and its allies on the one hand, and Russia and its allies on the other — the CFE Treaty, Kosovo, Iran and so on — in one big package. If such a historic scenario unfolds, it will mean a huge reporting challenge for us, which is why the Ministerial meeting in Madrid was an opportunity for us to investigate the potential for such a development.

Kosovo is, of course, an overriding theme in 2008 for Vienna-based foreign correspondents. In Madrid, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov criticized what he labelled the “over-hastiness” of certain countries in

their attempt to grant independent status to Kosovo.

Kosovo residents of all ethnicities know only too well that their fate lies within the broader context of international diplomacy. One local journalist I talked with recently in Pristina lamented the fact that Kosovo’s fate was in the hands of major powers, with the province being “used like a pawn in a chess game”.

The long-term future of the 1,000-strong OSCE Mission in Kosovo is a topic that we are watching keenly — and again, we know that the matter is not being dealt with in isolation but in relation with all the other seemingly unrelated hot issues currently on the international agenda.

Overall, although the OSCE does not always provide journalists with headline news, keeping track of what happens within the Organization — whether it is in the capital of the Chairmanship, or in the *Neuer Saal* in Vienna — helps us provide our readers with intelligent, well-informed and, one hopes, reliable reports.



Since 2004, Yutaka Ishiguro has been the Vienna-based correspondent of *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which, with a circulation of 10 million, is Japan’s leading daily newspaper. He is one of about a dozen Japanese journalists in Austria.



In 1993, when Lt. Colonel Norik Mkhitarian took over the command of a military storage complex near Kaltakhchi, a village nestled in the mountains of northern Armenia, he had no idea about the enormity of the burden that would fall on his shoulders. Besides serving as a depot for gasoline and diesel supplies, the tightly guarded fenced-off area now under his responsibility was also host to nearly 900 tonnes of an extremely dangerous liquid oxidizer — a veritable ticking time-bomb.

Taming the beast

From ferocious fuel to friendly fertilizer

By **Mikhail Evstafiev**

Mélange is the deceptively gentle-sounding name for the highly toxic substance that was widely used by the Soviet Forces as one of two components to propel small- and medium-range rockets. Although the nitrogen-based oxidizer is not flammable alone, it causes spontaneous combustion when it comes into contact with water or anything organic such as paper, oil or leather.

Today, long after the rockets were put out of commission, an estimated 20,000 metric tonnes of the nitrogen-based mélange are still stored in decaying vats and containers in countries such as Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The safe disposal of the unwanted stocks, now largely unusable, entails a costly and delicate tailor-made operation and can only be entrusted to a small circle of specialists,

most of whom were trained between 1970 and 1990.

Armenia was among the first in line to approach the OSCE for technical and financial assistance to rid itself of its menacing stocks of mélange. The authorities knew only too well that the slightest mishap could prove fatal for area residents and their environment. The stainless steel containers had long started to corrode, and their covers were no longer as secure as they had been. The fact that the noxious substance was evaporating into the atmosphere and seeping into the ground could no longer be ignored. The region's seismic pattern made matters even more worrisome: On 7 December 1988, a powerful earthquake had killed more than 25,000 people in the area surrounding the depot.

PRACTICAL CO-OPERATION

“The determined political will of the Armenian authorities to solve this serious security and environmental issue paved the way for an outstanding example of high-impact practical co-operation between the OSCE and a participating State,” said Jeannette Kloetzer. As the Economics and Environmental Officer in the Office of Yerevan, she led the team that developed the mélange disposal project and monitored its implementation from start to finish.

Kaltakhchi, September 2007: Project manager Jeannette Kloetzer on one of her regular visits to the mélange-to-fertilizer plant site. Photo: OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev

Once the United States, Finland, Germany and Canada had pledged a total of €1.3 million for the project, it was all systems go in 2005, recalled Ms. Kloetzer, who is now Deputy Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana. The OSCE and its implementing partner, the Armenian Ministry of Defence, agreed to the terms of their working relationship. German, Georgian and Russian experts were called in to spearhead a study on what exactly needed to be done. Alongside Armenian specialists, they identified the most suitable method for recycling the *mélange* in the safest, most economical, and most environmentally sound way, and later monitored the process closely.

“On 6 September 2007, just a little more than a year after the recycling plant went into operation, Major General Tigran Gasparyan, the project’s chief co-ordinator from the Ministry of Defence, was able to pronounce Armenia *mélange*-free,” said Politico-Military Officer Matthieu Goodstein, who was a vital member of the Yerevan team and is now with the OSCE Mission to Georgia.

“But not only that: the entire stock of 872 tonnes was recycled into 4,972 tonnes of harmless sodium nitrate, a mineral dressing, which was then sprayed across 1,243 hectares of agricultural land to improve its composition and fertility.”

“This must be at least Ms. Kloetzer’s fiftieth visit to the *mélange* site,” said Ruben Barseghyan, our driver, as we entered the military base in Lori province after a 120-km trip from Yerevan. It was September 2007, just in time to see the project’s final activities.

Environmentally-friendly mineral dressing was sprayed on agricultural fields, producing a bumper crop for the area’s farmers.



OSCE/MIKHAIL EVSTAFIEV

Armenian Viktor Wuchrer, the project’s senior scientific expert, ensured that the recycling process met the highest safety and security standards.

The project’s leading national expert, Lt. Col. Viktor Wuchrer, who served as chief of production, briefed his first-time visitors on the main object of their curiosity — a complex maze of steel reservoirs, pumps and pipes.

“This was specially designed to take several factors into account: the three different types of *mélange* and their specific characteristics, their quantity and condition, the storage site, which is at an altitude of 2,000 metres, and the climate,” he said.

Walking us around the semi-industrial plant, he described how the *mélange* stocks were carefully transferred from their deteriorating containers by way of underground pipes into the plant’s recycling units, which neutralized the substance with lime milk and transformed it into liquid mineral soil dressing — a sodium nitrate known as “Norge Niter”.

“Since there are no common standards in *mélange* disposal, our experts continue to build on their experience,” said Ms. Kloetzer. “They adapted the environmentally-friendly technology that was used in a pioneering OSCE activity in Georgia in 2002. That project neutralized 450 tonnes of *mélange* and transformed it into mineral dressing that proved ideal for western Georgia’s acidic soil.”

The “taming of the beast” was how Lt.-Col. Wuchrer described the process in Armenia.

“We were always walking a thin line, expecting surprises,” he said. “We took every precautionary measure known to us. We watched every single step to ensure that we met the highest European safety and

OSCE/NATALYA BABINYAN

security standards set out in our Quality Assurance Plan. We made sure that personnel went through medical check-ups twice a day. An ambulance and emergency personnel were always on standby.”

Indeed, a heavily leaking storage tank containing 100 cubic metres of mélange would wipe out biological life within a range of two kilometres. The danger zone spreads over a distance of 25 km and the cloud of nitrogen oxide and nitric acid vapours would reach a distance of 80 km. Direct contact with mélange or inhalation of its fumes causes considerable harm to the eyes, the skin, mucous membranes and the respiratory system, and can also lead to cancer.

DOUBTING THOMASES

Meanwhile, another struggle was taking place, one aimed at winning the hearts and minds of the community.

As originally envisaged, the mineral dressing was to be distributed to four surrounding villages in co-ordination with the Ministry for Nature Protection and the area’s local farmers themselves. Priority would be given to those who had part-time jobs at the installation.

Farmers Sasun Mkrtchian, Vagan Nazarian and Avetik Kocharian described how sceptical they initially were about the benefits promised by the mélange-to-fertilizer conversion scheme. They had heard that the process needed vast amounts of water and were apprehensive about what would happen to their agricultural fields and livestock if there was a water shortage. Another legitimate concern was that the mineral dressing being offered to them for free would actually end up ruining their wheat crops and forage.

“To demonstrate that it was perfectly harmless, I would place my hands under the processed liquid as it flowed through a hose from the recycling plant into a truck,” said Fyodor Abadzhev, the project’s chief engineer. Asked if there was any truth to the rumour that he also had to drink a full glass to bring any Doubting Thomases to his side, he merely responded with good-humoured laughter.

In the end, the farmers became the most ardent advocates of the scheme. “Surprisingly, the results turned out to be great,” said Vagan Nazarian. “In 2005, I harvested about three tonnes of crops from one hectare of land; in 2006, after I applied the fertilizer, this went up to about four and a half tonnes.”

“Now the farmers are suggesting that more mélange should be delivered to the region from other countries, so they can get



Kaltakhchi, October 2007: U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE, Julie Finley, tours the mélange-destruction plant with Major General Tigran Gasparyan and Ambassador Vladimir Pryakhin, former Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan (now Head of the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe).

hold of more of this free fertilizer!” said Lt. Col. Wuchrer.

To the delight of its donors, the “Armenian-OSCE model” is now being held up as a showcase of effective practices in the highly specialized area of mélange disposal.

And it’s not just because of the choice of appropriate technology. “The project employed more than 40 Armenians from a wide range of occupations, which boosted the level of the country’s expertise,” Ms. Kloetzer said.

Two Armenian experts in the team — the head of production and the chief engineer — are now able to lend their skills to other countries facing a mélange-disposal dilemma. The professionalism of the Environmental Studies staff of the National Academy of Sciences came to the fore: They meticulously tested the mineral dressing, the fertilized soil and the agricultural yield, and confirmed the environmental soundness of the conversion process and its by-product.

“Since about 90 per cent of the more than €1 million budget was spent in the region, managing the project and monitoring its performance posed an unprecedented challenge to the OSCE Office in Yerevan,” said Jeannette Kloetzer. “It served as a welcome opportunity for us to strengthen our ability to oversee project quality, while practising financial discipline and transparency. What was extremely satisfying for everyone was the strong sense of being one with a team of people who believed that nothing but the best results would do.”

Mikhail Evstafiev is a Press Officer in the OSCE Secretariat’s Press and Public Information Section.



A military band struck up a spirited march at the sprawling Masline military barracks in Podgorica, the Montenegrin capital, lending a festive note to the occasion. Army personnel escorted parliamentarians, ambassadors, defence and military attaches, and journalists to their seats under a cosy makeshift grandstand designed to shield them from the blazing sun. The guests had gathered on 3 July 2007 at the invitation of Montenegro's defence establishment to witness a curious ceremony, the likes of which they had never seen before: the start of the manual dismantling of sixty-one T-55 main battle tanks to turn them into scrap metal.

OSCE

Breaking with the past

Montenegro heralds a new era of demilitarization

By Patricia N. Sutter

“Today we have delivered on our promise,” said Minister of Defence Boro Vučinić, looking visibly pleased and relieved as several men in protective gear clambered up two tanks and set their cutting torches in motion.

He was referring to a promise made at another auspicious occasion three months earlier when the Ministry of Defence, the OSCE and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed the terms of their working partnership under the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM). The OSCE's contribution to this ambitious €4.3-million project is mobilizing political and financial support and providing expert technical assistance, while the UNDP is responsible for the programme's operational aspects.

“We said at that time that we would launch this joint initiative with a tank-cutting ceremony to show the world that we were seriously committed to joining NATO's shared system of defence and making our armed forces smaller and more efficient, more professional and more suited to our needs,” the Minister said. “We will keep moving in this direction of reform.”

Montenegro's leaders could not have chosen a more powerful image to convey the message that their country was poised for a new era of peace and prosperity. The T-55 main battle tank, originally designed during the Cold War era, was a colossal and ubiquitous presence in many of the world's troubled zones, including the Western Balkans.

At independence, when the country found itself with an impressive fleet of 61 of these 42-tonne “antiques”, as the UNDP called



Garret Tankosić Kelly (UNDP), Defence Minister Boro Vučinić and Paraschiva Badescu (OSCE) celebrate the launching of Montenegro's demilitarization programme at a tank-cutting ceremony. Photos: OSCE

them, it did not take long for the Ministry of Defence to acknowledge that keeping this Yugoslav National Army legacy alive simply did not make sense.

“Each tank costs Montenegro about €15,000 a year to guard and maintain,” said Adrian Wilkinson, Project Manager of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, which carried out a technical study of Montenegro’s ammunition at the UNDP’s request. “That’s nearly a million euros a year for tanks that aren’t even suitable for Montenegro’s mountainous terrain.”

MARKED DEPARTURE

“Tank-cutting represents a marked departure from previous ammunition disposal activities in the region,” said Garret Tankosić Kelly, UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro, noting the unusual nature of the activity. “The country should be applauded for leading the way in the twenty-first century by discarding these expensive heavy weapons systems of the past.”

“The great thing about this part of the programme is that the metal from the surplus heavy weaponry — 61 tanks, 7 armoured combat vehicles and 84 artillery pieces — is being converted into scrap, said Ambassador Paraschiva Badescu, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro. “Because the metal is of very high quality and rich in nickel content, a local steel foundry has agreed to buy it for €400,000. The Ministry of Defence has wisely decided to use some





Ageing containers with stocks of liquid rocket propellant loom threateningly over the otherwise picture-perfect Bay of Kotor. Photos: OSCE/ Anton Martynyuk

of the proceeds to defray the full cost of the project, estimated at €100,000. The rest will be channelled to help finance other MONDEM activities.”

Indeed, although demolition of the large fleet of tanks has attracted its fair share of media attention — CNN, for one, broadcast a report — it is only one element in Montenegro’s bold and well-calculated quest for demilitarization.

The programme’s four projects are expected to boost the country’s human and environmental security, its counter-proliferation policy, its confidence- and security-building measures, and its strategy to bring its small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition under control. “These are all in keeping with the spirit of Montenegro’s comprehensive partnership with the OSCE,” said Ambassador Badescu.

The lion’s share of the budget will be spent on destroying almost 10,000 tonnes of surplus conventional ammunition, radically reducing Montenegro’s stockpile from about 12,000 to 2,000 tonnes and enabling the Ministry of Defence to reduce its overflowing storage depots from ten to three. The OSCE is currently in the midst of an energetic fund-raising drive for this massive task, with firm pledges received so far from Belgium, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Spain.

TOXIC WASTE

Vice Admiral Dragan Samardžić, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Montenegro (now Assistant Minister for Material Resources), said he was particularly keen for the joint programme to tackle another crucial task: “As you know, Montenegro is very ecologically-minded,” he said, “which is why getting rid of 128 tonnes of toxic waste materials — using the best and safest possible technical solution under the guidance of the OSCE — is also a priority for us.”

“It does not sound particularly urgent until you realize where these hazardous substances are kept, the poor conditions in which they are stored, and the very real danger they pose to people’s health and livelihood, and to the pristine natural environment,” said OSCE expert Anton Martynyuk.

About 88 tonnes of *mélange oxidizer* and 40 tonnes of Tonka fuel (TG-02), both highly polluting liquid propellants for missiles, are stored in Pristan, right on the edge of the densely populated Kotor Bay.

On a visit to the *mélange* site in September 2007, an OSCE team confirmed that something had to be done — and fast. Several of the aluminum containers and steel

drums are kept outdoors, exposed to the elements and variable weather conditions, and loom threateningly over Montenegro's otherwise picture-perfect, UNESCO-protected bay.

This chemical waste disposal project is now fully funded by the Netherlands through the UNDP and by Liechtenstein through the OSCE.

"The relatively small amounts of mélange involved make it a real challenge to attract companies to bid for the disposal job," said Mr. Martynyuk. "As with other MONDEM projects, we hope to be able to come up with the most environmentally friendly and cost-effective solution."

But how did the Montenegrin public — not to mention members of the military — feel about the disappearance of symbols of power and might? It's a question that the Minister of Defence and his staff seemed to welcome.

Speaking candidly about Montenegrins' "emotional relationship" with weapons, Defence Minister Vučinić said it had a lot to do with "our long and proud tradition of trying our best to preserve our freedom".

He was optimistic, however, that people would understand the country's need to face up to the "heavy burden" of its surplus weapons — "visible reminders of our unpleasant past" — and turn its attention to economic development.

"We simply have to solve this by the end of 2009," he said, "which is why we are so grateful to the OSCE, the UNDP and the other donors who are assisting us to reach this goal under MONDEM."

"No doubt, tanks and heavy armaments have always symbolized strong armed forces and have been a source of great pride," Vice Admiral Samardžić added, as the first long-barrelled gun dropped to the ground with a loud thud, to hearty applause from the distinguished guests. "But from now on, the strongest weapons in a modern Montenegro shall not be its armaments and ammunition but its policies and its attitudes."

Patricia N. Sutter is the Editor of the OSCE Magazine.



Podgorica, 21 December 2007 – The demilitarization of Montenegro is proceeding satisfactorily, according to the Supervisory Board and Executive Committee of the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme at a meeting today that was chaired by Defence Minister Boro Vučinić. Donor financial support has now exceeded €2.5 million, more than the halfway mark of the €4.3 million programme. The Taras ammunition depot, some 30 km from

Podgorica, has been identified as one of three depots to benefit from upgrading under the programme.

The tank-cutting has been successfully completed, with sixty T-55 battle tanks being melted for scrap at the steel mill in Nikšić (see photo), resulting in an income of €407,000 for demilitarization activities.

Only one tank has remained intact. It now occupies a special place in Montenegro's military museum. — P. N. Sutter



Kosovo: Inheriting a rich legacy of electoral expertise from the OSCE

By Drew Hyslop

In the early hours of 17 November 2007, all across Kosovo, more than 2,000 polling stations opened their doors to allow the 1.5 million-strong electorate to choose who would represent them at three levels of governance: in the Assembly of Kosovo, which is the highest elected body of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, in the Municipal Assemblies, and as municipal mayors.

Although the world's attention has long since shifted back to what happens next in Kosovo, it is worth looking at the significance of what was achieved on that November day. Without much fanfare, the OSCE played a dynamic role behind the scenes, helping to ensure that the elections went as smoothly as possible, that they met international standards, and — given the tight lead time — that they could take place at all.

Supporting election administration is nothing new for the OSCE. Since overseeing

its first election in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1996, the Organization has continually been involved in assisting emerging democracies across the former Yugoslavia to fulfil their freshly agreed electoral commitments. At the heart of these efforts is the transfer of skills and know-how to local and national officials so that they are able to carry out election operations themselves.

In Kosovo, handling the mammoth task of organizing elections has been part of the OSCE's role for the past eight years: The year 2000 saw the OSCE, as the "pillar" responsible for this area under the United Nations-led interim administration, organizing Kosovo's first democratic elections and helping to launch a domestic election management structure.

Over the years, the Organization has been building local skills and slowly but surely handing over responsibility to Kosovo authorities. During non-election years, the focus has turned to strengthening the Central Election Commission, the independent, locally-run multi-ethnic body charged

Counting ballots in Bukosh,
Suharekë/Suva Reka
Municipality.
Photo: OSCE/Hasan Sopa

with organizing elections. Members of the Commission's Secretariat, which is its operational arm, have also been benefiting from OSCE support through specialized training courses and a wide range of activities designed to improve their professionalism.

The year 2007 — three years after the previous elections — was meant to have been a turning point in this partnership. The Commission, while still under the chairmanship of the OSCE Head of Mission, was to assume nearly full responsibility for election administration, with the role of OSCE experts being limited to monitoring and providing advice.

However, the delayed call for the November elections — which, largely on account of political uncertainties related to status talks, were announced only on 31 August — meant that the OSCE had to take on much more responsibility for the 2007 polls than was initially foreseen. The OSCE Mission reacted quickly, hiring an additional 136 short-term staff members especially to reinforce its assistance to the Election Commission.

“Handling any election is complex enough under the best of circumstances, but holding three elections simultaneously with less than three months’ lead time was an extremely challenging undertaking,” said Hugh Fulton, Director of the Elections Department of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.

Another concern was the early onset of winter and the potential impact of freezing temperatures on roads and services — these



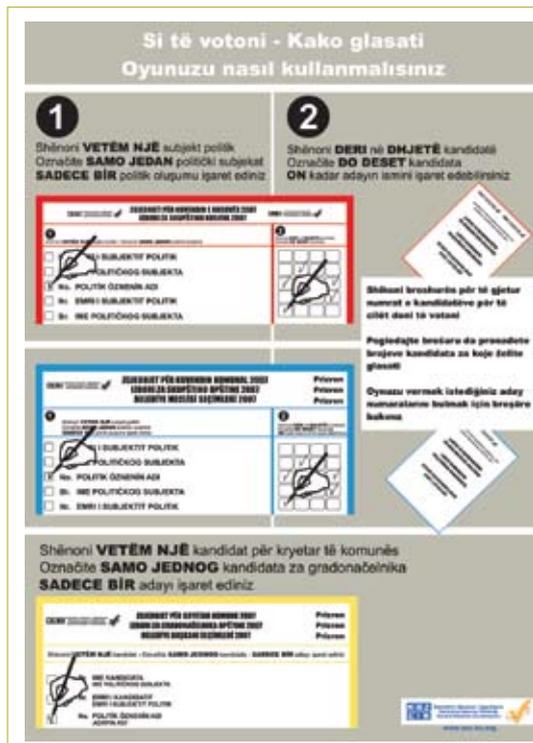
OSCE/MASANI SCIPA

could have thrown off the best-laid plans, such as those related to the timing of the arrival of ballots and their distribution.

Shortly after announcing the November date of the elections, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Kosovo, Joachim Ruecker, met the OSCE's election staff. While he acknowledged that the elections would “undoubtedly be a challenging operation from a political and technical point of view”, he added that he was “reassured that the Central Election Commission, supported by the OSCE, is fully committed to making the elections a success”.

The OSCE Mission and its local electoral partners felt they could not afford to fail. The team was aware that any flaws in the administrative machinery could be used as a

The OSCE-run Counting and Results Centre in Pristina received high marks from international observers.



A wide range of information material in Albanian, Serbian and Turkish languages, and sometimes in Roma, was crucial to educating the public about the triple elections on 17 November.



Polling day at the Plementina camp for internally displaced Roma: To guard against double voting, an election official uses ultraviolet light to do a routine check of the invisible ink mark on a voter's hand.



OSCE/HASAN SOPA



OSCE/HASAN SOPA

Hashim Thaci, President of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (now Prime Minister), casts his vote.

convenient scapegoat against the politically charged backdrop surrounding the talks on Kosovo's future status and rumours of boycotts by some communities.

"As we went through the daunting list of tasks, we often felt that the chances of failing were much greater than the chances of succeeding," said Bujar Basha, an OSCE election expert from Kosovo, "but by sparing no effort, we succeeded in delivering the goods."

Within slightly less than ten weeks — half the ideal preparatory period — the OSCE Mission and the Central Election Commission managed to complete the following flurry of activities:

- Processing and certifying 7,921 candidates belonging to 96 political entities, the result being that all communities across Kosovo's 30 municipalities were represented;
- Translating these candidatures into 61 different ballots: for each of the 30 municipalities, one ballot for the Municipal Assembly election, a second ballot for the mayoral race, and another ballot for the Kosovo Assembly vote;
- Printing in Kosovo and Slovenia of nearly 7 million ballots with tight security con-

trols, along with more than 50,000 brochures presenting the candidates; and

- Distributing these ballots to 2,323 polling stations.

Beyond ballot production and distribution, the Central Electoral Commission and the OSCE also took charge of:

- Drafting the electoral framework, which encompassed procedures on the entire election process, campaign and campaign-finance rules, codes of conduct, and rules for observers;
- Preparing and updating voters' lists;
- Training 170 field personnel to educate the public on a new "open list" system, which allowed voting for individual candidates as well as for the political entity;
- Accrediting almost 26,000 local and international observers; and
- Ensuring that polling stations were ready with their security arrangements, voting procedures and election materials.

"Despite the late call, the domestic electoral administration, together with essential support from the international community, succeeded in putting into place the necessary arrangements to enable them to hold the elections in a timely manner," the Council

Mobile polls

Addressing sensitive, ethnicity-related political issues has always been part and parcel of co-ordinating elections in Kosovo. On 17 November 2007, the OSCE made every effort, as in previous polls, to enable residents from all municipalities to cast their ballots. In the face of possible boycotts, vehicles were on standby to serve as mobile polling stations, ready with trained international election officials to rush to any location where a polling station did not open.

"Because of the OSCE's Kosovo-wide network of field offices, we managed to solve security and other organizational constraints and to deploy 16 teams to make it easy for voters in every municipality to cast a ballot," said Alastair Livingston, Head of the Regional Office in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë.



AFRIM HAJRULLAHU/OSCE

A decade's worth of electoral experience

Reacting quickly to support authorities in strengthening democratic institutions is what the OSCE does best. In the specialized area of election administration, the OSCE can boast a formidable record in the western Balkans:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

1996 General election
1997 Municipal election
1997 National Assembly election in Republika Srpska
1998 General election
2000 General and Municipal elections

Kosovo

2000 Municipal election
2001 Central Assembly election
2002 Municipal election
2004 Central Assembly election
2007 Central Assembly, municipal and mayoral elections, and mayoral second-round run-off election



OSCE/JASAN SOJKA

Voters cast three types of ballots: for the Assembly of Kosovo, for Municipal Assemblies and for municipal mayors.

of Europe said in a preliminary statement on 18 November.

The overwhelming majority of the Council of Europe's 150 election observers evaluated the voting process in positive terms, describing it as peaceful and as having been "administered in an efficient manner with a high degree of transparency".

"Although there were no blaring newspaper headlines in the wake of another impressive performance by the OSCE in the field of elections, we felt secure in the knowledge that we had made it possible for all the people of Kosovo to have a say in their future," said Hugh Fulton. "The ability of the election team to carry out

almost every aspect of an election had been severely put to the test under the most trying of circumstances, for which they should be commended."

"Despite the very short preparation time, which made it difficult, I am fully convinced that it was a good decision to have the elections because it was important that the local representatives involved in the talks on Kosovo's status should have a firm, or a democratically reconfirmed, mandate," said Ambassador Tim Guldemann, Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo.

He hoped that the OSCE's support and advice would continue to be an important element in the Central Election Commission's ongoing learning process, but agreed that large OSCE election operations may well now be a thing of the past in south-eastern Europe.

"If so," Ambassador Guldemann added, "our major contribution to the recent elections in Kosovo is perhaps the culmination of a colourful and satisfying chapter in OSCE history. This should be cause for great pride."

Drew Hyslop wrote this article while working as an Adviser in the Office of the OSCE Secretary General. He now serves as an Election Adviser at the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights based in Warsaw.



OSCE/MATTHEU HAZARD

Mail-in voting

As in previous polls, eligible voters living outside Kosovo could make their voices heard in the democratic process by mailing in their votes. In November 2007, however, out-of-Kosovo voting proved to be a larger operation than in years past.

"The 16,000 ballots we received from as far away as Australia were vastly more than we expected and more than five times the volume that we received in the 2004 election," said the OSCE's Ron Laufer, who co-ordinated the action. "However, with the support of the entire Mission, our small team handled this part of the operation really well."



Moving into an architectural jewel

Wallnerstrasse no. 6 comes alive

By Philip Hatton

It all started with a decision by the participating States at their Ministerial Council meeting in Porto in 2002 “to give the OSCE a face”. The Government of Austria, the Organization’s host, felt the time had come to transfer the Secretariat from its location in a shopping mall to its own, more dignified premises.

The designated address: the elegant but unpretentious Palais Pálffy-Erdödy on Wallnerstrasse, right in the heart of Vienna’s historic centre and only a stone’s throw from the Hofburg, where the Permanent Council meets weekly.

Massive renovation of the two-century-old building got under way in late 2004, under the watchful eye of the Federal Office of Historical Monuments. Led by the Department of Management and Finance, planning for the move began in earnest in mid-2006 to ensure that every detail of the intricate matrix of issues related to the relocation was in place.

Asking people to change their way of working was perhaps the biggest challenge of the whole venture. The Secretariat had been at Kärntnerringhof, on Vienna’s famous Ringstrasse, for more than ten years. Staff had become attached to their offices and to the “culture” that had been created around that environment.

To keep staff fully apprised of developments, we formed a steering group comprising representatives of all units and departments. We considered everything from bicycle racks to coffee machines and from room layouts to the colour of furniture.

As the handover date approached, the IT project team under Christian Ruehrig, the cleaners and facilities staff under Uli Schmidt, and security planning led by Chris Jones — the true stars of the move — started tackling increasingly complex matters.

Considerable time was also spent in discussion with Austrian authorities on the user agreement under which the OSCE’s tenancy would be managed.

Finally, true to their word, the architects, Ablinger, Vedral & Partner ZTGmbH completed the Wallnerstrasse project at the end of November.

The move, from 12 to 16 December, was carefully choreographed with the help of a company that had won the tender for room design, furniture and moving services. Staff were asked to work from home or from the Hofburg while moving vans pulled up to gradually empty the Kärntner Ring offices and steadily fill up Wallnerstrasse no. 6.

At 9.00 a.m. on 17 December 2007, more than 300 staff members of the Secretariat and the Office of the Representative on Freedom of the Media reported for work at a light and airy, fully functioning five-storey headquarters that gracefully blends the traditional with the contemporary.

As with any change of residence, a settling-in period is necessary as people discover what the new premises can (and cannot) offer. Clearly, though, the wide range of facilities and the combination of administrative and representational features under one roof is giving rise to a new spirit of collegiality.

“We all dream of — and we are all working for — a better world,” said architect Herbert Ablinger, at an open house for OSCE staff. “I hope we have succeeded in designing a good dreaming-thinking-talking-working place for all of you.”

The Secretariat finally has a face.

Philip Hatton, Deputy Director for Management and Finance, served as Manager of the Wallnerstrasse Project.



Many of the offices in the contemporary wing look out into the Asian-inspired courtyard. Photos: OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev

“These new premises will open a new space for commitment and responsibility, designed to meet the increasing demands of the Organization and the renewed importance of its missions. The essence of the OSCE is symbolized by this historic palace: a joint programme for security and co-operation, working for peace, prosperity and democracy all over our continent.”

King Juan Carlos I of Spain, inaugurating the OSCE’s new headquarters, 21 November 2007



King Juan Carlos I and Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut at the Hofburg before the inaugural ceremony at Wallnerstrasse.

“The OSCE has always been more of a project than an institution. From its earliest days at the 1975 Helsinki Conference, its purpose has been to build a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace with itself and the rest of the world. Today, thanks to the generosity and farsightedness of the people of Austria, this project has a home and it has a face, in the heart of greater Europe. The OSCE is proud to be in Vienna and grateful to the Viennese for their warm welcome. All 56 participating States, spread across Europe, Eurasia and North America but linked by a common history and a core set of values, are honoured by this prestigious venue which will inspire them to ever greater co-operation. It is impossible to give adequate thanks to all those who have made this moment possible. Thank you for this object of beauty; it will remind us of the lofty values that guide us.”

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut

The classical-style façade features relief-decorated lunette windows.



“The meticulous renovation of the façade using original materials marked the end of the extensive restoration and maintenance work, ensuring that Palais Pálffy will provide a worthy setting for the OSCE and emphasizing Vienna’s status as home and seat of many international organizations.”

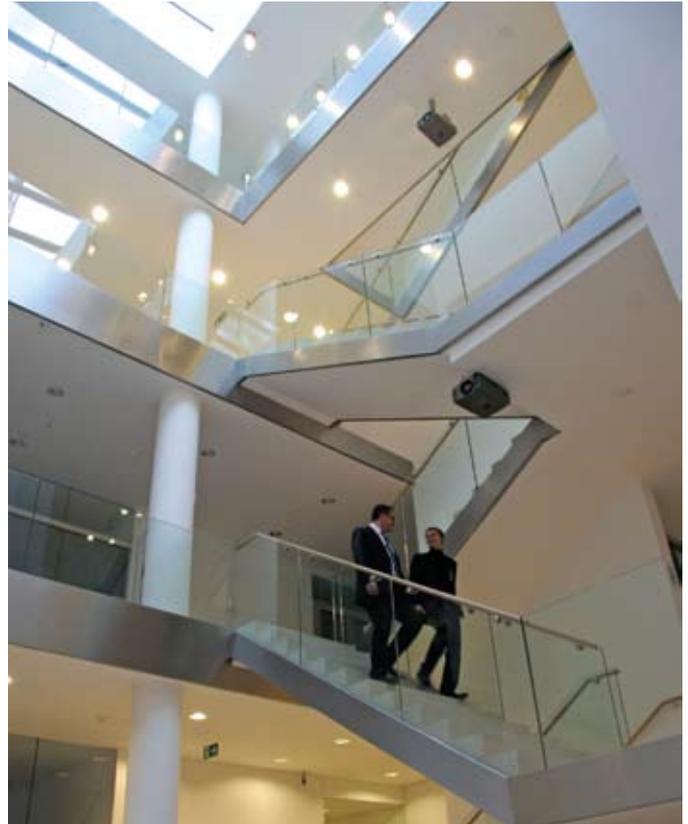
Website of Austria’s Federal Office of Historical Monuments (Bundesdenkmalamt): www.bda.at

The Wallnerstrasse Project was initiated by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour through the Burghauptmannschaft Österreich (Office of the Imperial Hofburg Vienna).



“The Palais Pálffy was for a long time just an inaccessible grey block and for a good ten years it was simply a building site ... On 22 November 2007, there was general satisfaction on the part of all the parties involved: the architects, who had kept strictly within their costs and met their deadlines; the Federal Office of Historical Monuments, which had proudly declared the Palais Pálffy-Erdödy “Monument of the Month” (for November); and King Juan Carlos I, who inaugurated the new building on behalf of Spain, which held the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2007. And even Wallnerstrasse had once again begun to look a little more fashionable, if not quite on centre stage.”

Judith Eiblmayr, “Modern, mondaine, classical”, *Die Presse*, 29 December 2007



“The first time I came here and saw the book repository in the courtyard that has since been torn down to make way for light and space, I was shocked — it was like a grave, a dark labyrinth. I hope that we have succeeded in designing a good dreaming-thinking-talking-working-place for all of you.”

Architect Herbert Ablinger at the open house for OSCE staff, 21 November 2007



Making way for light and space. Photos: OSCE/Velimir Alic



Inauguration of Wallnerstrasse no. 6, 21 November 2007: King Juan Carlos I of Spain is flanked by Austrian President Heinz Fischer and Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik. Photo courtesy of Holzner/Hopi-Media



The grand foyer.

"Austria has faith in the OSCE's values, its soft security approach, its ability to adapt to new challenges and its capacity to react rapidly in situations of crisis — in short, we strongly believe in the OSCE and its future. So long as the Organization stays flexible and maintains its capability to adjust and react swiftly to new phenomena endangering our security environment, the OSCE will always be a vital instrument in the European security structure and will remain relevant to countering threats and ensuring security for generations to come. I would like to congratulate the two architects who designed and realized this stunning project, turning the Palais Pálffy into a state-of-the-art office building while at the same time preserving its historic substance. Austria takes its responsibility as a host country for important international organizations very seriously. We are aware of the fact that all of you, through your initiatives and activities, contribute to making this world a safer place."

President of the Republic of Austria, Heinz Fischer

"Spain, whose recent history has been closely linked with that of the OSCE, has always underlined the Organization's special value. Indeed, our transition to becoming a fully democratic society took place in parallel with the birth and development of the OSCE. Upon assuming the Chairmanship of the Organization in 2007, Spain aimed to enrich its legacy and strengthen its political foundations. The OSCE's success, and the challenges before us, show that the Organization is just as necessary today as when it was born."

King Juan Carlos I of Spain



"The ties between the OSCE and Vienna as its headquarters have grown over the years. The OSCE's new building provides further visible expression of this fact and underscores our strong support for this leading regional security organization, whose mandate extends from Vancouver to Vladivostok."

Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik

About 450 square metres of inlaid wooden floors were painstakingly restored.

Appointments



OSCE/MIKHAEL EVSTAFEV

Jamila Seftaoui, a gender specialist with more than 16 years of international experience, assumed the position of **Senior Adviser on Gender Issues** in the OSCE Secretariat on 1 November 2007.

For over a decade, Ms. Seftaoui was assigned to field missions in Africa, Asia and Europe, where she provided technical assistance and advisory support to donor and recipient governments in their efforts towards reaching the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in the fields of gender equality and women's empowerment.

"Activities aimed at achieving gender equality should not be confined to the human dimension," says Ms. Seftaoui, reflecting on the challenges faced by the OSCE as the largest regional security organization.

"Striving for greater gender balance is essential to the OSCE's security mandate, since stability and inclusive, sustainable develop-

ment are not possible without the presence, participation and progress of women. The full integration of a gender approach into the mainstream of the OSCE's work across all dimensions constitutes a key indicator for the effectiveness of the actions of OSCE institutions and field operations."

Prior to her OSCE appointment, Ms. Seftaoui served as team leader and senior adviser with the German Technical Co-operation GTZ in North Africa. She initiated and managed the first gender project in Morocco, co-operating closely with representatives of government, civil society and the private sector on the adoption of a gender-based approach in economic and social policies and programmes.

Her earlier international postings with GTZ and the UN Population Fund include Germany, Tanzania, the Central African Republic and Bangladesh, where she was responsible for managing technical co-operation projects and building local capacity for the improvement of women's rights and health services.

A German national born in Meknès, Morocco, Ms. Seftaoui holds master's degrees in psychology and in public health from the University of Bielefeld, Germany. She speaks English, French, German, Spanish, Arabic and Swahili.

Philip N. Remler took up his duties as **Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova** on 19 December 2007 after a foreign service career with the U.S. State Department spanning more than two decades.



OSCE/MIKHAEL EVSTAFEV

Prior to his OSCE appointment, he served as Senior Adviser to the U.S. Ambassador in Moscow, where his responsibilities included working on protracted conflicts, including Transdnistria.

He spent ten years dealing with conflicts in the Caucasus, serving as political officer in Azerbaijan (1992-1994), with the OSCE Assistance Group to Chechnya (1995) and with the U.S. Co-Chairmanship of the OSCE Minsk Group (1996-1998), which aims to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He also served as Deputy Chief of Mission and chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Georgia (1999-2002).

Ambassador Remler held positions that involved working on Iraq at the State Department and National Security Council, and with the Coalition Provisional Authority (1987-1990 and 2003-2005).

He holds a master's degree in history and speaks Russian, Georgian and Turkish.



OSCE/POLES ZACHENKO

Istvan Venczel, a senior Hungarian diplomat, succeeded Miroslav Jenca from Slovakia as the **OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan**, on 27 December 2007.

This is Ambassador Venczel's third assignment with the OSCE. He was Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad (2000-2001) and Head of the Centre in Almaty (2002-2003).

At the time of his appointment, he had just completed his term as Ambassador of Hungary to Iran (2003-2007). He also served as Ambassador to Pakistan (1992-1996).

Other diplomatic postings have included Tehran (1971-1975), Kabul (1978-1982) and Tripoli (1985-1989). Later, in Budapest, he was the Foreign Ministry's Deputy Director of the Political Department responsible for CIS countries (1996), moving on to be Deputy Director for Policy Planning and Information (1997-1999).

After studying law at the University of Sciences in Szeged, he graduated at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, specializing in Iran and Afghanistan.



Raphael F. Perl, a United States national and expert in anti-terrorism policy, assumed the position of **Head of the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit** on 12 November 2007, succeeding Karl Wycoff.

Author of more than 120 publications on terrorism during his career at the Congressional Research Service in the United States, he is a frequent speaker on global terrorism at panel discussions and conferences, and has testified before the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Perl sees Europe as increasingly becoming both a terrorist target and a spawning ground for terrorist activity.

“Despite nearly a decade of increasing focus on international terrorism, with vast resources and human lives wasted on various strategies and tactics, including wars, it is disappointing how little progress has been made in terms of understanding the roots of terrorism and mitigating radical ideologies,” Mr. Perl says. “One major problem is a lack of objective data concerning attitudes, trends, goals, extremist manifestos, inflammatory rhetoric and other measurable elements of the terrorism process and its infrastructure.

“There is also far too much ‘knee-jerk’ reaction to terrorism and not enough consensus-building to formulate policies for non-violent conflict resolution when that is possible — or for resolute, consistent action when it is not. Through the Action against Terrorism Unit, we hope to further facilitate such consensus-building and unite the OSCE community.”

Mr. Perl has been a guest lecturer at Princeton, Dartmouth and other major U.S. universities, and was recently adjunct professor at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. While at the Library of Congress, he served as project director of a study by the National Academy of Engineering on terrorism risk assessment. He took part in several joint counter-terrorism projects sponsored by the National Academies of Science and the Russian Academy of Science. Topics have included countering terrorism in Russia and urban terrorism.

He holds a Juris Doctor degree and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



Hans Jochen Schmidt of Germany is the new **Head of the OSCE Office in Minsk**, succeeding Åke Peterson of Sweden on 4 February.

A law graduate of Bonn University, Ambassador Schmidt joined his country’s diplomatic service in 1979, with early postings in Cairo, Kinshasa and Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1992, he was promoted to Deputy Division Head in the Department for European Affairs of the Federal Foreign Office. He co-ordinated negotiations with former Soviet States, including Belarus, within the framework

of EU partnership and co-operation.

In 2000, after serving for four years as Deputy and Acting Consul General in St. Petersburg, Ambassador Schmidt was appointed Deputy Head of the German Embassy in Kyiv. During Ukraine’s historic presidential election of 2004, he co-ordinated all electoral issues with the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Most recently, he headed the Federal Foreign Office division that is responsible for cultural relations between Germany and Asia, Latin America and the Arab countries.

OSCE Prague Office marks ten years of research service

Managed and co-ordinated by the OSCE Secretariat’s Prague Office, the OSCE’s Researcher-in-Residence Programme has been serving researchers from all corners of the globe since 1998.

So far, more than 150 researchers from some 37 OSCE participating States have pored over the Organization’s comprehensive historical archives for an average period of three months each. A number have come from Mediterranean and Asian Partner States such as Algeria, Egypt, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea.

Most of the researchers have been students in international relations working on a master’s or doctoral thesis with a focus on some aspect of security co-operation. Short-term researchers have included university professors designing a course curriculum or preparing a book, political analysts drawing up a bibliography of CSCE/OSCE documents, and members of NGOs gathering material to help their causes.

The Prague Office serves as the depository of archival materials covering the Helsinki process (1973-1975), its evolutionary phase as the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (1976-1989), the years during which the CSCE built its institutions and became an organization (1990-1995) and the launching of field activities (1991-2000). Many of the docu-



ments are available in the six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

Applications are now being accepted for the autumn, for an average period of three months. Short-term research can be arranged, following the same application procedures.

Contact details:

www.osce.org/secretariat/13083.html

OSCE Secretariat Prague Office
Researcher-in-Residence Programme
Náměstí Pod Kaštany 2
CZ-160 00 Prague 6
Czech Republic
Tel: +420 233 085 468
Fax: +420 233 083 484 or 487
docs@osce.org



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

www.osce.org
www.osce.org/publications
e-mail: osce-magazine-at@osce.org

O	S	C	E
M	A	G	A
Z	I	N	E