



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

L J U B L J A N A

2005

**Thirteenth Meeting of the
Ministerial Council
5 and 6 December 2005**

Statements and declarations by the Ministerial Council

Border Security and Management Concept

Decisions of the Ministerial Council

Statements by the Chairman-in-Office and delegations

Reports to the Ministerial Council

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**I. STATEMENTS AND DECLARATIONS BY THE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF
ACTS OF NUCLEAR TERRORISM**

(MC.DOC/1/05 of 20 June 2005)

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, welcome the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.
2. We pledge to apply all efforts to sign this International Convention on the day of its opening for signature at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 14 September 2005.
3. We encourage the implementation of all the necessary measures to ratify, accept, approve or otherwise become parties to this International Convention in the shortest possible time.
4. We urge the OSCE Secretary General and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to offer to the requesting participating States, on their formal demand and where appropriate, technical assistance/advice on the swift ratification, acceptance or approval of this International Convention, in close co-operation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
5. We invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to join our initiative.

**OSCE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON THE
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISASTER AT THE
CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

(MC.DOC/3/05 of 6 December 2005)

26 April 2006 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP).

Commemorating this tragic day, we once again remember all the victims, including all emergency and recovery operation workers, of the twentieth century's major technological catastrophe, in terms both of scope and of consequences.

This disaster resulted in large-scale radioactive contamination of vast areas in Europe, most heavily affecting the territories of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The accident has had an adverse impact on the lives and health of millions of people, in particular children, and has imposed a massive burden on the economy and environment of the most affected States.

We appreciate the enormous efforts made by the national governments concerned to address the effects of the Chernobyl accident. These endeavours have been supplemented to a significant degree by the involvement of the international community, including organizations of the United Nations system, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), aimed at providing assistance to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. We also commend the contribution made by non-governmental organizations, private initiatives and individuals.

However, even today, the long-term consequences of the disaster, which include humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health problems, continue to persist. Therefore, efforts need to continue to alleviate these consequences, focusing primarily on such vitally important issues as economic and environmental rehabilitation and sustainable development of the territories affected.

We are also aware that the Chernobyl NPP continues to pose a potential threat in the centre of Europe. In this regard, special attention should be focused on completing the Shelter Implementation Plan by constructing the main remaining component, the New Safe Confinement Arch. We appreciate the effort of the international community to increase financial commitments to the EBRD Chernobyl Shelter Fund to over USD 1 billion this year.

Environmental matters have always been a part of the OSCE's mandate, reflecting the Organization's comprehensive approach to security and co-operation. In the Helsinki Final Act we agreed to study, with a view to their solution, those environmental problems that, by their nature, are of a multilateral, bilateral, regional or subregional dimension; as well as to encourage the development of an interdisciplinary approach to environmental problems.

In this context, the OSCE will continue to contribute to international co-operation efforts to alleviate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, including through participation in and support of relevant projects, and to provide appropriate assistance and expertise in consultation with the States concerned.

In commemorating this tragic event we believe that the Chernobyl disaster demonstrated how important it is for the international community to develop and apply commonly agreed policies and strategies to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the prevention of, and response to, technological accidents and their consequences for human beings and the environment. We also believe that, in order to effectively tackle such challenges, concerted efforts are needed between the States concerned, the relevant international organizations, financial institutions and other interested donors.

STATEMENT ON GEORGIA

(MC.DOC/4/05 of 6 December 2005)

1. We express our firm commitment to support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia. We reiterate our support of the ongoing democratic reforms in Georgia and encourage the authorities to continue their efforts in this regard. We support efforts for peaceful settlement of the conflicts and reaffirm previous OSCE Summit and Ministerial Council documents regarding Georgia.

2. We welcome the initiatives taken towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia. However, we regret that in recent months the positive dynamics of the peace process have been disrupted by violent actions and note the importance of adherence to the principles of peaceful settlement of the conflict, as set forth in the Sochi Agreement of 24 June 1992. We call for full implementation of agreed measures for stabilization of the situation in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia in Georgia, in particular the early and complete demilitarization of the zone of conflict. We welcome the steps taken by the Georgian side to address the peaceful resolution of the conflict and believe that the recent proposals, in particular the Peace Plan built upon the initiatives of the President of Georgia presented at the 59th United Nations General Assembly and supported by the sides, will serve as a basis for the peaceful settlement of the conflict. We are of the view that an early meeting of the Prime Minister of Georgia with the leader of South Ossetia would be an important step towards intensification of the peace process. We support further OSCE involvement in the conflict-resolution process. We underline the need to increase the effectiveness of existing negotiation mechanisms, including the Joint Control Commission, and to fully implement the decisions agreed within their framework. We call upon all sides to promote dialogue and increase efforts at all levels to facilitate political negotiations and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. In this context, we express our satisfaction with the quadrilateral co-operation between the OSCE, the EU, UNHCR and UNDP in the framework of the rehabilitation programme in the zone of conflict funded by the European Commission, which is directed at the creation of the conditions required for such a return. We look forward to the report of the OSCE Needs Assessment Study and to the implementation of the projects it identifies for improving conditions and building confidence between the sides in the conflict. We remain ready to support the development of joint policing activities in the zone of conflict.

3. We reconfirm the leading role of the United Nations in the negotiations aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia. We stand ready to continue co-operation between the OSCE and the United Nations and support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Representative, with the assistance of the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator as well as of the United Nations Secretary-General's Group of Friends. We are prepared to enhance our involvement in the region, particularly by increasing project activities in the human and economic and environmental dimensions. We regret that the opening of a joint UN-OSCE human rights office in the Gali district has not been possible so far and we call upon the Abkhaz side to agree to its opening as soon as possible and to provide security conditions for its unhindered functioning. We are convinced that such an office would contribute to the improvement of the human rights situation in the region and thus promote the creation of conditions for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons in safety and dignity. We note the positive role of confidence-building measures and the importance of non-resumption of hostilities. We support the deployment of the United Nations civilian police component in the Gali district and call on the Abkhaz side to allow its swift deployment.

4. We welcome the Joint Statement issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Georgia on 30 May in Moscow. In this respect we note with satisfaction the negotiations carried out on the agreement to be signed shortly on the time frame, mode of functioning and withdrawal of the Russian military bases Batumi and Akhalkalaki and the Russian military facilities on the territory of Georgia foreseen by the Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and Georgia made on 17 November 1999 annexed to the Final Act of the Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. We welcome the withdrawal of part of the Russian heavy military equipment from Georgian territory. We look forward to further progress in the ongoing negotiation process both to enable a multinational mission to Gudauta and to establish its purpose.

5. We acknowledge the important contribution of the OSCE training assistance programme in improving the capacity and capability of the Georgian Border Guards.

**STATEMENT ON THE
CONFLICT DEALT WITH BY THE OSCE MINSK GROUP**
(MC.DOC/5/05 of 6 December 2005)

We take note with satisfaction of the progress in the Nagorno-Karabakh negotiations through the “Prague Process” in 2005, and in particular the two meetings of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Warsaw and Kazan under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group. We believe that the Parties are now poised to make the transition from negotiation to decision and that there are serious benefits within reach for all. We encourage the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to use the current promising window of opportunity in order to attain within the coming year significant achievements in the settlement of the conflict in the framework of the OSCE Minsk process.

II. BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT CONCEPT

BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT CONCEPT

(MC.DOC/2/05 of 6 December 2005)

Framework for Co-operation by the OSCE Participating States

Chapter I: The OSCE participating States' commitments

1. Recognizing that border security and management is a matter of the national sovereignty and responsibility of States, the OSCE participating States reaffirm their commitment to promoting open and secure borders in a free, democratic and more integrated OSCE area without dividing lines. In doing so, they also commit themselves to co-operate following the principles of international law, mutual confidence, equal partnership, transparency and predictability, and pursuing a comprehensive approach in a spirit that would facilitate friendly relations between States.
2. The OSCE participating States reaffirm the obligations and commitments on border-related issues that they have undertaken at all levels:
 - 2.1 At the global level: On border security and management issues, the participating States reaffirm their commitments under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, and may consider as well standards and recommendations laid down by the World Customs Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant international organizations;
 - 2.2 At the OSCE level: The participating States reaffirm the norms, principles, commitments and values enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, all of which apply equally and unreservedly, each of them being interpreted taking into account the others. They reaffirm the principles and commitments contained in the Copenhagen Document 1990, the Helsinki Document 1992 and the Charter for European Security 1999. They recall the action plans, decisions and other relevant agreed OSCE documents which address border-related issues. In particular, strengthening OSCE capacities to promote open and secure borders and enhancing mutually beneficial inter-State co-operation are means to address the threats of terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, and the illicit trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings, as identified in paragraph 35 of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century;
 - 2.3 At the regional and subregional levels: In the same spirit, the participating States reaffirm their obligations and commitments in all regional and subregional formats in which they are members and undertake to promote their co-operation in all relevant organizations and agencies in order to ensure consistency in policies and standards and to avoid duplication of efforts;
 - 2.4 Bilaterally: In a spirit of solidarity, and aiming at good neighbourly relations, the participating States will respect their bilateral agreements on

border-related issues and undertake efforts to promote sharing of experience and good practices.

Chapter II: Main objectives of co-operation

3. Co-operation by the participating States is aimed at promoting the implementation of border-related commitments. It should foster compliance with border-related security and management standards recognized by the participating States, as well as their improvement, *inter alia*, based on sharing of good practices.

4. The participating States will promote co-operation between their border services, customs authorities, agencies issuing travel documents and visas, and law enforcement and migration agencies, as well as other competent national structures, with a view to achieving the following aims:

- 4.1 To promote free and secure movement of persons, goods, services and investments across borders, in conformity with relevant legal frameworks, international law and OSCE commitments, *inter alia*, through enhancing the security of travel documents and encouraging, as appropriate, circumstances that could allow liberalization of visa regimes, in the spirit of the commitments under the documents mentioned above;
- 4.2 To reduce the threat of terrorism, including by preventing cross-border movement of persons, weapons and funds connected with terrorist and other criminal activities;
- 4.3 To prevent and repress transnational organized crime, illegal migration, corruption, smuggling and trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings;
- 4.4 To promote high standards in border services and competent national structures;
- 4.5 To promote dignified treatment of all individuals wanting to cross borders, in conformity with relevant national legal frameworks, international law, in particular human rights, refugee, and humanitarian law, and relevant OSCE commitments;
- 4.6 To create beneficial conditions for social and economic development in border territories, as well as for the prosperity and cultural development of persons belonging to all communities residing in border areas, with access to all opportunities;
- 4.7 To foster prospects for joint economic development and help in establishing common spaces of freedom, security and justice in the OSCE area;
- 4.8 To ensure the security of the international transport circuit for supply of commodities.

Chapter III: Principles of co-operation by the OSCE participating States on border-related issues

Guided by the OSCE co-operative approach,

5. The participating States agree that their common prosperity and security can be enhanced through an increase in beneficial cross-border movements of people, goods, services and investments.

6. Issues of a regulatory nature raised by cross-border movements can best be addressed through direct co-operation between the border services and competent national structures of the participating States, based on relevant agreements. This co-operation should take place at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

7. Sovereign national authorities, and in particular the border services responsible on each side of the border, have the best knowledge of the issues at hand. Cross-border dialogue, transparency and confidence-building constitute the first logical steps towards generating solutions with added value to the benefit of all.

8. Borders in the OSCE are not uniform. Every border has a particular character and may call for specific policy choices. Each participating State has the sovereign right to choose how to secure and manage its borders, taking into account relevant political, military, economic and social considerations.

Chapter IV: OSCE contribution

9. In keeping with its concept of common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, the OSCE constitutes an appropriate political framework and offers the services of its structures and institutions for contributions. It acts upon the request of participating States and in a spirit of solidarity and partnership, based on mutual interest and respect. In case the OSCE offers its contribution in border areas between participating States it will act after close consultation with and taking into account the views expressed by these participating States.

10. OSCE work in support of border security and management will be based on realism and pragmatism. It will make the best use of OSCE structures and institutions, the strengthening of which should be considered. OSCE border-related activities are subject to ongoing periodic review and monitoring by the OSCE decision-making bodies and through the budgetary process.

11. The OSCE will ensure a continued political dialogue on border-related issues, through discussions in an appropriate consultative working structure on the implementation of the commitments and the future development of co-operation by the participating States in this area, as well as on providing guidance regarding border activities to the OSCE structures and institutions.

12. The OSCE remains a forum for dialogue and conflict-resolution through peaceful dialogue. The OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration is in this respect a tool available to States recognizing its jurisdiction, to be consulted and to provide confidential legal opinion upon request.

13. The possible OSCE contribution may be put into practice, *inter alia*, through the following methods:

- Exchange of information, experience and best practices;
- Establishment of “points of contact” and national focal points;
- Holding of workshops and conferences, including with the participation of experts;
- Maintaining contacts and interaction with the competent international and regional organizations.

A more detailed list of possible OSCE contributions is contained in the Annex.

Chapter V: OSCE external co-operation with international organizations and partners

14. The OSCE can offer its organizational framework for interaction on border-related issues with international regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with the Platform for Co-operative Security.

15. International co-operation and assistance could benefit from a more target-oriented and co-ordinated approach. The OSCE should continue political and operational co-ordination with other international organizations and institutions in promoting open and secure borders. Complementarity, comparative advantage and added value should guide the co-ordinated approach, *inter alia*, through concerted actions and joint deployment of international resources.

16. As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is also a forum for co-operation with subregional organizations in its area. Increased co-ordination on border security and management at the subregional level may constitute a stepping stone towards the OSCE-wide establishment of open and secure borders.

17. The provisions of this Concept will be shared by the Partners for Co-operation, on a voluntary basis.

Annex to MC.DOC/2/05

POSSIBLE OSCE CONTRIBUTIONS

Upon the request of interested participating States and where they can provide comparative advantage and added value, the contributions of the OSCE, based on lessons learned from border-related programmes, could take, *inter alia*, the following forms:

A. Facilitation:

1. Political dialogue between participating States on border-related issues, including OSCE good offices;
2. Confidence-building measures in border areas, as referred to by relevant OSCE documents, as well as by decisions elaborated by the Forum for Security Co-operation;
3. Technical dialogue between national border services and competent national structures, through exchanges of information at all levels;
4. Possible mobilization and co-ordination of assistance.

B. General forms of contribution:

1. Technical assistance in the development and implementation of national strategies and action plans, based on the vision of national authorities and their existing commitments, if a State so requests;
2. Technical assistance in development, adaptation and harmonization of relevant legislation;
3. Technical assistance in enhancing the effectiveness of border structures through the sharing of best practices;
4. Technical assistance in the development and implementation of training plans and programmes through the sharing of good practices and international exchanges;
5. Overall information sharing by creating, *inter alia*, an awareness of resources that comprise all available international experience, including new technologies and know-how, for example on rapid but effective border controls, border checkpoint construction, etc.;
6. Identification of sources for available equipment and supplies appropriate to border services, with the aim of their possible mobilization.

C. Possible specialized assistance in the following fields:

1. Combating terrorism, transnational organized crime, illegal migration and illicit trafficking in nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional weapons and their means of delivery and related materials, hazardous wastes, drugs and human beings:
 - (i) Strengthening of international exchange networks and information-sharing on the above-mentioned threats and challenges to security;
 - (ii) Crime-specific training for border services and competent national structures;
 - (iii) Identification of sources for crime-specific equipment and supplies and, if possible, mobilization of available resources;

- (iv) Technical and non-technical means of detection of illegal or false documents aiming at improving the security of travel documents and visas;
- (v) Encouragement for the conclusion and implementation of agreements on cross-border co-operation;
- (vi) Promotion of the implementation and development of multilateral international norms and practices, in conformity with international legal frameworks, regarding extradition and other forms of legal co-operation on criminal matters related to terrorism and other serious crimes, on aspects related to border security and management;
- (vii) Enhancement of co-operation aimed at preventing and countering the threat of illicit trafficking in drugs.

2. Free and secure movement of persons:

- (i) Technical assistance and expert advice on exit and entry procedures, including on simplification of visa procedures, as appropriate;
- (ii) Expert advice on enhancing the security of travel documents;
- (iii) Facilitation of free and secure movement of persons across borders;
- (iv) Promotion and expert advice by the OSCE structures and institutions on the rights and development interests of persons belonging to all communities living in border areas without prejudice toward persons belonging to national minorities;
- (v) Awareness-raising on the rights of migrants and asylum seekers.

3. Economic and environmental field:

- (i) Sharing of best practices on border-crossing and customs procedures for import, export and transit, in particular to ensure the security of the international transport circuit;
- (ii) Promotion of economic cross-border co-operation and facilitation of local border trade;
- (iii) Fostering of cross-border co-operation on environmental issues that have an impact on local community development;
- (iv) Facilitation of cross-border co-operation in case of natural disasters or serious accidents in border zones;
- (v) Ensuring of the security of the international transport circuit for the supply of commodities, including through the establishment of a system for providing preliminary information on goods and vehicles transferred across borders.

Attachment to MC.DOC/2/05

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Georgia:

“In regard to the adoption of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, the Delegation of Georgia would like to make an interpretative statement under paragraph 79, Chapter 6, of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations.

Having joined others on the consensus regarding the adoption of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, Georgia underlines that all possible OSCE contributions mentioned in the Annex to the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept may be carried out only in full respect of the national sovereignty and taking fully into account the concerns of the country that is offered such possible OSCE contributions.

Mr. Chairperson,

We request that this statement be attached to the just adopted OSCE Border Security and Management Concept.

Thank you.”

III. DECISIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

DECISION No. 1/05
APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL
(MC.DEC/1/05 of 10 June 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the Third Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Stockholm in 1992 to establish the post of Secretary General and Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/04 of 7 December 2004 (MC.DEC/15/04) on the role of the OSCE Secretary General,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 294 taken on 20 May 1999 which recommended that the Ministerial Council appoint Ambassador Ján Kubiš as Secretary General of the OSCE for a period of three years with effect from 15 June 1999, and noting that Ambassador Ján Kubiš commenced the first of his two three-year terms as Secretary General of the OSCE on 21 June 1999,

Recalling Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 13 (MC(9).DEC/13/Corr.1), reappointing Ambassador Ján Kubiš for a period of three years,

Expressing its gratitude to the outgoing Secretary General, Ambassador Ján Kubiš, for his invaluable contributions to strengthening the OSCE and to developing its activities and for his dedication and integrity in the discharge of his duties,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut as Secretary General of the OSCE for a period of three years with effect from 21 June 2005.

DECISION No. 2/05
MIGRATION
(MC.DEC/2/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments related to migration, and in particular regarding migrant workers, and other relevant commitments, especially those recognized in the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Madrid Document (1983), the Vienna Final Document (1989), the Copenhagen Document (1990), the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990), the Moscow Document (1991), the Helsinki Document (1992), the Budapest Document (1994) and documents adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003) and Sofia (2004),

Recognizing the increasing importance of migration, as well as the challenges and opportunities that it presents to participating States,

Further recognizing that migration is becoming a more diverse and complex phenomenon, which needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner and therefore requires a cross-dimensional approach at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing that all States should adopt effective national frameworks in order to manage migration,

Underlining that migration is inherently a transnational issue requiring co-operation between States,

Acknowledging that migration constitutes an important economic, social and human factor for host countries as well as for countries of origin,

Acknowledging also that successful integration policies that include respect for cultural and religious diversity and promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are a factor in promoting stability and cohesion within our societies,

Determined to fight illegal migration and to address its root causes,

Bearing in mind the different approaches to migration issues by the OSCE participating States, and drawing on their experience and best practices,

Taking into account the initiatives taken and the work done by the OSCE during 2005 in addressing the issue of migration and integration, in particular, the Human Dimension Seminar on Migration and Integration, the Thirteenth OSCE Economic Forum and the 2005 Mediterranean Seminar,

Welcoming the existing co-operation between the OSCE, in particular, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), and relevant international organizations and institutions,

Considering that the OSCE, within its comprehensive approach to security, could contribute, *inter alia*, by:

- Working in synergy and developing a stronger partnership with international bodies having a specific focus on migration,
- Facilitating dialogue and co-operation between participating States, including countries of origin, transit and destination in the OSCE area, as well as the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation,
- Assisting the participating States, upon their request, to develop effective migration policies and to implement their relevant OSCE commitments,
- Inviting participating States to consider becoming parties to relevant international instruments,

Tasks the Permanent Council to follow up the work initiated in 2005 and to report to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;

Tasks the Secretary General as well as relevant OSCE institutions and structures, to continue their work on migration issues in all three dimensions.

DECISION No. 3/05
COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME
(MC.DEC/3/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

1. Reaffirming the participating States' commitment to preventing and combating organized crime, in particular as recognized in the Charter for European Security (1999), the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001), the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century (2003) and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (2003),
 2. Reiterating the grave concern expressed in the Follow-up to the Outcome of the Millennium Summit (2005 World Summit Outcome) over the negative effects of organized crime on peace, security and stability, which is a major impediment to the prosperity and sustainable development of the participating States,
 3. Underscoring links that exist between transnational organized crime and other threats, such as illicit drugs, terrorism, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as in sensitive materials and technologies, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants, cyber crime, corruption and illegal migration in the context of organized crime and money laundering,
 4. Recognizing that the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocols, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 November 2000 in New York, mark a major step forward in international co-operation against transnational organized crime and provide the opportunity for a global response,
 5. Recognizing the ongoing work of the OSCE in the areas linked to combating organized crime,
 6. Convinced that the OSCE concept of comprehensive security is well placed to enhance the ability of all participating States to tackle the threat of organized crime, and that the OSCE may provide a relevant framework for promoting the fight against organized crime and acknowledging the important work done by relevant international organizations and institutions, in particular United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,
- Urges participating States to enhance co-operation between themselves and the UNODC, the Council of Europe and other relevant international organizations;
 - Invites the OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 November 2000 in New York, and to fully implement their obligations under these instruments thereafter;
 - Tasks the Secretary General with providing the requesting participating States with support for the mobilization of technical assistance, including the necessary expertise and resources, from relevant competent international organizations for the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized

Crime and its Protocols in support of and in close consultation with the Conference of Parties and the UNODC;

- Recalls that preventing and combating organized crime require a coherent approach by the participating States, in promoting the implementation of their own relevant national legislation and programmes, in particular in the field of criminal justice, consistent with the rule of law and OSCE participating States' commitments;
- Tasks the Permanent Council to carry forward co-operation between participating States and to work on designing, with the support of the Secretary General and the relevant OSCE institutions, possible measures and forms of assistance that could be available to requesting participating States with a view to improving and promoting the functioning of criminal justice systems, *inter alia*, legislation, law enforcement, prosecution, administration of justice, international legal co-operation, including extradition, and the penal system, in consultation with the UNODC, the Council of Europe and other pertinent international organizations;
- Invites the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the relevant provisions of this decision.

Attachment to MC.DEC/3/05

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Turkey:

“Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations:

We have joined the consensus in order to make possible the adoption of this decision which, *inter alia*, addresses an important component of our collective fight against terrorism, namely, the links between terrorism and organized crime. The language in the decision seeks to reaffirm these links by means of formulations that are at variance with the OSCE agreed documents. Turkey regards the context in which this decision is elaborated to be inappropriate for a competent and thorough consideration of the nature of these links. Therefore, the adoption of the decision in no way alters, either in letter or spirit, the binding character, or mitigates the operational impact, of the participating States' earlier policy statements contained in the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001) and the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism (Porto, 2002), and more importantly, United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

Turkey requests that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

DECISION No. 4/05
ENHANCING LEGAL CO-OPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS
TO COUNTER TERRORISM
(MC.DEC/4/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Determined to reinforce OSCE counter-terrorism activities in accordance with international law and in line with existing OSCE commitments,

Recalling United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1566 (2004) and 1624 (2005), which call upon all States to become party as soon as possible to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, and to co-operate fully in the fight against terrorism, as well as relevant OSCE counter-terrorism commitments,

Recalling also United Nations Security Council resolution 1631 (2005), in particular where it urges “all relevant regional and subregional organizations to enhance the effectiveness of their counter-terrorism efforts within their respective mandates, including with a view to develop their capacity to help Member States in their efforts to tackle the threats to international peace and security posed by acts of terrorism”,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts within the United Nations to finalize, on an expedited basis, the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism,

Recognizing that the above-mentioned conventions and protocols represent a universal legal regime against terrorism and, in the absence of bilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance and extradition, could together with the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo convention) serve as a basis for legal co-operation,

Noting links that exist between terrorism and transnational organized crime,

Noting the importance of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

Noting with appreciation the OSCE Secretariat’s initiative taken at the request of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in developing a programme on enhancing legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism in the OSCE area and organizing as the first step the Expert Workshop on this issue, held in Vienna on 15 April 2004,

Noting also the good working collaboration between the OSCE and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as the valuable technical assistance tools developed by the UNODC for implementing the universal anti-terrorism conventions and protocols and promoting legal co-operation in criminal matters, in particular those related to terrorism,

Taking into account the recommendations made by participants in the 2005 Annual Security Review Conference with regard to further developing co-operation with the UNODC, supporting its efforts aimed at strengthening the legal regime against terrorism and promoting its technical assistance tools, in particular the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool software, including through facilitating training and disseminating best practices for caseworkers,

Decides that the participating States should co-operate actively and fully among themselves, in accordance with applicable rules under domestic and international law, in efforts to find and to bring to justice perpetrators, organizers, supporters and sponsors of terrorist acts, on the basis of the principle to extradite or prosecute;

Invites participating States to consider the expert suggestions contained in the report on the OSCE Expert Workshop on Enhancing Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters Related to Terrorism (SEC.GAL/111/05 of 18 May 2005), as a scale of options for improving international legal co-operation;

Tasks the Secretary General and relevant institutions to assist requesting participating States to fulfil their commitments related to the fight against terrorism. The OSCE will continue to collaborate with the UNODC in strengthening the legal regime against terrorism by promoting implementation of the universal anti-terrorism instruments, and facilitating international legal co-operation in criminal matters;

Tasks the Secretary General to organize in 2006, in co-ordination with the Chairmanship-in-Office and in co-operation with the UNODC, an OSCE expert workshop in Vienna, with the aim to promote the UNODC technical assistance tools for advancing international legal co-operation in criminal matters casework, in particular the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool software, including through facilitating training and disseminating best practices for caseworkers;

Tasks the Secretary General to organize for requesting participating States, in close co-operation with the UNODC, national training workshops for prosecutors and judicial officials on issues of extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, in particular those related to terrorism.

Attachment to MC.DEC/4/05

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Turkey:

“Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations:

We have joined the consensus in order to make possible the adoption of this decision which, *inter alia*, addresses an important component of our collective fight against terrorism, namely, the links between terrorism and organized crime. The language in the decision seeks to reaffirm these links by means of formulations that are at variance with the OSCE agreed documents. Turkey regards the context in which this decision is elaborated to be inappropriate for a competent and thorough consideration of the nature of these links. Therefore, the adoption of the decision in no way alters, either in letter or spirit, the binding character, or mitigates the operational impact, of the participating States’ earlier policy statements contained in the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001) and

the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism (Porto, 2002), and more importantly, United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

Turkey requests that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

DECISION No. 5/05
COMBATING THE THREAT OF ILLICIT DRUGS

(MC.DEC/5/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Seriously concerned about the trafficking in illicit drugs that pose a threat to stability and security, both inside and outside the OSCE area,

Recalling the Charter for European Security (1999), the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001), the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism (2002), and the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century (2003), which underline, *inter alia*, the threat of illicit drugs,

Recognizing links that exist between the threats of illicit drugs, terrorism and transnational organized crime, and reaffirming the commitment to explore synergetic approaches to deal with them,

Reaffirming that an effective and comprehensive international approach to dealing with the issue of trafficking in illicit drugs in the whole OSCE area needs to be developed,

Noting the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in supporting international co-operation in the field of drug control, *inter alia*, through the Paris Pact Initiative,

Stressing the need to continue the collaborative efforts already underway between the OSCE and the UNODC on drug-related issues,

1. Urges the participating States to enhance their co-operation in preventing and countering the threat of production of and trafficking in illicit drugs;
2. Tasks the Secretary General to organize in 2006, in co-ordination with the participating States concerned and the Chairmanship-in-Office, and in co-operation with the UNODC, an expert workshop for practitioners from participating States, Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and Partners for Co-operation, and representatives of relevant international organizations, designed to facilitate the exchange of information on the production of and trafficking in illicit drugs and to identify possibilities for further co-ordinated actions;
3. Tasks the Secretary General to enhance co-operation with the UNODC and other relevant organizations in combating the trafficking of illicit drugs, to inform the participating States regularly of the results of such co-operation and to propose further measures in this direction;
4. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the OSCE commitments to combat the threat of illicit drugs in order to contribute to OSCE efforts in this field.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Turkey:

“Turkey wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations:

We have joined the consensus in order to make possible the adoption of this decision which, *inter alia*, addresses an important component of our collective fight against terrorism, namely, the links between terrorism and organized crime. The language in the decision seeks to reaffirm these links by means of formulations that are at variance with the OSCE agreed documents. Turkey regards the context in which this decision is elaborated to be inappropriate for a competent and thorough consideration of the nature of these links. Therefore, the adoption of the decision in no way alters, either in letter or spirit, the binding character, or mitigates the operational impact, of the participating States’ earlier policy statements contained in the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (2001) and the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism (Porto, 2002), and more importantly, United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

Turkey requests that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

DECISION No. 6/05
FURTHER MEASURES TO ENHANCE CONTAINER SECURITY
(MC.DEC/6/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE participating States' commitment to prevent and combat terrorism,

Recalling the participating States' obligations under United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1566 (2004), as well as the commitments in the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism,

Recalling its Decision No. 9/04 on enhancing container security, in which it recognized the vulnerability of transport networks, the important role container shipping plays in the global economy, OSCE's ability to work effectively with governments, representatives of business and civil society, and the importance of enhancing container security, as well as the need to minimize any adverse effects on the free flow of commerce of enhanced container security, and that enhanced container security will promote international trade and economic co-operation,

Welcoming the results of the OSCE Technical Experts Workshop on Container Security, held in Vienna on 7 and 8 February 2005 and the work subsequently carried out by the Informal Group of Friends of the Chair on Combating Terrorism,

Recognizing the work of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in creating global standards to enhance the security and facilitation of the international supply chain,

Noting that certain participating States are not members of the WCO and that some participating States have customs union agreements with other participating States by which responsibilities are assigned,

Decides:

- That all OSCE participating States should take measures recommended in the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade as soon as possible. To this end participating States that have not already done so, are encouraged to sign and submit to the WCO Secretary General the declaration regarding implementation of the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade* as soon as possible;
- That, in taking measures foreseen by the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, the OSCE participating States will in particular aim to promptly incorporate into their national procedures and regulations the Seal Integrity Programme for Secure Container Shipments, contained in the Appendix to Annex 1 of the Framework;

* The declaration regarding implementation of the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, signed by the director general of the customs administration, records a State's intention to begin the process of implementing the Framework. It also records the fact that in implementing the Framework the administration may require capacity-building assistance.

- That all OSCE participating States will inform each other on the measures taken to implement the above commitment;

Tasks the Secretary General to facilitate, as appropriate and within existing financial resources, technical assistance in this field by the WCO and other relevant international organizations to requesting participating States;

Tasks the Secretary General to promote, through and within the OSCE's existing organizational and logistic abilities, co-operation with the WCO and other relevant organizations in their efforts to enhance understanding of the objectives of the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade;

Encourages the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement this decision.

Attachment to MC.DEC/6/05

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Switzerland:

“In connection with the decision just adopted by the OSCE Ministerial Council, the Delegation of Switzerland wishes to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations:

Switzerland welcomes the efforts of the OSCE to enhance container security. In implementing the Decision on Further Measures to Enhance Container Security, Switzerland will respect the terms and conditions of any agreement providing for closer regional co-operation in the field of container security.

Switzerland requests that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Ministerial Council.”

DECISION No. 7/05
SUPPORTING THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF
UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)
(MC.DEC/7/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Gravely concerned by the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and by the risk that non-State actors such as terrorists and other criminal groups may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery and related materials,

Recalling OSCE commitments, in particular the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation adopted on 3 December 1994,

Noting that the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) discusses ways in which to support and add value to the global efforts on non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery and related materials,

Welcoming the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) by the Security Council of the United Nations as an important step towards preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials,

Recognizing that the FSC has taken steps to contribute to the implementation of this resolution, as appropriate and in co-ordination with the relevant UN fora, based on the OSCE concept of comprehensive and co-operative security and the OSCE mandate as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter,

Endorses FSC Decision No. 7/05, on Supporting the Effective Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

DECISION No. 8/05
FURTHER EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE
OSCE DOCUMENTS ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION
(MC.DEC/8/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Willing to further build upon the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council, the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, and other relevant decisions adopted in the framework of the OSCE,

Determined to contribute to the reduction, and prevention of, the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW, including the risk of their diversion into illicit markets, the hands of terrorists and other criminal groups,

Recognizing the security and safety risks posed by the presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices, including liquid rocket fuel (melange), in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some States in the OSCE area, and reaffirming the will of the OSCE to consider providing assistance regarding the destruction of these stockpiles and/or upgrading of stockpile management and security practices for States that request it,

Welcomes the progress achieved so far in the framework of the OSCE to implement the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, including the development of projects with the aim of containing and reducing the dangers emanating from surplus stockpiles of SALW, as well as stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices, including liquid rocket fuel (melange);

Takes note with appreciation of the ongoing work in the Forum for Security Co-operation to develop Best Practice Guides related to Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, as well as best practice guidance on national procedures for stockpile management and security of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS);

Takes note of the progress report on the further implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, as submitted to the Thirteenth Ministerial Council pursuant to Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/04;

Also takes note of the continuing work by the FSC to review implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, including the development of a progress report on implementation;

Encourages FSC deliberations prior to the First Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in 2006, and OSCE efforts at furthering its regional implementation;

Calls upon the Forum for Security Co-operation to continue its efforts to address these issues in a comprehensive way, reflecting the OSCE's concept of co-operative security and working in concert with other international fora;

Tasks the FSC to submit, through its Chairperson, a progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2006.

DECISION No. 9/05
OSCE SEMINAR ON MILITARY DOCTRINE
(MC.DEC/9/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing the need to address the challenges identified in the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century,

Recalling paragraph 15.7 of the Vienna Document 1999, which encourages participating States to hold periodic high-level military doctrine seminars, and noting that such seminars seek to improve mutual relations between participating States by fostering the process of transparency, openness and predictability, and

Recognizing the value of conclusions and recommendations issuing from the military doctrine seminar being considered by the OSCE/FSC,

Welcomes the military doctrine seminar as a means to enhance the security dialogue and the work of the FSC; and

Endorses and underlines the importance of FSC Decision No. 3/05 of 29 June 2005 to hold a high-level military doctrine seminar in Vienna on 14 and 15 February 2006, to examine changes in military doctrine derived from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict and the emergence of new technologies.

DECISION No. 10/05
TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION:
PROMOTING MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING
(MC.DEC/10/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security,

Recalling its commitments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination enshrined in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1999 Charter for European Security, Decision No. 4/03 on tolerance and non-discrimination, adopted at the 11th Ministerial Council Meeting (Maastricht, 2003), and Decision No. 12/04 on tolerance and non-discrimination, adopted at the 12th Ministerial Council Meeting (Sofia, 2004),

Recalling the OSCE's focus on promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, embodied in the 2003 Vienna Conferences on Anti-Semitism and on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, the April 2004 Berlin Conference on Anti-Semitism, the June 2004 Paris Meeting on the Relationship Between Racist, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes, the September 2004 Brussels Conference on Tolerance and the Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, and the June 2005 Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance and recalling the outcomes of those conferences,

Reaffirming its determination to implement the existing OSCE commitments in the fields of tolerance and non-discrimination and freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, and recalling other relevant international obligations,

Emphasizing the need for consistently and unequivocally speaking out against acts and manifestations of hate, particularly in political discourse, and working in favour of tolerance, mutual respect and understanding,

Recalling the importance of promoting and facilitating intercultural and inter-faith dialogue and partnerships aimed at tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, at both the national and the international levels,

Noting with appreciation the announcement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the establishment of the "Alliance of Civilizations", as well as the establishment of the Alliance of Civilizations High-Level Group of Eminent Persons and expressing interest in the outcome of this initiative,

Recalling Permanent Council Decisions Nos. 607, 621 and 633 and the declarations made by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office in 2004 — "Berlin Declaration", "Brussels Declaration" and "Paris Conclusions",

Appreciating the work of the three Personal Representatives of the Chairman-in-Office as part of the overall effort of the OSCE in combating discrimination and promoting tolerance, mutual respect and understanding and in awareness-raising,

1. Appreciates the declaration made by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office at the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance held in Cordoba on 8 and 9 June 2005 — “Cordoba Declaration”;
2. Welcomes the creation of the ODIHR Programme on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination;
3. Rejects the identification of terrorism and violent extremism with any religion or belief, culture, ethnic group, nationality or race;
4. Decides that the OSCE should continue to raise awareness and develop measures to counter prejudice, intolerance and discrimination, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all without distinction as to *inter alia* race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status;
5. Decides that the participating States while implementing their commitments to promote tolerance and non-discrimination will focus their activities in such fields as, *inter alia*, legislation, law enforcement, education, media, data collection, migration and integration, religious freedom, inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue, and commit to:
 - 5.1 Consider increasing their efforts to ensure that national legislation, policies and practices provide to all persons equal and effective protection of the law and prohibit acts of intolerance and discrimination, in accordance with relevant OSCE commitments and their relevant international obligations;
 - 5.2 Strengthen efforts to provide public officials, and in particular law enforcement officers, with appropriate training on responding to and preventing hate crimes, and in this regard, to consider setting up programmes that provide such training, and to consider drawing on ODIHR expertise in this field and to share best practices;
 - 5.3 Encourage public and private educational programmes that promote tolerance and non-discrimination, and raise public awareness of the existence and the unacceptability of intolerance and discrimination, and in this regard, to consider drawing on ODIHR expertise and assistance in order to develop methods and curricula for tolerance education in general, including:
 - Fighting racial prejudice and hatred, xenophobia and discrimination;
 - Education on and remembrance of the Holocaust, as well as other genocides, recognized as such in accordance with the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and crimes against humanity;
 - Education on anti-Semitism in order to ensure a systematic approach to education, including curricula related to contemporary forms of anti-Semitism in participating States;
 - Fighting prejudice, intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions;

- 5.4 Consider developing, in close co-operation with civil society, concrete measures which do not endanger freedom of information and expression, in order to counter xenophobic stereotypes, intolerance and discrimination in the media and to encourage programmes to educate children and youth about prejudice or bias they may encounter in the media or on the Internet;
 - 5.5 Strengthen efforts to collect and maintain reliable information and statistics on hate crimes and legislation within their territories, to report such information periodically to the ODIHR, and to make this information available to the public and to consider drawing on ODIHR assistance in this field, and in this regard, to consider nominating national points of contact on hate crimes to the ODIHR;
 - 5.6 Continue, with the support of relevant OSCE structures, institutions and field operations if necessary, to address the issue of migration and integration with respect for cultural and religious diversity as part of the overall efforts by the OSCE to promote tolerance, mutual respect and understanding and to combat discrimination, as well as to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
 - 5.7 Follow up on the work done so far by the OSCE to promote tolerance and non-discrimination, including through expert-level implementation-focused thematic meetings in 2006, and to consider the possibility of an OSCE conference in 2007;
6. Tasks the ODIHR to:
- 6.1 Assist participating States upon their request in developing appropriate methodologies and capacities for collecting and maintaining reliable information and statistics about hate crimes and violent manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, with a view to helping them to collect comparable data and statistics;
 - 6.2 Continue its co-operation with other OSCE structures and institutions, as well as with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, and with other relevant institutions and civil society, including non-governmental organizations;
 - 6.3 Through its Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, to continue providing support to the participating States, upon their request, in their efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, and to share the Panel's conclusions and opinions with OSCE participating States, both bilaterally and at relevant OSCE conferences and events;

7. Decides to make an appropriate contribution to the “Alliance of Civilizations” initiative through the promotion of inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and the advancement of mutual understanding and respect as well as human rights throughout the OSCE area and in this regard tasks:

- 7.1 The OSCE Chairman-in-Office to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of this decision and of the interest of the OSCE to support the “Alliance of Civilizations” initiative;
- 7.2 The Secretary General, drawing on the expertise of the OSCE structures and institutions, in particular the ODIHR, to provide in co-operation with participating States an OSCE contribution to the “Alliance of Civilizations” initiative and to bring it to the attention of the Alliance of Civilizations High-Level Group by the end of June 2006.

Attachment to MC.DEC/10/05

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Azerbaijan:

“With regard to the decision just adopted by the Thirteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding, I would like to make an interpretative statement in accordance with paragraph 79, Chapter 6, of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations.

By the adoption of this Decision, the Ministerial Council sends a strong political message on the role of the OSCE in promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, both to the OSCE community and to the wider international audience. It is particularly important in view of recent manifestations of discrimination and prejudice against Muslim communities that we have been witnessing in participating States. We must not remain indifferent to these violent incidents, as they have devastating effects not only on the societies where Muslims live, but also on the credibility of this Organization, which preaches respect for human rights in the vast area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

There are nine OSCE participating States and seven OSCE Partners for Co-operation which are also members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Azerbaijan, in its capacity as incoming Chair of the OIC Conference of Foreign Ministers, aware of the great privilege and responsibility that that entails, attempted to restore the balance in the OSCE approach to the issues of tolerance and non-discrimination in the present Decision. It is regrettable that Azerbaijan’s proposed amendment to the text, which was aimed at educating and increasing awareness regarding Islam and its true values, was not acceptable.

Acting in a spirit of compromise, the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan has agreed to join the consensus on the Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination: Promoting Mutual Respect and Understanding. However, we wish to express our firm determination to ensure that the OSCE approach to the issues of religious and cultural

diversity, which are among the key prerequisites for promoting respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, recognizes the reality and the seriousness of Azerbaijan's concerns.

We believe that the best remedy to prejudice, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims is to develop and implement sound strategies and educational approaches, supported by adequate resources. In this regard, we count on the support of the incoming Chairman-in-Office and hope for co-operation with the participating States, the ODIHR and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

DECISION No. 11/05
PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION
AND TRAINING IN THE OSCE AREA

(MC.DEC/11/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments of the participating States in the field of human rights education and training, in particular the commitments deriving from the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1990 Copenhagen Document, the 1991 Moscow Document, the 1999 Charter for European Security, the 2003 OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century and all other relevant OSCE agreed documents and decisions,

Recognizing that the promotion of human rights through education and training in the whole OSCE area could be viewed in the context of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security and is vital for the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as for the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination,

Acknowledging the added value of multifaceted co-operation, including consultation, co-operation and co-ordination with relevant international and regional organizations, as well as the benefits that countries can derive from each other's experiences and capabilities in the field of human rights education and training,

Taking into account the efforts of other international organizations, including the UN's World Programme for Human Rights Education, the Council of Europe's Programme on Education for Democratic Citizenship as well as its youth programme All Different, All Equal, and the EU's European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, as well as programmes undertaken at the national level,

Recognizing the contribution of the ODIHR and other OSCE structures, institutions and field operations, in promoting human rights education and training, in co-operation with participating States,

Dedicated to further strengthening the efforts by the OSCE to promote human rights education and training programmes in the OSCE area, as well as to extend the Organization's support to participating States upon their request in carrying out their respective national programmes in the field of human rights education,

Invites participating States with the involvement of civil society to further enhance systematic human rights education and training programmes designed to promote respect for the inherent dignity of all human beings, and to make human rights a reality for each person in every community and in society at large;

Decides to enhance the OSCE's efforts in co-operation with other international organizations and non-governmental organizations in taking necessary measures aimed at promoting human rights education and training, with special emphasis on the young people in the OSCE area;

Tasks the ODIHR, drawing on the relevant expertise and experience acquired by the OSCE structures, institutions and field operations, as well as the OSCE participating States:

- To produce a compendium of best practices for participating States on enhancing the promotion of human rights education and training, including the promotion of tolerance, mutual respect and understanding, and non-discrimination in the OSCE area.

DECISION No. 12/05
UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW
IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS
(MC.DEC/12/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the development of societies based on pluralistic democracy and the rule of law is a prerequisite for achieving a lasting peace, security, justice and stability,

Reaffirming the rule of law commitments contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1989 Concluding Document of Vienna, the 1990 Copenhagen Document, and the 1991 Moscow Document, those undertaken at the 1994 OSCE Summit in Budapest, and other relevant OSCE commitments and recalling relevant international obligations, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

Reiterating that the activity of the government and the administration as well as that of the judiciary will be exercised in accordance with the system established by law and in line with relevant OSCE commitments and international obligations of the participating States, and that respect for that system must be ensured,

Considering that the rule of law does not mean merely a formal legality which assures regularity and consistency in the achievement and enforcement of democratic order, but justice based on the recognition and full acceptance of the supreme value of the human personality and guaranteed by institutions providing a framework for its fullest expression,

Recognizing that rule of law must be based on respect for internationally recognized human rights, including the right to a fair trial, the right to an effective remedy, and the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention,

Recognizing that an impartial and independent judiciary plays a vital role in ensuring due process and protecting human rights before, during and after trials,

Recognizing that defence lawyers play a critical role in ensuring the right to a fair trial and in the furtherance and protection of other human rights in the criminal justice system,

Underlining the need to speak out publicly against torture, and recalling that all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever and can thus never be justified, and stressing the need to strengthen procedural safeguards to prevent torture as well as to prosecute its perpetrators, thereby preventing impunity for acts of torture, and calling upon participating States to give early consideration to signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture,

Decides to:

- Increase attention to and follow up on the issues of the rule of law and due process in criminal justice systems in 2006, *inter alia*, by encouraging participating States to

improve the implementation of existing commitments, also drawing on the expertise of the ODIHR, and in close co-operation with other relevant international organizations in order to avoid unnecessary duplication;

Tasks the ODIHR and other relevant OSCE structures to:

- Assist the participating States to share with one another successful examples, expertise and good practices to improve criminal justice systems;
- Assist the participating States upon their request to strengthen the institutional capacity of defence lawyers to protect and defend the rights of their clients.

DECISION No. 13/05
COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS
(MC.DEC/13/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 2/03 and 13/04, as well as other OSCE commitments to combat trafficking in human beings in all its forms and for all purposes, by adhering to which, the participating States have clearly demonstrated a political will to eliminate this contemporary form of enslavement that violates human dignity and undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the international obligations taken by those OSCE participating States which have signed and ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, as well as other relevant international treaties to which they are parties,

Noting the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings as the first regional treaty in this field which is mainly focused on the protection of victims of trafficking, as well as on the prevention of this horrendous crime and the prosecution of its perpetrators,

Welcoming progress achieved by participating States in the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings as a comprehensive tool-kit for assisting both authorities and civil society to prevent such trafficking, prosecute perpetrators of the crime and protect its victims,

Drawing attention to the need to enhance the above-mentioned measures, develop strong anti-trafficking networks which would function multilaterally, regionally and bilaterally, and effectively implement the commitments taken, with full support and assistance provided to the participating States, upon their request, by the OSCE structures, institutions and field operations,

Reiterating the unique role of the OSCE as a catalyst in joint efforts by international organizations aimed at combating trafficking in human beings of all forms, and commending the initiatives taken by the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings under the auspices of the "Alliance against Trafficking in Persons",

Decides:

1. To endorse the Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance, adopted by Permanent Council Decision No. 685 on 7 July 2005, thus effectively responding to the needs of the most vulnerable and unprotected victims of trafficking in human beings;
2. To continue to pay closer attention to the escalating threat of human trafficking, and to pursue a multidimensional and victim-centred approach to issues related to combating

trafficking in human beings as an aspect of organized crime, criminality and corruption, within the OSCE concept of comprehensive security;

3. To task the OSCE anti-trafficking mechanism to report to the Permanent Council in June each year, starting in June 2006, on progress achieved in work on trafficking issues in the OSCE. These reports will also contain contributions from other OSCE structures, institutions and field operations on developments related to trafficking in human beings throughout the OSCE region and will include an analysis of achievements in the light of the objectives set out in the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

DECISION No. 14/05
WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION, CRISIS MANAGEMENT
AND POST-CONFLICT REHABILITATION
(MC.DEC/14/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security in addressing new threats and challenges and its commitment to gender mainstreaming, in line with the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality,

Recalling that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its region,

Recognizing that the knowledge, skills and experience of both women and men are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region,

Further recognizing that United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security links gender equality and security, focusing on the role of women in matters of peace and security at all levels,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Emphasizing the importance of women's full and equal participation in all phases of conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building,

Acknowledging the need for concrete action by the OSCE to integrate women into conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation through its activities, *inter alia*, by:

1. Ensuring proactive implementation throughout the Organization of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted by Permanent Council Decision No. 638 of 2 December 2004,
2. Integrating into the activities of the OSCE, as appropriate, the relevant parts of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on the role of women in all levels of conflict prevention, crisis management and resolution, and post-conflict rehabilitation,
3. Encouraging participating States to develop national rosters of potential women candidates (as called for in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, paragraph 22) and take active steps to ensure that women are fully informed of and encouraged to apply for positions in the area of conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation processes, in particular for senior management positions,
4. Calling on participating States to nominate more women as heads of institutions and missions, and to other senior positions in the OSCE,

5. Actively encouraging the recruitment of women to OSCE field presences, in particular to management positions, with the goal of having a substantial number of field presences headed by women,
6. Calling on participating States and OSCE structures, as appropriate, to support and encourage training and educational programmes focusing on women and girls, as well as projects aimed at women's participation in building sustainable peace; to empower women's organizations; to support women's peace initiatives through the media and workshops on human rights and gender equality; and to raise awareness among women concerning the importance of their involvement in political processes,
7. Calling on participating States and OSCE structures, as appropriate, to develop specific policies to encourage the full and equal participation of women and women's organizations in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation, as well as to encourage and support the sharing of experiences and best practices and, further, to engage with women's peace initiatives,
8. Calling on participating States to take into account the important role and the particular needs of women and girls in implementing government policies on protection and durable solutions including voluntary return, resettlement, rehabilitation, (re)integration or repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons in safety and dignity,
9. Recommending that participating States regularly evaluate their efforts at gender mainstreaming in conflict prevention, conflict management and rehabilitation processes, and make such evaluations public, to be used for gender-sensitive training purposes, and in implementation of relevant commitments as well as to increase awareness of their importance,

Decides to:

- Task the Secretary General in his annual progress report on the implementation of Permanent Council Decision No. 638 on the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality with making specific references to the implementation in the Organization of the parts of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) that are relevant to the OSCE;
- Task the Secretariat, in the context of the objectives of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, with developing in co-operation with participating States, further measures to substantially increase the number of women in the OSCE Secretariat, institutions and field operations, in particular at senior and policy-making levels;
- Task the OSCE structures and institutions with developing or adjusting relevant projects, strategies and initiatives, and conducting other activities, including exchanging information with the UN in order to fulfil the commitments contained in this decision;
- Invite OSCE participating States and the OSCE institutions to report at the Annual Security Review Conference also on the progress achieved in implementing the commitments contained in this decision.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you. The United States supports the adoption of this decision. We would, however, like to clarify our views in relation to the reference in the text to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The United States is firmly committed to the empowerment of women and the promotion of women’s fullest enjoyment of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action express important political goals that the United States endorses. We reaffirm the goals, objectives, and commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action based on several understandings. We understand these documents constitute an important policy framework that does not create international legal rights or legally binding obligations on States under international law.

During the 2005 meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), there was international consensus that the Beijing documents create no new international rights, including a right to abortion, and this was confirmed by the CSW Chairperson.

Our reaffirmation of the goals, objectives, and commitments of these documents does not constitute a change in the position of the United States with respect to treaties we have not ratified.

The United States fully supports the principle of voluntary choice regarding maternal and child health and family planning. We have stated clearly and on many occasions, consistent with the ICPD, that we do not recognize abortion as a method of family planning, nor do we support abortion in our reproductive health assistance.

The United States understands that there is international consensus that the terms “reproductive health services” and “reproductive rights” do not include abortion or constitute support, endorsement, or promotion of abortion or the use of abortifacients.

The United States supports the treatment of women who suffer injuries or illnesses caused by legal or illegal abortion, including for example post-abortion care, and does not place such treatment among abortion-related services.

We are glad to join the nations assembled here in committing ourselves to tangible efforts on the ground devoted to continually helping women enjoy better, more free lives throughout the world.

We request that this interpretive statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of the Holy See:

- “1. The Holy See is firmly committed to safeguarding and promoting women’s dignity, their human rights and fundamental freedoms, also in matters of peace and security, and therefore in all levels of conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.
2. In joining the consensus on the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, the Holy See reaffirms its reservations and statement of interpretation on the documents of the Fourth World Conference on Women, as included in the report of that Conference, and its statement of interpretation on the final documents of the twenty-third special session of the UN General Assembly. The Holy See, therefore, understands the references to the Beijing documents and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in accordance with those reservations and statements. There are no changes in the position of the Holy See regarding the issues addressed therein.
3. The Holy See also understands that the Beijing documents do not establish any new human rights, or legally binding obligations.
4. The Holy See reserves its position regarding references to other international instruments mentioned in the Decision, consistent with its international obligations.
5. We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

DECISION No. 15/05
PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
(MC.DEC/15/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security,

Reaffirming the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, which calls for, *inter alia*, the full respect for and protection of the rights of women and girls during and after armed conflict and an end to impunity for perpetrators of gender-based violence,

Reaffirming the strong commitments of the OSCE participating States in the fields of human rights, gender equality, tolerance and non-discrimination, combating trafficking in human beings and improving the situation of Roma and Sinti,

Deeply concerned at the particular targeting or vulnerability to violence and hence the need for protection of girls and some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee and internally displaced women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, women with disabilities, elderly women, widows, women in situations of armed conflicts and women who are otherwise discriminated against, including on the basis of HIV status,

Emphasizing the commitment to gender mainstreaming in the OSCE Action Plan of 2004 for the Promotion of Gender Equality and the specific provisions regarding the prevention and elimination of violence against women in participating States,

Expressing its deep concern at the persisting level of violence against women and girls in the OSCE region, as well as the human and political costs of this phenomenon and recognizing that violence against women constitutes a threat to human security,

1. Urges participating States, with the support and assistance of the OSCE, to take all necessary legislative, policy and programmatic monitoring and evaluation measures to promote and protect the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls;
2. Calls on participating States to comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, if

they are parties, and, if they have not already done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to these Conventions; and calls upon States that have ratified or acceded to these Conventions to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Conventions;

3. Calls on participating States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and, where appropriate, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings;

4. Notes with regret that female victims of violence are too often left without protection and assistance and urges participating States:

- (i) To ensure that all female victims of violence will be provided with full, equal and timely access to justice and effective remedies; medical and social assistance, including emergency assistance; confidential counselling; and shelter;
- (ii) To adopt and implement legislation that criminalizes gender-based violence and establishes adequate legal protection;
- (iii) To provide in a timely manner physical and psychological protection for victims, including appropriate witness protection measures;
- (iv) To investigate and prosecute the perpetrators, while addressing their need for appropriate treatment;
- (v) To promote the full involvement of women in judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement institutions and to ensure that all relevant public officials are fully trained and sensitized in recognizing, documenting and processing cases of violence against women and children;
- (vi) To meet the special needs for protection and assistance of girl victims of violence;

5. Notes that violence against women and girls often remains unreported and unrecorded and is therefore not adequately reflected in statistics, and encourages participating States to support efforts to raise awareness; to make significant additional efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate comparable data; and to support specialized NGOs and research on the issue;

6. Calls upon participating States to take measures to strengthen the economic independence of women, including ensuring non-discriminatory employment policies and practices, providing equal access to education and training, equal remuneration for equal work, increased work and educational opportunities, equal access to and control over economic resources with a view to reducing women's vulnerability to all forms of violence, including domestic violence and trafficking in human beings;

7. Urges participating States to take all necessary steps to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls during and after armed conflict and emergencies, including the

bringing to justice of perpetrators of crimes, and to take special measures to address the needs of women and girls in the post-conflict environment;

8. Acknowledges the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and in the Elements of Crimes, adopted by the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute in September 2002, and the elaboration of the circumstances in which such crimes can constitute crimes against humanity and/or war crimes;

9. Encourages the dissemination of the relevant case-law of the existing ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and full co-operation with those jurisdictions;

10. Decides to intensify the co-operation of the OSCE with the relevant structures of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union and other international organizations, as well as with civil society and relevant non-governmental organizations, to promote the prevention of and the fight against all forms of violence against women and girls;

11. Tasks the Permanent Council to encourage the development by relevant OSCE institutions and structures of programmes, projects and policies to assist participating States, at their request, in combating violence against women and girls and providing assistance for victims;

12. Requests that the Secretary General pay specific attention to reporting on the implementation of this decision in the Annual Report to the Permanent Council on the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

Attachment 1 to MC.DEC/15/05

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you. The United States supports the adoption of this decision. We would, however, like to clarify our views in relation to the reference in the text to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The United States is firmly committed to the empowerment of women and the promotion of women’s fullest enjoyment of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action express important political goals that the United States endorses. We reaffirm the goals, objectives, and commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action based on several understandings. We understand these documents constitute an important policy framework that does not create international legal rights or legally binding obligations on States under international law.

During the 2005 meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), there was international consensus that the Beijing documents create no new international rights, including a right to abortion, and this was confirmed by the CSW Chairperson.

Our reaffirmation of the goals, objectives, and commitments of these documents does not constitute a change in the position of the United States with respect to treaties we have not ratified.

The United States fully supports the principle of voluntary choice regarding maternal and child health and family planning. We have stated clearly and on many occasions, consistent with the ICPD, that we do not recognize abortion as a method of family planning, nor do we support abortion in our reproductive health assistance.

The United States understands that there is international consensus that the terms “reproductive health services” and “reproductive rights” do not include abortion or constitute support, endorsement, or promotion of abortion or the use of abortifacients.

The United States supports the treatment of women who suffer injuries or illnesses caused by legal or illegal abortion, including for example post-abortion care, and does not place such treatment among abortion-related services.

We are glad to join the nations assembled here in committing ourselves to tangible efforts on the ground devoted to continually helping women enjoy better, more free lives throughout the world.

We request that this interpretive statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

Attachment 2 to MC.DEC/15/05

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of the Holy See:

“1. The Holy See deeply respects and promotes the dignity of women and girls, their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and therefore it is strongly committed to preventing and combating violence against women and girls.

2. In joining the consensus on the OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women, the Holy See reaffirms its reservations and statement of interpretation on the documents of the Fourth World Conference on Women, as included in the report of that Conference, and its statement of interpretation on the final documents of the twenty-third special session of the UN General Assembly. The Holy See, therefore, understands the references to the Beijing documents and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in accordance with those reservations and

statements. There are no changes in the position of the Holy See regarding the issues addressed therein.

3. The Holy See also understands that the Beijing documents do not establish any new human rights, or legally binding obligations.

4. The Holy See reserves its position regarding references to other international instruments mentioned in the Decision, consistent with its international obligations. Furthermore, the fact that the Holy See is joining the consensus on this Decision does not imply in any way a change in its position regarding the international instruments to which it is not a party.

5. We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

DECISION No. 16/05
ENSURING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF PERSONS SERVING ON
INTERNATIONAL FORCES AND MISSIONS

(MC.DEC/16/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the OSCE commitments to combat trafficking in human beings, in particular 2000 Vienna Ministerial Council Decision No. 1, 2002 Porto Ministerial Declaration and Maastricht Ministerial Decision No. 2/03 and the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as its addendum “Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance”,

Recalling the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, and its comprehensive definition of trafficking in persons,

Reiterating that trafficking in human beings, a contemporary form of slavery, seriously undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Concerned that military and civilian personnel serving on international peacekeeping forces or other international missions, including contractors, as well as field presences of international organizations including the OSCE could be a contributing factor to the demand side of the trafficking cycle,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations as well as other international organizations to develop and enforce “zero-tolerance” policies to prevent trafficking in human beings by both forces and other staff, which, combined with education and training, are required,

Recalling the ongoing activities in all relevant international organizations aimed at the development of common standards and best practices to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings,

Concerned about reports of misconduct by military and civilian personnel serving on international peacekeeping forces or other international missions, including reports of engaging in trafficking in human beings as defined in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, strongly condemning such acts, and noting that they have a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of mission mandates,

Concerned also about reports of misconduct by military and civilian personnel serving on international peacekeeping forces or other international missions including reports of sexually exploiting and abusing local and refugee populations, as well as reports of cases of forced labour, strongly condemning such acts, and noting that they have a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of mission mandates,

Emphasizing the need for more information and awareness-raising concerning these issues among personnel serving on international missions,

Taking note of efforts by the United Nations aimed at ensuring that personnel serving on peacekeeping forces or other international missions are held to the highest standard of conduct and accountability,

1. Calls on participating States to improve, where necessary, measures to prevent military and civilian personnel deployed abroad to peacekeeping forces or other international missions, as well as OSCE officials, from engaging in trafficking in human beings or exploiting victims of trafficking. In this regard, the participating States will seek to ensure that their national laws, regulations, and other relevant documents can be enforced with respect to their nationals who are serving on peacekeeping forces or other international missions, with a view to ensuring the highest standards of conduct and accountability;
2. Calls on participating States with deployed military and civilian personnel to assist, within their competence and respective mandates, responsible authorities in the host country in their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. Each participating State will take into account policies and consequences regarding trafficking in human beings when instructing its military and civilian personnel to be deployed abroad;
3. Calls on participating States to take appropriate action necessary to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as cases of forced labour, by military and civilian personnel deployed by them who are serving on peacekeeping forces or other international missions, to enforce relevant standards of conduct in this regard, and to ensure that any such cases are properly investigated and appropriately punished;
4. Reaffirms the importance of implementing the Code of Conduct for OSCE Officials and Staff Instruction No. 11 addressing trafficking in human beings, and instructs the Secretary General, drawing on the expertise of the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit, to update these documents to make them in line with this decision, and to circulate them to the participating States for comments and discussion prior to issuance;
5. Invites the governments of the OSCE Partners for Co-operation also to commit to the same principles as are set forth in this decision and to that end tasks the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the OSCE Secretary General to share relevant information and materials with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation;
6. Tasks the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to share with relevant international organizations OSCE training materials and other information that could assist in combating trafficking in human beings;
7. Tasks the OSCE Secretary General to report annually to the Permanent Council on the implementation of this decision in regard to the Code of Conduct for OSCE Officials and Staff Instruction No. 11, in accordance with provision III 11.1 of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

DECISION No. 17/05
STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OSCE
(MC.DEC/17/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming its full adherence to the norms, principles and commitments in all three dimensions of the OSCE comprehensive approach to security agreed since the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe,

Recognizing the role of the Organization as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter,

Recalling that all OSCE commitments apply equally, and to all participating States,

Emphasizing the role of the Organization as a forum for political dialogue, as a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and as a norm-setting body with its institutions and field operations, as well as its instruments and mechanisms,

Reaffirming the importance of all three dimensions of the OSCE approach to security as well as its cross-dimensional character,

Determined to strengthen confidence between participating States and to reinforce the sense of common purpose, by means of inclusive political dialogue on an equal footing, as well as assistance provided in a co-operative manner,

Recognizing the need to further focus the work of the Organization in those areas, where it has comparative advantages and can add value, while retaining its comprehensive approach to security,

Bearing in mind the need to ensure that basic priorities and action plans have a long-term perspective and are in line with the evolving security environment,

Determined to strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization operating on the basis of sovereign equality of States and of decision-making by consensus, in order to improve transparency and to foster the sense of ownership of all participating States,

Determined to make an effective gender mainstreaming an integral part of all policies, activities and programmes in the OSCE,

Recalling the Ministerial Council Decision No. 16/04 on the Establishment of a Panel of Eminent Persons on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE,

Commending the Panel for its determination and efforts, resulting in the report titled *Common Purpose, Towards a More Effective OSCE* (CIO.GAL/100/05 of 27 June 2005), and taking into account recommendations contained therein,

Taking also into account other contributions, including those by the Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the outcome of the High-Level Consultations held in Vienna on 12 and

13 September 2005, as set out by the Chairmanship in its Perception Paper (CIO.GAL/132/05 of 16 September 2005),

Considering that further efforts are needed for appropriate action on recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons,

1. Tasks the Permanent Council with continuing work on the basis of the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and the outcome of the High-Level Consultations and reporting to the Ministerial Council in 2006 on:

- Rules of procedure;
 - Improving the consultative process, including considering a committee structure;
 - Considering ways to improve the planning and efficiency of OSCE conferences;
 - Strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Organization's activities, including their budgetary and extra-budgetary financing, and their evaluation and assessment;
 - Considering ways to further enhance the role of the Secretary General, while supporting him in the full use of his mandate, including through further strengthening the co-operation with the heads of institutions and of field operations;
 - Modernizing the Secretariat, taking into account also proposals by the Secretary General and participating States, to further improve its capacity to support the Chairmanship-in-Office and the participating States and to co-ordinate OSCE activities;
 - Strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE institutions and field operations;
 - Examining the possibility of providing the OSCE with legal status and granting privileges and immunities, taking into consideration advice of legal experts;
 - Further improving the programme planning, so that it may better reflect the Organization's priorities;
 - Considering ways of further improving the professionalism of OSCE personnel and the management of its human resources, with due regard to the gender and geographical balance;
 - Considering the possibility of thematic missions in an OSCE-wide or subregional context;
2. Tasks the ODIHR to submit, for discussion, to the next Ministerial Council, a report on:
- Implementation of existing commitments,
 - Possible supplementary commitments,

- Ways of strengthening and furthering its election-related activities,
- Improving the effectiveness of its assistance to participating States,

taking into account and answering questions put by participating States and in close consultation with them.

Attachment 1 to MC.DEC/17/05

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Moldova:

“In connection with the Decision on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE, the Delegation of Moldova would like to make an interpretative statement on behalf of the GUAM member States under paragraph 79, Chapter 6, of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations.

Having joined others on the consensus regarding the adoption of the Ljubljana Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE, the GUAM countries consider the establishment of the special mechanism within the OSCE dealing with issues regarding the settlement of unresolved conflicts (as foreseen by the GUAM position document circulated under PC.DEL/1223/05/Rev.1) as a necessary component of the activities to be undertaken for “strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Organization’s activities, including their budgetary and extra-budgetary financing, and their evaluation and assessment”, as fixed in the fourth operative tiret of the above-mentioned Decision.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

Attachment 2 to MC.DEC/17/05

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH 79
(CHAPTER 6) OF THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS**

By the Delegation of Belarus:

“In connection with the adoption of the Decision on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE, the Delegation of the Republic of Belarus has been authorized to make the following interpretative statement with regard to paragraph 2 of that decision.

The fact that Belarus has joined the consensus on this decision does not mean that it agrees with the working methods of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

The Belarusian delegation proceeds from the understanding that when preparing the report for the Ministerial Council meeting in 2006 the ODIHR will take into account all the comments and proposals made and will also answer all the questions of all participating States without exception.

Belarus believes that the report of the ODIHR to the Ministerial Council should contain as integral elements:

- A comparative analysis of election laws and practices in all OSCE participating States;
- A list of objective criteria for the assessment of elections;
- A methodology for election monitoring, based on the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons and aimed at ensuring objectivity, transparency, professionalism and equal treatment of all participating States.

In the event that the ODIHR report does not meet these requirements, Belarus will not consider itself bound by its conclusions and proposals, and reserves the right to raise the question of the Office's work again in the political bodies of the OSCE.

We request that this interpretative statement be attached to the journal of the day.”

DECISION No. 18/05
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2008
(MC.DEC/18/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Finland will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2008.

DECISION No. 19/05
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

(MC.DEC/19/05 of 6 December 2005)

The Fourteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be convened in Belgium on 4 and 5 December 2006.

**IV. STATEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE
AND DELEGATIONS**

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

(Annex 1 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

The OSCE participating States that are Members of the European Union draw the attention of the other participating States to the institutional structure of the European Union. Insofar as there are Community or European Union rules governing the particular subject covered by the World Customs Organization (WCO) Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade referred to in the Ministerial Council draft decision on further measures to enhance container security (MC.DD/4/05/Rev.1), participating States that are Members of the European Union will apply amongst themselves the Community and European Union rules governing the particular subject concerned, without prejudice to the object and purpose of the above-mentioned draft decision, namely, to encourage the implementation of the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade.

**STATEMENT BY DR. DIMITRIJ RUPEL,
CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE OF THE OSCE**

(Annex 2 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States have met in Ljubljana in the year of the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 15th anniversary of the Charter of Paris to reaffirm the continued relevance of all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, and to strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization in dealing with contemporary threats to security and stability.

The Ministers have in the course of the last 30 years established and developed by consensus a comprehensive set of OSCE commitments. While the world is changing, the common principles that unite us remain the same. All the OSCE commitments, as our common achievement, apply equally and to all the participating States. The Ministers encourage their full implementation and consider them to be matters of immediate and legitimate concern to all the participating States. The participating States are accountable to their citizens, and responsible to each other for implementation of these OSCE commitments.

The OSCE must continue to adapt in order to meet evolving security challenges and to strengthen the Organization's functioning. The Ministers welcome the report and take into account the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons. The Ministers acknowledge the positive contribution of the High-Level Consultations in that regard. The Ministers are resolved to strengthen the effectiveness of the Organization and have therefore agreed on a roadmap to that end. The Ministers also welcome the adoption of the Permanent Council Decision on Scales of Contributions for 2005–2007, which is an essential component for ensuring the Organization's financial stability.

The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security across the three dimensions is as relevant as ever. The Ministers are determined to fully utilize the potential of the OSCE in its politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions, while ensuring greater cross-dimensional co-operation.

The Ministers call for a systematic and consistent implementation throughout the Organization of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, as well as of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

The Ministers reaffirm the important role, expertise and experience of the OSCE institutions — the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Representative on Freedom of the Media — in assisting all the participating States to implement their OSCE commitments.

The Ministers recognize the positive role and contribution of OSCE field operations as an innovative and operational instrument of the OSCE's work in putting into practice the goals and principles of our Organization, in full co-operation with host States and in accordance with their mandates. The effectiveness of field operations should be strengthened.

The Ministers stand united and are determined to take further decisive measures to prevent and combat terrorism, one of the greatest threats to our security. In reiterating our commitment, the Ministers also wish to emphasize their determination to conduct this fight

with respect for the rule of law and in accordance with our obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. The Ministers reaffirm their profound solidarity with victims and their families, as well as their need for access to the mechanisms of justice, and to prompt redress as provided for by national legislation, for the harm they have suffered.

Most Ministers are concerned by the persistence of unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area. Such conflicts generate instability and hinder regional co-operation and development. They support OSCE conflict-resolution efforts. Furthermore, they encourage all States having influence over the parties to use their good offices to seek peaceful and just solutions based on international norms and principles.

Most Ministers welcome the determination of CFE States Parties to fulfil the commitments undertaken at the 1999 Istanbul Summit and the progress made in 2005 in respect of Georgia. They note also the lack of movement in 2005 on withdrawal of Russian forces from Moldova. They reaffirm their shared determination to promote the fulfilment of that commitment as soon as possible, and to entry into force of the adapted CFE Treaty.

The OSCE's work in arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures continues to play an important role in fostering security, peace and co-operation in the OSCE area. The Ministers emphasize that full compliance with and implementation of the politico-military commitments by all the participating States are important for the common benefit of reliable security and stability in an OSCE area without dividing lines. The Ministers welcome the FSC decisions on holding a high-level seminar on military doctrine in February 2006 and UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and the Chairperson's statement on prior notification of major military activities. The Ministers take note of the discussions on non-proliferation. The Ministers encourage further work on implementing the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, including on assisting in addressing the risks arising from excessive stockpiles.

The CFE Treaty continues to make a significant contribution to security and stability in Europe. Most Ministers stress the importance of the Third CFE Review Conference, to take place in 2006, and underline their commitment to use that Conference to further strengthen the Treaty regime.

Most Ministers welcome the completion of the first phase of implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies and the positive assessment given to it by the 2005 First Treaty Review Conference. The Ministers stress the importance of the process of accession remaining open in the spirit of 1992 Helsinki Ministerial Declaration.

The Ministers believe that the OSCE's institution- and capacity-building expertise is important in assisting States to effectively uphold the rule of law, including in combating transnational organized crime and trafficking in human beings, drugs and arms. The Ministers recall that the fight against organized crime requires a coherent and comprehensive OSCE approach. The Ministers remain concerned about trafficking in the OSCE area, and in particular call for a strengthening of protection and assistance efforts in combating trafficking in human beings, including addressing the special needs of child victims of trafficking, as well as for measures to discourage demand.

The Ministers reaffirm their commitment to promote open and secure borders in a free, democratic, secure, prosperous and more integrated OSCE area without dividing lines. The Ministers therefore welcome the adoption of the Border Security and Management Concept and look forward to its implementation.

The Ministers are determined to better utilize the potential of the OSCE in the economic and environmental dimension of security. The OSCE's response to economic and environmental challenges and threats to security should focus on further developing economic co-operation, strengthening good governance, ensuring sustainable development and protecting the environment. In this context, the Ministers welcome the choice of transportation as the main theme of the Fourteenth Economic Forum.

The Ministers reaffirm that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is the essential element of the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security. The Ministers recognize the importance of fully implementing OSCE commitments on democratic elections. The Ministers are determined to continue promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, mutual respect and understanding and to implement their commitments in this field. In this regard, the Ministers appreciate the "Cordoba Declaration" by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, issued at the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance.

The Ministers are aware of the challenges and opportunities that migration presents to participating States. The Ministers are determined to fight illegal migration and to address its root causes. The Ministers reaffirm their commitment to protect the human rights of migrants and to continue to promote their integration into the societies in which they are lawfully residing. The Ministers encourage the use of the OSCE as one of the forums for facilitating a dialogue and co-operation among participating States and with the Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, in the search for mutually beneficial solutions to migration-related issues, through a cross-dimensional and concerted approach.

The Ministers underline the important role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and appreciate the close interaction with it that has developed in recent years.

The Ministers reaffirm the essential role that civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play and have played in promoting OSCE principles, norms and commitments during the 30 years of the Helsinki process. The Ministers also recognize that the relationship with NGOs should be further promoted with a view to strengthening democracy and prosperity.

The Ministers value the OSCE's role as a regional arrangement of the United Nations under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter and believe that this relationship should be further strengthened, in line with UN Security Council resolution 1631 (2005). The Ministers welcome the Declaration of Co-operation between the OSCE and the Council of Europe and encourage practical follow-up, while respecting the different memberships of the two organizations. The Ministers appreciate the co-operation between the OSCE and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Prosecutor's Office regarding the monitoring of war crimes trials in the countries concerned. Recalling the Platform for Co-operative Security, the Ministers encourage further strengthening and development of relations with other relevant international organizations.

The Ministers are convinced that security in the OSCE area should be considered in the broader context of global security. The Ministers therefore value their intensified relations with the Partners for Co-operation and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and look forward to further strengthening them.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

(Annex 3 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

I would like to make a statement on behalf of the following countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The text of the statement reads as follows:

“We reiterate our commitment to the CFE Treaty as a cornerstone of European security and to the early entry into force of the Adapted treaty, which would permit accession by new States Parties. We recall that fulfilment of the remaining Istanbul commitments on the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova will create the conditions for NATO Allies and other States Parties to move forward on ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty. In this context, we welcome the important progress achieved by Russia and Georgia in their Joint Statement of 30 May 2005 on issues related to the withdrawal of Russian forces, and look forward to resolution of the remaining issues. However, we note with regret the lack of progress on withdrawal of Russian military forces from the Republic of Moldova and we call upon Russia to resume and complete its withdrawal as soon as possible.”

The countries subscribing to this statement request its inclusion in the official documents of this Ministerial Meeting.

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

(Annex 4 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

The EU fully endorses the statement made by the Chairman-in-Office. We warmly thank the Chairmanship for the excellent organization and hospitality at this Ministerial Council Meeting and for their tireless efforts to seek consensus.

The EU welcomes the consensus statement on Georgia, in particular, the expression of support for the peace plan built upon the initiatives of the President of Georgia.

The EU welcomes agreement on the statement on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Group that the parties are now poised to make the transition from negotiation to decision. There are serious benefits within reach for all.

The EU welcomes the adoption of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept, which will lead us to more secure and open borders and also provides us with a framework for enhancing co-operation among participating States in the fight against the scourges of terrorism and organized crime.

The EU regrets that, in the absence of agreement on the priority issue of fulfilment of the remaining commitments concerning the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, made at the OSCE's Istanbul Summit in 1999, the Ministerial Council was again unable to conclude a ministerial declaration.

The EU remains concerned about the ongoing conflicts in the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. We urge all parties involved to search for ways to bring an end to these conflicts. Fulfilment of the remaining commitments made at the OSCE's Istanbul Summit in 1999 and reflected in the CFE Final Act, remains key. The EU welcomes the important progress achieved by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia, reflected in their joint statement of 30 May 2005, on issues related to the withdrawal of Russian forces in the Republic of Georgia and looks forward to resolution of the remaining issues. We believe that this statement, and the concrete actions taken since, represent encouraging steps towards the fulfilment of one of the remaining Istanbul commitments. We call upon both sides to take all necessary measures to implement the obligations stipulated in this joint statement as soon as possible.

We note with regret the continued lack of progress on withdrawal of Russian military forces and equipment from the Republic of Moldova and we urge the Russian Federation to resume and complete this process as soon as possible.

We confirm our support for the role of the OSCE and other mediators in the resolution of the conflict in the Republic of Moldova, fully respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. The EU has joined the process as observers. We are determined to contribute to the successful outcome of negotiations.

The EU is pleased that we have been able to reach agreement on a decision on a roadmap to guide our work in 2006 on strengthening the effectiveness of our Organization. We look forward to working in a constructive spirit with all other delegations to take this important work forward.

We welcome all the other important decisions that have been taken at this Ministerial Council Meeting.

On elections, the EU recalls that commitments freely entered into by participating States remain the basis for dialogue and co-operation in the OSCE. Binding political commitments must not be called into question. Autonomous OSCE institutions — operating within mandates agreed by all the participating States — help us to meet our commitments. Free and fair elections, which reflect the will of the people, and in which the electorate has confidence, are vital to the development and maintenance of stable democratic processes in every country in the OSCE region. The EU reaffirms its strong support for the ODIHR's work in the field of elections. We have every confidence in the ODIHR's professionalism and impartiality in this crucial area of the OSCE's activities.

The EU commends the OSCE's continued active involvement in Kosovo. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo (OMIK) is continuing to make an important contribution to UN-led efforts to foster stability in Kosovo. We reconfirm our commitment to United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and support all efforts to develop a multi-ethnic and tolerant society in Kosovo.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have already thanked the Slovenian Chairmanship for their dedicated efforts in support of this Organization, which is of such great importance to the European Union. We now look forward with confidence to the Belgian Chairmanship. The EU will work closely with the Belgian Chairmanship in the year ahead to strengthen the OSCE still further.

Mr. Chairperson, I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey and Croatia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

(Annex 5 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to you for your ceaseless efforts and the efforts of all the members of your team which, along with our excellent working conditions, made it possible to achieve substantial results and to adopt quite a number of important documents.

To be sure, not all of the serious problems which are causing concern to many today, which directly affect the OSCE's sphere of activity and which feature prominently in reports by the international media, have been reflected in our set of decisions. But we were acting in accordance with the principle of consensus and believe that the result achieved is an entirely worthy one.

I should like to single out in particular the decision on reform. With regard to this decision, as with regard to our other documents, the Russian delegation has no interpretative statement to make. We supported what was written in these documents and our position is adequately reflected in the consensus reached.

In their concluding comments, a number of our colleagues felt it necessary to touch on subjects that were not reflected in our decisions and on which, accordingly, no consensus has been reached. I should like to say a few words about the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty). I might recall something which we not only discussed with our colleagues during the negotiations over the last two days, but which we have also confirmed in documents, namely that the Russian Federation has fulfilled without exception all of its commitments related to the CFE Treaty. We trust that the relevant commitments of all the other countries, notably the commitment adopted at the level of Heads of State to ratify as soon as possible the adapted CFE Treaty (so far only four participating States have done so), will be fulfilled in the near future. All the more so, since the pretexts for not doing this are diminishing.

Our thanks, of course, go also to those who have expressed kind words regarding the consensus reached on the Ministerial Council document on Georgia. Certainly, we are pleased with this as are our Georgian colleagues. But we are doing this as part of our bilateral agreements and assure all those who are sympathetic that we are implementing these agreements, as arranged, directly in a bilateral format.

It is a pity that it proved impossible to reach consensus on the document on Moldova. A number of our colleagues insisted on formulations that simply contradicted the facts. They proposed, for example, supporting solutions which rule out the possibility of an agreement being reached between the Government of Moldova and Transdniestria and which call for a settlement to be sought without the involvement of Transdniestria, something which in general was criticized quite recently by many in the capitals of the States present here. But, let me repeat this, if everyone fulfils their commitments, I believe it will be possible to make progress in dealing with this problem, too.

It is also a pity that the document on Kosovo was not adopted, because the OSCE plays and, we are convinced, will continue to play an important role in the common efforts of the international community under the auspices of the United Nations to settle this extremely difficult conflict with its serious consequences. One of the main reasons why it proved impossible to adopt this document was the refusal of some delegations to back up our common adherence to the Helsinki Final Act. This seems to be quite a worrying symptom to me.

In conclusion, I should like to say that the decisions we have approved today set out a clear path for reforming and strengthening the OSCE.

Once again, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson, from the heart. I believe that you can indeed be genuinely satisfied with and proud of the work that has been accomplished. Today, we have done a great deal to strengthen the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA

(Annex 6 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

I regret that the Council was not able to adopt the ministerial declaration and the statement on Moldova at its annual meeting. The Moldovan delegation worked in a constructive and results-oriented manner to reach consensus on these important documents. However, owing to the position of one country, we do not have a final political document for the third year in a row.

Let me briefly state the main issues that Moldova perceives as very important for the Council to take into consideration.

Moldova is determined to find a political settlement for the Transnistrian problem based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of my country. The Transnistrian problem can be resolved by the democratization and demilitarization of the region. The final goal of negotiations should be the definition of the special legal status of the Transnistrian region within the Republic of Moldova.

The documents adopted by the Moldovan Parliament on 10 June and the Law on Basic Principles of the Special Legal Status of the Localities from the Left Bank of the Nistru River (Transnistria) of 22 July represent the framework for the settlement of the Transnistrian problem.

The participation of the EU and the United States of America in the negotiation process is of paramount importance for a fair and just solution to this regional security problem.

The destabilizing actions of the Tiraspol separatist regime taken against the local population of the Security Zone should be condemned by all of us.

The need for the transformation of the existing peacekeeping mechanism into an international mission of military and civilian observers under an OSCE mandate is imperative.

The Republic of Moldova greatly appreciates the involvement of the EU in securing the Moldovan-Ukrainian frontier by deploying the Border Assistance Mission. This Mission will contribute to the process of the political settlement of the Transnistrian problem.

We are concerned about the delay in organizing an international inspection of the ammunition depots of the Russian Federation. The monitoring of the military-industrial enterprises in the eastern region of the Republic of Moldova should be expedited.

The Republic of Moldova deeply regrets that the Russian Federation has not fulfilled its Istanbul commitments. In this regard, we urge the Russian Federation to resume without delay and complete the process of withdrawal of its troops and ammunition from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, in line with the OSCE Istanbul Summit Decisions of 1999. The complete implementation of these Decisions will facilitate the entry into force of the adapted CFE Treaty.

Mr. Chairperson, I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

(Annex 7 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Before I go to my statement on another matter, I want to thank you on behalf of the United States for a hugely constructive two days. You mentioned in your remarks that we were aiming high. One of the great hallmarks of this Organization is that it continues to aim high. When it stops aiming high, then we really need to worry about it. But it is, in my opinion, thanks to your leadership for these past two days, that this Organization is in a very, very healthy situation. To sit here with 55 nations discussing and wrestling with multiple and diverse issues has been — from a personal standpoint — an extraordinarily moving experience for me.

The United States thanks Slovenia for these past two days and definitely thanks Slovenia very much for its Chairmanship this last year. We look forward with increasing enthusiasm to the Chairmanship in 2006 by Belgium, as we have worked together these past two days more and more. So thank you, and thank you, colleagues, for all your understanding and for the very wise decisions you have taken and the thought you have put into the work we have all gone through over these past two days.

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States regrets that it has not been possible to reach agreement on a ministerial political declaration, or on a regional statement on Moldova.

In light of the lack of progress in regard to efforts to resolve the Transdniestrian conflict and to complete the withdrawal of Russian Federation forces from Moldova, the United States holds the view that it would have been highly appropriate in a ministerial declaration and regional statement to have:

Reiterated our support for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova,

Reiterated the OSCE's willingness to support a political settlement acceptable to all the people of Moldova,

Welcomed the expanded format of the political settlement negotiation process, which now includes the participation of observers from the European Union and the United States, and which we hope will give an added impetus to the process to find a sustainable model for a comprehensive settlement that will define a special legal status for the Transdniestrian region within the Republic of Moldova,

Welcomed the initiatives of the President of Ukraine and the complementary efforts of the Republic of Moldova to advance the negotiation process,

Noted with great concern the unilateral actions taken by local Transdniestrian authorities against the population in the Security Zone by restricting access to land and demanded the restoration of freedom of movement,

Welcomed the deployment by the European Union of a border assistance mission, and hoped that it would enhance transparency and combat negative phenomena on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border,

Noted the progress in negotiations on possible monitoring of military-industrial enterprises in the Transdniestrian region, and taken note of the package of confidence- and security-building measures presented by the mediators to the conflict negotiation in July 2005.

And, of course, Mr. Chairperson, it would have been of the utmost importance for a ministerial declaration and regional statement to have regretted the lack of progress in 2005 on fulfilment of the 1999 Istanbul Summit commitment on the withdrawal of Russian Federation military forces from the Republic of Moldova and urged its prompt resumption and completion.

Thank you. I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

(Annex 8 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada deeply thanks the Chairman-in-Office and his team for all their indefatigable efforts, not just in the past two days, but over the whole year.

We welcome the decisions just adopted in a number of areas of interest to Canada, in particular the “roadmap”, which charts a course of action for the next year to strengthen the effectiveness of the OSCE.

We express our deep regret at the inability, once again, of the participating States to reach consensus on a joint ministerial declaration.

The fulfilment of the remaining Istanbul commitments is clearly a pre-requisite for allowing us to move forward on some key issues.

Canada asks that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

(Annex 9 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

Discussions took place and references were made to the issue of the Kosovo problem in the Council. In this connection, the Delegation of Azerbaijan, also on behalf of Ukraine, would like to state the following:

Next year will be a decisive one in the process of the settlement of the Kosovo conflict. This process should be carried out in full accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and on the basis of the Helsinki Final Act, and regardless of its outcome, it must not establish any precedent whatsoever.

Mr. Chairperson,

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

(Annex 10 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to make a statement on behalf of our Delegation in response to the written contribution by the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, distributed at this Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council under reference number MC.IO/3/05, which allegedly expresses the position of the CIS with regard to the activities of the ODIHR/OSCE in the election observation sphere.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Republic of Azerbaijan joined neither the statement by the CIS participating States of 3 July 2004 regarding the situation in the OSCE, nor the appeal by the CIS participating States to the OSCE partners of 15 September 2004.

Mr. Chairperson,

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

V. REPORTS TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE FOR 2005

Introduction

Slovenia assumed the OSCE Chairmanship during a difficult period. A high-level debate about the relevance and fairness of the OSCE's work had created a sense of deep political crisis. Lack of consensus on the participating States' scales of contribution to the Organization, the inability to reach agreement on the Unified Budget for 2005 and a protracted process to find a successor to the outgoing Secretary General had further complicated the situation.

Slovenia's main challenge was, therefore, to get the Organization back on an even keel, to try to recapture a sense of common purpose and to take steps to strengthen the effectiveness of the OSCE. All of this needed to be done in addition to ensuring implementation of the decisions adopted at the Sofia Ministerial Council meeting and running the day-to-day political business of the Organization.

On the positive side, 2005 was a year of anniversaries: the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 15th anniversary of the Charter of Paris. This helped to put the historical significance of the OSCE into perspective and prompted States to think about the Organization's future.

As usual, the Chairmanship always has to expect the unexpected. In 2005, the OSCE had to react quickly to events in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Slovenia also sought to move ahead on the resolution of frozen conflicts. The Chairmanship welcomed the joint declaration of Georgia and the Russian Federation on the closing of Russian military bases and facilities in Georgia by 2008.

In the past year, much has also been done concerning the conflict dealt with by the Minsk Conference: the so-called Prague meetings of the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan have had a positive effect, enabling the presidents of both countries to meet in Warsaw and Kazan, thus giving new momentum to the process of resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

By the end of the year, agreement had been reached on scales of contribution to the Unified Budget, a new Secretary General had been appointed, and steps had been taken to strengthen the effectiveness of the OSCE, thanks to a report by a Panel of Eminent Persons, high-level consultations and agreement on a roadmap for reform at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council meeting.

Despite no agreement on a Ministerial Declaration, the Council helped to restore a constructive spirit, and took a number of decisions to strengthen the OSCE's ability to tackle new threats and challenges to security, including transnational organized crime, trafficking, illicit drugs and terrorism, as well as broadening the Organization's work in human rights education, migration, tolerance and non-discrimination, and adopting a decision on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE.

To cap a successful year, the budget was adopted on time for the first time in five years.

Slovenia is proud to be able to hand over the Chairmanship of the OSCE to Belgium with the Organization in good shape — proud of its past, well-equipped to deal with contemporary challenges, and looking constructively and innovatively to the future.

Reform of the OSCE

Reform was a high priority for the OSCE in 2005. The Organization's participating States have been sensing a need for reform over recent years, and several Chairmanships have given reform a high priority. At the Sofia Ministerial Council meeting, the Foreign Ministers adopted a decision (MC.DEC/16/04) on the establishment of a Panel of Eminent Persons on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE, opening the way for a thorough debate on the role and reform of the Organization. The Panel was mandated to give new impetus to political dialogue and provide a strategic vision for the OSCE in the twenty-first century.

The decision also tasked the Chairman-in-Office (CiO) with appointing the members of the Panel after consultations with all the participating States. In February 2005, seven eminent persons with knowledge of the OSCE were appointed, taking into account the diversity of the OSCE community, including the participating States that host field presences. The members of the Panel were: Ambassador Nikolay Afanasievsky (replaced at the last meeting by Ambassador Vladimir Shustov, Russian Federation), Ambassador Hans van den Broek (the Netherlands), Ambassador Wilhelm Hoyneck (Germany), Ambassador Kuanysh Sultanov (Kazakhstan), Ambassador Knut Vollebaek, who chaired the Panel meetings (Norway), Ambassador Richard Williamson (United States of America) and Ambassador Miomir Zuzul (Croatia). The Secretariat of the OSCE provided active support, while the CiO acted as focal point for the Panel. Sadly, Ambassador Afanasievsky passed away before the report was submitted.

Between February and June, the Panel convened five times, and met more than 30 experts from international organizations, including the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Council of Europe (CoE), as well as think-tanks and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It presented its report with recommendations to the participating States through the CiO at the end of June.

Simultaneously, other individuals and institutes produced publications on reform, including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (in co-operation with the Swiss Foundation for World Affairs), the Centre for OSCE Research (CORE), and the Helsinki Monitor publication.

The Sofia Decision had called for convening high-level consultations as a follow-up to the Panel report in order to make recommendations for appropriate action to the meeting of the Ministerial Council in December. These took place in September and the outcome was followed up by a Working Group on Strengthening the Effectiveness of the OSCE, chaired by Slovenia.

At the Ljubljana Ministerial Council meeting, an important decision (MC.DEC/17/05) was adopted on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE. It set out a roadmap for reform and tasked the Permanent Council with working on a number of specific reform-related issues (*inter alia*, rules of procedure; the consultative process; the planning and efficiency of OSCE conferences; the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Organization's

activities, including their budgetary and extra-budgetary financing, the role of the Secretary General; modernizing of the Secretariat; programme planning; the professionalism of OSCE personnel; and thematic missions) and with reporting to the Ministerial Council meeting in 2006. It also tasked the ODIHR with submitting, for discussion at the next meeting of the Ministerial Council, a report on the implementation of existing commitments, possible supplementary commitments and ways of strengthening and furthering OSCE's election-related activities, and of improving the effectiveness of its assistance to participating States.

An anniversary year

In 1975, the first Conference on Security and Co-operation ended with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. The CSCE process and the "spirit of Helsinki" helped to reduce tensions in Europe and contributed to the end of the Cold War. This was acknowledged at the Second Summit of Heads of State or government, which took place in Paris in 1990, and resulted in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

These milestones of modern European history were marked by the OSCE community in 2005 through a number of events and publications.

The CiO took part in commemorative events in Vienna on 20 July, in Helsinki on 1 August, and at in the Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly in Washington on 1 July. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly event had as its theme "Thirty Years Since Helsinki: Challenges Ahead".

Politically, the anniversaries help to remind States of the CSCE's historical significance and of the OSCE's valuable work. Recalling the sense of common history and of common commitments helped to reduce the sense of crisis and criticism and inspired States to seize this opportunity to plot a course for the OSCE's future. These sentiments were reflected in the beginning of the Statement by the Chairman-in-Office at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council meeting, in the opening section of the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons and in the Ministerial Council's decision on strengthening the effectiveness of the OSCE.

A cross-dimensional approach

The OSCE has traditionally looked at issues in terms of "dimensions": politico-military, economic and environmental, and human. At the same time, it has always stressed its comprehensive approach to security.

In 2005, a recent trend towards a more cross-dimensional approach was strengthened by the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons and by the adoption of a more holistic approach to issues like migration, the fight against transnational organized crime, anti-trafficking and counter-terrorism. The Ministerial Council took important decisions on these issues (MC.DEC/3/05, 4/05 and 5/05).

Politico-military dimension activities

Implementation of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century represented the chapeau for the work on the politico-military dimension and its further strengthening. The 2005 Annual Security Review Conference, which took place in June, reaffirmed the continuing importance of the “first dimension” and put forward a number of proposals and recommendations aimed at further enhancing the OSCE’s capacities to effectively respond to evolving threats and challenges. The Ljubljana Ministerial Council meeting endorsed some of these initiatives.

Preventing and combating terrorism remained high on the OSCE’s agenda as terrorist attacks in the Organization’s area further demonstrated the need for States to work together to tackle this menace. In 2005, the OSCE looked at the relationship between terrorism and human rights. The Ljubljana Ministerial Council meeting adopted decisions calling for enhanced co-operation in criminal matters to counter terrorism and combating the threat of illicit drugs. Attention was also paid to the issue of container security. The Ministerial Council took a decision (MC.DEC/6/05) on measures to enhance container security.

A special focus was devoted to countering the threat emanating from chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear sources. At the Ministerial Council meeting, a decision was adopted (MC.DEC/7/05) supporting the effective implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation. This is another indication of the OSCE’s role as a regional implementer of global instruments.

The participating States were also encouraged, through a Ministerial Council decision (MC.DEC/8/05), to make further efforts to implement the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

Following up a decisions by the Maastricht Ministerial Council meeting in 2003, and in an effort to achieve the goal of open and secure borders as well as addressing cross-border issues, participating States worked on a Border Security and Management Concept, which was finalized at the Ljubljana Ministerial Council meeting.

OSCE police-related activities have been important in improving the capacity of the participating States to address new security threats. These activities focus on capacity-building, including community policing, police training and human resources management, and enhancement of the rule of law, as well as specialized activities such as combating human trafficking, improving the capacities of law enforcement officials to prosecute offenders and preventing and combating hate crimes. The activities focused on Central Asia, the southern Caucasus and south-eastern Europe.

The Chairmanship further strengthened co-operation between the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and actively promoted the FSC’s agenda. It supported full implementation of the existing arms control agreements and non-proliferation and confidence- and security-building measures, their timely adaptation and, when required, their further development. This included increased activity relating to the implementation of commitments on small arms and light weapons, stockpiles of conventional ammunition and the disposal of liquid rocket fuel. The OSCE took an important step forward in 2005 in the implementation of related commitments (implementation of the small arms and stockpiles project in Tajikistan and a rocket fuel project in Armenia). Information exchange on related

activities and co-operation with the UN, the EU and NATO have been an important part of this endeavour.

Slovenia actively promoted the idea of holding an OSCE Seminar on Military Doctrine. Pursuant to decisions by the FSC and the Ministerial Council, a meeting will be held in Vienna on 14 and 15 February 2006 to examine changes in military doctrine derived from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict and the emergence of new technologies.

Economic and environmental dimension activities

Slovenia supports raising the profile of the economic and environmental dimension and ensuring its proper place in the cross-dimensional scope of the OSCE's work. As its starting point, Slovenia's Chairmanship urged full implementation of the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, in order to enhance co-operation, good governance, sustainable development and protection of the environment.

In accordance with Sofia Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/04, attention was devoted to the preparation of the report of the Economic and Environmental Subcommittee of the Permanent Council focusing on further improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic Forum. The Chairperson of the Subcommittee presented a report to the Permanent Council on 16 June, prepared by the Informal Group of Friends of the Chair on Enhancement of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension, which was set up by the Chairmanship in January.

The priority of the Slovenian Chairmanship in the economic and environmental dimension was the issue of migration and integration. The Chairmanship worked closely on this issue with the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), the High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) and outside partners, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The cycle of preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum started with an examination of the economic and security challenges posed by demographic developments at the First Preparatory Seminar on 8 and 9 November 2004 in Trieste, Italy. The Seminar put forward useful suggestions in this respect.

The Second Preparatory Seminar, held on 24 and 25 January in Almaty, Kazakhstan, yielded meaningful suggestions in the areas of management of economic migration and its security implications. At the third and final Preparatory Seminar, participants considered the economic and social aspects of the integration of persons belonging to national minorities, the promotion of integration and prevention of discrimination, education policies for integration and the importance of good governance for the management of integration. This final Preparatory Seminar was held in Kiev, Ukraine, on 10 and 11 March.

The Thirteenth Meeting of the Economic Forum, held in Prague from 23 to 27 May, focused on "Demographic trends, migration and integrating persons belonging to national minorities: ensuring security and sustainable development in the OSCE area". It brought together over 450 participants, including representatives of the OSCE participating States, the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, the OSCE Secretariat and field operations, international organizations and NGOs, as well as academics and representatives of the business community. The topics of demography, migration and integration continue to

be among the most important challenges confronting the OSCE participating States and one of their central areas of concern.

The Chairmanship attached great importance to the follow-up of the Economic Forum. In co-operation with the OCEEA, IOM and ICMPD, the Chairmanship prepared a food-for-thought paper in September on managing migration and, together with the High Commissioner on National Minorities, drafted a statement of principles of integration respecting diversity. The Ministerial Council decision on migration adopted in Ljubljana (MC.DEC/2/05) opened the way for increased OSCE activity in this field. The paper “Co-operation towards better economic migration policies — Proposal for an OSCE contribution” provides food for thought to continue the work in the area of migration in 2006. The Chairmanship supported the organization of the workshop on migration in Central Asia, as this was one of the concrete recommendations of the Forum, and will participate in the joint OSCE-ICMPD workshop on labour migration in Central Asia, which was scheduled to be held in Almaty on 31 January and 1 February 2006. The Chairmanship supported the preparation of the OSCE-IOM Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in the Countries of Origin and Destination that is to be presented at the Fourteenth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum at the end of May 2006 in Prague.

Human dimension activities

The activities of the CiO in the human dimension are manifold. A number of activities followed the regular pattern of annual events organized in co-operation with the ODIHR: the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (the yearly ODIHR seminar), and the three Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings. Other important activities were the organization of the Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance, the elaboration of the addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance, as well as the work done in the field of democratic elections. The Slovenian Chairmanship launched a human rights education pilot project for youth in the OSCE area, in order to implement the human dimension requirements set forth in the Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century. The human dimension continues to play an important role in the activities of the CiO in regional issues.

The first Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting was held in Vienna on 21 and 22 April. The theme, “Challenges of election technologies and procedures”, was chosen to enable all interested parties, including international organizations and NGOs, to provide input for work in three fields of interest: new election technologies (challenges for the electoral process); OSCE election commitments (ongoing challenges to implementation — “Copenhagen Plus” as a possible means to enhance compliance); and election observation (challenges to enhancing electoral integrity).

The second Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting was devoted to human rights and the fight against terrorism. This Meeting, which took place in Vienna on 14 and 15 July, demonstrated progress in this field. However, in the fight against terrorism there are areas and situations where the respect for freedom of religion or belief could be enhanced, the fight against torture strengthened and the role of civil society further promoted. Following a very dynamic discussion during the Meeting, governments and international and non-governmental organizations made several recommendations on the issue. Participating States re-emphasized their determination to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as a crime without justification, whatever its motivation or origin, and to

conduct this fight with respect for the rule of law and in accordance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights and refugee and humanitarian law.

The third Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting looked at the role of defence lawyers in guaranteeing a fair trial. It took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 3 and 4 November. This Supplementary Meeting was the first ever held outside Vienna as well as the first devoted to the topic of defence lawyers. It examined issues such as access to legal counsel, admission to and regulation of the bar and equality of parties in criminal procedures. Participants in the meeting made many recommendations to participating States and to the OSCE and suggested further follow-up.

The 2005 Human Dimension Seminar was devoted to migration and integration and took place in Warsaw from 11 to 13 May. The meeting offered a good opportunity to highlight the work done in the field of migration and integration by the OSCE and the ODIHR. The recommendations included the need for a cross-dimensional approach to drafting a strategy for managing migration issues and a statement of principles on integration.

As urged by the Sofia Ministerial Council meeting, the Chairmanship organized a special conference on issues addressed in the decision on tolerance and non-discrimination (MC.DEC/12/04). The OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and On Other Forms of Intolerance, which took place on 8 and 9 June in Cordoba, Spain, defined and summarized the work done in 2004. Its main message was reflected in the CiO's Cordoba Declaration (see annex to this report). On the one hand, the Conference addressed various aspects of fighting anti-Semitism; on the other, it tackled ways of combating other forms of intolerance and discrimination, including racism and xenophobia. For the first time in the OSCE framework, the topic of intolerance and discrimination against Christians, Muslims and members of other religions was discussed during two formal working sessions. These discussions highlighted the role of the media, education, law enforcement and legislation. They emphasized the growing need to address issues of tolerance and non-discrimination through the promotion of mutual respect and understanding, as well as the need for full implementation of OSCE commitments in this field.

The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting took place from 19 to 30 September in Warsaw. In a departure from past practice, the Implementation Meeting focused on making thematic links between three specially selected subjects: tolerance and non-discrimination, the situation of the media in the OSCE region and the role of State and non-State actors in promoting freedom of the media and methods to prevent and combat torture.

The Permanent Council, through the Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking, with support provided by the Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and other relevant OSCE structures, elaborated an addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, on addressing the special needs of child victims of trafficking for protection and assistance, as called for by the Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia. The addendum was adopted by the Permanent Council on 7 July and endorsed by the Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana.

The Chairmanship, in co-operation with the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, has consolidated the existing partnership with other international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations into the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons. This Alliance was established with a view to further

developing meaningful and effective joint strategies and to providing participating States and the Partners for Co-operation with harmonized responses and decision-making aids. Three main meetings in Vienna were organized in this framework: a meeting of national experts on assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking on 28 February; the OSCE annual anti-trafficking conference — with a focus on the trafficking of children — on 18 March; and the OSCE high-level conference focusing on forced labour on 17 and 18 November.

Following the Supplementary Meeting on the challenges of new election technologies and procedures in April, the Chairmanship issued a non-paper on elections, in which it proposed a three-pronged approach. In this context, the Chairmanship proposed to the ODIHR to convene three technical-expert meetings addressing the following issues: possible supplementary commitments on democratic elections; election observation; and new voting technologies. A first meeting on possible supplementary commitments on democratic elections was held in September in Warsaw. Experts participating in this meeting proposed elaborating “Copenhagen Plus” commitments, as illustrated in the OSCE/ODIHR Explanatory Note on Possible Additional Commitments for Democratic Elections. This issue was also discussed at the main Warsaw Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, and general support for the idea was expressed during a briefing for delegations on “Copenhagen Plus” in October in Vienna. In late November, the ODIHR organized a meeting in Moscow addressing the issues of election observation. The Chairmanship proposed a draft Ministerial Council decision on enhancing democratic elections through supplementary commitments (Copenhagen-plus document), which focused on three supplementary commitments: transparency, accountability and public confidence.

Following the adoption of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for Promotion of Gender Equality, the Chairmanship co-organized an expert Workshop on Violence Against Women, held on 28 and 29 April in Paris. Leading experts in the field of combating violence against women from the UN, the CoE, the EU, the OSCE and other international organizations attended the Workshop. The event focused on three aspects of violence against women: violence in the family and at home; violence on the basis of social and economic circumstances; and sexual violence in armed conflicts.

The Chairmanship, together with the ODIHR, the CoE, Poland and the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), organized an international conference to push forward the agenda of the OSCE’s Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti adopted in 2003. The conference, which took place in Warsaw in October, focused on concrete measures to implement policies and action plans for Roma, Sinti and travellers, and on measures against the anti-Gypsyism phenomenon in Europe. Participants in this conference proposed follow-up in 2006 to the recommendations made.

In line with the OSCE’s efforts to promote tolerance and fight discrimination, the CiO re-appointed Anastasia Crickley as his Personal Representative on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also Focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions; Gert Weisskirchen as Personal Representative on Combating Anti-Semitism; and Omur Orhun as Personal Representative on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims.

The Chairmanship proposed a pilot study on human rights education to help strengthen the implementation of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, and other relevant OSCE commitments. The pilot project was offered to all participating States. The teaching texts were translated into 16

languages spoken in the OSCE participating States, including Roma. At the beginning of the school year, the pilot project was launched for pupils in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Ireland, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine. The teaching material, entitled *Our Rights*, is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and was developed in co-operation with the CoE and relevant NGOs. It can either supplement existing methods and tools or serve as an innovative approach outside the formal school curricula.

At all human dimension activities and events, the Chairmanship paid special attention to the important role of civil society and NGOs. At the beginning of his mandate, on 13 January, the CiO met in Vienna with representatives of NGOs and civil society who are active in the OSCE region. A day before the Cordoba Conference, the CiO addressed the NGO Forum in Seville.

The CiO informed the UN Secretary-General in December of the OSCE's interest in supporting the initiative for an "Alliance of Civilizations", as requested by the Ljubljana Ministerial Council.

Management issues

One of the first priorities of the Slovenian Chairmanship was to ensure adoption of the OSCE's Unified Budget for 2005. The absence of an approved budget for several months added to the overall sense of instability and threatened the effective management of OSCE operations. Consensus was reached on 12 May on the adoption of a budget of EUR 168.8 million.

Another major challenge for the Chairmanship was finding a successor to Secretary General Jan Kubis, whose mandate expired in June. Under Slovenia's stewardship, consensus was reached on the appointment of Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, who became the OSCE's fourth Secretary General on 21 June.

The continuing lack of agreement on participating States' scales of contribution to the OSCE budget threatened to severely handicap the Organization's work. Fortunately, after considerable negotiations, agreement was reached on 25 November. Following this, the 2006 Unified Budget was adopted on 20 December, for the first time in five years within the deadline stipulated in Financial Regulations and relevant PC decisions.

Regional issues

South-eastern Europe

The chance of joining the EU and NATO was the most important incentive for the countries of south-eastern Europe to continue with their reform processes. To support and complement them in their efforts, the OSCE focused on capacity- and institution-building in various areas. The Chairmanship asked OSCE missions to make projections on how these extra demands would fit in with their mandates, affect their current programmes and enable them to fulfil their tasks without changing the mandates or programmes.

Promoting regional co-operation in the fields of refugee return and of inter-State co-operation on war crimes trials and reconciliation stood high on the agenda. The

Chairmanship organized a ministerial meeting in Brijuni, Croatia, on war crimes proceedings to highlight the need to continue co-operation at all levels. An expert-level meeting continued in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Chairmanship also supported the reconciliation process ("Igman initiative") that brought together the Heads of State of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro.

The Chairmanship supported the important role the OSCE plays in Kosovo through its largest Mission and took an active part in the work of the Steering Group (together with the UN and the EU) under the direction of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Soren Jessen-Petersen. In the current situation, there is still no need for substantial changes in the Mission's mandate. During the year, the Mission continued its activities in the field of pro-active monitoring and capacity-building, while leaving enough flexibility for the continuity of work in a new structure after the finalization of status talks. The role of the OSCE Mission's field offices will soon be reinforced following the draw-down of the UN Mission in Kosovo, placing it in an ideal position to deal with capacity-building and to monitor the performance of local institutions and the police. In his frequent visits to the region, the CiO repeatedly emphasized the need for both Pristina and Belgrade to understand that, in the future status negotiations, compromise would be essential and both sides would have to make important concessions.

With respect to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the CiO took part in the Srebrenica commemoration ceremony, a highly significant event for the reconciliation process both in the country and in south-eastern Europe as a whole. During his visit in September, he reiterated the OSCE's continued support for political stabilization and ongoing reform. He discussed the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially given the stalemate in police reform and its implications for the European integration process, as well as the future structure of the international community in the country. He also talked about education and defence reform efforts, co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and domestic prosecution of war crimes, democratization and good governance, as well as other OSCE initiatives. An international conference commemorating the Tenth anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement was organized under the auspices of the Chairmanship in Sarajevo. The aim of the event was to assess the historical background and to discuss possible future opportunities for co-operation within a broader European and global context.

During a visit to Tirana, the CiO said the parliamentary elections in July represented a major test case for Albania's goal of Euro-Atlantic integration and served as an indicator of the country's political stability and democratic development. Throughout the process, the OSCE has supported the political and technical electoral processes. It also deployed an ODIHR election observation mission tasked with assessing the compliance of the election process with commitments and standards for democratic elections in conformity with OSCE commitments. The OSCE's role was purely technical and politically neutral, and focused on ensuring fair and correct elections.

The CiO visited Skopje in September, where he met with leaders of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He expressed Slovenia's firm support for the commendable efforts of the OSCE Mission in the fields of rule of law and judicial reform. He said that the structure of the field mission should remain intact at least through the parliamentary elections in 2006.

Eastern Europe

In 2005, the OSCE remained committed to finding a peaceful political settlement to the Transdniestrian question that would fully respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, while assuring a special status for Moldova's Transdniestrian region. The CiO paid visits to the Republic of Moldova in March and October, where he met with representatives from Chisinau and Tiraspol. The talks there focused on all issues related to the settlement of the Transdniestrian issue.

Besides supporting the efforts aimed at reinvigorating the search for a political settlement to the Transdniestrian question and welcoming the inclusion of the EU and the USA as observers in the process, the Chairmanship also encouraged contacts and dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol and worked to re-establish a stable ongoing framework acceptable to both sides.

Settlement of the Transdniestrian issue has been given new momentum by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's plan, "Towards settlement — through democratization", and by a "roadmap/plan", which was also the basis for deploying an EU border monitoring mission on the Moldovan-Ukrainian border.

The package of confidence- and security-building measures that was presented to the Moldovan and Transdniestrian sides in July by the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the OSCE aims at a strengthening of security and confidence and stable demilitarization.

There was no withdrawal of Russian Federation arms and equipment from the Republic of Moldova during 2005.

The first two regional visits of the CiO were made to Ukraine, following the events at the end of 2004, when more than 1,000 election monitors made up the largest election-monitoring operation in the Organization's history. The Chairman-in-Office visited Ukraine for the third time in October to discuss, among other issues, the ongoing role of the OSCE and its co-operation with Ukraine.

Ukraine co-operates with the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, and other international organizations, in activities to secure and cement the democratic progress made. The Project Co-ordinator worked to strengthen electoral law and practices, including by establishing early-warning systems for the upcoming 2006 parliamentary elections; to promote economic and social development; to protect and promote freedom of the media; to establish laws protecting national minorities; and to strengthen internal and border security.

Concerning Belarus, the OSCE has expressed concerns about the situation of civil society, the rule of law and human rights. The OSCE continues to monitor the situation of civil society and to work with the Belarusian authorities, in accordance with the mandate of the Office in Minsk, to ensure respect for OSCE commitments.

Caucasus

In the southern Caucasus, the OSCE played a lead role in working with the parties in resolving the conflict in South Ossetia, Georgia, and the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference in Nagorno-Karabakh. Throughout the region, the Organization's focus is

on the reform of constitutions, local governance and electoral systems. It is working to strengthen the principles of freedom of assembly and freedom of the media.

The CiO visited the countries in the southern Caucasus between 30 March and 2 April, and paid a second visit to Armenia and Azerbaijan between 4 and 6 September. He appointed Mircea Geoana, former Foreign Minister of Romania and OSCE CiO in 2001, as his Personal Representative for Georgia. Geoana visited Tbilisi and Tskhinvali on 6 and 7 October.

During their visits to Georgia, the CiO and his Personal Representative welcomed the work done on amendments to the country's constitution and assessed the reforms undertaken by Georgia in the past year as encouraging.

In the conflict in South Ossetia, Georgia, the OSCE facilitated the political process and supported demilitarization as agreed by the parties. The Slovenian Chairmanship welcomed the support rendered by the Venice Commission in the elaboration by the Georgian authorities of concrete status proposals for South Ossetia. Confidence-building and economic rehabilitation should be part of a concerted approach to bring sustainable peace to this long-troubled region of Georgia.

The first expert meeting of the Georgian-Ossetian Dialogue project, under the auspices of the Slovenian Chairmanship and the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, took place in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia, from 15 to 18 March. The aim of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for an informal exchange of views on a wide range of issues related to the resolution of the conflict. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Georgian and South Ossetian parliaments, the government and NGOs, as well as by a representative from North Ossetia. The format of the meeting stipulated that the participants were to take part in a personal capacity, rather than expressing their organizations' official positions.

The Slovenian Chairmanship also hosted the meeting of the Joint Control Commission on the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict, which took place between 15 and 17 November in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia. At the meeting, the CiO called on the participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation, and North and South Ossetia to move along the path towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict and urged them to pave the way for an early dialogue at the highest level. Unfortunately, the meeting did not bridge the differences between the sides; however, there was an expression of joint support for an economic rehabilitation programme in the zone of conflict funded by the European Commission and the recently launched needs assessment study.

With regard to Abkhazia, the OSCE under the Slovenian Chairmanship continued to support the UN-led settlement process and to promote the establishment of a joint UN-OSCE human rights office in the Gali region, which could also contribute to a return of the displaced population.

Georgia requested the OSCE's assistance in border management and security after the mandate of the Border Monitoring Operation was terminated in 2004. The OSCE launched a training assistance programme in June, which was extended on 21 December for another six-month period, to complete the original training programme as outlined in the proposal.

The Chairmanship welcomed the joint declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Georgia and the Russian Federation on closing Russian bases at Batumi and Akhalkalaki and other military facilities in Georgia by 2008.

The OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana adopted a Statement on Georgia, the first after the Ministerial Council meeting in Porto in 2002.

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, the CiO further strengthened the OSCE's efforts to reach a lasting solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. During visits to the two countries, the CiO called for stabilization of the situation along the front lines. He reiterated that every existing avenue to accelerate the peace process should be explored to the full, and said that the personal engagement of the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, in the wake of meetings between the Foreign Ministers, was an important milestone that gave added momentum to the peace process.

In February, a fact-finding mission under the auspices of the Minsk Group visited the occupied territories of Azerbaijan around Nagorno-Karabakh to examine first-hand the settlement situation in the occupied territories. The Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group met with the CiO twice during the year, in March and September. In December, the OSCE High-Level Planning Group conducted its first reconnaissance mission to Armenia and Azerbaijan since 1997. The CiO also supported the work done by his Personal Representative, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk.

Much has been done in the past year: the so-called Prague meetings of the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan have had a positive effect, resulting in meetings of the Presidents of both countries in Warsaw and Kazan, thus bringing new momentum to the process for resolving the conflict. The Ministerial Council in Ljubljana adopted a statement saying that the time had come for making the transition from negotiation to decision.

In Armenia, the CiO encouraged the authorities to undertake important reforms, including amendments to the electoral code, to strengthen the impartiality, professionalism and transparency of electoral administration. He offered OSCE assistance in areas such as constitutional and electoral reform, freedom of the media and the fight against corruption.

In Azerbaijan, the CiO reiterated the OSCE's readiness to continue assisting in implementing various reforms, particularly in the fields of elections, the fight against corruption and money laundering, diversification of the economy and programmes for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Under the auspices of the Slovenian Chairmanship, the Third Plenary Assembly of the Southern Caucasus Parliamentary Initiative met in Ljubljana from 18 to 20 January. The Initiative is a framework for dialogue, contacts, an exchange of views and joint analysis among the parliaments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, based on the memorandum of understanding signed by the three Parties on 13 May 2003.

Central Asia

The CiO visited Central Asia three times. Because he was concerned by the state of human rights and fundamental freedoms, his visits emphasized the need to preserve stability and to nurture democratic reforms in the region. The pressure from the population is

mounting, as witnessed by the change of leadership in Kyrgyzstan or the violent events in Uzbekistan.

The CiO visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in February, presenting Alojz Peterle as his Personal Representative for Central Asia. He flew to Kyrgyzstan immediately following the events in March. He toured the region in April, meeting representatives of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

In Kyrgyzstan, the OSCE was immediately on the spot to help reduce tensions and it remained at the forefront of international efforts to ensure stability in that country. The Chairmanship, participating States, OSCE institutions and the Centre in Bishkek were actively involved in developing a work plan to assist the Kyrgyz Government in dealing with the aftermath of the March events.

The ODIHR, with support from the Parliamentary Assembly, monitored Kyrgyzstan's presidential election on 10 July. In its preliminary report, the ODIHR said that the polls marked tangible progress towards meeting OSCE and other international commitments for democratic elections, although the vote count proved to be problematic. Furthermore, the ODIHR concluded that fundamental civil and political rights were generally respected and there was an improved media environment.

In response to an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the ODIHR observed the 4 December 2005 presidential election in Kazakhstan.

Security in Central Asia, particularly in Uzbekistan, remains of concern and therefore requires co-operative solutions. The Government of Uzbekistan, as a member of international organizations, is expected to co-operate with the international community to undertake an independent investigation on the events that took place in Andijan in May.

At the request of the Slovenian Chairmanship, the Secretary General visited Uzbekistan in July and met with representatives of the Government and of civil society. One result of the visit was Uzbek acceptance of the presence of expert ODIHR monitors at the Andijan trials, which, however, did not continue as promised at the second round of trials in November. The visit re-established a genuine dialogue and maintained working relations between the OSCE and Uzbekistan. It should also help to strengthen the role of the Head of the OSCE Centre in Tashkent and his position on the ground in increasingly difficult circumstances.

The OSCE CiO and representatives of some international organizations welcomed the resettlement of 440 asylum seekers/refugees from Uzbekistan to Romania by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Chairmanship stressed on several occasions that the safety and welfare of the asylum seekers who escaped the turmoil in Andijan must be assured by the Kyrgyz authorities, with assistance from the UNHCR.

Co-operation with other international organizations

The CiO actively strove to further improve relations between the OSCE and other international organizations.

On 4 March, he addressed the UN Security Council and met UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The Chairmanship also took part in the Sixth High-Level Meeting Between the

UN and Regional and other Intergovernmental Organizations, which took place in New York on 25 and 26 July. On 21 September, the CiO addressed the UN General Assembly and again met with the Secretary-General. On that occasion, he expressed support for the UN Alliance of Civilizations initiative and called for strengthened co-operation between the UN and the OSCE in this field. Further, the Ljubljana Ministerial Council meeting outlined a role for the OSCE in promoting dialogue among civilizations, and decided to make an appropriate contribution to the UN's Alliance of Civilizations initiative through the promotion of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and the advancement of mutual understanding and respect as well as human rights throughout the OSCE area.

Another major development was an agreement on co-operation between the OSCE and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Under the terms of a Permanent Council decision adopted in May (PC.DEC/673), the OSCE Missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro will monitor war crimes trials on behalf of the Prosecutor's Office of the Tribunal.

In February, the Chairmanship was represented at the yearly tripartite and target-oriented meetings in Strasbourg between the UN Office at Geneva, the OSCE and the Council of Europe, with the participation of the EU, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Organization for Migration.

The Chairmanship renewed its efforts to further improve relations between the OSCE and the European Union. The CiO took part in two EU-OSCE Troika meetings and used Slovenia's position as an EU member to encourage the Union to make effective use of the Organization. The ministerial-level meetings were complemented by two meetings at ambassadorial level between the respective Troikas of the OSCE and the EU Political and Security Committee.

In 2005, co-operation between the OSCE and the CoE was considerably intensified. The CiO participated in the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, in Warsaw on 16 and 17 May, where the declaration on co-operation between the CoE and the OSCE was brought to the attention of the heads of State and government.

The CiO met with the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE and the Secretary General of the OSCE and the CoE in February. At that time, he also addressed the CoE Ministers' Deputies on the OSCE's 2005 priorities. Furthermore, a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Ministers' Deputies was held on 18 April, to discuss the Declaration on Co-operation between the OSCE and the CoE. The OSCE-CoE Co-ordination Group started its work, and two meetings were held in 2005. Further, the Chairmanship continued to participate in the regular high- and working-level meetings between the OSCE and the CoE in the course of the year.

One of the CiO's first visits was to NATO headquarters on 26 January, where he addressed the North Atlantic Council and met with Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. He also addressed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council in November in Brussels and its Forum in May in Aare, Sweden. The Chairmanship participated in the regular staff-level meetings between the OSCE Secretariat and NATO that took place during the year.

The Chairmanship also maintained relations with regional and subregional organizations. The CiO took part, for example, in the Summit of the Central European

Initiative in Piestany, Slovakia, on 25 November and visited the Organization of American States.

The CiO also took every available opportunity to promote intercultural dialogue through the OSCE, meeting, for example, with leaders of the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Partner regional and subregional organizations and initiatives were regularly invited to all the major OSCE events in 2005, including the Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana, and were given the floor where appropriate. Representatives of relevant organizations were also invited to address the Permanent Council in the course of the year.

Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Slovenia made major efforts to further engage the OSCE's Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation in ongoing dialogue and activities. The Chairperson of the Permanent Council frequently addressed the meetings of the Contact Groups with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, with a view to keeping Partner States updated on pertinent issues, including those that had a direct bearing on relations with the Partners. Partner States were also regularly invited to the Permanent Council, including — for the first time — to a joint side meeting on the margins of the Annual Security Review Conference and to the closing session of the high-level consultations on strengthening the OSCE.

The themes of migration and integration, which were priorities for Slovenia's Chairmanship, were the focus of the OSCE Mediterranean Seminar, which took place in Rabat on 8 and 9 September. On that occasion, the CiO stated that the OSCE partnership process played the role of a bridge linking Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, and welcomed the fact that the partnership was becoming more pragmatic. He stated that migration presented challenges for countries of origin and countries of destination, affecting security, social cohesion, human rights and economic development. He noted that the OSCE had a great deal to offer, in terms of expertise, whether in policing, the fight against trafficking and terrorism, confidence- and security-building measures, peace-building, democratization or the prevention of ethnic conflict. He said that this expertise should be put at the service of the OSCE's Partners, and others who subscribed to the OSCE's values. Effective follow-up to the Seminar was encouraged.

The CiO participated in the annual meeting of the OSCE with the Asian Partners, namely, the OSCE-Korea Conference on New Security Threats and a New Security Paradigm, which was held in Seoul, on 25 and 26 April. During the event, he said, "The OSCE offers a model of multilateral security co-operation that could also be taken up by north-east Asia".

The meeting discussed the challenges of the non-traditional and multidimensional threats to security and stability in the world, which by their very nature require ever more enhanced multilateral co-operation, including between Europe and north-east Asia. The participants discussed new threats to security and measures to combat them, and the need for a new security paradigm, and focused on the question of a new security paradigm in north-east Asia.

A representative of the Chairmanship also took part in an OSCE seminar in Bangkok on combating trafficking in human beings in June.

China expressed considerable interest in the OSCE in 2005. Some participating States were supportive of entering into a formal OSCE-China partnership but in 2005 conditions were not yet ripe.

For the second consecutive year, the OSCE deployed an election support team to Afghanistan, this time to assist with National Assembly and provincial elections held on 18 September. The team was tasked with analysing the electoral process and preparing a set of recommendations to the Afghan Government, with a view to enhancing the conduct of future elections and improving Afghanistan's legal framework and procedures. The decision by the Permanent Council on the Election Support Team (PC.DEC/686) underscores the importance of democratic elections for fostering democracy and human rights and furthering stability in Afghanistan, while at the same time assisting the democratic Government of Afghanistan to accomplish this important step, which marked the completion of the tasks set by the Bonn Conference.

At the invitation of the Palestinian Authority and after consultations with the participating States, in January the Chairmanship requested that an expert team to assess training needs be sent by the OSCE Secretariat and the ODIHR to the Palestinian Territories. In a report to the Permanent Council, the team identified areas where the OSCE and its institutions might offer expertise to the Palestinian Authority and to Palestinian civil society in relation to its elections to the Palestine Legislative Council. This was the second time the OSCE provided support, in co-operation with other international actors, at the request of a country outside the OSCE area. Following the team's deployment, an application by the Palestinian Authority to become an OSCE Partner for Co-operation was presented to the CiO. However, the request failed to meet with consensus among the participating States.

On the eve of the Ministerial Council meeting in Ljubljana, the CiO chaired two Ministerial Troika meetings with counterparts from the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, respectively. They assessed the current dialogue with the Asian and Mediterranean Partners and focused on prospects and proposals for future co-operation. Participants welcomed the positive developments undertaken throughout the year, in particular their closer involvement and more regular consultation on issues of mutual interest.

Annex to the Activity Report of the Chairman-in-Office

CORDOBA DECLARATION BY THE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE

Distinguished Delegates,

Let me sum up the proceedings of this Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance in what I would like to call the Cordoba Declaration. Based on consultations I conclude that OSCE participating States,

Inspired by the spirit of Cordoba, the City of Three Cultures,

Recognizing that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security,

Reaffirming that acts of intolerance and discrimination pose a threat to democracy and, therefore, to overall security in the OSCE region and beyond,

Recalling that participating States have committed themselves to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms to everyone within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction without distinction of any kind and will therefore provide to all persons equal and effective protection of law,

Recalling the decisions of the OSCE Ministerial Councils at Porto (MC(10).DEC/6), Maastricht (MC.DEC/4/03) and Sofia (MC.DEC/12/04), and the need to promote implementation of commitments and operational follow up to the work started in 2003 and continued with the OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism (Berlin on 28 and 29 April 2004), the OSCE Meeting on the Relationship Between Racist, Xenophobic and anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes, held in Paris on 16 and 17 June 2004, and the OSCE Conference on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination (Brussels on 13 and 14 September 2004),

Acknowledging that the purpose of this Conference was to analyse the status of implementation of these commitments and operational follow up at the national level throughout the OSCE region, highlighting progress and best practices with respect to said implementation, including, but not limited to, promotion of interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and the areas of monitoring, data collection, legislation, law enforcement, education and the media,

Commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the battles of World War II and mourning the tens of millions of people who lost their lives as victims of the war, the Holocaust, occupations and acts of repression, and condemning all forms of ethnic cleansing and recalling our commitments to take every possible action to ensure that attempts to commit genocide are prevented today and in future as well as our commitments to combat these threats, including through the OSCE, and our rejection of any attempts to justify them,

1. Recall the importance of promoting and facilitating open and transparent interfaith and intercultural dialogue and partnerships towards tolerance, respect and mutual understanding and ensuring the freedom of the individual to profess and practice a religion or belief, alone or in community with others through transparent and non-discriminatory laws, regulations, practices and policies;
2. Condemn without reserve racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and other forms of intolerance and discrimination, including against Muslims and Christians, as well as harassment and incitement to hate crimes motivated, *inter alia*, by race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, birth or other status; and reaffirm their existing OSCE commitments in this field;
3. Recognize that some forms of intolerance and discrimination may have unique characteristics and origins and require proper definition, but the methods to fight against them are, in many fields, similar and include efforts in monitoring, data collection, legislation, law enforcement, education, the media and promotion of dialogue;
4. Reiterate that international developments or political issues never justify racism, xenophobia, or discrimination, including against Muslims, Christians and members of other

religions; and that international developments or political issues, including in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism;

5. Reject the identification of terrorism and extremism with any religion, culture, ethnic group, nationality or race;

6. Underscore that the primary responsibility for addressing acts of intolerance and discrimination rests with participating States, and recognize the importance of implementation, through competent authorities by participating States of the commitments agreed to by the Ministerial Councils in Porto, Maastricht and Sofia, as well as other relevant international instruments in the field of tolerance and non-discrimination, and in this regard:

- Recall the commitment to develop effective methods of collecting and maintaining reliable information and statistics about anti-Semitic and all other hate motivated crimes and following closely incidents motivated by intolerance in order to develop appropriate strategies for tackling them;
- Recall that legislation and law enforcement are essential tools in tackling intolerance and discrimination and that the authorities of participating States have a key role to play in ensuring the adoption and implementation of such legislation and the establishment of effective monitoring and enforcement measures;
- Recall the importance of education, including education on the Holocaust and on anti-Semitism, as a means for preventing and responding to all forms of intolerance and discrimination, as well as for promoting integration and respecting diversity;
- Recall the important role of the media including the Internet in combating hate speech and promoting tolerance through awareness-raising and educational programmes as well as highlighting positive contributions of diversity to society;

7. Commend the ODIHR for setting up the new Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Programme, and in this regard:

- Encourage the ODIHR's activities offering advice to participating States on Holocaust education and remembrance, on establishing programmes offering assistance to participating States, in the fields of legislation, law enforcement, and data collection, and on sharing best practices on the issues of racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet;
- Recognize the importance of enhancing the co-operation of participating States with the ODIHR with respect to the effective implementation of these programmes and activities;
- Encourage the ODIHR to continue co-operation with other OSCE institutions and other organizations, such as the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), and Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research;

8. Encourage the ongoing activities of the three Personal Representatives on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions, on Combating Anti-Semitism, and on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, and welcome their ongoing role in raising awareness of the overall fight of the OSCE to combat discrimination and promote tolerance;

9. Underline the crucial role national parliaments play in the enactment of the necessary legislation as well as serving as a forum for national debate, and commend the work done by the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE in raising awareness in the implementation of the OSCE commitments regarding racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and discrimination;

10. Recognize that civil society is a key partner in the fight against discrimination and intolerance and that enhanced communication and dialogue between participating States and civil society can advance implementation of commitments and operational follow up at the national level.

**REPORT
OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON IMPLEMENTATION
OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DECISION No. 9/04
ON ENHANCING CONTAINER SECURITY**
(PC.DOC/1/05 of 6 December 2005)

I. Background

The global cargo transport system is a critical component of the infrastructure making up the global economy. The main element of this system is the shipping container. Approximately 90 per cent of all cargo moves in containers and around 250 million container shipments occur annually. This number is steadily increasing as global merchandise imports and exports flows rise around the world. The ubiquity of these containers was, and is still, seen as the system's principle strength and reason for success.

At the same time, the cargo transport system remains vulnerable to a number of criminal and security threats. Among these multiple threats, one in particular has consistently been cited as a priority requiring a co-ordinated international response — the possible exploitation of container shipping system vulnerabilities by terrorists. After the 11 September attacks on the United States, governments around the world have become increasingly concerned about this vulnerability.

In particular, the threat of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapon (CBRN) being delivered via an anonymous shipping container has risen above other terrorist-linked threats to containerized transport and has become a major concern for national authorities and the international community. Terrorists attacks against the maritime sector, and in particular attacks against critical sea port nodes, could disrupt the global container supply system. Even a short disruption in the global container supply chain would likely have an adverse impact on trade patterns, and thus create chaos in the global economy. At the same time, enhanced container security would lead to increased confidence and thus facilitate trade and transport connections between countries.

Recognizing the vulnerabilities of container shipments and the important role that enhancing container security would play in promoting international trade and economic co-operation, the OSCE participating States adopted a decision at the Sofia Ministerial Council Meeting on 4 and 5 December 2004 (MC.DEC/9/04). With this decision they undertook a commitment to act without delay in accordance with their domestic legislation, and necessary resources available, to enhance container security, based on best practices and on norms and standards to be agreed internationally.

They also tasked the Secretary General to organize an experts' workshop in early 2005 to discuss container security developments, raise awareness, exchange information on best practices and explore possibilities for the OSCE participating States to promote and enhance container security, in co-operation with other relevant international organizations.

Further, they tasked the OSCE Permanent Council to follow up on the results of the experts' workshop with a view to recommend further action, if appropriate, in co-ordination with the International Maritime Organization, the World Customs Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the International Civil Aviation Organization and other relevant international organizations, and to report to the 2005 Ministerial Council.

II. The OSCE Technical Experts Workshop on Container Security

In implementing this decision, the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) organized a two-day Technical Experts Workshop on Container Security, held in Vienna on 7 and 8 February 2005. The workshop was financed through extra-budgetary contributions by the United States of America and Slovenia. In addition, Sweden actively supported the initiative, including through providing an expert to assist ATU in developing the concept and content of the workshop.

The workshop brought together 170 participants, representing 48 OSCE participating States and eight Partners for Co-operation. Significantly, 30 of the participating States and five of the partner States were represented by relevant experts from the capitals — customs, transport and port authorities, as well as industry representatives. In addition 12 international organizations, including IMO, WCO, UNECE, ILO, NATO and UNODC also participated in the workshop.

The workshop not only raised awareness among participating States' authorities about the vulnerability of container shipments to terrorist attacks, but also facilitated information exchange on fast-moving developments related to international efforts to improve container security and plans for future activities. The substantive presentations and the excellent exchanges provided solid basis to consider next steps, especially with regard to a possible OSCE role in global efforts to enhance container security. Many of the key international organizations working in this area welcomed OSCE's involvement and saw a role for it to play in contributing to enhanced container security.

At the workshop a number of other conclusions were reached, which were useful in defining a meaningful OSCE contribution to the ongoing national and international efforts to enhance container security.

The workshop confirmed the vulnerability of containers as potential means to carry out a terrorist attack and the importance to take all necessary measures to address this vulnerability. The workshop showed that a number of countries and international organizations had developed numerous initiatives to improve container security. Initially security could be increased by implementing existing standards, procedures and security arrangements.

Two major concerns were raised. One is the complexity of the supply chain and the large number of actors involved in container shipments. The other is a concern that better international co-ordination is needed to avoid piecemeal approaches that will hinder a coherent effort.

The workshop illustrated that the lack of a proper monitoring system and of certification of security equipment is also a problem. In this regard, steps can be taken to implement new technology as it becomes available. The workshop also demonstrated that increased container security would actually aim at facilitating trade and not hampering it.

In this situation the OSCE could continue to raise awareness and bring actors together. Steps could be taken to encourage the implementation of existing agreements in all OSCE participating States. "Soft assistance" in capacity-building could be considered.

Proposals on the OSCE's role as a forum for exchange of information and best practices were made, as well as a suggestion for a follow-up workshop.

The workshop underlined that it is not for the OSCE, as a non-technical organization, to start developing international norms and standards in this field. It stressed that WCO standards could be the main source for strengthening container security. The aim of OSCE efforts should be to complement and reinforce other organizations' efforts.

The workshop also served to acquaint the other international organizations working in this field with the opportunities that the OSCE could provide to promote and facilitate their efforts to strengthen container security. As a result of that understanding a number of international organizations, including WCO, IMO, ILO, OECD, UNECE expressed interest in working with the OSCE in this area, with some proposing to team up with the OSCE in providing technical assistance to the OSCE participating States on enhancing container and port security.

As a result of the in-depth consultations with these organizations, the following ideas for OSCE contribution to enhancing container security emerged:

- As a political-security organization with broad participation, the OSCE can serve as a valuable platform to support and complement international container security efforts;
- The OSCE should not develop new standards, but support standards currently under development by the relevant international organizations. For instance, the OSCE participating States could take measures recommended in the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade that the WCO Council adopted in June 2005;
- The OSCE can promote co-ordinated efforts by presenting various international initiatives in a coherent and structured way, assisting national governments by providing a current overview of developments in this area;
- The OSCE can work with the WCO, IMO, ILO and other organizations to support implementation of the relevant standards and measures through the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices. Partnering in providing or facilitating capacity-building and training support to requesting participating States and following up with implementation should primarily be a matter for the competent organizations;
- The OSCE, through its economic and environmental dimension, can work with business associations to help them understand the benefits of enhanced container security and to reassure them that enhanced container security aims at facilitating rather than hampering trade.

The Informal Group of Friends on Combating Terrorism (IGF) actively took up these issues and devoted considerable effort in further discussing and defining these ideas in order to determine the most appropriate forms for a meaningful OSCE contribution in enhancing container security. The IGF invited a representative of the WCO to brief the participating States on the results of the Organization's work to develop common international standards related to the security and facilitation of the international supply chain. These standards were adopted by the WCO Council on 24 June 2005. As a result of these deliberations the following promising avenues for a constructive OSCE role were defined:

- Political support for recommended international standards related to the security and facilitation of the international supply chain, including through a commitment of all OSCE participating States to implement these standards in their national normative base and practices;
- Promoting international co-operation in enhancing container security in close co-ordination with relevant international organizations;
- Facilitating capacity-building technical assistance and training support in implementing commitments, to be provided by the relevant international organizations to requesting participating States;
- Promoting, in co-operation with relevant international organizations, understanding among national authorities and the business community that enhanced container security aims at facilitating international trade, rather than hampering it.

Based on the above-mentioned considerations, the Permanent Council of the OSCE recommends to the OSCE Ministerial Council to adopt a decision on further measures to enhance container security.

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF
THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION
TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SLOVENIA,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Annex 11 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

Your Excellency,

As Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation, it is my pleasure to inform you about the Forum's activities since the Twelfth Meeting of the Ministerial Council.

In 2005, the FSC continued to devote attention to a wide range of arms control issues, and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) and other politico-military issues. The Forum was successively chaired by Azerbaijan, Belarus and Belgium. The three chairpersons had consulted on their respective programmes, with a view to making them as coherent and mutually complementary as possible. This "ministerial-to-ministerial approach" is commendable.

The 15th AIAM was held on 8 and 9 March. In open and constructive discussions, the experts exchanged experiences, made suggestions and gave their assessments of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of CSBMs. While the main focus was a detailed review of implementation of the Vienna Document 1999, all the other FSC politico-military commitments were also addressed.

One delegation picked up on one of those suggestions and introduced in the FSC a proposal concerning counting of the 12-hour period during evaluation visits in the Vienna Document 1999. Negotiations on the proposal are not easy and will need to be continued.

The Forum agreed to the text of a statement by the Chairperson of the FSC on "prior notification of major military activities" below the notification thresholds of the Vienna Document 1999 (FSC.JOUR/467), concluding a process of two years of extensive consultations. This statement was complemented by written statements of two delegations (FSC.JOUR/467). The Chairperson's statement is a modest but an important step in the context of CSBMs aimed at enhancing openness and transparency. Implementation of this voluntary measure will be assessed during the regular annual implementation assessment meetings (AIAMs).

Furthermore, the Forum agreed in 2005 (FSC.DEC/3/05 and 4/05) to hold a high-level seminar on military doctrine on 14 and 15 February 2006. The agenda focuses on discussions of changes in doctrine and technology and their impact. The seminar aims at an active participation of the Chiefs of Defence, General Staff and senior officials.

The Forum prepared its contribution to the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), held on 21 and 22 June. This contribution was offered as a guideline to the keynote speakers, in particular those in the segment devoted to the politico-military aspects of security, under the title comprehensive security.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was a subject of great interest to the Forum in 2005. A special meeting on this subject organized by the Chairperson was held on

15 June. Aware of the supportive role of the OSCE in this field and conscious of the need to avoid duplication of efforts, several tracks were suggested by delegations. One was chiefly concerned with finding ways to support and encourage the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), another with a possible update of the 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation. The possibility of a comprehensive political declaration on non-proliferation was also discussed.

Given the ever shortening timeframe before the Ljubljana ministerial, the 1540 track was pursued exclusively. The Forum took a decision on 30 November (FSC.DEC/7/05) to encourage dialogue, also in the Forum, on how to support implementation of UNSC resolution 1540, and to examine the possible recommendations of the 1540 Committee.

Implementation work on the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (2003) received considerable attention.

Progress reports on both issues have been submitted to the Ministerial Council under references MC.GAL/4/05 and MC.GAL/5/05.

In 2005, several participating States made new requests for assistance, including requests aiming at the destruction of dangerous surpluses of liquid rocket fuel (“melange”). In all cases, initial assessment of the request has taken place. For one project (Tajikistan) implementation is under way. Several project proposals were also presented resulting from requests made in 2003 and 2004.

Raising awareness regarding the safety and security risks posed by stockpiles of conventional ammunition remains a key challenge. To this end, the Chairperson of the Forum, addressed the winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Another implementation measure is the development of best practice guides by a number of delegations.

Issues relating to small arms and light weapons (SALW) will remain on the agenda of the Forum. We continue to actively follow up on the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW and consider a contribution to the review conference on the UN Programme of Action on the illicit trade in SALW, scheduled to take place in New York in July 2006. In this context, some delegations mentioned improvement of national implementation and shoring up export controls.

The security dialogue function of the Forum was extensively used. Some participating States informed on their defence policies. The Chairperson arranged for presentations on topical issues related to the current agenda, such as SALW and non-proliferation.

The tenth year of existence of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security was one of the main motivations for the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) to sponsor a workshop to take stock of the Code’s substance and implementation. The Forum welcomed this workshop, held in January 2005. Papers by several delegations have served to bring points introduced during the workshop to the Forum’s attention. Discussions on proposals to hold the fourth follow-up conference in 2006, revealed general willingness to reach consensus on a decision, comprising dates and agenda.

The Forum has made its contribution to the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept (FSC.DEL/446/05/Rev.1) in line with the tasking received from the Twelfth Ministerial Council (MC.DEC/2/04).

The Forum has engaged further in activities outside the confinements of its weekly meetings. In addition to the presentation to the Parliamentary Assembly mentioned above, the FSC Chairperson helped to represent the OSCE at the Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Two first-time developments concerning the Partners for Co-operation are particularly noteworthy. A side event was held during the ASRC, aimed at promoting dialogue and co-operation in the politico-military sphere. The Forum met on 23 November in the format of 66 countries united around one table, around one theme (in this case the illicit trade in SALW).

On co-operation with other international organizations, it was agreed that information-sharing should be pursued more systematically, while options for co-operation or co-ordination of efforts with other international actors could be examined on a case-by-case basis.

The Forum expanded its co-operation with the Permanent Council through joint meetings and presentations by several chairpersons of informal groups of friends on thematic issues. Furthermore, the briefings (four) by representatives of OSCE field presences to the Forum were considered particularly useful. This practice should be continued.

The FSC's broad range of tasks in the politico-military dimension and the progress achieved in the framework of its mandate bear out its important role and demonstrate the significant contribution it has made and will continue to make to enhancing security across the OSCE area, thereby contributing to the Organization's comprehensive task.

Your Excellency, you might deem it useful to reflect these developments in the appropriate documents of the Ministerial Council.

FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENT ON STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

(MC.GAL/4/05 of 30 November 2005)

Executive Summary

Stockpiles of conventional ammunition and the liquid rocket fuel, melange, pose serious security, humanitarian and environmental threats in the OSCE area. Conventional ammunition and melange are often stored inadequately and dangerously close to populated areas or vulnerable infrastructure such as industrial facilities, oil pipelines, or even nuclear power stations. In certain circumstances, in the case of ammunition, there is a risk of proliferation or explosion. Similarly, in the case of melange, this highly toxic and volatile substance is often poorly stored or maintained resulting in a potential environmental and humanitarian threat to neighbouring populations or areas.

The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Stockpiles document) has proved to be instrumental in optimizing the OSCE participating States' cross-dimensional response. This response includes a framework for possible OSCE assistance, and better co-ordination with other international actors, in particular NATO and UN. Development of Best Practices Guides, based on national and international experiences, will further improve the ability of participating States to tackle these problems themselves.

Participating States are responsible for their own stockpiles, however, under the Stockpiles document they can request assistance. Five participating States have requested assistance in disposal of conventional ammunition (Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine) and five in elimination of liquid rocket fuel component melange (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan). The OSCE's response centred on the FSC as the OSCE leading body, OSCE field operations, the Conflict Prevention Centre, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and Press and Public Information Service. Until now, delegations of Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and United States donated or pledged funds on requests for ammunition destruction and rocket fuel melange.

Prior to development of the Stockpiles document the OSCE received requests for assistance from Georgia and Moldova with conventional ammunition or melange problems. Donations were made for these projects by Switzerland, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Turkey and the United States.

Important lessons have been learned. Experience has shown that there may be a need for practical guidelines on how requesting States could better present and prioritize their request for assistance and how the OSCE and potential donor States could respond to requests. Combined requests for assistance involving both SALW and ammunition problems require careful co-ordination and maximum transparency. Experience has also shown that the FSC Chair, Troika, CPC and OSCE field missions all play a key role and should be included in the assistance process as much as possible. Co-operation with other relevant international

organizations is essential and has improved significantly. Finally, more needs to be done in the area of awareness-raising.

Introduction

Background

Although stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices are historically of military provenance, the risks that emanate today from their presence go beyond the politico-military dimension of the OSCE. Given its cross-dimensional nature, touching on humanitarian, economic and ecological aspects as well as on counter-terrorism and arms control, the issue merits a cross-dimensional response.

Responding to requests for assistance, when the OSCE chooses to do so, requires targeted interaction and co-operation between the three dimensions of the OSCE and its various fora, processes and institutions. In order to address the issue as effectively as possible and avoid duplication, it is important to link up with other organizations also active in this field. Such co-operation could include information exchange and co-ordination of efforts. Active co-operation with other organizations could be envisaged as a further option. Finally, other national and international platforms, for example, national parliaments, the United Nations system, or the media, could be used to raise awareness, foster partnership, and mobilize additional, more broad-based support at the national, regional and global levels.

OSCE response

Since the adoption of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (hereafter called: "Stockpiles document"), the FSC has attached great importance to helping participating States find the best way to address the issue, including raising awareness, both within the OSCE sphere and beyond it. While the benefits gained from a cross-dimensional approach within the OSCE are evident in some of the activities already underway, efforts to create additional momentum and co-operation, within and beyond the OSCE, should be considered and might be reinforced in the future (see Section IV, "Lessons learned").

Before the adoption of the Stockpiles document, OSCE missions, especially in Moldova and Georgia, had already engaged in the preparation and execution of projects as later referred to in the Stockpiles document.

The OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation was tasked to submit to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council a progress report on the further implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DOC/1/03)¹. The present report covers both past and ongoing efforts to address the challenges posed by stockpiles of ammunition (Sections I to III), as well as options and lessons learned for future implementation efforts (Section IV). It is subdivided into the following sections:

- Section I of this report provides information on national efforts to address the risks posed by the presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material

1 MC.DEC/5/04

and detonating devices in surplus and/or awaiting destruction and the development of OSCE Best Practice Guides to improve national control of stockpiles;

- Section II of this report provides information on the current status of requests for assistance submitted by participating States to the OSCE since the adoption of the Document;
- Section III of this report provides information on activities to foster combined effort, both within the OSCE and with other international organizations;
- Section IV of this report provides a number of lessons learned.

As will be made clear in the report, the OSCE has responded to requests for assistance from participating States to help strengthen their national capacities. The OSCE has provided expertise, mobilized resources and co-ordinated activities with other international organizations. Important lessons were learned in terms of how to further enhance our response to such requests.

Section I: National efforts to address the risks and dangers of stockpiles of ammunition, as well as the development of OSCE Best Practice Guides to improve national control of stockpiles

In the Stockpiles document (paragraph 14), OSCE participating States recognized their national responsibility for their own stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices, as well as for the identification and reduction of corresponding surpluses. Several requesting States have shared their own experiences as part of the submission of their requests for assistance, both as general background and as a national, in-kind, contribution to their request.

Several States evaluated the excess stockpiles situation on their national territories, recognised that they currently lacked sufficient capacity to address the risks themselves and requested assistance from other OSCE participating States. Some requesting States approached OSCE field presences to involve the local OSCE representatives in the process and to ensure that their requests for assistance included sufficient information for initial evaluation.

Participating States shared national experiences and lessons learned with each other, and participated in the development of Best Practice Guides.

Development of Best Practice Guides

At the initiative of several delegations, the FSC began to share national experiences in dealing with stockpiles of conventional ammunition through the development of Best Practice Guides, as contemplated in FSC.DOC/1/03. An FSC Editorial Review Board was established to review national contributions to this effort. The first Best Practice Guide, on Stockpile Management, has been finalized by the Editorial Review Board and distributed to all FSC delegations for final review. Three other guides, covering transportation; project management; and marking, registration and record-keeping, are also in preparation.

The Editorial Review Board has discussed subject areas for additional guides. These include physical security; methods of demilitarization and destruction; and indicators of surplus and risk. Participating States could work together in order to co-author and co-ordinate guides on a particular topic or subject area. The Editorial Review Board facilitates development of the Guides, but delegations are responsible for identifying suitable topics or subject areas, and then preparing drafts (individually or in co-operation with others).

The Editorial Review Board co-ordinates review of the drafts in order to prepare a final document in each case that can be presented to the Forum for Security Co-operation. Once agreed, the guides can be shared with Partners for Co-operation and a wider audience. The Editorial Review Board will continue its work in 2006.

Section II: Requests for assistance submitted by participating States to the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation pursuant to the Stockpiles document

To date, five requests have been submitted to the OSCE for assistance solely with the disposal of conventional ammunition (Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine) and a further five for assistance with the elimination of liquid rocket fuel component melange (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).

Requesting State	Scope of the problem
Ukraine	Initial request submitted to the OSCE in December 2003 concerned 122,000 tons of stockpiles of conventional ammunition . This largely duplicates a request to NATO/EAPC, for which the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency introduced a project plan in 2004. In addition, Ukraine submitted four new projects in February 2005: 1. New destruction capacities for hexogen and part-hexogen charges in Western Ukraine; 2. Improvement of security system for ammunition stockpiles; 3. Disposal of 16.5 tons of liquid rocket fuel component (melange); 4. Action to remedy the consequences of the Novobohdanivka storage site disaster (destruction of remaining ammunition, area clean-up).
Belarus	1. Disposal of 97,000 tons of surplus conventional ammunition, growing by 4,000–7,000 tons annually, including missiles and hexogen ammunition, through development of national capacity or transportation for disposal in a third country; 2. Potential need for improvement of stockpile security in the future; 3. There is a State programme (€ 2.5 million) for disposal; however, Belarus lacks specific technology and industrial capacity.
Russian Federation	1. Disposal of surplus conventional ammunition in Kaliningrad Oblast (100,000 tons, including 20,000 tons in a dangerous condition). Further development of existing national technology — mobile disposal stations is suggested; 2. Improvement of stockpile security and management.
Tajikistan	Destruction of stockpiles largely collected from the battlefield; a modest quantity not very large (65,000 SALW ammunitions, 3,900 artillery shells, APL and rockets), but condition of ammunition and storage sites

Requesting State	Scope of the problem
	poses a particular risk since stockpiles are often stored in public suburban buildings which are insufficiently guarded.
Kazakhstan	1. Assistance in disposal of transportable conventional ammunition using industrial facilities in Arys and Kapshagai; 2. Assistance in disposal of non-transportable conventional ammunition on site (Ayaguz, Uch-Aral, Semipalatinsk and Ust-Kamenogorsk); 3. Re-establishment of stockpiles of conventional ammunition test laboratory to carry out regular examinations of conventional ammunition; 4. Establishment of conventional ammunition management system as an integral part a common armed forces procurement and management system.
Armenia	Elimination of 862 tons of rocket fuel component (melange) stocks.
Uzbekistan	Elimination of over 1,000 tons rocket fuel component (melange) stocks.
Azerbaijan	Elimination of 1,200 tons of rocket fuel component (melange) stock.
Kazakhstan	Elimination of 1,550 tons rocket fuel component (melange) stock.

In addition Georgia and Moldova requested help with the elimination of rocket fuel component (melange) and conventional ammunition in 2000–2002 through the OSCE missions.

1. Requests for assistance in the disposal of conventional ammunition

The SALW and conventional ammunition programme for Tajikistan is being implemented in partnership by the Tajik authorities and the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe, assisted by the Chief Technical Adviser from Norway. The programme is divided into four tasks, two of which are dedicated to disposal of conventional ammunition (Task 1) and to building up an ammunition storage facility (Task 4). On 19 October 2005, the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe provided the FSC with a progress report (FSC.FR/2/05) on the implementation of Tasks 1 and 4.

On 14 September, the French team started explosive ordnance disposal training in the engineer battalion and the first demolition took place on 6 October. The aim is to complete the destruction process by the end of the current year, except for ammunition to be used for further training. Within Task 1 the following projects are complete: reconstruction of Lohur Military Training Camp; construction of the intermediate ammunition storage facility; and establishment of the demolition ground including demolition pits, fire points, and a road to them. The opening of the demolition ground and military training institute will take place on 4 November 2005.

The necessary agreements with the respective State agencies on the implementation of Task 3 have been signed. Donations and contributions for all four currently total €685,960.

In the case of Kazakhstan, the OSCE Seminar on Destruction Techniques and Security of Stockpiles of SALW and Conventional Ammunition was held in Almaty, on 2 and 3 June 2005. It was followed by an initial assessment visit on conventional ammunition from 3 to 9 June. The assessment team included experts from Finland, Germany, Ireland, Norway, the USA and the Conflict Prevention Centre. The report on the visit was submitted to the FSC on 30 June (FSC.GAL/69/05). Following this visit Kazakhstan provided

additional information, as requested, that made it possible to prioritize the areas in which OSCE assistance was requested. These are: re-establishment of the stockpiles for conventional ammunition test laboratory; disposal of ammunition in surplus (792,622 artillery shells, 7,579 antitank guided missiles, 17,168 rockets, 109,591 mortars, 121,943 items of aviation ammunition and 1.1 million landmines); establishment of a computer-based stocks management system for conventional ammunition and SALW.

As regards the Russian Federation's request, consultations and meetings were held between a Group of Friends of Kaliningrad and the Russian Federation in order to clarify the organizational modalities of the initial assessment visit. Agreement was reached and the assessment team led by Denmark and composed of experts drawn from Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, the USA and the Conflict Prevention Centre visited the Kaliningrad region from 15 to 22 November 2005.

Ukraine submitted its initial request for assistance in late 2003 and presented four additional project proposals to the FSC in February 2005. Some States have expressed interest regarding the proposal which addresses the devastating consequences of the technological disaster in Novobohdanivka (Zaporizzhya region). The FSC Chair visited Kiev in June 2005 to discuss further development of the project proposal for Novobohdanivka. Discussion is underway to identify what kind of support Ukraine might request from the OSCE to help in implementing its national Action Plan to overcome the consequences of the disaster. Officials from the Ministry of Emergency visited Vienna on 20 and 21 October 2005 to discuss possible OSCE involvement in the Novobohdanivka project.

2. Requests for assistance on elimination of liquid rocket fuel component melange

In Armenia, Phases I and II of the project on elimination of liquid rocket fuel melange were completed through the OSCE Centre in Yerevan. In November 2005 the Office and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia signed an agreement for the implementation of Phase III — "Implementation", of the project based on the terms and conditions set out by the respective Memorandum of Understanding signed earlier in September. Donors approved project proposals for the final Phase and implementation will start in spring 2006. The duration of the project depends on the climatic conditions but shall not exceed 21 months.

In Ukraine the Melange Scoping Study Project (Phase I) has been completed; the report was distributed to all delegations on 5 October 2005. The Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine is prepared to manage related projects in the future.

On 26 July 2005 Azerbaijan submitted a request for assistance to the OSCE on elimination of melange. An initial assessment visit was conducted from 24 to 27 October 2005, in co-ordination with NATO experts. The report of this visit will follow.

Kazakhstan submitted its request for assistance on elimination of melange in October 2005. The initial assessment visit to melange storage sites in Kazakhstan was held between 31 October and 3 November 2005.

Uzbekistan submitted a similar request through the OSCE Centre in Tashkent in March 2005. However, due to the situation in the country, no further activities have taken place since that time.

3. Donors

The following participating States donated or pledged funds in response to requests for assistance related to stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices and rocket fuel melange: Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and the United States. In several FSC meetings other delegations have been encouraged to express their possible interest in assisting requesting participating States in this area. The FSC welcomed the interest expressed by the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation for a possible involvement in these and future projects.

Donors, donations and assisted countries up to December 2005

Donor	Funds pledged (EUR)	Country assisted
Finland	266,408	Armenia (melange)
Finland	9,033	Kazakhstan
France	In kind (explosive ordinance disposal training programme — 120,000)	Tajikistan
Canada	12,500	Armenia (melange)
Canada	12,500	Kazakhstan (melange)
Germany	65,000	Armenia (melange)
Germany	5,000	Kazakhstan
Luxembourg	20,000	Ukraine
Netherlands	266,812	Tajikistan
Norway	30,000	Tajikistan
Norway	In kind (secondment of chief technical adviser)	Tajikistan
Norway	7,500	Kazakhstan
Slovenia	35,000	Azerbaijan (melange)
Slovenia	25,000	Ukraine
Sweden	3,826	Kazakhstan
USA	903,454	Armenia (melange)
USA	In kind (stockpile management course)	Tajikistan
Total	1,662,033	

In addition Finland, Germany UK, Switzerland, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Turkey and the United States financed the OSCE projects in Georgia for eliminating melange and conventional ammunition in 2002–2005.

4. Workshops

In 2005, the OSCE conducted two large technical workshops on the territory of the OSCE participating States, both sponsored through extra-budgetary contributions and Unified Budget resources of the OSCE Secretariat and field presences.

Kazakhstan: An OSCE Seminar on Destruction Techniques and Stockpiles Security on SALW and Conventional Ammunition was held in Almaty, on 2 and 3 June 2005. The report was circulated on 30 June 2005 as FSC.GAL/69/05.

Ukraine: The first Joint OSCE-NATO Technical Workshop on Rocket Fuel Component (Melange) Disposal was organized in Kiev from 6 to 8 July 2005. The report was circulated on 5 October 2005, under the reference FSC.GAL/101/05.

Section III: Creating synergies: Co-operation within the OSCE and with other international organizations, awareness-raising and agenda-building in other fora

1. Co-operation within the OSCE

Interaction between various OSCE decision-making bodies, along with its operational institutions and structures has an important impact on the overall OSCE response. The FSC, with CPC assistance, is the leading OSCE body for implementation of the Stockpiles document. OSCE field operations, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Press and Public Information Service have also been engaged in the process.

During the 24th joint FSC-PC meeting held on 6 July 2005, the Chairperson of the Permanent Council identified a need to improve co-ordination with other organizations involved in ammunition destruction. Furthermore, to streamline internal procedures within the OSCE, and to further discuss the involvement of the OSCE field presences with a view to possibly enhancing their role (FSC.PC/7/05).

Against the backdrop of the situation in their host States, representatives of OSCE field presences have on several occasions briefed the FSC and the Permanent Council on relevant activities carried out by their staffs (Moldova, Armenia, Tajikistan), or in the participating States in which they are located. In turn, both the PC and the FSC have actively involved the field presences in ammunition or melange-related activities.

The FSC has also heard from the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), most recently on 12 October 2005. They provided a perspective from the second dimension, which highlighted environmental and economic hazards stemming from the insecure storage of melange. Additionally, the Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Combating Terrorism contributed from a counter-terrorism viewpoint.

Involvement of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly: Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly can play an important role in raising awareness. Specifically, awareness-raising is necessary on the risks some participating States have identified with regard to certain stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices, including melange. On 24 February 2005, the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation addressed the Assembly on the occasion of its Fourth Winter Meeting (PA.DEL/1/05).

2. Co-operation with other international organizations

Information exchange with NATO: In the past, efforts to secure and/or destroy surplus stockpiles of ammunition and melange have been undertaken mostly on a national or bilateral basis, rather than through international or regional organizations². NATO, however, through its Partnership for Peace and Security through Science Programs, and in the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), has gained significant experience and developed a sizeable record of projects in the SALW, mine action and, more recently, conventional ammunition and melange.

On the occasion of the special FSC meeting held on 29 September 2004, the NATO representative proposed concrete co-operation between NATO and the OSCE regarding an ammunition destruction project in Ukraine. She also suggested possible further options for co-operation.

Interaction with the United Nations: Unlike SALW, anti-personnel mines and other conventional or unconventional types of weaponry and equipment, the issue of dangerous stockpiles of ammunition and obsolete stocks of melange has not been high on the United Nations' agenda. Therefore, a more acute awareness of the risks associated with stockpiles of ammunition, not only confined to the OSCE area, can be created at the international level. Following United Nations General Assembly decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004, two OSCE participating States tabled a draft resolution at the 60th session of the General Assembly entitled "Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus". The resolution, which included a reference to relevant measures taken in the OSCE context, was approved by consensus by the UNGA First Committee on 31 October 2005 [UNGA draft resolution A/60/L.40] and is now awaiting adoption by the GA Plenary³.

In addition, contacts have been established between the OSCE and relevant parts of the United Nations system, such as the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs, the UN Institute for Disarmament Research and the UN Development Programme.

3. Awareness-raising

Press and public information activities: While related areas such as small arms and light weapons and action on mines have received extensive coverage from the media, unsecured stocks of melange and ammunition have attracted little media interest. In June 2005, an in-depth article appeared in the *New York Times* on this topic, confirming that there is room for more publicity on this issue.

The Press and Public Information Section in the OSCE Secretariat has followed the stockpiles issue from its inception as an OSCE process, providing, both in print and in

2 A notable exception is the OSCE project in Moldova, where a voluntary fund was established in to assist in the removal and subsequent destruction of conventional ammunition.

3 Similar to the Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, the UNGA resolution calls upon States to assess whether, in conformity with their legitimate security needs, parts of their stockpiles should be considered to be in surplus and whether they represent a security risk. It underlines the importance of the security and safety of stockpiles and encourages States in a position to do so to assist the States concerned in eliminating surplus stockpiles and improving stockpile management. The resolution also encourages States to examine the possibility of developing and implementing, within a national, regional or subregional framework, measures to combat illicit trafficking in ammunition.

website publications, press releases, photos, articles, event and other information on this topic. The June 2005 edition of the OSCE Magazine featured a four-page article from the perspective of the FSC Chairmanship. It focused on practical projects, OSCE assistance in the proper storage and destruction of stockpiles of surplus small arms and light weapons in several countries, and as the OSCE's growing programme of melange disposal.

The Stockpiles document is one of the most downloaded documents on the OSCE Website (e.g., in the period from 1 September to 15 October 2005, it was downloaded a total of 773 times). Next to other relevant items, the Website also carries a special feature on the topic ("New OSCE document tackles risks from ammunition") which has been echoed in other media too.

The FSC Chairman is working with the Chairman-in-Office to include in the OSCE Annual Report 2005 a special feature story on OSCE activities in this field, which will be included as part of the section on the CiO's activities, in the first 25 pages of the Report.

Section IV: Lessons learned

The implementation of the Stockpiles document started immediately after its adoption in November 2003. Lessons learned since that time are predominantly about the process for requesting assistance. For example, presentation and consideration of the assistance request; whether to carry out an assessment visit; how to prepare for the assessment visit; preparation of a project proposal; and co-ordination with potential donors for assistance.

The Stockpiles document has certainly raised the profile of this issue, and has created a mechanism for participating States to request assistance. It is important to note, however, that the fact that a participating State makes such a request does not entail an OSCE commitment to address that request. The number of requests put to the OSCE for consideration (10 to date), as well as the fact that the majority of them are seeking destruction of unstable stockpiles (a high cost proposition), means that most of the requests were not been addressed immediately. Even so, all OSCE participating States are now aware of the need for assistance in this area. We hope that awareness of this need will increase the capacity of donor States to address this serious problem. Thus, there may be some benefit in considering a more systematic approach to submitting, processing and prioritizing requests.

Requesting States

The large size and all-inclusive nature of most of the requests for assistance received to date has contributed to the time needed to analyze each request. Small requests are easier to process; donor States are better able to quickly consider small projects and are more likely to identify funds for such proposals. Participating States have therefore been encouraged to divide problems into separable issues, maximizing the possibility that donor States may be able to fund a portion of their request, and helping donors to quickly identify areas where their particular expertise might be of use. All requests for assistance should be sent to the FSC in accordance with Stockpiles document.

It is helpful when participating States can prioritize their requests (or elements thereof). Donors may have different priorities, but knowing the priorities of the requesting State may impact a donor State's prioritization.

The model questionnaire for requesting States contained in the Stockpiles document (Annex I) may not provide enough information for potential donors to make a decision on whether to provide assistance to the proposed project. Therefore, requesting States are encouraged to provide additional, more detailed information as part of the process.

Considering the cross-dimensional risks often associated with these stockpiles, requesting States would do well to identify the humanitarian and/or environmental impact that could result if the identified problem was not addressed. It is very important to the process that requesting States present, as part of their request, information on their own national efforts to solve the problem, for example, funding provided or actions taken. Preliminary information on projects could be an option for donors to consider.

Donor States (Co-ordination of assistance)

There may be problems relating to combined assistance requests for help with conventional ammunition and SALW problems (e.g., Tajikistan, Kazakhstan). The lesson learned so far is, that joint co-ordination and transparency throughout the process are essential.

There is no “library” of assistance to draw from since no donors have provided responses to the model questionnaire for donors offered in the Stockpiles document (Annex II). This appears to be because most funding is not part of standing available funds, but rather, is provided in response to specific requests. If potential donor States would respond to the model questionnaire, at least listing past projects accomplished or areas of expertise, this information would help the Chair’s consultations.

The step from identifying a problem to defining a technically and financially viable solution is, of course, the most difficult part of project development. The “Procedure for dealing with a request for assistance” as specified in the Document (Section VI and Annex III) allow a large degree of flexibility in the way requests for assistance are processed. It is important to find suitable answers to the individual, and often very different, problems that participating States requesting assistance face.

Joint assessment visits by personnel from interested States have been the norm in the first phases of dealing with requests for assistance. In some cases, however, it has proven to be of advantage to commission expert consultancy services from the private sector to develop pre-feasibility or “scoping” studies. Given that project development implies developing a “package” comprising not only technical, but also managerial and financial aspects, this approach has proven to be both efficient and cost-effective.

The volume of the request for assistance sometimes indicates a need for contributions that may be beyond what a donor can commit to in the short term. This may cause a gap in the assistance in future. There are national restrictions on some types of assistance that only become evident in the planning process (e.g., paying of local taxes from donated financial contributions).

FSC Chairperson

The FSC Chair plays an important role in the initial stages of the processing of requests. In accordance with the Stockpiles document, the FSC has the lead role in initiating an OSCE response to the request.

The FSC Chair may request assistance from the CPC's FSC Support Unit, as necessary to allow it to undertake these tasks more efficiently. Active involvement by the Chair allows the OSCE to fulfil better its clearinghouse function of bringing donors and requesters together, and avoiding duplication of effort in this arena. This ground-work is essential. Excessive emphasis on moving forward immediately in response to requests can be counter-productive and limit the Chair's ability to conduct consultations, which are necessary in order to determine whether there will be direct OSCE involvement in addressing the request for assistance.

The time required to process a request may exceed the mandate of one FSC Chairperson. It is recommended that the FSC Chairperson involve the FSC Troika in the process as well as the FSC co-ordinator for the implementation of the Stockpiles document.

The FSC Chair should send a letter to delegations of requesting States, to confirm reception of a request for assistance. The letter shall state that a substantive answer (either positive or negative) shall follow in due course, after initial consultations.

The annual appointment of a co-ordinator has had a positive impact to the consultation process. The co-ordinator, a member of one of the FSC delegations, works on behalf of, and in close consultation with, the Chair. To ensure a transparent information flow to participating States, regular reports to the FSC, in Working Group A, are advised. Well formulated and complete briefings at several stages during the implementation of projects will help to reassure other participating States that project funds are being used well, and may encourage further donations in the future.

The Conflict Prevention Centre

The CPC has played a very important role in helping to implement the Stockpiles document. The CPC engaged proactively in responding to requests for assistance.

The CPC has an active role in assisting the FSC Chair. For example, initial consultations with a host State usually need to be completed before any assessment visits are made. The CPC has been able to facilitate such consultations.

The CPC role includes: assisting in liaison with other international organizations; technical assistance to the FSC Chair and CiO (which currently includes tracking the status of requests); preparations for and participation in assessment visits following the Chair's initial consultations; and co-ordination of the production of detailed project plans.

Experts with skills specific to the assistance request should be included in the assessment team.

OSCE field missions

OSCE field missions, in accordance with their mandates, have a role to play in the processing of requests and implementation of the project, but their roles may vary. OSCE missions with a role in project implementation represent a comparative advantage and a valuable asset.

The OSCE mission may provide local knowledge in support of the evaluation and oversight of projects. The mission members often have good contacts with governmental bodies and could react quickly if additional information or explanations were necessary. Such contacts may be critical in obtaining donor funds or successful project implementation. Furthermore, the field presence itself may play a supportive role, or could be directly involved in assisting with project implementation, depending on the mandate and resources and how the donor/recipient view the project

One of the problems identified is that the missions may not have the personnel with the required technical expertise. Donors or interested participating States that have the expertise needed might consider seconding an expert at no cost to the OSCE Unified Budget (as part of the donation). The source of expertise may be participating States willing to second additional personnel. A good example is a chief technical adviser in Tajikistan to support the OSCE field operation.

International organizations

Interaction with other organizations is slowly improving. However, it may not always be obvious with which organizations the OSCE needs to co-ordinate. As in the case of the melange project in Azerbaijan, interaction may develop on a case-by-case basis. A more systematic approach in co-ordinating efforts could be of added value. An ongoing exchange of information between the OSCE and NATO, the UN, and SEESAC, among others, in the year 2005 has already significantly improved co-ordination.

Raising awareness

As described above, the Stockpiles document has elevated awareness of the security risks arising from improperly secured or uncontrolled stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material, and detonating devices in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some States in the OSCE area. The many requests for assistance made to date provide evidence of the range of humanitarian, environmental, and economic security problems associated with this issue, which has resulted in press reporting and attention beyond the OSCE itself. Examples of successful projects co-ordinated through the OSCE, coupled with increased awareness of the problem, may encourage more States to allocate additional resources toward eliminating improperly secured, uncontrolled or otherwise dangerous stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material, and detonating devices.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT
TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
OSCE DOCUMENT ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**
(MC.GAL/5/05 of 30 November 2005)

Executive summary

The OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) mandates the participating States, *inter alia*, to keep under regular review the implementation of the norms, principles and measures set forth in that Document. This report is designed to provide the Ministerial Council with information concerning the status of its implementation and to provide a basis to indicate where the OSCE might wish to improve its action relating to SALW. The report can also enrich the deliberations on what and how the OSCE could contribute to the United Nations' efforts in this domain, in particular in view of the Conference to Review the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects, to be held in 2006.

The report covers all the areas of implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW. First, it provides a summary of information exchanges since the Document was adopted in November 2000. It also touches upon the Handbook of Best Practice Guides on SALW, which was called for by the relevant provisions of the Document. The Handbook provides a set of recommendations of "best practices" in the implementation of the SALW Document and encourages higher common standards of practice.

Furthermore, it reflects the efforts by the FSC to tackle a threat of illegal trafficking in SALW in the context of preventing and combating terrorism. In this connection, the report provides an overview of the decisions by the FSC in relation to export controls, namely, on MANPADS, on Standard Elements of End-User Certificates and Verification Procedures for SALW Exports, and on OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in SALW.

Co-operation in the field of border control and law enforcement comprised an important part of the implementation activities in the framework of the Document. These activities included workshops, seminars and training programmes for the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe.

The report also covers the implementation of Section V of the Document, which deals with requests for assistance from participating States to tackle the issues of SALW destruction, stockpile management and security. It contains a synopsis of the status of requests for assistance relating to SALW in the OSCE, as well as a list of donor countries.

The report concludes with lessons learned, suggesting, *inter alia*, that a review should be conducted of implementation of the OSCE SALW Document, as well as of relevant FSC decisions. The outcome of this review could bring the OSCE participating States to decide to adjust the work on implementation.

1. Introduction

The OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) (FSC.DOC/1/00, 24 November 2000) (hereafter often referred to as "the Document") mandates the participating States, *inter alia*, to keep under regular review the implementation of the norms,

principles and measures set forth in that Document (Section VI, paragraph 2). Paragraph 31 of the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century regards the Document as an important tool for combating threats caused by terrorism and organized crimes, and underlines the importance of further strengthening its implementation. In addition, by adoption of the Document, the OSCE, as foreseen in the preamble, paragraph 5, saw an opportunity to provide a substantial contribution to the process underway in the United Nations, in particular on the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects.

The range of OSCE activities to prevent and combat the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects is a reflection of its comprehensive approach to security, and a product of its broad *acquis* in arms control, disarmament and conflict prevention. It also reflects the OSCE's diversified membership, which includes producer and exporter States, and States that have been negatively affected by the proliferation of SALW. The OSCE Document on SALW adopted a comprehensive approach to these problems, and gave participating States primary responsibility for the implementation of its commitments. Against this background, it could be useful to clarify among participating States what direction should be given to the SALW process across the OSCE area in future, what relevant implementation issues deserve special and/or further attention and what form the contribution by the OSCE to the UN, in particular in view of the 2006 Review Conference, should take.

2. Objective

This report is designed to provide a factual basis for determining the status regarding implementation of the Document.

It also serves as an indication where the OSCE, if the participating States agree to do so, might have to improve its action relating to SALW, thereby also enriching the deliberations on what and how the OSCE could contribute to the UN process.

It is intended to be a first step, in the sense that it presents an overview of documents, decisions and activities/projects with regard to the implementation of SALW measures agreed by all the participating States.

3. Inventory

3.1 Information exchange

Reference (paragraph)	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Status (completed, in progress or pending)
Section II (D) 1	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange on their national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms, as well as on national procedures for the control of the manufacture of such arms	52 submissions
Section III (F) 1	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange among themselves about their small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year. They also agree to study ways to	2002 – 45 submissions 2003 – 47 submissions 2004 – 50 submissions 2005 – 48 submissions (3 submissions on hold)

Reference (paragraph)	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Status (completed, in progress or pending)
	further improve the information exchange on transfers of small arms.	
Section III (F) 2	The participating States will exchange with each other available information on relevant national legislation and current practice on export policy, procedures, documentation and on control over international brokering in small arms in order to use such an exchange to spread awareness of “best practice” in these areas.	52 submissions
Section IV (E) 2	The participating States will exchange information of a general nature about their national stockpile management and security procedures. The FSC will consider developing a best practice guide designed to promote effective stockpile management and security	49 submissions
Section IV (E) 3	The participating States agree to exchange information on their techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms. The FSC will consider developing a best practice guide of techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms.	51 submissions

The participating States agreed to share information, on a one-time basis, on national marking systems; national procedures for the control of manufacturing; national legislation and current practice in export policy, procedures and documentation, and control over brokering; small arms destruction techniques; and small arms stockpile security and management programmes. In addition, they committed themselves to exchange data annually on exports to and imports from other OSCE participating States, as well as on small arms deemed as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territory in the previous calendar year.

The one-time exchanges, which were conducted in 2001 and 2002, collected a wealth of information on policy and practice related to SALW control. In order to support the OSCE’s review workshop held in February 2002, the FSC tasked the CPC to prepare an overview of the general trends and patterns of implementation apparent in participating States’ responses. The overview prepared by CPC experts provided States with the tools to analyze the submissions and draw conclusions for the implementation of the OSCE Document as a whole.

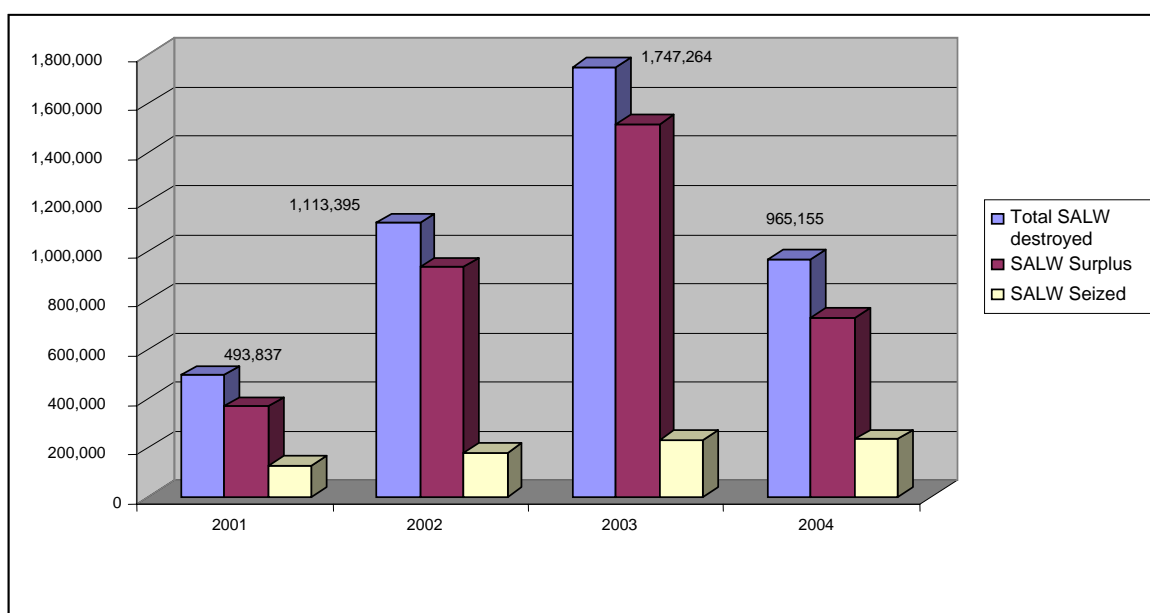
As a follow-up to the recommendations made at the workshop, the Forum asked the CPC to prepare additional tools to aid participating States in their submission of all the required information. Model answers were prepared in 2002, reflecting the June 2001 exchange, as well as in advance of the June 2002 one-time exercise, and the annual exchanges. The purpose of the model answer was to provide guidance for those who had yet to submit their information. At the same time, the model answer formed a kind of voluntary check list against which each participating State was able to compare its own report, and, if it deemed necessary, to provide updates on those elements that had not been fully covered in the first report. A number of participating States did indeed submit new reports or updates in

view of this model answer. In 2003, 22 participating States updated their information, in 2004 28 did so, and in 2005, 30 did so. The template was followed closely by the majority of participating States in their reporting in 2002 and in the following annual submissions.

3.2 Destruction of SALW

Reference (paragraph)	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Status (completed, in progress or pending)
Section IV (C) 1	The participating States agree that the preferred method for the disposal of small arms is destruction.	2002 – 42 submissions 2003 – 43 submissions 2004 – 47 submissions 2005 – 46 submissions
Section IV (E) 1	The participating States agree to share available information on the category, subcategory and quantity of small arms that have been identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territories during the previous calendar year.	

According to the data exchanged, during the period 2001–2004 OSCE participating States destroyed 4,319,681 items of SALW, of which 3,547,805 were deemed as surplus, and 771,876 had been seized from illegal possession and trafficking.



3.3 The Handbook of Best Practice Guides on SALW

Reference	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Status (completed, in progress or pending)
Section II (A) 1	The participating States agree to ensure effective national control over the manufacture of small arms through the issue, regular review and renewal of licences and authorizations for manufacture.	Best Practice Guide on National Controls over Manufacture of SALW
Section II (B) 1	The marking should contain information	Best Practice Guide on

Reference	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Status (completed, in progress or pending)
	which would allow the investigating authorities to determine, at a minimum, the year and country of manufacture, the manufacturer and the weapon's serial number. This information provides an identifying mark which is unique to each small arm.	Marking, Record-keeping, and Traceability of SALW
Section II (C) 1	The participating States will ensure that comprehensive and accurate records of their own holdings of small arms, as well as those held by manufacturers, exporters and importers of small arms within their territory, are maintained and held as long as possible with a view to improving the traceability of small arms	
Section III (F) 2	The participating States will exchange with each other available information on relevant national legislation and current practice on export policy, procedures, documentation and on control over international brokering in small arms and light weapons in order to use such an exchange to spread awareness of "best practice" in these areas.	Best Practice Guide on Export Control of SALW Best Practice Guide on National Control of Brokering Activities
Section IV Introduction	Participating States will promote "best practice" in managing national inventories.	Best Practice Guide on the Definition and Indicators of a Surplus of SALW
Section IV (E) 2	The FSC will consider developing a "best practice" guide, designed to promote effective stockpile management and security and to guarantee a multi-level safety system for the storage of small arms.	Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security
Section IV (E) 3	The FSC will consider developing a "best practice" guide of techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms.	Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for the Destruction of SALW
Section V (F) 1	The FSC will consider developing a "best practice" handbook on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration measures in respect of small arms.	Best Practice Guide on SALW in disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Processes.

Based on information exchanged, the participating States developed "best practice" guides (FSC Decision No. 11/02) with regard to different aspects of the SALW issue, which are compiled in the Handbook of Best Practices on SALW, issued in 2003. The Handbook provides a set of recommendations of "best practices" in the implementation of the SALW Document and encourages higher common standards of practice. It also takes into account

other existing international initiatives and the experience of other international organizations relating to small arms.

The Handbook is now available in the six OSCE working languages as well as in Arabic. In response to a request by the League of Arab States to the OSCE, on behalf of the Organization, the translation into Arabic was prepared by Germany in 2005. This was done in compliance with FSC Decision No. 5/03, which encouraged participating States to make the Handbook available to all relevant national authorities for its implementation as appropriate, and tasked the CPC with ensuring the widest possible distribution of it.

In 2004, the CPC organized and provided input for two regional seminars aimed at broader dissemination of the recommendations set out in the Handbook. They were held for Central Asian and South Eastern European countries in Ashgabad, Turkmenistan, and Skopje, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, respectively.

3.4 Decisions for strengthening SALW export controls

Reference	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Status (completed, in progress or pending)
Section III (A)	FSC: Willing to complement and thereby reinforce the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW, in order to enhance effective export control of SALW in the OSCE area.	FSC Decision No. 3/04, OSCE Principles for Export Controls of MANPADS
Section III (C)	FSC: Willing to complement and thereby reinforce the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW, in particular with regard to export documentation.	FSC Decision No. 5/04, Standard Elements of End-User Certificates and Verification Procedures for SALW Exports
Section III (D)	FSC: Building upon the OSCE Document on SALW in general and recognizing the need to strengthen in particular section III, part D, thereof.	FSC Decision No. 8/04, OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in SALW

The FSC has paid attention to preventing and combating terrorism. In view of a serious threat posed by a potential diversion of SALW into illegal trafficking, the OSCE participating States decided to continue their efforts towards ensuring effective and comprehensive export controls on SALW. In 2003 and 2004, the CPC was tasked to develop overviews of information exchanged on export/import of MANPADS and then of all categories of SALW respectively (FSC Decisions Nos. 7/03 and 2/04).

With the purpose of complementing and thereby reinforcing the implementation of the SALW Document and Decision No. 7/03 of the FSC, by which it decided to promote the application of effective and comprehensive export controls for MANPADS, additional efforts were undertaken, in particular with regard to export control and export documentation. During 2004, the FSC elaborated three decisions covering different areas of exports of SALW.

The first one is aimed at strengthening export control over MANPADS. On 26 May 2004, the FSC adopted Decision No. 3/04 on OSCE Principles for Export Controls of MANPADS. In this decision, the FSC agreed on principles drawn from the Wassenaar

Arrangement's "Elements for Export Controls of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems". The participating States also agreed to incorporate these principles into their national practices, policies and regulations, and to promote the application of the principles to non-OSCE countries.

Another Decision, No. 5/04, on Standard Elements of End-User Certificates and Verification Procedures for SALW Exports, adopted on 17 November 2004, relates to the content of end-user certificates (EUC) provided prior to approval of export licences for SALW (including SALW manufactured under licence) or the transfer of SALW-related technology. The Decision contains a list of standard elements of end-user certificates and verification procedures for SALW exports. This will allow participating States to develop a common approach regarding application of end-user certificates, while taking due account of their respective national legislations. In addition, the Decision foresees commitments for participating States to implement verification measures and to further strengthen transparency in this field.

The third Decision, No. 8/04, adopted on 24 November 2004, sets forth OSCE principles on the control of brokering in SALW. The objectives of the Decision are as follows:

- To avoid circumvention of sanctions adopted by the UN Security Council, decisions taken by the OSCE and other agreements on SALW;
- To minimize the risk of diversion of SALW into illegal markets;
- To reinforce export controls in respect of SALW.

In this Decision, the participating States, building upon relevant UN, OSCE, EU and Wassenaar Arrangement documents, evolved principles that allow them to take all necessary measures to control brokering activities taking place within their territories and to consider controlling brokering activities outside their territories carried out by brokers of their nationality resident or brokers who are established in their territories. As a concrete measure, the Decision foresees that States will endeavour to ensure that their existing or future national legislation is in conformity with agreed principles.

3.5 Improving co-operation and law enforcement

Reference	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Status (completed, in progress or pending)
Section III (E) 3	The participating States agree to enhance their mutual legal assistance and other mutual forms of co-operation in order to assist investigations and prosecutions conducted and pursued by other participating States in relation to the illicit trafficking of small arms.	Developing subregional and national training programmes and joint training exercises for law enforcement, customs and other appropriate officials in the field of small arms

Reference	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Status (completed, in progress or pending)
Section V (D) 4	The participating States could also promote subregional co-operation, in particular in areas such as border control, in order to prevent the re-supply of small arms through illicit trade.	

Assistance to individual participating States has been considered by the OSCE community as a priority. For that reason, from the very beginning of implementation of the Document a series of seminars and workshops were conducted for the countries of the Caucasus, Central Asia and South Eastern Europe.

With respect to trafficking of SALW across borders, a significant amount of work has been done in Central Asia. The first border-control training project was implemented for the Termez Hayraton checkpoint on the border between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in 2002. This training programme was embedded within a broader training course on all aspects of border management run by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The UN-led project was supplemented by a two-week training event organized by the CPC.

The following year, the OSCE conducted its own follow-up programme: “Combating illicit trafficking of SALW through border management assistance”, for both Uzbek and Afghan officials. The programme was implemented by the CPC in close co-operation with the OSCE Centre in Tashkent. The aim of the event was to train law enforcement authorities to be proficient in searching for, detecting and tracing illegally-trafficked weapons; checking vehicles and containers, identifying and seizing weapons, and examining falsified travel and customs documents. The main emphasis was placed on co-operation between the customs and border-guard agencies of States sharing a common border. Co-operation was initiated between the neighbouring states and conditions were created for improving the exchange of information across the border.

Finally, in 2004, this training programme was extended to three more checkpoints along the Uzbek-Kyrgyz and Uzbek-Tajik borders, namely Khorezm, Samarkand and Fergana. A high-level training segment was also conducted in Tashkent. Thus, the overall ability of these checkpoints and policy-making officials to prevent illegal trafficking in SALW was improved.

3.6 Section V — Implementation mechanism

Reference	Quotation regarding implementation measures	Status (completed, in progress or pending)
Section V (C), (D)	Procedures for assessment and measures in response to requests by participating States for assistance.	Decision No. 15/02, Expert Advice on Implementation of Section V of the OSCE Document on SALW. FSC expert advice approved by Permanent Council Decision No. 535 (PC.DEC/535)

As outlined above, the OSCE Document contains a menu of measures for SALW control as part of the OSCE's activities in relation to early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. In order to make these measures operational, in 2002, the FSC provided the Permanent Council with expert advice on the implementation of Section V of the OSCE Document on SALW, which comprised a five-stage mechanism to facilitate requests for assistance from participating States.

Following the submission of requests from Belarus, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, the OSCE embarked on a new activity aimed at assisting with improvement the security of SALW stockpiles and destruction of surpluses. These three requests have become a focus of activity for OSCE participating States that sent experts to evaluate the real situation, identify the scope of assistance required and develop project plans on that basis.

SALW assistance projects — donors (up to December 2005)

Donor	Funds pledged (EUR)	Country assisted
Finland	100,000	Tajikistan
Finland	9,033	Kazakhstan
Germany	5,000	Kazakhstan
Norway	30,000	Tajikistan (for both SALW and CA)
Norway	In-kind (secondment of chief technical adviser)	Tajikistan
Norway	7,500	Kazakhstan
Slovenia	40,000	Tajikistan
Sweden	170,296	Tajikistan
Sweden	3,826	Kazakhstan
Switzerland	Financial support dep. on various conditions, also incl. the costs for an information and training visit (Ref.: FSC.DEL/464/05)	Belarus
USA	In-kind (stockpiles management course)	Tajikistan
USA	164,000	Tajikistan

Synopsis of status of requests for assistance on SALW in the OSCE

Requesting State	Description of problem	Initial assessment visit and development of project plan	Project funding implementation
Belarus	<p>1. Improvement of security of stockpiles</p> <p>2. Destruction of surpluses of SALW. On 2 November 2005, the request relating to destruction of</p>	<p>1. 26–29 April 2004 — Initial assessment visit by assessment team composed of experts from Austria, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, USA, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro, Spain, Switzerland, UK, Turkey, CPC (team leader).</p> <p>2. UK, Switzerland, Spain and the CPC developed a project proposal on security of stockpiles of SALW based on four staff assessment visits conducted between December 2004 and March 2005. Reports provided: FSC.GAL/134/04; FSC.GAL/2/05;</p>	

Requesting State	Description of problem	Initial assessment visit and development of project plan	Project funding implementation
	SALW surpluses was withdrawn by Belarus.	<p>FSC.GAL/15/05; FSC.GAL/36/05.</p> <p>3. The project plan was sent to delegations on 14 September 2005 (FSC.DEL/430/05/Rev.1) and presented in the FSC on 5 October 2005.</p> <p>4. Fourteen MANPADS covered by the Belarusian request were destroyed on 25 May 2005</p>	
Tajikistan	<p>Improvement of security of stockpiles</p> <p>Destruction of surpluses of SALW</p> <p>Training of Personnel</p>	<p>20–26 August 2004 — Technical assistance visit (CPC, Russian Federation).</p> <p>13 October to 6 November 2004 — OSCE assessment visit: Germany, France, Netherlands, Russian Federation, USA, OSCE Centre in Dushanbe, CPC (team leader).</p> <p>15 January 2005 — Initial seven project ideas on improvement of security of stockpiles submitted by the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe to the Group of friends of Tajikistan for consideration.</p> <p>15–19 March 2005 — Project development team visited Tajikistan at the request of the Centre in Dushanbe . The legal framework for the OSCE action on SALW and CA was successfully negotiated (Memorandum of Understanding). Based on the initial project ideas, two SALW project proposals were evolved: 1. Destruction of SALW (estimated budget: 120,488 euros); 2. SALW Security of stockpiles (estimated budget: 332,000 euros)</p> <p>Comprehensive SALW and CA programme was agreed upon by signing of MoU, as of 1 June 2005</p>	<p>11–16 April 2005 USA and Centre in Dushanbe conduct physical security and stockpile management training for 44 Tajik experts.</p> <p>Finland, Norway (including secondment of chief technical adviser), USA, OSCE Unified Budget</p> <p>Funds received in euros: 100,000 — Finland (Security of SALW Stockpiles) 50,000 (OSCE Unified Budget) 164,000 — USA (Destruction of SALW)</p> <p>Sweden and Slovenia have pledged respectively EUR 170,148 and EUR 40,000 for security of stockpiles of SALW (Task 3)</p> <p>Concerning security of stockpiles of SALW, agreements have been signed and construction work has started at the Drug Control Agency, General Prosecution Office and Material Technical Supply Base Agreements are being prepared with Ministry of State Income and Revenue, Military Prosecution Office and State Border Protection Committee.</p>

Requesting State	Description of problem	Initial assessment visit and development of project plan	Project funding implementation
Kazakhstan	<p>1. Destruction of surpluses of SALW (financial assistance and development of fixed or mobile destruction facilities);</p> <p>2. Assistance in improvement of stockpile security.</p>	<p>10 February 2005 — CPC submitted initial project proposals on conducting national workshop on security of SALW stockpiles combined with assessment in June 2005</p> <p>2–3 June 2005 — OSCE Workshop on SALW/CA Destruction Techniques and Stockpile Security and Management</p> <p>June to November 2006 — Initial assessment visit on management and security of stockpiles (Kapchagay and Arys’).</p> <p>Reports provided on 30 June 2005: FSC.GAL/69/05 FSC.GAL/68/05</p>	

Lessons learned

- The OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons has proved to be an effective tool in addressing the problems arising from small arms and light weapons and in fostering transparency as well as confidence among the participating States. It has also become an important framework for dealing with surpluses and stockpiles of SALW with a view to reducing the risk of destabilizing accumulations and uncontrolled proliferation of them, thereby also fostering co-operation among participating States.
- The document itself has also become a framework which has provided a basis for further development of its provisions. It have been complemented and reinforced by a number of decisions in the field of export controls, procedures for assessment and measures in response to participating States’ requests for assistance. The Handbook of Best Practice Guides is aimed at identifying standards for national implementation and assisting participating States in improving their national implementation of aspects of the Document. The Handbook was also used as a reference during assessment missions to Tajikistan, Belarus and Kazakhstan.
- Overall, implementation with regard to information exchanges is improving, bearing in mind the steady increase in a number of submissions during the last two years. However, it is difficult to say what has improved qualitatively as a result of specific measures implemented in the course of the years, and/or what kind of adjustments could be considered with regard to the various information exchanges (contents, templates, etc.).
- Emphasis should be placed on full implementation of FSC decisions in the area of export controls of SALW, including MANPADS. Here, too, it is difficult at this stage to identify to what extent these decisions are being implemented. More attention by the FSC to follow-up on implementation can be beneficial.
- It may be appropriate to conduct a review of the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW and relevant FSC decisions during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in 2006 or at a special FSC meeting on this subject.

- The outcome of this review process could comprise an adjustment of implementation work and a distinct, specific OSCE contribution to the 2006 Conference to Review the UN Programme of Action on SALW.

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
OPEN SKIES CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION TO THE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SLOVENIA,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING
OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Annex 12 to MC(13) Journal No. 2 of 6 December 2005)

Your Excellency,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Open Skies Consultative Commission (OSCC), I have the honour to inform you of the activities of the OSCC in 2005.

During the reporting period, following the Ministerial Council meeting in Sofia, the OSCC focused, on the one hand, on current issues essential to the effective implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies, and, on the other hand, on the preparation for the second phase of its implementation, which will start on 1 January 2006.

An important event in the life of the OSCC was the first Review Conference on the Implementation of the Treaty on Open Skies, held in Vienna from 14 to 16 February 2005, which took stock of both the provisional and the first phases of the operation of the Treaty. The participants in the Conference gave a positive assessment of the first phase of operation of the Treaty since its entry into force on 1 January 2002, noting that it significantly enhanced openness and transparency among the States Parties and thus contributed to maintaining a climate of co-operation on their territories, from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Moreover, the Treaty is making a substantial contribution to achieving the goals and objectives of the OSCE, in particular, the promotion of confidence, stability and security in Europe.

The accession to the Treaty of the Republic of Lithuania and the Republic of Estonia was seen as demonstrating the attractiveness of the Treaty's goals and objectives to OSCE participating States and the positive dynamic of the Treaty's evolution. Thus, the overall number of States Parties to the Treaty has reached 34. The OSCC has carried out all the necessary procedures related to the accession of these States. The application of Cyprus remains on the agenda of the OSCC.

Since the previous reporting period, the States Parties have conducted about 100 observation flights that by and large have been judged to be successful and conducted in an atmosphere of mutual co-operation between the observing and the observed parties. In the course of these observation flights, the States Parties made wide use of such forms of co-operation as shared observation flights, whereby two or more observing parties participated in a single observation mission over the observed party. Furthermore, the States Parties continued the practice of conducting training observation flights on a bilateral basis. The OSCC is continuing to address issues related to the day-to-day implementation of the Treaty through the Informal Working Group on Rules and Procedures (IWGRP). In particular, the Commission took an important decision on transit flights and flights to the point of entry and from the point of exit.

The Informal Working Group on Sensors (IWGS) resumed its work in 2005. This was necessitated, above all, by the fact that the second phase of the Treaty's operation allows for

employing the entire set of sensors specified by the Treaty and that three OSCC decisions regulating the use of several categories of sensors expire in 2005. The OSCC is working on the adoption of revision one of Decision Number Seventeen on recording formats and the exchange of data recorded on media other than photographic film. The IWGS has been able to reach agreement on the draft OSCC decision on logical formats for the exchange of digital data among States Parties. The effort to revise the two other expiring decisions will continue.

Since the second phase of the Treaty's implementation is to begin next year, the OSCC was for the first time tasked with full distribution of the States Parties' active quotas for 2006. This task has been successfully completed. The preparatory work for the transition toward the second phase of the Treaty's implementation makes us hopeful that this vital instrument of co-operation will continue to function effectively.

Your Excellency, you may deem it useful to reflect this information in the relevant documents of the Ministerial Council meeting.

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

I. Introduction

2005 was a significant turning point in the history of the Stability Pact, as the Stability Pact Office launched a “regional ownership” process in an effort to strengthen the participation of South and Eastern European governments in initiatives launched under the Stability Pact umbrella. Given that the Stability Pact had been created as a temporary instrument, the stakeholder governments and organizations welcomed this step, and considered it crucial in consolidating the successes that have been built up to date.

Since the Regional Table in Skopje in November 2004, the Stability Pact continued to work on activities within all three of its Working Tables under the leadership of Special Co-ordinator Erhard Busek (hereinafter SC Busek). Work focused on the six core objectives, aiming to promote political and economic development in South-Eastern Europe and to support the region’s Euro-Atlantic aspirations as set out in the Sarajevo and Cologne founding documents. The Office’s activities were also shaped by the 2003 “Thessaloniki Agenda”, in which the Stability Pact was called on to contribute to the regional co-operation component of the European Union’s Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP).

South-Eastern Europe’s evolving relationship with the European Union has had a key impact on the work and priority-setting of the Stability Pact, and developments within the SAP have influenced the Stability Pact’s complementary role to the SAP process. Following the failed constitutional referenda in France and the Netherlands, the Stability Pact sought to keep the spotlight on the importance of EU engagement in South-Eastern Europe, and worked closely with the European Commission’s DG Enlargement in this regard. At the same time, the Stability Pact also used its advocacy influence to continue pushing for the needed reforms in South-Eastern Europe.

2005 was a year of important breakthroughs for initiatives conceived within the Stability Pact framework. In June, ministers endorsed a proposal to upgrade the current network of free trade agreements into a single free trade zone, and in October the region’s governments signed the Energy Treaty, opening the way for an integrated common energy market with the European Union. Important headway was made on the SAP and Partnership for Peace track by several countries, and most notably the EU decided to begin accession negotiations with Croatia. Equally important was the opening of accession talks with Turkey, a key investor in South-Eastern Europe (SEE).

The Stability Pact continued to press for a rigorous implementation of commitments, and emphasized that SEE governments needed to strengthen their ownership of regional co-operation. SC Busek also stressed the importance of improving the investment climate in the region, this being a precondition for long-term stabilization and economic development. Among others, he also emphasized the importance of co-operation in the areas of education and research to establish the foundations of knowledge-based societies in SEE, and to increase the range of possible competitive advantages. All of these would be crucial to achieving sustainable success in several of the Stability Pact core objectives.

II. Overview of activities

Throughout the year, the Stability Pact's secretariat in Brussels (hereinafter Stability Pact Office) continued its fruitful collaboration with key international partners, among them the OSCE, NATO, the Council of Europe, the OECD, the United Nations and its various specialized offices, the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), as well as the national governments of the United States, Switzerland, Norway and Japan. Fruitful collaboration continued with EU institutions and member States, in particular with the Luxembourg and British Presidencies, the Council Secretariat and the European Commission. On several occasions, the European Council's Working Group on the Western Balkans (COWEB) invited experts from the Stability Pact Office to inform EU member States about various activities and regional developments.

The Stability Pact worked in close co-operation with the European Commission, particularly with Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn, and contributed to the annual country assessment reports with its analysis on the state of regional co-operation. Throughout the year, SC Busek regularly consulted with Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs on the Athens process, and held meetings with Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security, Franco Frattini, on the justice and home affairs agenda. The Stability Pact also used its high political influence in the SEE region to urge governments to resolve existing deadlocks in key policy areas. In the summer, SC Busek visited Kiev for consultations on how the new Ukrainian leadership could assist Moldova in advancing with reforms.

The Stability Pact Office continued its close co-operation with the South Eastern European Co-operation Process (SEECP), and in particular with the governments of Romania and Greece, which chaired the process in succession. SC Busek attended several ministerial meetings hosted by the SEECP, among them the Defence Ministers meeting on defence conversion in March and the Summit of SEECP Presidents and Heads of Government in May. In preparation for the Greek chairmanship, SC Busek visited Athens in March to promote key issues such as the continuation of the Justice and Home Affairs co-operation agenda launched by the previous chair, Romania. In the context of the regional ownership process, SC Busek urged the SEECP to participate actively in the Stability Pact's regional ownership building exercise, and to take on more operational responsibility as a political organization. During a meeting of SEECP Political Directors in Brussels in September, he reiterated the long-standing offer to host an SEECP liaison officer in Brussels.

As part of its efforts to integrate Kosovo into regional processes, in line with UN resolution 1244, the Stability Pact Office worked closely with UNMIK and the PISG. A senior Stability Pact delegation visited Kosovo in early May to meet Special Representative of the Secretary General Soren Jessen-Petersen and the PISG government, and to discuss how the benefits of UNMIK/Kosovo's participation in Stability Pact initiatives could be further increased. UNMIK/Kosovo already benefits from activities in the areas of parliamentary co-operation, trade, energy, infrastructure, organized crime, anti-corruption, migration, and police training. The Stability Pact was also engaged in promoting the extension of the European Civil Aviation Area Agreement to SEE, which — while an important issue for all SAP countries — is especially important in the context of Kosovo as it could bring about a resolution to the problem of the closed airspace over Kosovo.

The spring Working Table-Regional meeting was held in Sofia on 17 and 18 May, following an invitation by the Bulgarian government. In addition, there were two important

Regional National Co-ordinators meetings during 2005, one in Budapest in April, hosted by the Hungarian MFA, and one in Belgrade in October, hosted by the MFA of Serbia and Montenegro. In September, the Stability Pact Office in Brussels hosted a Co-ordination Meeting of Regional Organizations and Initiatives, in which representatives of the South-Eastern Europe Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative, Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Adriatic Ionian Initiative and the Danube Co-operation Process discussed ways of future co-operation.

III. The regional ownership process

In order to begin a focused debate about the priorities and modalities of regional ownership development, the Stability Pact Office put the issue of “regional ownership” as the main agenda item of all its meetings and conferences. The Regional Table in Sofia saw a lively debate in which all key donor governments, beneficiary countries and international organizations participated. The debate concluded that while the region needed to increase its political and financial commitment, it was also crucial that donors did not pull out of the region prematurely. SC Busek stressed the importance of concrete resource commitments by the region, and advocated that in the long run the governments should assume “regional leadership” with regard to the formulation of priorities and the management of existing initiatives.

In the discussion, several representatives called for a clear communication of the region’s preferences, a comprehensive assessment of the existing initiatives, and a roadmap on how to prioritize among these in the future. Following the Regional Table in Sofia, SC Busek initiated a “regional ownership process” on three different levels. Firstly, the Stability Pact Office requested all SEE countries to assess their involvement in regional co-operation, and to clarify their priorities and resource capacities with regard to regional activities. A meeting of regional National Co-ordinators in early October provided an opportunity for country assessments to be presented in preparation for the next Regional Table in Prague.

Regarding the Stability Pact’s priority-setting for the mid-term, the reports of the National Co-ordinators showed a clear focus on economic development. In particular, trade facilitation was highlighted as an area where much had been achieved but the Stability Pact’s support was considered crucial to moving ahead. The importance of improving the investment climate and securing foreign direct investment was also stressed, and the development of a more conducive climate for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) was mentioned in particular. The continued need to improve the regional infrastructure was also underlined by most participants. Beyond these, parliamentary co-operation, visa facilitation, education and youth activities, and defence conversion were mentioned as key areas of desired co-operation and donor support for the future. Finally, Stability Pact National Co-ordinators underlined that a comprehensive and co-ordinated strategy was needed in the fight against organized crime and corruption.

Following the Sofia Regional Table, the Stability Pact and the associated Task Forces began a comprehensive review on the operation of different Stability Pact task forces and initiatives, focusing on the actual input of SEE countries themselves. In addition, as an integral part of the regional ownership process, SC Busek initiated the creation of an external Senior Review Group, in agreement with Commissioner Olli Rehn. Ambassador Alpo Rusi of Finland (Deputy Special Co-ordinator in 1999-2000) was asked to chair the Group composed

of Goran Svilanovic (former Foreign Minister of Serbia and Montenegro), Vladimir Drobnjak (Chief EU-Negotiator for Croatia), and Franz-Lothar Altmann (of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs).

The Senior Review Group began its work in September and prepared its initial assessment and recommendations for the Regional Table in Prague. Based on their report, the discussion in Prague is expected to provide a set of new priorities for the Stability Pact's work plan for the years to come, and it is expected to set the tone for the future of regional co-operation and its modalities. Prague will provide the first occasion to have an informed debate between all stakeholder governments and organizations about how and when international involvement in these co-operation efforts should be gradually reduced, and what the best time-frame is for the region's governments to develop ownership and leadership in the area of regional co-operation.

IV. Working tables and core objectives

Since the end of 2002, the Stability Pact has been working with six "core objectives", which have represented priority areas where the Stability Pact could bring an added value to efficient regional co-operation. The Stability Pact's three Working Tables focused on the following activities during 2005.

1. Working Table on Democracy and Human Rights — WT I

Working Table I (WT I) focused its work on its core objectives: local democracy/cross-border co-operation, and parliamentary co-operation. Work on its additional areas — education, media, and gender — also continued with the same speed and dynamism as before. At the Sofia Working Table meeting in May, Stability Pact participating countries and organizations examined recent developments and future challenges with regard to handing over initiatives into regional ownership. Following the discussion, WT I conducted a consolidated assessment of task force activities and the state of regional ownership, in order to identify future needs and priorities. In September, Jean-Daniel Bieler left the Stability Pact, and former Austrian MP Marijana Grandits took over the position of Director.

(i) Parliamentary Co-operation (core objective)

The Parliamentary Co-operation Task Force made significant headway throughout this year. WT I continued its awareness-raising work about the importance of intra-regional co-operation efforts. Through establishing and reinforcing direct contacts with MPs and encouraging meetings between parliamentary committees dealing with the same issues, WT I contributed to strengthening co-operation and networking between SEE Parliaments. The Stability Pact supported the creation of the Western Balkans COSAC (Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments), which is now applying for a special guest status with the EU COSAC. WT I also supported the activities of other initiatives such as the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum. The Parliamentary Co-operation Task Force decided that immediate priorities should include European integration related issues, democratic control of the security sector, budgetary control and judiciary reform, visa regulations, education, and social cohesion.

In light of the need expressed by our SEE interlocutors, the Task Force continued to promote the development of cross-table and cross-task-force activities, contributing for example to the organization of seminars on defence (with the Office of the US State Secretary for Defence) and on macroeconomic issues (with the IMF/Joint Vienna Institute), as well as the Regional Women MPs Workshop (with the Gender Task Force). The Task Force also prepared a matrix on donor assistance in parliamentary co-operation, as well as a regional needs assessment analysis, which will be updated regularly. In response to the increasing interest by SEE parliamentarians in EU-related matters, WT I co-organized an EU seminar for SEE parliamentarians with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on the EU accession process.

(ii) Local Democracy and Cross-Border Co-operation (Core objective)

The Local Democracy and Cross-Border Co-operation Task Force (LODE/CBC) continued to co-ordinate the work of international and local actors to underpin regional co-operation in SEE, with a view to strengthening local democracy through local governance reform. Together with its key partners, the Council of Europe, the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-Eastern Europe (NALAS), the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), and international NGOs such as the EastWest Institute and the Open Society Institute, the task force also sought to enhance cross-border co-operation, economic convergence, capacity-building, as well as social cohesion and citizens' participation.

During the year, the LOCE/CBC Task Force assessed the respective governments' records in implementing commitments made at the Zagreb Ministerial Conference on Better Local Governance in 2004. The Stability Pact Office worked closely with the Council of Europe — both with the Directorate of Co-operation for Local and Regional Democracy and with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities — which also echoed the importance of implementation during its plenary session in Strasbourg in June. The monitoring of the implementation of the adopted Work Plans is particularly important in view of the Evaluation Conference scheduled for 2006.

In July, WT I co-organized a conference on the development of trans-border co-operation in the Gnjane/Gilan, Presevo, Kumanovo, Trgoviste micro-region with the EastWest Institute and the Council of Europe. The WT began preparing for the follow-up, which involves continuing promotion and co-ordination work for the development of this micro-region. The Stability Pact also continued to provide political support to the Network of Associations of Local and Regional Authorities (NALAS), which elected its executive organs during its first General Assembly in September in Skopje.

(iii) Additional activity areas

Following a specific request by SEE governments, WT I began to develop a mid-term strategy for Stability Pact activities on education and research. Under the broad heading "Building human capital", the discussion began on the added value that the Stability Pact could bring. WT I supported the Vienna-based ERI Secretariat in the co-organization, with the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Sport, of a workshop on participation in the EU's education programmes, focusing on project cycle management. In addition, WT I prepared a comprehensive overview of the EU's programmes in the area of education and research, with a particular focus on their availability for SEE countries. During 2005, the ERI statute was

finalized and preparations were carried out for the November opening of the Zagreb secretariat.

The Media Task Force (MTF) continued its work on its three priorities: the development of media legislation, support for television production, and the strengthening of media associations. Fruitful co-operation with the Council of Europe and the European Commission continued, and among others the three offices co-organized a high-level seminar on public service broadcasting in June. The MTF also worked closely with the European Commission's relevant offices prior to the launching of a recent Call for Proposals to support regional co-production of documentaries and television programmes of social relevance. Overall, the amount of support available for the production of quality television programmes significantly increased due to the involvement of the Media Task Force.

The programmes address corruption, reconciliation, youth culture, social issues, and the impact of separation in the aftermath of the war. In 2005, six episodes on Women in Trafficking were aired and the 12-episode series called *Videoletters* was broadcast simultaneously on seven public stations all over the SEE region. In addition, the MTF supported the cross-border exchange of television programmes. The Task Force meeting in Amsterdam in June reviewed both positive and negative developments in the region, and discussed future donor strategies. MTF also launched a major assessment study on the last ten years of international media development assistance. In May, Radomir Diklic joined the Media Task Force as its new Chairman.

In the framework of the Stability Pact's gender equality activities, the Gender Task Force (GTF) organized a conference on "Work and Pregnancy" in Sarajevo on 26 January, marking the completion of the Gender Task Force project on Social Dialogue and Women's Empowerment in Trade Unions in Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina. The Task Force also continued its efforts in promoting equal opportunities for women, and in particular, contributed to the organization of the 6th International Trade Union Women's School on International and European Social and Gender Standards, which was held in Ohrid in September. GTF was also involved in the UNIFEM/EEPA Regional Consultation Meeting, focusing on the theme of "Financing for Gender Equality in an Enlarged Europe" which was held in Brussels on 13–15 June. The meeting aimed to promote the inclusion of gender equality as a value and an objective in the EU's planned Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

2. Working Table on Economic Reconstruction and Development — WT II

The key goal of Working Table II is to facilitate sustainable economic development through modernizing infrastructure, particularly energy and transport, as well as through trade liberalization and investment promotion. A particular aim is to ensure that both the countries of SEE and the international community take a regional strategic approach to economic development in order to make full and effective use of the available public and private sector financial resources. WT II also seeks to ensure that the importance of social cohesion is addressed by all.

During 2005, an intensive schedule of activities was undertaken across its various initiatives, including ministerial meetings on Trade and Investment, Information Society, and Employment. Given its importance for economic development in the region, the key theme for the May Working Table II meeting was infrastructure development in South-Eastern

Europe. This examined progress to date and highlighted issues impeding project implementation as well as possible steps to overcome these. Bernard Snoy completed his assignment at the Stability Pact in June and joined the OSCE in Vienna. Former EBRD Executive Director Laurent Guye of Switzerland joined WT II as the new Director in September.

(i) Energy and other Regional Infrastructure (core objective)

The Stability Pact maintained its active involvement in the Athens Process for a regional energy market, which has been led by the European Commission. The Stability Pact Office's role has been a complementary one, seeking to ensure regional political support and ownership, to promote a common strategy among the donors, and to encourage private sector involvement to foster restructuring and investment in this sector. In 2005, the Athens process reached a major peak with the transformation of its MoUs to a legally-binding treaty. The Energy Treaty was initialled in May, and was subsequently signed in Athens in October. To mark the Stability Pact's achievements in gathering political consensus for the process, SC Busek was also invited to address the signing ceremony.

As part of its role to provide political support for this initiative, WT II organized a meeting of Senior Advisers to Prime Ministers in SEE in Vienna on 12 July. This meeting, chaired by SC Busek, focused on key issues surrounding the forthcoming ministerial meeting to sign the treaty on the Energy Community. WT II experts participated in the various meetings of the Permanent High Level Group overseeing the implementation of the Athens Process throughout the reporting period.

During 2005, the Stability Pact used the occasion of several conferences and workshops to raise investor interest in the SEE as a future regional energy market, and to inform SEE parliamentarians, governments, trade unions and civil society organizations about the implications of the Energy Treaty.

With the signing of the Energy Treaty, the role of the Stability Pact will evolve. It will continue to provide political support as necessary, particularly to ensure genuine regional ownership and progressive transfer of responsibility for regional energy co-operation to the region. The establishment of the institutions of the Energy Community, including the Regional Regulatory Board and the Secretariat will be important steps in that direction. WT II will seek to work more closely with parliamentarians on this issue and to highlight opportunities to the private sector. But it will also seek to focus attention on the potential socio-economic impact of this Treaty. The Stability Pact hopes to encourage both the countries of the region and the international community to develop and implement suitable policies and programmes that can help limit the possible negative impact in areas such as restructuring of companies and tariff reform.

Among other things, 2005 also saw the inauguration in October of the Sloboda Bridge in Novi Sad, which was destroyed in the 1999 NATO raid. Funds for the reconstruction of the bridge were secured in 2000, when the first list of regional infrastructure projects (Quick Start Projects) was prepared. Ever since 2000, the Stability Pact had been campaigning for a more efficient use of the Danube as a transport waterway, and had been promoting the consideration of projects that would make use of the Danube's potential as an environmentally-friendly transport mode. The 40-million-euro reconstruction was financed by various international donors, including the European Agency for Reconstruction.

WT II was involved in a number of infrastructure-related activities including participation in the various Infrastructure Steering Group meetings held throughout the reporting period. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Michel Peretti (Head of Division at DG Enlargement), the Council of Europe Development Bank, the EBRD, the EIB, the Stability Pact, and the World Bank (which together form the ISG) reviewed progress in the different infrastructure sectors and sought to intensify co-ordination in the area of water-related environmental infrastructure. In May 2005, the ongoing regional infrastructure projects totalled almost 5.2 billion euro, of which 3 billion was destined for transport projects, 1.7 billion for energy, and the rest for environment or cross-border facilitation projects.

WT II continued to encourage the SEE countries to promote vital projects on the Trans-European Corridors (TENs) in the region through the EC-financed South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO). SEETO's role has been to facilitate the implementation of the 2004 MoU on the Core Transport Network in the Western Balkans. WT II also continued to work closely with the European Commission and Eurocontrol on the initiative to determine the feasibility of expanding the European Civil Aviation Area Agreement to SEE, and collaborated with these offices in preparing for, and following up to, the various working group meetings.

WT II also participated in the annual meeting of the SEE Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme (REReP) organized by the EC and the Regional Environmental Centre, and the preceding meeting on priority environmental projects. The Stability Pact also maintained contact with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) regarding the launch of the IFC-led programme to promote public private partnerships in the infrastructure sector in SEE. In this regard, a regional centre to promote PPPs started operations in Sofia in October.

(ii) Trade, Investment and Employment (Core objective)

The Trade Working Group (TWG) has made substantial progress in advancing the trade liberalization agenda in SEE. The key event during this period was the joint Trade and Investment Ministerial meeting held in Sofia on 9 and 10 June. This meeting was organized by the Stability Pact's Trade Working Group and the Investment Compact. Regarding trade liberalization, SEE ministers committed their governments to the development of a single free trade agreement for the region, and charged the Stability Pact Trade Working Group to conduct detailed exploratory talks with a view to launching negotiations in early 2006. They also agreed to the implementation of a programme to reduce and eliminate non-tariff barriers and to harmonize regulations dealing with trade in services.

During the year, the TWG reviewed progress on the ratification and implementation of the 28 free trade agreements (FTA), and discussed some of the trade disputes that have arisen among the SEE countries. The Stability Pact Office monitored these issues and SC Busek was in contact with all countries concerned. The TWG also discussed a proposal for a programme to identify and eliminate non-tariff barriers to trade, based on the studies financed by the EC and the Swiss Government. It also reviewed progress on a variety of technical assistance programmes designed to facilitate FTA implementation, including the EC-financed trade in services programme and a range of US-financed workshops. The TWG also discussed the difficulties in the final negotiations concerning the revision of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's agreement and interim FTA with Serbia and Montenegro and UNMIK/Kosovo. Both of these agreements were later finalized.

In 2005, the OECD-led Investment Compact's activities developed along its four original dimensions, namely: (1) monitoring and evaluation, (2) support in implementation of investment reform, (3) support for private sector representation, and (4) political support, while also preparing for future developments. 2005 was marked by a management change with the retirement of Declan Murphy, and the appointment of Anthony O'Sullivan as new head of the Investment Compact.

In addition to country missions to Croatia, Serbia and Romania, the Investment Compact organized a business forum for representatives of the international and domestic business community active in SEE to exchange views on a range of topics. The Business Forum, held back-to-back with the Joint Investment and Trade Ministerial, concluded with the presentation of the "Investor of the Year" awards to a number of companies which have made substantial investment in SEE. The Investment Compact also made progress on the opening of support offices in Sofia and Zagreb. The publication and promotion of the individual country reports on Enterprise Policy Performance and Assessment (EPPA) took place in conjunction with the EC (DG Enterprise) and the EBRD.

The Investment Compact's SME Forum, chaired by Albania and its Investor Forum, chaired by Bosnia and Herzegovina also met to review progress in policy reform. In the light of the ministerial declaration on investment, the Investment Compact engaged in a substantial review of its strategy and work programme for 2006 to provide SEE countries with a regional framework incorporating time-bound policy reforms with peer reviews and technical assistance. It also explored ways to intensify regional capacity for policy development and to improve knowledge and expertise on investment issues among SEE parliamentarians.

The Business Advisory Council organized five country missions this year. Following the first mission, which was organized back-to-back with an EBRD private sector development seminar in Skopje in March, BAC members visited Herzeg Novi (Montenegro), Bucharest (Romania), Chisinau (Moldova) and Pristina (Kosovo). These missions provided an opportunity for BAC members to meet senior government officials and to make recommendations about where improvements are necessary in the investment climate.

(iii) Additional activity areas

Within the framework of the Initiative for Social Cohesion (ISC), the most important event was the Second Ministerial Conference on Employment on 21 October in Sofia, in which responsible ministers committed themselves to increased regional co-operation in improving employment policies. Newly-set priorities include the implementation of measures to deal with long-term unemployment, the creation of opportunities for women and young people, the integration of labour inspection and health and safety as principles to observe in all work environments, as well as the strengthening of institutionalized communication among governments, workers and employers on issues of employment policy.

Under the Bucharest Co-operation Process on Employment, the Initiative for Social Cohesion supported the review of employment policies in line with the Bucharest Declaration of 2003. The Permanent High Level Committee on Employment met in April and September to discuss the findings of a new round of country reviews in employment policies (for Moldova and Serbia) and another round of peer-reviews.

Health sector activities continued with the introduction of two new regional projects on tobacco control and blood safety. A meeting on occupational health and safety was held in May at WHO headquarters with a view to taking stock of existing activities and to establishing co-ordination mechanisms amongst the key players. WT II worked intensively with its colleagues in the WHO and the Council of Europe Development Bank on the preparation for the Second Ministerial meeting on Health, scheduled to take place in late November in Skopje. This meeting will highlight the financial benefits of appropriate health policies based on the SEE Health Network's report on "Health and Economic Development in SEE". It will also see the SEE countries assuming more leadership and management of regional health issues.

In line with its social dialogue advocacy, the ISC held several meetings with EU institutions including DG Employment, and Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, as well as with the European Investment Bank and European Economic and Social Committee. The SEE network of trade unions met in Skopje on 14 and 15 September to discuss the social implications of the Energy Treaty for SEE. They also adopted a common statement concerning their role in the follow-up to the Treaty.

As part of its umbrella theme of Enterprise Development and Employment Generation, WTII's Investment Compact and Initiative for Social Cohesion co-organized a workshop with the European Training Foundation. Held in Thessaloniki in April, the workshop provided an opportunity for officials from SEE ministries of economy, labour, and education, private sector representatives, social partners and donors to exchange views about labour market efficiency and development. An issue paper summarizing the key issues discussed was later prepared.

The Stability Pact's Housing and Urban Management Initiative (HUMI) continued its work to facilitate the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Informal Settlements, and in particular to develop a regional capacity-building programme to support better policy development. During regional workshops, organized by SP/HUMI in May and October, signatories presented draft Action Plans to implement commitments made under the Vienna Declaration and assessed progress. In addition, stakeholders agreed on the substance and the operational modalities of the envisaged regional capacity-building programme. WT II generated donor support for the final programme preparation phase (November 2005 to April 2006) from the Swiss Development Co-operation Agency, UN-HABITAT, and the Council of Europe Development Bank. WT II and UN-HABITAT prepared a detailed work plan for the final phase of this "regional capacity-building initiative", which includes a number of stakeholder workshops to identify national capacity-building priorities. HUMI also collaborated with the Initiative for Social Cohesion, the Council of Europe and the EIB on assessments of different aspects of housing policy in SEE.

In the framework of developing the information society in SEE, the e-SEE Working Group held meetings in Brussels and Belgrade in March and May, respectively, to prepare for the Ministerial Conference on Information Society that took place in Thessaloniki in late June. The conference was hosted by the Hellenic Ministry of Transport and Communications and organized by the Stability Pact, UNECE, UNDP and INA of Greece. Participating ministers reaffirmed their commitment to, and refined the priorities of, the e-SEE Agenda, which is designed to facilitate the region's integration into European ICT programmes, and signed an MoU on concrete steps to be taken to introduce broadband widely in the region.

The event also provided an opportunity to prepare the region for the second World Summit on the Information Society, scheduled to take place in Tunis in November.

3. Working Table on Security Issues and Fighting Organized Crime — WT III

In 2005, Working Table III continued to work on its core objectives, namely the fight against organized crime and the management and stabilization of population movements. It also further strengthened its efforts in security- and defence-related issues in particular in defence conversion, small arms and light weapons, and disaster prevention and preparedness. During the thematic Sofia Working Table meeting, participating organizations and governments focused on the issue of defence conversion (a core activity area) and WT III updated on developments regarding the MARRI Regional Forum and the transfer of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative to regional ownership.

(i) Fighting Organized Crime (core objective)

During the year the Stability Pact continued to provide expert and political support to the Bucharest-based Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime (SECI Centre), especially with regard to the Centre's envisaged new international legal status, and the promotion of increased operational co-operation between the SECI Centre and Europol. In the framework of the Stability Pact Initiative against Organized Crime (SPOC), Working Table III continued to focus on capacity-building, awareness-raising, advocacy role and legislative reforms. WT III, in co-operation with the Austrian SPOC Chair, sought to ensure that the SEE region and EU member States recognize the SECI Centre as the main focal point in relation to regional policing activities.

WT III monitored the enhancement of capacities to combat organized criminal activities, and sought to link regional actors with Brussels-based decisions-makers and politicians. The Stability Pact supported the SECI Centre's quest for financial assistance through the CARDS programme, which was granted to the Centre at the meeting of the CARDS Committee in September. The over 2 million euro support will be spent on upgrading the Centre's institutional and operational capacities on both a regional and national level, in compliance with the EU acquis as well as the standards and best practices in the area of international police co-operation.

In co-operation with the SPOC Regional Secretariat in Bucharest, the Stability Pact Office continued the assessment and monitoring of the legislative and institutional implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo TOC) in SEE. The harmonization of criminal law definitions regarding participation in organized criminal groups, money-laundering and trafficking in human beings, in accordance with the UN Palermo Convention, is still not completed in some SEE States. WT III updated a matrix to assess the status of the regional implementation of the Palermo TOC, reflecting the advancement of each SEE country towards the implementation of this legislation, and serving as a mirror for each SEE country to identify where the efforts should still be made.

WT III and the SPOC Secretariat also worked on specific criminal legislation that the above countries would need to enact to ensure implementation of the Palermo convention. With the assistance of international organizations and the US Resident Legal Advisors, the SPOC Secretariat researched and compiled relevant international instruments and existing SEE legislation on witness protection. Through a series of visits to the region, the SPOC

Chairman urged SEE governments to implement the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to design adequate policy instruments to ensure implementation. The visits also provided an opportunity to reinforce the SPOC network, to promote the enhancement of parliamentary co-operation in the fight against organized crime, and to facilitate dialogue between the SECI Centre and other law enforcement agencies, particularly Europol.

In the context of the Stability Pact Anti-Corruption Initiative (SPAI), SC Busek attended the ministerial conference on Joint Measures to Curb Corruption in SEE, which took place in the European Parliament in Brussels in May. Organized by the Stability Pact, this meeting brought together the SEE governments, the international community (incl. IFIs), and business and trade union representatives, who all have a stake in this area of policy reform. The meeting adopted a joint Action Plan on fighting corruption, focusing mainly on the improvement of the business environment, on integrity standards in public administration and judiciary, as well as promoting transparency and a more pre-eminent role of the civil society in the fight against corruption.

WT III supported the Sarajevo-based SPAI Regional Office in assuming more regional ownership, and in line with the fruitful co-operation that exists between the headquarters of the international partners and the Stability Pact Office in Brussels, the SPAI Secretariat strengthened its co-operation with international field missions. A joint workshop was co-organized with the Council of Europe in Albania to debate practical aspects of the implementation of the EU *acquis communautaire* on corruption. WT III assisted the EU's TAIEX programme in organizing seminars in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Albania on the JHA *acquis*. In addition, several thematic training events and conferences were organized within the SPAI framework, and WT III provided expert support for the implementation of a twinning-type project by the Regional SPAI Office for the specialized prosecutors' offices from Montenegro and Croatia.

The Police Forum managed a series of diverse initiatives, including Regional Police Training (RPT) modules for senior police officers, the Organized Crime Training Network project (OCTN) for operational managers, the Stolen Vehicle Network project (SVN), the Anti-Drug Networking project (AND) and I-24/7 Border check-points project (I-24/7). The implementation of the RPT-module "Forging Documents" represented an ample opportunity for co-ordination between international and regional experts and institutions, led by the Association of European Police Colleges. WT III assisted the Slovenian OCTN Project Manager in a series of visits to SEE capitals, which aimed to prepare the planning of the future training programme, and worked with the donors (Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and United Kingdom) to secure financial sustainability for this project.

WT III strongly promoted the "I-24/7" project within the donor community, which had been designed to equip the main border check-points in SEE with an Interpol tracking system for stolen vehicles, false documents and wanted persons. In the framework of the "Regional Police Project", the WT prepared an assessment and finalized the remaining programme in co-operation with the Association of European Police Colleges. Regarding OCTN, SC Busek, in agreement with the donor countries, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IOM Ljubljana to regulate the finance and accounting process for the project. Donor and partner countries signed a letter of intent to build a close partnership in support of the project.

(ii) Managing and Stabilizing Population Movements (Core objective)

Concerning the work of the MARRI Regional Forum on Migration, Asylum and Refugee Issues, the Stability Pact continued to provide political support and expert advice to the MARRI Regional Centre. As the most recent initiative to be transferred to full regional ownership, the efficiency of the Skopje-based MARRI Centre, which now works under the SEECF umbrella, will be critical for the long-term success of the Stability Pact's regional ownership exercise. WT III assisted the centre in preparation of the Tirana Declaration (4 April) regarding the MARRI Regional Forum, in which participating States decided — among other things — to build up the Regional Centre into a migration information clearing house.

WT III also continued to provide support to the MARRI "Access to Rights" programme, to promote the development of policy solutions allowing non-discriminatory access to rights for all Western Balkans citizens, in conformity with the EU's *acquis communautaire*. WT III also participated in the discussions on the free movement of persons within the Western Balkans, in particular on visa facilitation within the region and consular co-operation. Special attention was paid to streamlining visa procedures for intra-regional travel, and to starting discussions on legal labour migration within the region.

In the last year, one of the most significant achievements of the Ohrid Process on Border Security and Management (which is led by the European Commission, OSCE, NATO and the Stability Pact Office) was that almost all borders in the five Ohrid countries were transferred from military to civilian control. The issues covered by the Ohrid Process continue to be of particular importance as border management-related issues are key components of the JHA Ministerial dialogue between the Western Balkans and the EU. In this regard, WT III held several consultations with its partners and with the countries concerned on the implementation of the existing commitments as well as on the future steps to be taken, until the end of 2006 and beyond.

The Intermediate Review Meeting and the Brainstorming Meeting in May suggested an increase in expert assistance for Western Balkan countries, especially in drafting legal frameworks for Integrated Border Management, and in adjusting national strategies to European Union guidelines. In September, WT III organized with its partners an expert-level meeting in Brussels to discuss how NATO, OSCE and the Stability Pact could join the assessment mission of the CARDS Regional Programme next year, and use that opportunity to assess the implementation of the Ohrid commitments from a political and technical point of view. Participants also discussed practical points for the organization of the upcoming Third Review meeting, which will take place on 10 and 11 November, in Sarajevo.

(iii) Core activity area

WT III continued working on the defence conversion initiative, and co-operated closely with NATO, the principal leader on this initiative. Working Table III initiated the SEECF Defence Ministerial Meeting on Defence Conversion, which took place in Bucharest on 30-31 March. SEE Ministers of Defence decided to increase regional exchange of information and experience in particular in the programmes on retraining of redundant military personnel, and conversion of former bases and defence industries to civilian purposes. The Zagreb-based Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) was given a special role in the integrated regional approach

in defence conversion. Furthermore WT III provided expert support to several conferences, including the Visegrad Group countries' workshop on Defence Industry Conversion in Serbia and Montenegro, and organized a meeting of the "Friends of the Defence Conversion Initiative" in Brussels to discuss the implementation of the above-mentioned SEECF ministerial declaration.

(iv) Additional activity areas

WT III also worked with the joint UNDP-Stability Pact initiative of the South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC). In particular, WT III assisted with the preparation of a joint SEE statement at the Biennial Meeting of the UN Member States to review the UN Programme of Action on combating illegal trade of SALW, which took place in July.

Finally, the Stability Pact's Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) was transferred to region in July when an office in Sarajevo was established. WT III oversaw the recruitment of an Executive Director, a Programme Manager and further permanent staff. The DPPI Secretariat was active during the Romanian flood emergency, and the DPPI Executive Director subsequently visited countries in the region to promote DPPI with relevant governmental and international offices. DPPI continued to organize training activities, aiming to improve co-ordination work in the region.

V. List of task forces and initiatives — 2005

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
WORKING TABLE I						
Parliamentary Co-operation Task Force	Initiator, political support, overall co-ordination (through Senior Consultant Petra Blass).	Promote co-operation between SEE parliaments to strengthen legislative capacity, networking between SEE and EU parliaments.	Joint Statement of the Presidents and Speakers of the SEE Parliaments at the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum (Cetinje, May 2005).	SEE parliaments, German Government, EC, IMF, World Bank, USAID, DCAF, NDI, OSCE, NATO PA, Parliamentary troika (EP, Council of Europe PACE, OSCE PA).	German Government, European Parliament, Council of Europe PACE, DCAF, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, EC, IMF, World Bank, USAID.	Regionalization will be achieved when sustainable networking arrangements are developed. Creation of a more institutionalized and formal co-operation platform is also being considered.
Local Democracy and Cross Border Co-operation Task Force	Initiator, political support to Network of Local Authorities of SEE (NALAS) and other initiatives (such as Euroregions and microregions).	Promote co-operation between local and regional authorities; capacity-building.	MoU on Effective Democratic Governance at the Local and Regional level, Signed at Ministerial conference, Zagreb, October 2004.	SEE governments, Council of Europe, EC and Committee of the Regions, OECD, East-West Institute.	Council of Europe, OECD, OSI, EC (CARDs).	Council of Europe will most likely continue working on its own, after gradual phasing out of Stability Pact.

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
Gender Task Force	Political and expert support, overall co-ordination (through Executive Secretary Sonja Lokar).	Promote dialogue and co-operation between parliaments, governments and civil society groups on gender issues.		Promote dialogue and co-operation between parliaments, governments and civil society groups on gender issues.	Governments of Norway, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Denmark.	The GTF is an initiative of the region, and no further “transfer” to the region is necessary. Instead, aim is to become a subregional European organization (to act as bridge between SEE region and planned European Institute for Gender Equality).
Media Task Force	Initiator, political support, overall co-ordination (through Executive Secretary Yasha Lange).	Promote passage of EU-conform broadcast legislation, support production of broadcast material, consolidate media associations and centres.	Charter for Media Freedom, Thessaloniki, June 2000.	SEE civil society working groups, governments of US, Sweden, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Council of Europe, EC, OSCE, international NGOs.	Governments of US, Sweden, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Netherlands, UK, Italy.	Network of national Working Groups in existence, plans to set up permanent structures — but overall MTF aim is to phase out fully.

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
Education and Youth Initiative	Initiator, political support.	Promote co-operation in education, youth and research issues, provide assistance in preparing for access to EU programmes.	MoU on the Education Reform Initiative, signed in Tirana, December 2003; (Action Plan of ERI is based on EU Work Programme “Education and Training” 2010).	Switzerland, Bureau CROSS, KulturKontakt Austria, Austrian development Agency, Norway, ETF, UNESCO, Swisscontact, SEE governments.	Switzerland, Bureau CROSS, KulturKontakt Austria.	ERI Secretariat set up in November 2004 (Zagreb), currently working on the “Enhanced Graz Process.
WORKING TABLE II						
Intra-regional Trade (Trade Working Group)	Initiator, management of Trade Working Group, political intervention when necessary.	Promote increased intra-regional trade and reduced non-tariff barriers (through bilateral FTAs, and most recently through development of single FTA).	MoU on Trade Liberalization and Facilitation, June 2001, annual ministerial statements (latest June 2005).	SEE governments, EC (DG Trade), UK, World Bank, WTO, Switzerland, US, Norway.	UK DfID, US Dept of Commerce, Switzerland, SECO, Sweden, Germany, EC (CARDS).	Regional structures envisaged under single FTA, which follows example of CEFTA agreement.

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
Investment Compact	Initiator, political and expert support to OECD who is main lead on this initiative.	Improve investment environment through regional co-operation in policy development and promotion. Creation of monitoring system of reform measures, establishment of regional co-operation networks including public/private sector dialogue.	Annual ministerial statement on investment, latest Sofia, June 2005.	Co-Chairs: OECD, Austrian Ministry of Economy, Bulgarian government, IC Project Team (composed of representatives of Ministries of Economy, government agencies, private sector associations, int. organizations and national governments).	OECD, Austrian Ministry of Economy, Switzerland, Ireland, US, Norway, France.	Strengthening regional element by involving SEE governments in lead roles. (Bulgaria has been co-chair, BiH chair of Investment Promotion Network, and Albania chair of SME network).
Energy (area of work)	Provision of political and promotional support to EC DG Energy (leader).	Fostering political consensus on establishing a common market for trading of energy to ensure stable supply, reduce investment costs and introduce EC acquis.	“Athens process” MoUs in 2002 and 2003, Energy Treaty (initialled May 2005, signed 25 October 2005).	SEE Ministries of Energy, EC, select EU governments (especially participants and observers to Athens process), IFIs, US.	EC CARDS, World Bank, Joint Office/ISG, EBRD, EIB all funding energy-related projects, USAID, CID, SIDA.	Beyond existing EC and Vienna Secretariat capacity, further structures need to be established or strengthened (e.g., Gas Forum).

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
Regional Infrastructure	Initiator of Infrastructure Steering Group (IFIs, Stability Pact, and EC (chair)), provision of political support to ISG and SEE governments; initiator of Danube Co-operation Process.	Advocate regional approach by all IFIs and participating institutions, promote removal of bottlenecks on project implementation, and advance process through institutional and practical solutions.	MoU on Core Transport Network for Western Balkans (June 2004).	SEE governments, EC, World Bank, EBRD, EIB, COEDB.	SEE Transport Observatory (SEETO) funded by EC, resources for ISG are provided in kind by members; funding for infrastructure projects from IFIs, EC and bilateral donors.	SEETO has been established in Belgrade (Steering Committee is chaired by BiH) IFC-led bid facility opened in Sofia in October 2005.
Initiative for Social cohesion	Initiator, political and expert support.	Promote development of regional strategies and policy reform in support of health, social protection, employment and social dialogue.	MoU on employment policy signed 21 October 2005, MoU on Health currently prepared for November 2005.	SEE governments, CoE, COEDB, WHO, ILO, ETUC, IOE, EC, Governments of Switzerland, Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Norway, Slovenia, Hungary.	CoE, COEDB, WHO, ILO, EC, Governments of Switzerland, Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Norway, Slovenia, Hungary.	Regionalization strategy is currently being discussed.

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
Electronic SEE Initiative	Initiator, political and expert support.	Promote development of electronic and broadband strategies in both public sector and nation-wide.	E-SEE Agenda for the Development of Information Society, signed in Belgrade, October 2002; MoU on Broadband-SEE, signed in Thessaloniki, June 2005.	SEE governments, E-SEE Working Group (Serbia and Montenegro is Chair, UNDP provides secretariat), UNECE, EC DG Information Society, Hungary, Slovenia, Sweden, UK, US, Turkey.	UNDP, South East European Research Telecommunications and Informatics Institute (INA/Greece).	UNDP-supported secretariat in Sarajevo in existence since 2002.
Housing and Urban Management Initiative	Initiator, political and expert support.	Promote co-operation in housing and urban development, monitoring responsibilities in Vienna Declaration.	Vienna Declaration on Informal Settlements in SEE, Vienna September 2004.	SEE governments, Key implementation agency: UN HABITAT, also active: governments of Switzerland, Luxemburg, Austria, COEDB, IFC.	Governments of Switzerland, Luxemburg; Co-funding arrangements with Austria, COEDB.	UN-Habitat is envisaged to continue lead on regional capacity-building programme, in close co-operation with SEE Ministries. There are plans for a programme secretariat to be established in the region.

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
Danube Co-operation Process	Initiator, political and expert support.	Working with Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia and Montenegro, Romania, Moldova and Ukraine on a more efficient use of the Danube as a transport route.		Governments of Austria, Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro and Romania, SECI office (Vienna).	Austria, SECI office (Vienna), Romania (Chair, EC).	
Business Advisory Council	Providing political support upon request.	Bringing together foreign investors and SEE governments.		Foreign investors, SEE governments, IFIs, OECD, SECI office Vienna.		BAC Secretariat located in Thessaloniki.
WORKING TABLE III						
SECI Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime (Bucharest)	Under regional ownership, with political support from the Stability Pact.	Regional co-operation on the operational level between police and customs officers of the region. (12 participating countries).	Agreement on co-operation to prevent and combat trans-border crime.	12 participating countries, US specialized agencies, Romania as host, German BKA, Interpol, World Customs Organization, Europol.	US government, Romania, Germany, all participating countries second staff.	Necessary for SECI MS to increase their budgetary contribution to this sole regional law enforcement co-operation platform. Implementation of EC recommendations on operational standards is crucial for closer co-operation with Europol and Eurojust.
Organized Crime Initiative (SPOC)	Initiator, political and expert support, facilitator of project	Promote governmental action and co-operation on	London Statement on Defeating Organized Crime	See authorities, US government, EC, EP, Council	Governments of US, Germany,	SPOC Secretariat in Bucharest was set up in 2003, but SPOC

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
	implementation co-ordination, and of dialogue.	OC, passage and implementation of EU-conform legislation, provide political support to Bucharest-based SECI Centre.	in SEE, 2002; SEECF JHA Ministers' Joint Declaration to fight organized crime and corruption (Bucharest, May 2004).	of the EU, Germany, Austria, SECI Centre, OSCE, UNODC, Europol, Eurojust, SEEPAG, Greece, Romania, East-West Institute, Interpol, CEI, CEUUN.	Austria, Romania, Greece.	Board needs further strengthening, with permanent, senior SEE representatives; in the long-run, region needs to take over funding as well.
SEE Public Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG)	Political and expert support.	Combat trans-border crime through strengthening of co-operation between prosecutors. Strengthen abilities of police, customs officers and prosecutors to handle international cases.		11 SEE countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia and Turkey). Works closely with SECI Centre, OSCE Belgrade.	US government, OSCE.	Initiative was originally formed on a Serbian initiative in 2003. SEEPAG Secretariat was established in Belgrade in 2005.
Migration, Asylum	Initiator, and provider	Promote regional	Ministerial	SAP	Germany, US,	Regional Forum is in

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
and Refugee Regional Initiative	of political support throughout establishment of regional office under the SEECP framework.	co-operation on these issues, forge political consensus between SEE governments on main priorities and strategies.	Declaration, (Tirana, April 2005); MoU on establishing a Regional Forum for the MARRI initiative (Herzeg Novi, April 2004).	governments, EC, SEECP, UNHCR, OSCE, CoE, IOM, ICMPD.	Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, UK, SAp countries.	charge; Skopje regional centre was inaugurated in 2004.
Defence Conversion and Security Sector Reform Initiative	Initiator, co-ordination, political and expert support to local governments.	Enhance regional co-operation; advance defence reform, adoption of NATO-compatible solutions, monitoring government action plans and programmes.	Declaration of SEECP Ministers of Defence, Belgrade, March 2005.	SEE governments, NATO, RACVIAC, OSCE, DCAF, BICC, IOM, UNDP, World Bank, CoEDB, bilateral donors.	UK, Norway, Netherlands, IFIs.	RACVIAC in Zagreb is in the process of strengthening its role as a regional centre for defence conversion.
Police Forum	Initiator, political and expert support.	Create and maintain OC training network (OCTN), Stolen Vehicle Project, Anti-Drug Network; I-24/7 Interpol project; Regional Police Training project (RPT); Activities promote adoption of EU standards, the enhancement of networking in the SEE region.	Memorandum of Understanding on OCTN, signed August 2005, (also a Letter of Intent regarding RPT has been signed.	Association of European Police Colleges; SEPCA- Association of Police Chiefs in SEE; SECI Centre Bucharest; Interpol; OSCE; EC.	Governments of Norway, UK, Switzerland, Finland, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Ireland, Slovenia.	Efforts currently underway to increase policy leadership and financial ownership by SEE governments.

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
Anti-corruption Initiative (SPAI)	Initiator, political and expert support, facilitator of project implementation co-ordination, and of dialogue.	Promote government action in fighting corruption, adoption and implementation of EU-compatible legislation.	SEECP JHA Ministers' Joint Declaration to fight organized crime and corruption (Bucharest, May 2004), Justice Ministers Declaration (Brussels, May 2005).	SEE governments, US State Dept, USAID, American Bar Association, EC, Council of Europe, UNODC, OSCE, OECD, World Bank, OSI, Transparency Int., Norway, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden, Austria, Italy.	US State Dept/USAID/ ABA CEELI (office and activities); BiH Government (office); SEE governments (in-kind contributions); OSCE (activities); UNODC (activities); OECD (activities); Council of Europe (activities); Open Society Institute (activities).	SPAI Secretariat was created in Sarajevo in 2004, but long-term funding remains a problem; efforts are underway to strengthen efficiency of Regional Steering Group.
Border Security and Management Initiative	Initiator, Party to the group of stakeholders in the Ohrid Border Process (additional members: EC, NATO, OSCE).	Drive reform in strengthening border management capacities, push for establishment of full civilian control of borders.	Common platform and a "way forward" document, adopted in May 2003.	SAP governments, EC, OSCE, NATO, DCAF, UNMIK.	Predominantly EU CARDS programme. Additional funding from OSCE, DCAF.	
Disaster	Initiator, political and	Create regional	Declaration on	SEE	US, Norway,	DPPI Secretariat was

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
Preparedness and Prevention Initiative	expert support .	capacity to respond to natural and human-made disasters. Bring together donors and IGOs and NGOs to co-ordinate activities.	Co-operation in Disaster Preparedness and Prevention in SEE, Bucharest, June 2002.	governments, UN, IFRC, NATO, SRSA.	Switzerland, and matching contribution from participating SEE States.	moved from Brussels to Sarajevo in 2005 A further increase in regional ownership currently under discussion.
Small Arms and Light Weapons Collection Initiative	Initiator together with UNDP, political and expert support mainly through the Regional Steering Group.	Assisting capacity-building to control and reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons; SALW collection and destruction; stockpile management.	Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan on Combating the Proliferation of SALW (adopted in November 2001).	SEE governments, UNDP, EC, NATO, OSCE.	UNDP, EC, Norway, UK, Netherlands. SaM hosts SEESAC in Belgrade.	Regional Clearinghouse for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) was set up in 2002. Full transfer of SEESAC into regional ownership currently underway.
Regional Arms Control Verification Initiative	Initiator, Member of Multinational Advisory Group (MAG), political support, expert participation in workshops/seminars.	Enhance regional dialogue and co-operation in arms control and confidence building measures; provide assistance in their implementation; support and complement the activities of the OSCE and other organizations.	Conclusions of the RACVIAC Co-ordination Conference Berlin (July 2000).	SEE MAG participating countries, Norway, Germany, UK, France, Netherlands, the Nordic Initiative, Turkey, Austria.	Contributions to RACVIAC budget by the MAG countries (Norway, Germany, France, Netherlands, Turkey, UK in particular). Croatia is providing facilities.	Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre was created in Zagreb in 2000. Its staff is partly seconded by SEE governments.
Security Sector Reform Inventory	Political and expert support.	Encourage transparency and		The Centre for International	Norway	

	Role of the Stability Pact Secretariat	Main goal of Task Force/Initiative	Highest political declaration	Key partners	Funding	State of regionalization
		information-sharing in security sector reform; provide an inventory of ongoing or recently-completed initiatives.		and Security Studies and York University (Canada), and the Norwegian Government.		